

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 29th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Bucket Hats, Boaters and Sunshine

*'Oh, eventide,
Clouds on the western side,
Grow grey and greyer hiding the warm sun,
Bees and birds, their labours done,
Seek their close nests and bide'*

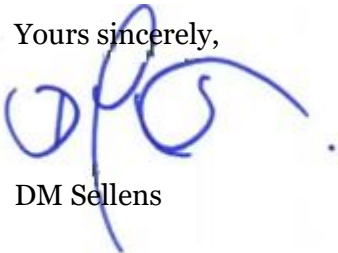
Christina Rossetti

Reception, Year 1 and the Year 6 scholars return to Thomas Jones on Tuesday. In anticipation of their arrival, much has been tackled to ensure that our ambitious risk assessment has, in real terms, been executed with rigour. Staff have embraced the challenge and we look forward to seeing all of the aforementioned children. In terms of ensuring that social distancing is adhered to, there is no doubt that the splendid weather we are currently enjoying will afford plenty of opportunities for outside learning. The above stanza touches upon the notion of a cloud formation diminishing the sun's powerful rays. Let's hope that, for now at least, it remains warm and dry. Pupils will, as is our tradition, wear straw boaters or midnight-blue bucket hats from the start of the half term.

An Assiduous Ethic and When the Hurly-burly's Done

Please encourage your child to read as widely as possible in the coming weeks. Certainly, in the case of older pupils, they will benefit from accessing a portion of the 'T' or Guardian newspapers and being exposed to their rich vocabulary and conventions of standardised grammar and punctuation. Over the last month, the endeavours of a number of home-learners have been effusively remarked upon by their teachers and a handful have been singled out for special praise. Lluc Miquel, Raphael Felix and sisters Noha and Layan Chentouf have, I gather, been determined in their resolve to excel. On several occasions Ms Verity Handyside has been impressed by the assiduous ethic demonstrated by Dimitri Aris. He opted to enrich a pamphlet promoting the Scottish Highlands by referencing Shakespeare's Macbeth throughout: 'Birnam oak, a lonely relic of the eerie, vast forest, where our protagonist, Malcolm, takes it upon himself to camouflage his beleaguered followers; here visitors will be unable to resist the temptation to immerse themselves in the past'. It won't surprise you that Dimitri is one of our most accomplished readers. It is his view that the more one reads, the stronger one becomes as a reader, thinker and writer. Wise words indeed.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens