

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding school

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Friday 20th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Enduring Popularity

The deadline for applying to join Reception in September 2025 is Monday 13th January. Tours for a large number of prospective families and pupils have already commenced. You may recall that earlier this year, there were an astonishing 230 applications for 30 places. We are, again, full to capacity in every class. This bodes well and is testimony to the school's enduring popularity.

Accoutrement and Winter Uniform

In recent weeks, I've noticed that some pupils are choosing to attach a key ring or small soft toy to their blue school rucksack. I'd be incredibly grateful if these accoutrement are removed. The above is an entirely new trend. For twenty years the packs did not have anything attached and, to the best of my knowledge, there was never a problem identifying bags at the end of the day.

From Monday, the expectation is that all pupils are attired in full winter uniform. This includes the wearing of Thomas Jones rain jackets.

Interactive History Day and William Morris

Year 5 arrived this morning in 1940's-style garb, as part of an interactive 'World War Two Day' led, on this occasion, by Ms Lauren Baker. Sporting an array of flat caps, brown paper name tags and faux cardboard suitcases, the children immersed themselves in learning that pertained 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.

Next month, the Year 6 scholars will venture 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 will form the nucleus for this visit, one that will include a print making workshop.

Wet and Windy

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

Despite the dry and sunny weather we have enjoyed of late, I gather it is likely to be rather sodden and muddy by Sunday. The above lines from Freddie McKeon's poem 'September' are a celebration of autumn at its finest. Despite the gloomy forecast, I'd urge you to venture to one of London's exquisite parks or gardens over the weekend.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens