

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding school

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Friday 10th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Frisson of Wonder
*'One by one they came stumbling,
Over the snow'*

Laurie Lee

With fir trees exquisitely adorned in the hall and main entrance, there exists an undeniable frisson of wonder, with fairy lights twinkling brightly and cinnamon candles lit. Both concerts, earlier this week, were sublime. Music Leader, Ms Rachel McCombe deserves much praise for her exactitude. In many respects, the last few weeks could not have gone better, in no small part because of the way in which Deputy Head Ms Lindsay Johnson has continued to execute the school's revised risk assessment. With an astonishing 97% attendance and numerous effusive comments from families, pupils have demonstrated an acute sense that this is their moment to engage.

Visceral Message

Older pupils have been studying Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. The last line, 'Merry Christmas, everyone' resonates powerfully. Frequently, we revisit the notion of being 'kind and friendly'. Living in a cynical age, we can all, in varying degrees, transcend by being more selfless, and by challenging the intolerant and the vituperative and by celebrating shared values, those qualities that can make for a gentler world. The expectation is that all pupils arrive on Monday morning attired in their smartest non-uniform clothes as part of a fund-raising venture. Class councillors are determined to raise £500. Voluntary contributions will be gratefully accepted, however modest.

Tate Gallery, Cream Teas and Netball

In a nod to normality, Year 2 have recently visited Tate Britain, exploring JMW Turner's 1805 painting, The Shipwreck. Last week, they immersed themselves in the splendour of a cream tea, with scones and strawberry jam as part of a geography topic about Cornwall. Our netball team have recently excelled in tournaments played against Fox and Notting Hill Preparatory Schools.

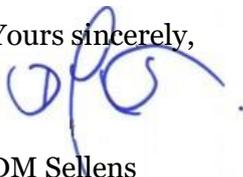
Sunday Times Newspaper 'Top Ten School'

We periodically appear in various publications, usually lauding the remarkable academic outcomes at the end of Key Stage 2, which have been strong for over a decade. These results reflect pupils' assiduous ethic, parents' support and the insight of a talented staff team. It would be all too easy to rehash that which has been successful in the past. One of the strengths of our teachers is their commitment to avoid this and instead to be forever mindful of how best to organise learning that affords a platform to embrace the abstract.

Resolve

Term finishes on Friday 17th December. The next few days are huge in terms of learning. Despite the pandemic, the last year has been remarkably successful and rewarding. Our resolve, to see all pupils shine, has been further galvanised. Thank you for your trust, partnership and unerring loyalty.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens