

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding school

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Friday 31st January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

If the Winter Ever Ends

*'Thaw swells the streams,
Swollen rivers swell the sea,
If the winter ever ends,
How pleasant it will be'*

The above lines from Christina Rossetti's 'The Year's Windfalls' beautifully captures this time of year. The mornings and evenings are now ever-so-slightly 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 earlier this 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 Philip Larkin's Mr Bleaney. Below appears a short extract from David Moghiliov's personal response.

'This narrative work evokes the notion of how Britain was in the 1950s, for many people – grey and bereft of hope; the dimly lit light bulb in the poem is a symbol – a metaphor that encapsulates how bleak the protagonist's life is.'

It will not surprise you to hear that many of the class are 'book worms'. School Councillor Chloe Musungay Tamkvaitis urges younger pupils to read. 'The more capable you become, the stronger you will be as a learner' she claims. Wise words indeed.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens