

# THOMAS JONES

*an Ofsted outstanding school*

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Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Choir and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Fine Art**

*'Singing with open mouths,  
Their strong melodious songs'*

Walt Whitman

There is no denying that choirs across the country are experiencing a renaissance. Thomas Jones is no exception, with pupils eager to audition for any initiative that involves singing. Last week, we began a new music partnership with Notting Hill Preparatory School, led by expert voice coach, Mr Dominic Harlan. Pupils immersed themselves in a rhythm, pitch and ostinato workshop. The Year 6 scholars have recently completed a comprehensive study of the works of 19th century designer, William Morris. Exploring colour and form and the notions of representation and intimation, they have produced some impressive pieces, inspired by the techniques that have been acquired.

## **Oversubscribed**

The deadline for applying to join our Reception class next September is January 15<sup>th</sup> 2022. Tours for prospective families and pupils will commence shortly. You may recall that in 2021 there were an astonishing 230 applications for 30 places. The current Reception class is full to capacity, with a long waiting list. This bodes well and is testimony to the school's enduring popularity.

## **Great Bake Off**

Despite being a designated 'Gold Award Healthy School', we have decided to host a cake sale on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 3.20. Parent Ms Esther Kufirin has kindly agreed to curate this important fundraising event, the first of a number that are planned for this academic year. In the current climate, it is crucial that we are altogether more proactive in ensuring that sufficient sums are made available to purchase quality books and resources. Going forward, I suspect that this will become the new 'normal'.

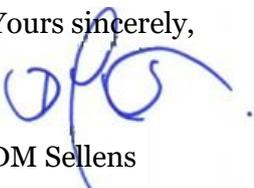
## **Harvest**

For the first time in many years, the forthcoming Harvest assembly will be an altogether more parred-back affair. To some extent this reflects the pandemic but, I feel, it also presents an opportunity to do something different. Year 2 will perform a familiar perennial favourite song or two, with a handful of pupils from Year 4 reciting lines of poetry with an autumnal theme. As is our tradition, we will be collecting donations of non-perishable food for the elderly residents of Thomas Darby Court.

## **Baby News**

An integral part of the senior leadership of the school for over a decade, the visceral Ms Emma Jones went on maternity leave in July. I am delighted to share the news that Emma recently gave birth to a beautiful baby boy, who has been named Remy. On behalf of pupils, parents and carers and the staff team, we wish the Jones family much joy and happiness.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens