

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding school

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Friday 22nd September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hugely Rewarding
'Unmoved I stand what wind may blow'

William Morris

Despite the lively downpour and windy weather earlier in the week, the last few days have been hugely rewarding. Pupils have arrived promptly, their notion of tardiness acute, with an eager demeanour. Attendance is an impressive 97%. On Tuesday, the Year 6 scholars ventured to the William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow. Associated with the 19th Century British arts and crafts movement, Morris was a gifted textile designer and poet. His inventive use of pattern in no small part formed the nucleus for this visit, one that included a print making workshop, the outcomes of which are vibrant, the orange hues used in some of the compositions perhaps reflecting the colours of the season.

Generosity of Spirit

Once more, our community's generosity of spirit has been disarming, with last week's Moroccan Earthquake Appeal raising £1,000. Pupils keenly embraced this opportunity to look outward and in a modest but nevertheless important way, contribute to Action Aid's efforts to afford support where it is needed most. Our thoughts and heartfelt wishes are with those who have been affected by this awful calamity.

Enduring Popularity

The deadline for applying to join Reception in September 2024 is Monday 15th January. Tours for prospective families and pupils will commence shortly. You may recall that earlier this year, there were an astonishing 230 applications for 30 places. Indeed, we are full to capacity in every class. This bodes well and is testimony to the school's enduring popularity.

Interactive History Day

Next month, Year 5 will arrive in 1940's-style garb, as part of an interactive 'World War Two Day' led by local historian, John Smith. Sporting an array of flat caps, brown paper name tags and faux cardboard suitcases, the children will immerse themselves in learning that pertains to the Blitz and evacuation. Such topic-based events are so beneficial. Employing technology, including 'Now Press Play', a device with precisely defined sound, can add a visceral dynamic.

Bright and Muddy

*'Leaves curl in splendour, red, yellow and brown,
Muddy under wellies, through parks in town'*

London's parks and gardens are likely to be exquisite this weekend, though probably rather muddy, with plenty of sunshine forecast. The above lines from Freddie McKeown's poem 'September' are a celebration of autumn at its finest.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens