

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding school

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Friday 2nd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Dhal, Fascinating Workshop and an Immersive Rendition

Year 2 visited the Central Gurdwara at Holland Park on Wednesday as part of their learning arising from the study of special texts, on this occasion with a focus on Sikhism. Pupils were enthusiastically greeted by the temple's curator, Mandip, and then taken on a tour. One particular highlight was, according to Melissa Kiley, the langar, the vegetarian meal that is prepared for all members of the local community every day, free of charge, eating rice, dhal and chapattis. Yesterday, Year 1 immersed themselves in an interactive history assembly about the construction of castles. Through role-play and song, the class explored the concepts of design, foundation and purpose, with a joie and keenness that was infectious. Last week, engineer and Reception parent, Michael Kennett, delivered a fascinating workshop about the installation of internet cables across the world and under the sea. Pupils disarmed Michael, who effused about pupils' responses.

Birdsong Once More

*'Signs of spring are all around,
Catkins here, a snowdrop there'*

The above lines from Freddie McKeown's 'February' beautifully capture this time of year. The mornings and evenings are now less dark and birdsong can, once more, be heard in our grounds. This weekend, I hope that the sun makes an appearance and that the forecast dry weather affords opportunities to venture to a park or public space.

'Nature's First Green'

Since the beginning of term, our Year 6 scholars have continued to transcend as writers, most recently submitting first-rate essays focusing on Robert Frost's Nothing Gold Can Stay. Below appears a short extract from Uwais Tabali's personal response.

'This diminutive sonnet has a bitter-sweet quality that explores the ephemeral – the notion that the moment something delicate or exquisite becomes permanent, it no longer resonates'.

It will not surprise you to hear that the above cohort are avid 'book worms'. School Councillor, Marina Durman Jones urges younger pupils to read at every opportunity. 'The more capable you become, the stronger you will be as a learner' she claims. Wise words indeed.

Sleep and Achievement

On far too many occasions lately, some pupils have arrived at school looking tired. Please ensure your child goes to bed early during the week and on a Sunday night. The correlation between struggling to concentrate and not having sufficient sleep is well documented. Simply put, every lesson is important and one learns better when properly rested.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens