

# THOMAS JONES

*an Ofsted outstanding school*

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Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Effusive Comments**

*'Lastly, came Winter clothed in frost,  
Chattering his teeth for cold that did him chill,  
Whilst on his hoary beard his breath did freeze'*

Edmund Spenser

Despite the on-going pandemic, this first week of the spring term has been incredibly rewarding. The sun has shone brightly, with frost glistening in our grounds, eliciting a wonderful remark from Year 6 scholar Oriana Izsak-Fernandez that 'not all of nature is sleeping'. Bestowed with effusive comments from families and prospective parents and carers alike, this morning I wrote to staff, acknowledging their remarkable positive energy and thanking them, for the exceptional exactitude that takes place behind the scenes. This must not be taken for granted.

## **Applications**

The deadline for applying to join Reception in September 2022 is next week. 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 the recent past, those naming us as their 1<sup>st</sup> choice has been humbling, with a five-year mean average of 230 applications per year for 30 places.

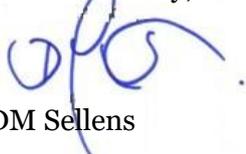
## **Recalibration**

This weekend, please ensure that plenty of time is put aside to read with your child. Older pupils will benefit enormously from reading extracts from the 'I', the Guardian or Observer newspapers. Crudely, the more a child reads certain kinds of literature, the stronger he or she will become, and in turn, the more robust as a learner. The local library is open as per normal. It has a marvellous collect of children's' books and the staff there are forever eager to afford expert advice.

## **Attendance, Tardiness and Bobble Hats**

Attendance from September to December was 97%, which is contextually strong. Going forward, it is crucial that all pupils attend every day unless there is a valid reason for them not being here. It will not surprise you to hear that pupils who rarely, if ever, miss lessons, tend to excel. Alongside the above, it is important that all pupils arrive before the bell is rung at 9.00. As this cold snap continues, it is sensible to consider dressing for the weather. There was never a better time for pupils to be attired in a Thomas Jones' cable knit bobble hat, scarf and mittens.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens