

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 4th May 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Filming, Knowledge and Demeanour

Next Thursday Ofsted are visiting to make a short film about the acquisition of language and reading in Key Stage 1. This is a marvellous opportunity to showcase what we do. Year 3 visited the British Museum earlier this week. Focusing on life in prehistoric Britain, pupils immersed themselves in a workshop that entailed the study of precious artefacts. It is always humbling to hear reports from members of the public in regard to pupils' grace and demeanour. I gather there were numerous such comments made on the way to and from the museum. Yesterday, Year 4 spent the day at the Guildhall Art Gallery exploring the world of the Roman amphitheatre. This fascinating subject enthralled the cohort, who returned laden with knowledge.

Closer to the End

It is difficult to comprehend that with only ten weeks of the school year remaining, we are now closer to the end than the beginning. This particularly resonates for our Year 6 scholars, who will depart at the end of term. With subject matter at odds with the tepid and pedestrian, I've once again been disarmed by their writing: essays that explore the notion of identity, philosophical arguments arising from the study of Theseus and the Minotaur and research about Russian abstract expressionism. What strikes me so powerfully is their level of intent. These are learners who delve and probe. The ambitions they aspire to are uncompromising, demonstrating an assiduous ethic that belies their tender years.

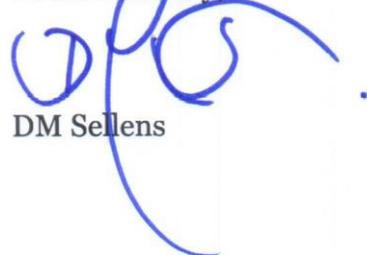
Nature's First Green

It has taken nearly twenty years for our exquisite school grounds to flourish. Today, they are an integral part of what Thomas Jones represents. The bee hives, shrubs and plants are an antidote to the sometimes brutal harshness of the city. Forest School, now based in our Nature Garden, continues to elicit a disarming level of effusiveness on the part of our Reception pupils. Their eagerness and energy is infectious.

Questionnaire

I'd like to thank those of you who responded with kind and encouraging comments and helpful suggestions of possible ways to further enhance the quality of what is afforded. I do not take this for granted and am grateful. The findings of the 2018 questionnaire will be used to inform the Improvement Plan.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens