

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 21st September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Exhilaration and Melancholy

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

Late September is a time of transformation. Ideally, crisp, clear days mark summer's end and usher in a new season with its rich scents and vivid palette. There is an abundance, as humans and animals make stores for the winter, 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.

Barbour Style Jackets and Midnight Berets

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 cable-knit bobble hats, scarves and gloves should also be purchased alongside the aforementioned items, directly from the school.

Disarmed Once More

Earlier this week, Year 6 scholars began to study Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*. In recent weeks, they have immersed themselves in William Blake's *The Tyger* and Oscar Wilde's *The Selfish Giant*. Later this term they will explore Alfred, Lord Tennyson's *The Charge of the Light Brigade* and Rupert Brooke's *The Soldier*, Shakespeare's *Sonnet 18* and *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.

Utilitarian Ethic

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, including earrings, ultimately detract from this. However, please be reassured that for now, there are no plans to change our policy and enforce this initiative.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens