

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding school

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Friday 3rd November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Loud without the Wind Roaring

*'In the gloom of a grey November,
They uttered the music of May,
They kindled the perishing ember
Into fervour that could not decay'*

The above lines from a poem by Emily Brontë are the starting point for November. Let's hope that pupils can soon enjoy some bright and crisp autumn weather again, and an opportunity to wrap-up in a Thomas Jones beret or bobble hat, scarf, mittens and our signature Barbour-style rain jacket.

Clarity of Purpose

Since returning on Monday after the half term holiday, all classes have deftly recalibrated. Deputy Head Lindsay Johnson and I have been disarmed by the palpable clarity of purpose that is so evident in most lessons. Attendance this week has been an impressive 97%. The 97.6% figure for Reception, whilst by no means the highest in the school is contextually remarkable when one considers that this particular cohort are only four years of age. Positives aside, the Leadership Team will shortly revisit the Improvement Plan to critically evaluate what has been achieved. Looking ahead to 2024/2025, we will request your assistance in appraising our relative strengths. In the meantime, rest assured, rigour and aspiration remain absolute.

Moustaches and Sparklers

*'Remember, remember, the fifth of November,
Gunpowder, treason and plot'*

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generosity. This morning's moustache for 'Movember' charity venture raised £300. Pupils eagerly arrived at 8.50 sporting an array of faux facial hair, including those who had taken inspiration from recent learning in regard to a humanities 'Explorers' topic. This morning I led a 5th November Bonfire Night assembly, though on this occasion without sparklers. The notion of a snatched moment of joy, in the middle of a less than linear time for many people, resonated hugely.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens