

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding school

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Friday 15th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Crisp and Brighter Days

*The trees are in their autumn beauty,
Woodland paths are dry,
Under the October twilight the water
Mirrors a still sky'*

Yeats' 1917 poem, *The Wild Swans*, a few lines of which appear above, is the starting point for this weekend. With more crisp and bright weather of late, some pupils have opted to wrap-up in a Thomas Jones' cable knit bobble hat or beret, scarf and mittens, and our signature Barbour-style jacket. Staff have encouraged classes to breath in the sharp air and pause to contemplate the majesty of a misty morning. I hope it remains fine tomorrow and on Sunday too. Venturing to a park can be incredibly restorative. At this time of year, Kensington Palace Gardens is at its most sublime.

Interview with an Author

On Wednesday, author Georgia Byng spent an afternoon with Year 2 and Year 4 leading a writing seminar that highlighted plot and setting. Pupils were eager to glean as many 'top tips' as to how best to further enhance composition and style. Such was their overtly effusive response, plans are afoot to organise similar experiences in the spring.

Lindy Hop and Anderson Shelters

Last week, the Year 5 scholars took part in a 1940s singing and dancing workshop. Historian Christopher Heathcote captivated and inspired in equal measure, mainly through role-play. The children's model Anderson shelters are currently on display around the school.

Belonging, Identity and Diversity

*This is the place I wanted to know,
London is the place for me'*

Earlier this week pupils were afforded the opportunity in assembly to embrace the themes of belonging, identity and diversity. One particular component part focused on the inaugural journey made in June 1948 by the Empire Windrush, travelling from Kingston, Jamaica to Tilbury docks. Utilising the music of Aldwyn Roberts, better known by the stage name, 'Lord Kitchener', aficionados consider him to be the greatest calypsonian of the post-war age.

Cake and Books

I'd like to thank all families who contributed to Monday's hugely successful cake sale. The £750 that was raised will go towards our books fund. I'm especially grateful to parents and carers who co-ordinated this event, Esther Kufrin, Marijana Obradovic, Kerstin Razzaq, Dion Gray and Christina Rakotozafy.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens