Friday 30th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Farewell January
'The days are still short,
The sun sometimes a spark,
Hung thin between, the dark'

John Updike

The above lines 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 weather presents opportunities to venture to a park or public space.

Immersive Experiences
Year 2 ventured to the Khalsa Jatha last week. Established in 1908, it was the first Gurdwara in Europe. Pupils were warmly greeted by Mandip Adeep, who afforded a rich and fascinating introduction to the Guru Granth Sahib (the Sikh sacred text) and they listened to traditional instruments being played. Especially thrilled when Mandip beat an enormous 100-year-old 'battle drum', pupils and staff alike were inspired by the beauty of the Darbar Hall and its extraordinary tranquility.

Sleep and Attendance
On too many occasions lately, some pupils have arrived at school looking rather 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.

'Book Worms'
Since the beginning of term, some Year 6 scholars have continued to transcend as writers, most recently submitting first-rate essays focusing on Robert Frost's 1923 poem Nothing Gold Can Stay. Many of the class are book worms. This is reflected in their writing. Keen to see younger pupils read to an adult at home as well as at school, they are determined to promote the joy reading affords, alongside an altogether more practical motivation - 'the more capable you become, the stronger you will be as a learner' they claim. Wise words indeed.

Yours sincerely,

David Sellens