

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding school

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Friday 20th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn Enrichment

This half term has been exceptionally rewarding, culminating in a number of successes. Most profoundly, large numbers of pupils have made remarkable progress, some disarming. Attendance has been an impressive 98%. The standard of cello, violin and piano has further transcended, validated by our talented peripatetic music staff. The fact that every class is full to capacity should not be taken for granted. Interest from prospective Reception parents, keen to enrol their children in September 2024 has been overwhelming. Professional development led by staff has been of an exacting nature. Handball, dance, yoga, cooking and the forever popular history society and chess club, as well as various arts and crafts initiatives, are oversubscribed.

Venturing Outside

*'The trees are in their autumn beauty,
Under the October twilight the water,
Mirrors a still sky'*

William Butler Yeats

Some of the recent weather has been exquisite. The colours in the trees in our grounds have been spectacular and Tuesday's cobalt sky was sublime. I hope that during the forthcoming holiday, despite the gloomy forecast, at least some fine days prevail and afford opportunities to venture outside. There are a number of educational visits planned for November and December, some involving the exploration of nature.

Belonging

'London is the place for me'

This week, pupils have, once more, embraced the themes of belonging and diversity in a special assembly. One particular component part focused on the inaugural journey made in June 1948 by the Empire Windrush, travelling from Kingston, Jamaica to Tilbury docks. Utilising the music of Aldwyn Roberts, better known by the stage name, 'Lord Kitchener', aficionados consider him to be the greatest calypsonian of the post-war age. Yesterday, pupils enjoyed a special Caribbean lunch that included rice and peas, jerk chicken and fried sweet plantain.

Generosity of Spirit

Deputy Head Ms Lindsay Johnson and I have again been humbled by the unerring generosity of spirit amongst our families. On behalf of the staff team, I'd like to thank you for your encouragement and trust. We look forward to seeing all pupils again on Monday 30th October.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens