

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding school

St. Mark's Road | London | W11 1RQ
020 7727 1423 | www.tj.rbkc.sch.uk

Friday 16th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Wonder Upon Wonder

*'Before the fields have finished,
Before the Christmas Tree,
Wonder upon wonder,
Will arrive to me'*

Emily Dickinson

Pupils arrived in the snow on Monday attired in their smartest non-uniform clothes as part of a fund-raising venture. Class councillors are determined to raise £500 that will be spent on books. Voluntary contributions will be gratefully accepted, however modest. By way of a gentle reminder, term finishes on Tuesday 20th December at 1.30. Pupils return on Thursday 6th January. The next few days are huge in terms of learning. There is no doubt that the last year has been successful and rewarding. With 97% attendance and numerous effusive comments from the many visitors to the school, pupils have demonstrated an acute sense that this is their moment to engage in real terms.

With fir trees exquisitely adorned in the hall and main entrance, and cinnamon candles brightly lit, there is an undeniable frisson of wonder at the moment. Both of last week's concerts were sublime, in no small measure because of the responses from the large number of families who attended. Lindsay Johnson, Rachel McCombe, Melissa Kiley and Polly Holmes deserve much praise for their exactitude.

To Excel Once More

Our netball team have recently excelled in tournaments played against Fox Primary and Notting Hill Preparatory School. They are now, officially, borough champions, having also won the league in 2021, a remarkable achievement. The Year 5 and 6 football team have thrived too, finishing the season in 3rd place. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank expert coaches Stephen Buzzard and Niall Jones-Smith for their insight and tenacious spirit.

Sunday Times 2023 List of 'Top Schools'

We periodically appear in various publications, usually lauding the remarkable academic outcomes at the end of Key Stage 2, which have been strong for at least 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.

Visceral Message

As is our tradition, the Year 6 scholars have been studying Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. This short story continues to resonate despite being nearly 200 years old. Living in an age that can be so terribly arch, I feel it important that we revisit the notions of being empathetic, selfless and kind whenever possible.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens