

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 2nd November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Season of Splendour

*'With oak and autumn leaves, ashes floating,
In the moonless night, they ride into star clusters,
Then fade from sight'*

Randolph Wilson's poem is the starting point for this half term. With the sublime weather affording the opportunity to wrap up in a scarf and overcoat, staff have encouraged pupils to embrace the moment, breathing in the crisp morning air and pausing to enjoy the simple majesty of an exquisite sky.

Oversubscribed Nursery

The application window is now open for nursery places for September 2019. Our setting is highly regarded, offers outstanding provision and is significantly oversubscribed. Please ensure that you do not miss the application deadline of 31st January to secure a nursery place for any younger children not yet at the school. Application forms and the Early Years' handbook are both available on our website.

Cursive Script

The frisson of energy amongst our Year 6 scholars continues to be palpable. Commenting on Shakespeare's Sonnet 18 earlier this week, Zac Daci writes 'the poet exudes an unquestioning devotion towards a cherished entity but contradicts himself in absurd fashion'. Delving deeper still, Lea Sandulovic remarks 'the eye of heaven shines in its magnificence, an evocation of optimism, irrational and drastic'. Most pupils now scribe in cursive script and their turn of phrase is frequently impressive. It is a pleasure teaching them.

An Elusive Dynamic Revisited

Ensuring that quality remains integral is imperative. Be it a remarkable painting or an accomplished performance, the integrity of outcomes too is absolute. Consider for moment what I sometimes refer to as 'the elusive dynamic', a strand that intrigues and inspires in equal measure, yet rarely appears in any document. This element is a near-constant in Year 6 English lessons and is referenced in assemblies and 1:1 interactions with pupils. It is the existential component, and primarily pertains to the notions of truth and beauty. The challenge is to trigger intellect, to ensure pupils see the world differently and to ignite excitement about the extraordinary, nature and the universe. At its most elaborate, it involves the contemplative. This weekend, please assist us by spending time reading and conversing with your child, possibly visiting the library, a place of interest or simply going for a walk in one of London's many parks and gardens.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens