

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 9th March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Nature's Visceral Beauty
*'Here with a burley flutter and sting,
The snow-blast scampers, winnowing'*

Jack Clemo 1961

Last week's sublime winter chill now feels but a dream, so fleeting it was, affording a rare opportunity to embrace nature's visceral beauty. Observing pupils cavorting in the snow, their joy and wonder palpable, was humbling. In particular, it resonated seeing Year 6 discard their scholarly demeanour and immerse themselves in the magic. I'd like to thank you for your kind words and encouragement, and for ensuring your children arrived promptly at the start of the school day, despite the inclement weather.

Engaging Tableau

Reception pupils lit up the stage yesterday in a tableau that depicted the beginning of spring. Clad in a multitude of intricate costumes, including representations of woodland creatures, the cohort were bold and their play engaging. Performing in their first assembly to a packed hall one could be forgiven for assuming the children are veterans of such events.

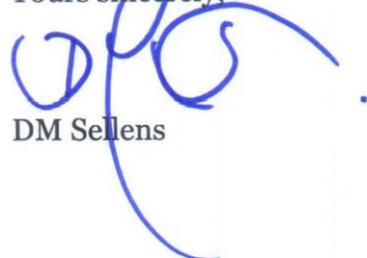
An Affirmation to See Every Pupil Shine

Earlier this week, Minister of State for School Standards, Mr Nick Gibb MP, wrote to pupils and staff to highlight the fact that we continue to be amongst the top 2% of schools in the country, in terms of progress made between Key Stage 1 and the end of Key Stage 2 in reading, writing and mathematics. When considering the above, a few simple truths resonate. The powerful tri-partite relationship that exists remains paramount. Last year's scholars demonstrated an assiduous ethic and disarmed their peers and teachers with a hunger to delve and explore beyond the curriculum. Their capacity to read *The Guardian* and to discuss a rich and varied array of subjects established a platform from which seemingly anything was possible. Alongside this, there is no denying the huge impact that insightful and innovative teaching can have, juxtaposed with an uncompromising affirmation to see every child shine.

Accountability

It is hard to comprehend that a year has passed since we last formally approached pupils, families, staff, governors and the wider community to express views in regard to the quality of Thomas Jones and what it offers. Shortly, the Leadership Team will begin the invaluable process of scrutinising opinions and ideas as part of the annual whole school review that will impact on the school's Self-Evaluation Document and Improvement Plan. The notion of complacency is anathema. It is crucial that accountability remains absolute.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens