

# THOMAS JONES

*an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school*

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Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Four Legs Good**

Following the reading of Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* last term, Year 6 have now embarked upon an odyssey of sorts, studying George Orwell's 1945 allegorical novella *Animal Farm*. Deceptively simple, this fable is both tragic and 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.

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

*'He did not hate winter now, for he knew it was spring asleep and that the flowers were resting'*

Oscar Wilde, *The Selfish Giant*

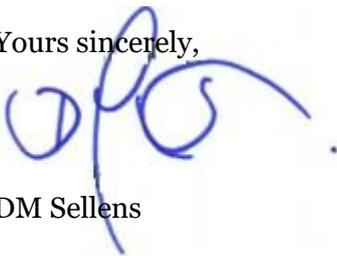
Be it the splendour of woodland bluebells, the foreboding of a storm, an exquisite August sunrise or a November bonfire, the seasons afford a magic that cannot be measured. On Tuesday, pupils effusively commented in regard to the frost that covered the playground, but also, incongruously, the sound of birdsong. The above quotation resonates powerfully. As we rapidly approach the end of January, it is certainly remaining light much longer. On an entirely practical level, however, please continue to ensure your child wraps up, wearing Thomas Jones' mittens and scarf, beret or bobble hat.

## **The Stronger You Become as a Reader**

This week, Year 6 scholars Rafael Felix and Mari-Ellada Cascaval have begun to transcend as writers. Their energy, and willingness to embrace the advice that has been given is impressive. Below appears an extract from classmate Noah Mayers' short story *Hidden Cosmos*. Such is its quality, it needs no commentary.

'Scrutinizing the obnoxious sounding control device, billowing smoke enveloped Buzz, who fumbled to the exit and tumbled forward, lost in the indigo night. No sooner had he descended, than a beastly, cadaverous entity lolloped towards him. Buzz concealed his terror. The creature was clad in fetid robes. It peered, menacingly. Regaining his composure, Buzz smiled and, making splendid eye contact, reached out to embrace the mysterious entity'. It will not surprise you to hear that Noah is one of our most accomplished readers and his composition reflects this. An avid reader of the *Guardian*, Noah urges younger pupils to read as widely as possible. 'The more capable you become as a reader, the more opportunities there will be to read the books you want to read', he claims. Wise words indeed.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens