

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding school

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Friday 12th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

In Demand

The deadline for applying to join Reception in September 2022 is January 15th. If the sheer volume of enquiries from a universally discerning group of parents and carers is anything to go by, we are expecting a high number of applications. In recent years those naming us as their 1st choice school has been humbling, with a five-year mean average of 250 applications per year for 30 places.

Beginnings and Endings

Quality in the Early Years and at the end of Key Stage 2 has been a 'constant' for many years at Thomas Jones. We do not take this for granted. The challenge does not diminish. If anything, it has become more complex, especially in the current climate. The manner in which we execute teaching and learning reflects the capacity to prioritise resources and time. Ultimately, the remarkable outcomes reflect pupils' willingness to embrace what is organised, parents' trust and the insight of a talented staff team, who work tirelessly and do not collude in anything that could be described as dull or predictable.

We Will Remember

*'Solemn the drums thrill: Death August and royal
Sings sorrow into immortal spheres'*

At 10.50 yesterday, pupils and staff silently assembled to contemplate Armistice Day and the words of Laurence Binyon's sonnet 'For the Fallen'. Embracing the opportunity to reflect, the focus was the Second World War and in particular the exploits of the ordinary men and women who, against seemingly insurmountable odds, made the ultimate sacrifice.

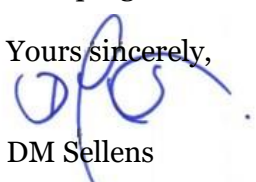
Ambassadors for Climate Change and Inventive Collage

In recent weeks, Year 3 have immersed themselves in learning associated with climate change and sustainability. Other pupils from across the school are also keen to, in real terms, take action to reduce their carbon footprint. Simple everyday tasks such as switching off lights in rooms that are not in use, ensuring that waste is limited and opting to eat more plant-based dishes are a few of the proposals class councillors have mooted as being infinitely achievable. I've been impressed by the above scholars' maturity and willingness to engage in this topic, one that has, again, been in the news of late, for all the right reasons. Since Monday, Year 2 have produced the most intricate of collages, inspired by Henri Matisse's 1953 paper sculpture, The Snail. These were made by cutting or tearing shapes from card which will later be painted with gouache paint. The shapes were placed and pasted with emphasis on composition.

Choir, Netball, Art and Dance

Choir, netball training, art club and ballet are just a few of the many extra-curricular enrichment initiatives that have been launched since the start of this half term. Responses from pupils have been exceptionally encouraging. In addition, the long-established and highly successful 'booster' class programme is, as is frequently the case, proving to be hugely beneficial.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens