

# THOMAS JONES

*an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school*

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Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Exquisite Grounds**

What a difference a week makes. Last Friday, families arrived skipping over puddles, the rain unrelenting and staff huddled under umbrellas. Today, the sun is shining brightly and there is a proper nod to the spring. Here and there, in clusters, grape hyacinth and daffodils carpet our grounds. I hope the weather remains fine this weekend, affording opportunities to spend some quality time outside and perhaps to visit one of London's many parks or gardens.

## **Exceptional Attendance**

Attendance last week was an astonishing 98% across the school. This bodes well. Earlier this term, Reception pupils crafted a collaborative display while at home. The children had intently watched a video of Ms Polly Holmes mixing and moulding shapes using salt dough. Twigs and berries, leaves, flowers and pebbles were then pressed into the middle of each. The outcomes are exquisite and now hang, artfully, in an intricate wall hanging.

## **All Dressed Up**

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March is a fundraising day. Pupils are expected to wear their smartest non-uniform clothes to school. £2 voluntary contributions will be gratefully accepted. Lessons will finish at the normal 'staggered times', not early as has been the tradition in the past. On this occasion, we are trying to collect as much money as possible to replace a damaged cello and to purchase new books, seeds and violin bows and much more besides that we will struggle to afford to purchase without your support.

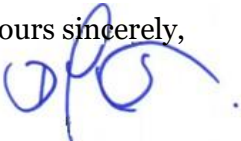
## **Semblance of Normality**

Landscaper, Mr Joseph Fada, visited again recently, tending the shrubs and trees and carefully scattering new bark chippings. It's fair to say, everything looks rather beautiful. As soon as possible, when there is a semblance of normality, our allotment club will resume. Year 2 teacher Ms Melissa Kiley and an avid group of horticulturalists will curate an ambitious planting programme. We are keen to develop a butterfly garden and growing area adjacent to the bee hives and Key Stage One classrooms.

## **Professional Development**

Continual professional development (CPD), whether 1:1, in a group forum or in the context of whole staff training, continues to be one of the most important vehicles to further enhance what is on offer. In recent months, colleagues have been in receipt of some first-rate CPD, led with aplomb by the teachers, in their capacity as designated subject leaders. Other seminars that have been lauded, range from a fascinating presentation about cognition and memory, to a lecture focusing on the value and joy of reading.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens