

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding school

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Friday 23rd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Big Bird Watch and Patrons

*'Then will I not repine,
Knowing that bird of mine,
Though flown,
Shall in a distant tree,
Bright melody for me'*

Emily Dickinson

Becoming citizen scientists, Year 2 have recently observed, identified and recorded all the birds that appeared in our school grounds over the period of an hour. They were astonished to discover such a wide variety: robins, pigeons, magpies, blackbirds, sparrows, and a group of four goldfinches feeding on the seeds of last year's thistles. The feeder and birdhouse, so kindly donated by our patrons, have been a huge success in attracting birds to the grounds and inspiring pupils to become young ornithologists.

Young Historians and Heat Pumps

Since returning after the half term holiday, there have been many positives. This last few days has afforded veritable riches in the form of the re-launch of the hugely successful 'Young Historians Society', led with aplomb by Melissa Kiley, and on-going success with the 2024 retrofit project. This involves the installation of electric heat pumps throughout the school, making the use of gas to provide heat and hot water obsolete. This venture is being funded in its entirety by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Year 6 Writing Festival and the Notion of Belonging

The annual Year 6 Writing Festival has afforded opportunities for the scholars to produce some exquisite short stories on the theme of Landing on a Strange Planet. The competition element will be judged shortly. Next week, the cohort will immerse themselves in scribing essays that explore the notion of 'belonging'.

Reading Together

*'There, in the broad, within whose booky home,
Half of England's scholars nibble books or browse'*

John Masefield

Please invest plenty of time in reading with your child this weekend. The more opportunities there are to discuss a book, to browse or enjoy sharing a story, poem or feature in a quality publication such as the National Geographic magazine, the better.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens