

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 23rd July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

To Bid Farewell
*'You are Marvellous,
The Gods wait to delight
In You'*

Charles Bukowski

Today, for the first time in over a year, we welcomed parents back into the school to bid a heartfelt farewell to Year 6. The scholars' staging of Under Milk Wood was superlative. This particular cohorts' sense of wonder, juxtaposed with an assiduous learning ethic is impressive and the proportion of children excelling beyond the norm remarkable. Far more important, is their benign and generous spirit. There was a poignant moment, earlier in the week, when the full magnitude of imminent departure became too overwhelming for some. We will miss them greatly. I'd like to take this opportunity to single out colleagues for praise who have championed and cajoled this class over the last eight years. In particular, Deputy Head Ms Lindsay Johnson, Ms Emma Jones, who taught them in the Nursery, Ms Natasha Peurois and Ms Verity Handyside, and Mr Jason Dass, who has been their class teacher in this important transition year.

Thriving Colony

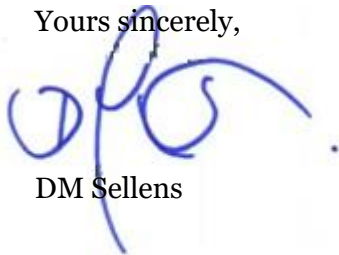
The Thomas Jones bees continue to flourish. We eagerly anticipate a bumper harvest with over a hundred jars of honey in August. In the words of our youngest pupils, 'hurrah'.

Restorative and Gentle
*'The sunny, slow lulling afternoon,
Yawns and moons through the dozy town'*

Dylan Thomas

Not for the first time in recent weeks, staff have been disarmed by the kindness and words of encouragement from many of you. My office is adorned with cards from well-wishers. Despite the pandemic, the last twelve months have been hugely successful and in no small part, this can be attributed to the exceptional trust that exists between us most of the time. It is facet that we must not take for granted. Please see below a list of highlights from 2020/2021. I hope the forthcoming holiday is restorative and gentle. Please ensure your child reads as widely as possible. I look forward to seeing all families again on Tuesday 7th September.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens

Thomas Jones School

Just a few of the many highlights of 2020/2021

- Pupils – by far our greatest asset – assiduous, tenacious and kind and friendly
- World Class School re-accreditation in June 2021 – one of only five primary schools in the country to be accorded this prestigious accolade
- Number on Roll – we remain entirely full to capacity
- 230 applications for 30 Reception places (eight applications per place) in January 2021 - numerically astonishing, especially in the current climate
- The 2021 Curriculum Project – a hugely ambitious venture, brilliantly executed by Ms Emma Jones and Ms Abi Kantoch
- Remarkable Year 6 reading and mathematics outcomes in May 2021, with large numbers of pupils achieving above the expected standard
- 97% attendance from September 2020 to July 2021
- The Year 6 staging of Dylan Thomas' Under Milk Wood in July 2021 – superlative in every way
- The Flood – the collegiate response from staff who stayed late into the night to rescue books and other resources and exceptionally generous parents – donating funds and affording words of encouragement
- Parents and Carers – trusting and loyal
- The 2021 Enhancement Project – improving the physical fabric of the school building
- The bees – we anticipate a bumper harvest of honey in September 2021