

# THOMAS JONES

*an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school*

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Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Clay hands and Yoga**

Clay hands, deftly crafted by the Nursery, are now on show in our main entrance. Against a muted hessian backdrop, this display is a celebration of each child's uniqueness. In the East Wing of the building, mosaics adorn the library walls, their elaborate tessellations an evocation of Roman Britain. Earlier this week, pupils immersed themselves in a new yoga venture. They animatedly shared their experiences of the 'Triangle Pose' and 'Sun Salutation' after the session. Breathing, flexibility and core strength are at the heart of this discipline.

### **Melancholy of this Turning Point**

*'Yellow alder, russet beech,  
Sessile oak and broadleaf trees'*

Traditionally, crisp, clear days mark the end of September and usher in a new season with its rich scents and vivid palette. There is an abundance of berries and nuts, as animals make stores for the colder months, and there is decay, which gives rise to the next cycle of life. There exists a wealth of poetry that captures the exhilaration and melancholy of this turning point. In forthcoming weeks, pupils from across the school will recite works by Edward Thomas and John Clare amongst others in assembly.

### **Shakespeare and More**

Year 6 scholars have begun to study Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*. In recent weeks, they have scrutinised William Blake's *The Tyger* and Oscar Wilde's *The Selfish Giant* with aplomb. Later this term they will explore Rupert Brooke's *The Soldier* and Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. Visitors to the school are frequently disarmed by the quality of Year 6's writing and I attribute much of the success in this discipline to the quality of the literature that is taught.

### **Midnight Berets, Bobble Hats and Barbour-Style Jackets**

Monday is the launch date for pupils to wear winter uniform. This includes the Thomas Jones tie, midnight beret and Barbour-style jacket. The popular navy cable-knit bobble hats, scarves and gloves can also be purchased directly from the school. In the context of being a primary setting, earrings per se, no matter how small, have always struck me as being superfluous. It has long been my desire to ensure pupils adopt a utilitarian ethic, something that sets them apart, presenting as a homogenous whole. It is my view that accoutrement can detract from this. However, please be reassured, there are no plans to enforce this initiative.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens