

# 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 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Wonderful Frisson**

*'Fear no more, thou timid flower,  
Fear thou no more the winter's might,  
The whelming thaw,  
The silence of a freezing night'*

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

The last few days have been incredibly rewarding. The icy conditions have elicited a wonderful frisson. On Wednesday Year 5 ventured to the National Theatre to see Lyndsay Turner's staging of Roald Dahl's *The Witches*. The cast, script, and score were, I gather sublime. Then, on Thursday Year 3 were treated to a veritable time travel moment when they were visited by a Mesolithic man, who answered questions about life in the Stone Age. Pupils were keen to learn about diet, bathing rituals and hunting. They avidly explored animals, and especially one's that had been domesticated and scrutinised artefacts from the period. Our very own anthropology and archaeology graduate Leo Faulks, curated the above seminar with panache. Year 1 have begun rehearsing for their forthcoming class assembly, the focus of which is castles, Kings and Queens.

## **Attendance and Punctuality**

Attendance from September to the end of last week was 97%, which is contextually strong. Going forward, it is crucial that all pupils attend every day unless there is a valid reason for them not being here. It will not surprise you to hear that pupils who rarely, if ever, miss lessons, excel. Alongside the above, it is important that all pupils arrive before 9.00.

## **Reading Together**

This weekend, please ensure that plenty of time is put aside to read with your child. Older pupils will benefit enormously from reading extracts from the 'I', the Guardian or Observer newspapers. Crudely, the more a child reads certain kinds of literature, the stronger he or she will become, and in turn, the more robust as a learner. The local library has recently been replenished. It has a marvellous collect of children's' books and the staff are forever eager to afford expert advice.

## **Applications**

The final deadline for applying to join Reception in September 2024 was earlier this week. If the sheer volume of enquiries from a universally discerning group of parents and carers is anything to go by, we are expecting a high number of applications. In the past, those naming us as their 1<sup>st</sup> choice has been humbling, with a five-year mean average of 230 applications per year for 30 places.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens