

# THOMAS JONES

*an Ofsted outstanding school*

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Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Bounteous May**  
*'Hail, bounteous May,  
That dost inspire'*

John Milton

Today's lunch is a nod to Saturday's Coronation. Not quite a replica of last summer's grand 'Jubilee Street Party', but a 'nod' nonetheless – with traditional sausage rolls, vegetarian one's included, cucumber sandwiches and scones - no 'Coronation Quiche' sadly - by all accounts King Charles' favourite dish, served by his nanny, Helen Lightbody, when a young child. There will be a special assembly to mark this important historical event at 10.20.

### **Frisson of Wonder**

Towards the end of last month, pupils were attired in their smartest non-uniform clothes, including some who were resplendent in traditional garb that reflected their cultural heritage. Thanks to the generosity of a large number of Thomas Jones' families, the children then gathered for an exquisite Eid breakfast. It is no exaggeration to say that there was an authentic frisson of wonder.

### **Department for Education Visitor**

Some of you will recall that in October, an overtly complimentary Minister of State for Schools, Nick Gibb, spent the morning observing a Reception phonics lesson and meeting the leadership team in regard to the curriculum. Last Friday, we were visited by Mr Gibb's Department for Education Policy Advisor, Jessie Smith. Jessie went on a tour and spent some time exploring how we recruit and retain staff at the school. Sufficient to say, Jessie was exceptionally effusive.

### **Now is the Time**

Next week, our Year 6 scholars will tackle the End of Key Stage 2 SATs tests. I have, and not for the first time, taken inspiration from Robert Frost, in scribing a few words to galvanise them.

*'Now is the time,  
In splendour to shine  
As only you can'*

### **Rags-to-Riches and a 'Green Screen'**

Polly Holmes' Rags-to-Riches fundraising initiative has proven to be an enormous success. Huge thanks to each and every one of you who made donations. I gather that there were so many bags of clothing, hats and scarves, the driver who came to collect everything was initially concerned he would have to return with a larger vehicle. After a lengthy delay, I am delighted to announce that an anti-pollution 'green screen' has been installed within our grounds. This ambitious venture has been funded in its entirety by the borough's Carbon Zero Emissions Team.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens