

# THOMAS JONES

*an Ofsted outstanding school*

St. Mark's Road | London | W11 1RQ  
020 7727 1423 | [www.tj.rbkc.sch.uk](http://www.tj.rbkc.sch.uk)

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Incredibly Popular**

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025 was the final deadline to apply to join Reception in September. In total, 200+ applications were submitted to the borough's admissions team for Thomas Jones. This is remarkable and testament to the on-going success of the school. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Emma Jones who expertly hosted so many prospective families in recent months.

## **Knowledge is Power**

The aggregate attendance for last term was 97%. This evidences, in real terms, the simple fact that our pupils want to come to school. Year 1 take all the plaudits, for attending the most - an astonishing 98%. In the here and now, please continue to encourage your child to not miss a single lesson. Learning and knowledge is power, as they say.

## **Safer St Mark's Road**

On Tuesday, School Travel Coordinator, Ikram Tribak joined us for a coffee morning, affording expert guidance about the council's Safer Roads initiative. As some of you will recall, in 2024 there were long periods when the stretch of road adjacent to the school was closed to traffic from 8.45 to 9.15 and 3.20 to 3.45. In the autumn, this happened fleetingly. Next month, the leadership team hope to re-launch the above, on the proviso that we have enough support from parents and carers.

## **There is a Season, Turn, Turn, Turn**

*'That stride, huge giants, o'er the shining frost,  
In the pale splendour of the winter sun'*


John Clare

Winter for many of our pupils is defined by the keen anticipation of snow, surpassing by its glamour the more common days of dampness, wind and rain. In our grounds, life persists, readying itself for the age old cycle to begin again in the spring. Today, landscaper Joseph Fada has been busy tending shrubs and tackling a multitude of tasks. At the beginning of March, we will begin a programme of seeding and growing. I am optimistic that we can start a gardening club. In the past, this enterprise has proven to be enormously rewarding.

## **Highlight**

Towards the end of last term, one highlight was meeting older pupils' grandparents and great grandparents. As part of a Year 5 history topic, Pearl Yard and Carinthia Richards joined the class for an afternoon, sharing their recollections and memories of the Empire Windrush in the 1940s and 1950s respectively. Their anecdotes and unique renditions about their journey from Jamaica to London and their experiences once they arrived, were humbling. Such interactions are invaluable. Pupils and staff alike were fascinated and inspired.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens