

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding school

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Friday 17th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Flat Caps at the Ready

Year 5 arrived this morning attired in full 1940's-style garb, as part of a World War Two history venture. Sporting an array of flat caps, waistcoats, brown paper name tags and faux cardboard suitcases, I gather the children impressed everybody with their fine grasp of the Blitz and evacuation. Such topic-based events are hugely beneficial. Employing technology, including 'Now Press Play', a device that affords an immersive experience with precisely defined sound, can add a visceral dynamic.

Exquisite Melancholy of this Turning Point

*'Yellow alder, russet beech,
Sessile oak and broadleaf trees'*

Traditionally, crisp, clear days mark the end of September and usher in a new season with its rich scents and vivid palette. With an abundance of berries and nuts, animals make stores for the colder months. There is decay too, which gives rise to the next cycle of life. With a wealth of poetry, that captures the exhilaration and melancholy of this turning point, in forthcoming weeks, pupils from across the school will recite works by John Clare and Edward Thomas amongst others in assembly.

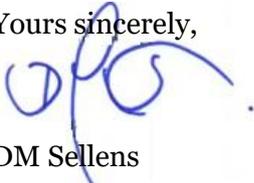
Absolute Privilege

Over the last couple of weeks, the entire school community has, I am delighted to say, settled into its new routine with grace and dignity. With such a palpable frisson of positivity and a real sense of momentum pertaining to learning, it is a privilege being on duty at the main St Mark's Road entrance every morning. Attendance is an impressive 97%.

Hockey and Netball

Thomas Jones' sports coach, Ms Ana Cheang returned on Tuesday and disarmed pupils and staff alike with her insight and exacting aspirations. Keenly anticipating netball and hockey matches, older pupils are optimistic that there will soon be opportunities to compete against other schools. The teams' commitment to these initiatives is exacting, sometimes training in rain or fog and even on occasion the odd snow flurry. Peripatetic music lessons have now recommenced. The accomplished sounds of cello, violin and piano once more echo in the West Wing of the building, prompting a universally effusive response.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens