

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding school

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Friday 23rd May 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

See, They Return

'See, they return; ah, see the eager faces'

The second half of the summer term begins on Monday 2nd June. During the forthcoming holiday, please ensure your child reads as widely as possible. Reading with aplomb is one of the cornerstones of being a successful scholar.

Planet That Dared to Dream

'Towering mushroom-like structures glowed softly in the dim twilight as the sky swirled in teals and golds; the sun hanging low, as a haunting melody echoed through the vast canyon.'

Winner of the 2025 Year 6 Writing Festival Mohamed Gamal Eldin's composition 'Chronicles of a Planet that Dared to Dream' focuses on the theme of 'Landing on a Strange Planet'. Ultimately, it is the use of vocabulary that sets this essay apart. The snippet that appears above is so strong it needs no context. It will not surprise you to hear that its author is a 'book worm'. When prompted, his advice to younger pupils is simple – *'read, read and read and then read some more!'*.

'Oo-aarh, Jim Lad, Shiver Me Timbers'

Auditions will shortly begin for Year 6's staging of 'Treasure Island'. Such is the quality of their acting, it is likely to prove to be a challenge to cast the roles of Jim Hawkins, Long John Silver, Ben Gun, Squire Trelawney and Captain Smollett, amongst others. I have faith that each and every one of this talented cohort will shine. The manner in which they tackled the End of Key Stage 2 SATs was humbling. From the grammar, punctuation and spelling test, to the reading paper, and mathematics exams, the children embraced the challenge with a cheerful pragmatism that belies their tender years.

Exacting Attendance, Enrichment and 'In Demand'

Attendance from September 2024 to May 2025 was 97%. Some pupils have not missed a single lesson all year, a remarkable achievement. In recent weeks, a large number of visitors have met with our admissions leader, Emma Jones. All have been eager to apply for places in 2026.

We end the half term full to capacity. There are long waiting lists for every class. Academic outcomes are within the top 2% nationally. Most important by far, there continues to exist a near-magical ambience. Everything is gentle, certainly most of the time. Exactitude is paramount and pupils are celebrated at every opportunity. I appreciate that some families value our post-3.20 provision, in the form of clubs and enrichment initiatives highly, but for the majority it is still that which is afforded regarding learning that resonates most profoundly.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens