

# THOMAS JONES

*an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school*

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Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Berets, Bobble Hats and Mittens**

*'Oh, the cheerful budding-time,  
When thorn-hedges turn to green;  
When new leaves of elm and lime  
Cleave and shed their winter screen'*

Christina Rossetti

Be it the splendour of woodland bluebells, the foreboding of a storm, an exquisite August sunrise or a November bonfire, the seasons afford a magic that cannot be measured. This morning, pupils who are on-site, commented in regard to the frost that covered the playground, but also, incongruously, the sound of birdsong. The above quotation resonates powerfully. As we rapidly approach the end of January, it is certainly remaining light much longer, the above lines of poetry are simply a nod to the spring that has yet to arrive. On an entirely practical level, until the weather properly changes, please continue to ensure your child wraps up, ideally wearing Thomas Jones' mittens and scarf, beret or bobble hat.

## **Bodes Well**

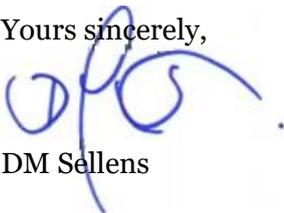
We remain entirely full, with long waiting lists for every class. There were 220 applications for 30 Reception places last week. This bodes well for the future and is testimony to the school's ongoing success. It is worth mentioning that a large proportion of prospective families, when visiting, albeit remotely, cited our warm and inclusive ethos as a key factor in their decision to apply.

## **Sublime Novella**

*'He was an old man who fished alone in a skiff in the Gulf Stream,  
and he had gone eighty-four days now without taking a fish'*

Some of the Year 6 scholars have just embarked upon an odyssey of sorts, studying Ernest Hemingway's 1952 novella the Old Man and the Sea. Deceptively simple, this fable is brutally insightful. It has long been our desire to avoid the predictable, especially when contemplating the literature we teach. In the recent past, the poetry of Dylan Thomas and John Keats, SE Hinton's The Outsiders and Robert Louis Stephenson's Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde have all been taught with huge success. Despite the pandemic it is our view that the quality of that which is taught must remain absolute.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens