

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 6th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Exquisite Mornings

*'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosomed friend of the maturing sun'*

John Keats' To Autumn is the starting point for this half term. With bright crisp mornings affording opportunities to wrap-up in a Thomas Jones cable knit bobble hat or beret, scarf and mittens and Barbour-style jacket, staff have encouraged pupils to embrace the moment, breathing in the sharp air and pausing to contemplate the majesty of a misty morning.

Clarity of Purpose

One recent highlight is the manner in which pupils have so deftly recalibrated since returning after the half term holiday. Deputy Head Ms Lindsay Johnson and I have been disarmed by the palpable clarity of purpose so evident in lessons. From the start of September to 23th October, attendance was 98%. The 97.6% figure for Reception, while by no means the highest in the school is, contextually, impressive when one considers that some pupils are only four years of age. Positives aside, the Leadership Team will shortly revisit the Improvement Plan to critically evaluate what has been achieved. Looking ahead to 2021 we will, once again, request your assistance in appraising our relative strengths and weaknesses. In the meantime, rest assured, rigour and aspiration remain absolute.

London is the Place for Me

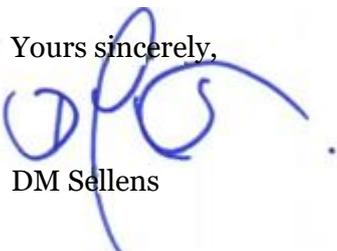
Stereotypes are anathema to our pedagogy and there is no denying the school has a proven track record for innovation. This extends to the curriculum and in particular the literature that is studied. In the current climate it is not possible to host visitors on-site, so earlier this week our Year 5 scholars immersed themselves in a remote interactive drama workshop that touched upon the themes of belonging, identity and diversity. One particular component part of the learning focused upon the inaugural journey made in June 1948 by the Empire Windrush, travelling from Kingston, Jamaica to Tilbury docks.

Moustaches, Sparklers and Baby News

'Remember, remember, the fifth of November'

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity. This morning's 'Movember' venture raised £300 towards the Cancer Research charity. Pupils eagerly arrived sporting a multitude of faux facial hair, including those who had taken inspiration from recent learning in regard to a humanities-based 'Explorers' topic. Yesterday I led a virtual 5th November Bonfire Night assembly, resplendent with sparklers. The notion of a snatched moment of joy, in the middle of a less than linear time for everybody, resonated hugely. Next Friday is Learning Support Assistant Ms Sabina Rahman's last day at Thomas Jones before going on maternity leave. We wish Sabina and her family every happiness.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens