

Thomas Jones

Primary School

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Friday 25th September 2026

Dear Thomas Jones' Families,

Autumnal Interlude

'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'

So begins Keats's celebrated *To Autumn*, a poem that captures the richness and gradual transformation of the season. Although September has so far treated us to an abundance of sunshine, the forecast suggests that by Sunday, we may find ourselves in considerably damper surroundings. Nevertheless, I would encourage you to embrace the changing season and, umbrellas permitting, explore one of London's many exquisite parks, gardens or open spaces. I always feel there is something rather restorative about witnessing the first signs of autumn unfold.

Wartime Memories and William Morris

Yesterday morning, Year 5 arrived at school resplendent in 1940s-inspired attire for an immersive World War Two day. Flat caps, brown-paper labels and ingenious cardboard suitcases helped to transport the children imaginatively into the world of wartime Britain. The experience offered a valuable opportunity to move beyond the pages of a book and encounter history in a more immediate and memorable way. As C. S. Lewis observed, 'Experience is that most brutal of teachers.' While our pupils were spared the realities of wartime hardship, the combination of storytelling, role-play and carefully chosen technology — including *Now Press Play* — helped to give the subject a vivid and almost tangible dimension.

Next month, the Year 6 scholars will visit the William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow. As a leading figure in the nineteenth-century arts and crafts movement, Morris was not only an influential designer but also a poet and writer. His conviction that beauty should inhabit the everyday remains strikingly relevant. Indeed, his famous dictum, 'Have nothing in your houses that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful', provides an apt introduction to his work. The pupils will explore his distinctive use of pattern and colour before taking part in a printmaking workshop, giving them the opportunity to translate inspiration into their own creations.

Berets at the Ready

From Monday, we will return fully to Autumn/Winter uniform, including the school's navy-blue beret. There is, perhaps, something reassuring about the seasonal of putting away lighter clothes and welcoming back the familiar rhythms of the school year. As the poet Robert Frost reminds us, 'Nothing gold can stay'. Summer, inevitably, gives way to autumn, and with it comes a new chapter of learning, discovery and endeavour.

Warmest Wishes,



David Sellens