

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding school

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Friday 11th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We Remember

*'Their flowers the tenderness of silent minds,
And each slow dusk a drawing-down of blinds'*

Written shortly before his death in 1918, Wilfred Owen's poem Anthem for Doomed Youth, still resonates. At 10.50 this morning, pupils and staff silently assembled in the hall to contemplate the significance of Remembrance Day. It was humbling to see pupils embrace the opportunity to immerse themselves in the moment and to consider the notion of looking outward. They shone in their capacity and willingness to respect a tradition that is as valid today as in the past.

An Effusive Visitor, Mud larking and Netball

*'Loud without the wind was roaring,
Through the waned Autumn sky'*

Emily Bronte

Last week, Minister of State for Schools, Mr Nick Gibb, MP observed Ms Polly Holmes teaching a Reception phonics lesson, went on a tour and met with Deputy Head Ms Lindsay Johnson, myself and curriculum leaders Ms Abi Kantoch and Ms Verity Handyside. The visitor could not have been more complimentary. Mr Gibb's effusive comments can be seen by accessing his Twitter account.

On Wednesday, the Year 4 scholars excelled in an exceptionally inventive and aesthetically bold depiction of the water cycle. The staging, costumes and face paints were exacting. The following day the same class donned welly boots and sou'westers and ventured to the Kew Bridge Thames Trust, where they explored the foreshore to classify native and invasive mini beasts. The visit forms the nucleus of a cross curricular science and geography topic. In recent weeks, Year 5 have attended a Cuban dance festival at the Royal College of Music and Year 2 the Space Centre at Kensington Gore. Yesterday, unperturbed by the tube strike, and wearing an array of flat caps and waistcoats, Year 6 spent the day partaking in a Victorian workshop at the Gunnersbury Park Museum.

The netball team have won all of their recent competitive matches. This achievement reflects early morning training sessions and an indefatigable spirit amongst the squad. Their ardent endeavour is remarkable.

In Demand Once More

The deadline for applying to join Reception in September 2022 is January 15th. If the volume of enquiries from a universally discerning group of parents and carers is anything to go by, we are, once more, expecting a high number of applications. In recent years those naming us as their 1st choice school has been disarming, with a five-year mean average of 230 applications per year for 30 places.

'Movember'

Thanks to your generosity, the recent 'Movember' initiative raised £300 towards the Cancer Research charity.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens