

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 5th October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Organic Café

Thomas Jones was one of the first schools in the country to introduce organic lunches for children. We have certainly come a long way since then, with the quality of provision transformed over the last 15 years. Earlier this week, pupils were served kedgeree, wholemeal penne with fresh tomatoes and basil, responsibly sourced fish pie and locally harvested fruits and vegetables. The sprouting broccoli I sampled is amongst the finest I've tasted. At every opportunity the staff team promote, encourage and cajole pupils to eat healthily. Please support us by limiting the amount of processed and sugary foods that your child consumes at home.

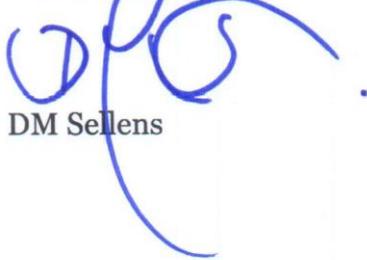
London is the Place for Me

When the Empire Windrush arrived at Tilbury on June 21st 1948 and inaugurated modern Caribbean culture to Britain, it supplied calypso, with its best known image on Pathe News of a young Lord Kitchener singing London is the Place for Me. He joined a milieu of musicians familiar with a variety of musical forms, and already represented on recordings crucial to the development of swing and jazz. The calypsonians brought with them the music of Carnival. Traditionally ranging from social satire to pressing issues of the day, the experiences of a growing Caribbean population were to be fabulously rich in raw material. For the last decade, the Alexander the Great Arts Company has afforded insight and joy inspired by the above. Last week, Year 5 scholars immersed themselves in the history and music of calypso, culminating in a performance to younger pupils.

Bodes Well

As we approach half term, it is perhaps apt to briefly revisit the many successes of recent weeks. Attendance is an astonishing 98%. This bodes well and evidences pupils' commitment to learning in real terms. Twenty prospective parents and carers have visited, all keen to enrol their children. You may recall that earlier this year there were 250 applications for 30 Reception places. Enrichment opportunities are increasingly diverse. Cello, violin, choir, hockey and the perennially popular Robotics Group are oversubscribed. Year 5's recent staging of Alfred Noyce's *The Highwayman* was accomplished and inventive, with some remarkably bold performances. In a climate that can be so overtly arch, it is though, the remarkably robust and symbiotic relationship that exists between the community and the school which resonates most.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens