

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding school

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Friday 3rd February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Birdsong

*'Signs of spring are all around,
Catkins here, a snowdrop there,
Soon new life is everywhere'*

The above lines from Freddie McKeown's 'February' beautifully capture this time of year. The mornings and evenings are now less dark and birdsong can, once more, be heard in our grounds. This weekend, I hope that the sun continues to shine brightly and that the fine weather affords opportunities to venture to a park or public space.

Immersive Rendition

Yesterday, Year 5 immersed themselves in an interactive history seminar led by Peter Daniel from the Westminster Archives. The central premise, the English Civil War, and the tensions surrounding the government's banning of Christmas in 1648, elicited much in the way of discussion. The cohort explored the concepts of parliament, democracy, and monarchy, and considered the notions of cause and consequence. Parallels were made with today's world. Later in the day, the workshop culminated in an entertaining performance, with pupils acting out scenes from the story in front of a captivated audience.

Sleep and Attendance

On far too many occasions lately, some pupils have arrived at school looking tired. Please ensure your child goes to bed early during the week and on a Sunday night. The correlation between struggling to concentrate and not having sufficient sleep is well documented. Simply put, every lesson is important and one learns better when properly rested. With a three-year 97% average, attendance at Thomas Jones is a strength. However, in recent weeks a far larger number of children than is usual have been absent for one reason or another. This is unprecedented. I appreciate that at the moment there are viruses and bugs doing the 'rounds, but would like to remind you that for children to continue to achieve and thrive they need to be here every day.

'Book Worms'

Since the beginning of term, the Year 6 scholars have continued to transcend as writers, submitting first-rate essays focusing on Robert Frost's *Nothing Gold Can Stay*. Below appears a short extract from Theodore Negussie's personal response.

'This pithy, lyrical ode has a bitter-sweet quality that focuses on the idea that if something is ephemeral it is remarkable. The moment it becomes permanent, it no longer resonates.'

It will not surprise you to hear that the class are 'book worms'. School Councillor Ella Asmeron urges younger pupils to read. 'The more capable you become, the stronger you will be as a learner' she claims. Wise words indeed.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens, OBE