

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 23rd November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

'Top Ten Schools'

Last weekend, Thomas Jones once again appeared in the Sunday Times' List of Top UK Primary Schools. Academic outcomes at the end of Key Stage 2 have been consistently strong for many years. We do not though ever assume or take for granted such success. What the above does not capture is the sheer volume of ambition that is invested. The challenge year-on-year does not diminish. If anything, with the further tweaking of tests and tasks by the Department for Education, it has become more complex. The manner in which we execute teaching and learning reflects our capacity to prioritise resources and time. The strategies employed are sophisticated. Everything is considered. Ultimately, the remarkable results reflect pupils' willingness to embrace what is organised, parents' trust and, most important by far, the insight of a talented and inventive staff team, who work tirelessly and do not collude in anything that could even vaguely be described as dull or predictable.

Extending Our Reach

Visits to Thomas Jones as part of the Teaching School venture have, once more, showcased expertise. Effusive in regard to the content of the professional development on offer a number of schools are keen to engage further in 2019.

Sustaining Quality

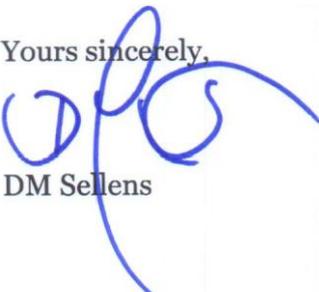
Safeguarding quality is never linear. Not making assumptions come into play too, as does the notion of envisaging a worse-case scenario, and what I sometimes refer to as 'tracking back', a colloquialism that goes some way towards capturing our pre-emptive stance. The antithesis of reactive, we anticipate potential weaknesses, be it a minor flaw or something altogether more hazardous. It is fallacy that minutiae are not valid. Too frequently, those in positions of influence advocate a so-called 'broad brushstrokes' approach. This may on occasion be appropriate. There is, though, a fine line between pragmatism and compromising to such a degree that rigour is undermined. Looking ahead, it is vital that attention to detail remains absolute. One strand that can be lost in the ether pertains to the importance of not losing sight of what matters most.

Attendance

Attendance from the start of this term to the end of last week is 98%.

Nursery	97.2
Reception	98.8
Year 1	97.8
Year 2	98.9
Year 3	97.4
Year 4	98.4
Year 5	98.7
Year 6	96.7

Yours sincerely,


DM Sellens