

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 16th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Keen Prospective Families

'I can't wait to start school'

As we rapidly approach half term, it is apt to consider the last six weeks. There have been many memorable moments. All new pupils have settled so incredibly quickly, with a positive energy and eagerness that is disarming. Attendance is an astonishing 98%. This bodes well and further evidences pupils' on-going commitment in real terms. Fifty prospective parents and carers have arranged to attend one or other of the remote meetings that have been organised, hosted by Ms Emma Jones and myself. All already appear effusive and keen to enrol their children. You may recall that earlier this year, there were 250 applications for 30 Reception places. The deadline for applying for a place for September 2021 start is 15th January.

Exquisite Attire and Enrichment

Enrichment opportunities are somewhat limited at the moment, given the parred-back nature of what is currently on offer. Nevertheless, cello and violin, netball, and the honey bee venture, as well as various arts and crafts initiatives, are oversubscribed. Older pupils have recently launched a campaign to reinstate Artefacts Club. Plans are afoot to resurrect the debating society. It is unlikely that the aforementioned will be possible, but I welcome pupils' unwavering and single minded resolve to challenge. Next Friday is a non-uniform fundraising day. The expectation is that pupils wear their smartest non-uniform clothes. Monies raised will go towards our book fund. Details in regard to how best to make a voluntary contribution will be communicated on Monday.

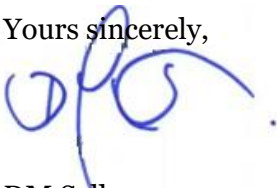
That Which Resonates

'And makes me end where I began'

John Donne

In a climate that can be so overtly arch, it is the robust relationship between the community and the school that resonates most powerfully. In recent weeks, I have again been humbled by the unerring generosity of spirit amongst our families. On behalf of the staff team, I'd like to thank you for your encouragement and trust, particularly with a nod to the forever changing adaptations that are necessary to ensure everybody remains safe and healthy. In the words of poet John Donne, we finish where we began, with a visceral optimism and a desire to afford each and every child an opportunity to embrace learning at a time that is acutely anything but normal.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens