

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 25th January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

Be it the splendour of woodland enveloped in bluebells, the foreboding of a storm, exquisite winter light or a November bonfire, the seasons afford a magic that cannot be measured. This last few days, pupils have commented effusively in regard to the icy temperatures we are experiencing, but also, incongruously, the sound of birdsong. The above lines from Oscar Wilde's *The Selfish Giant* resonate powerfully. As we rapidly approach the end of January, it is certainly remaining light much later. On an entirely practical level, however, please continue to ensure your child is wrapped up and wearing a Thomas Jones scarf, gloves and beret or bobble hat.

Four Legs Are Still Good

Following the reading of Robert Louis Stephenson's *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* last term, our Year 6 scholars have now embarked upon an odyssey of sorts, studying George Orwell's 1945 allegorical novella *Animal Farm*. Deceptively simple, this fable is tragic and brutally insightful. It is our desire to avoid the predictable, especially when contemplating the literature we teach. In past years, the poetry of John Keats, SE Hinton's *The Outsiders* and Paul Gallico's *The Snow Goose* have all been taught with huge success.

The Stronger you Become as a Reader

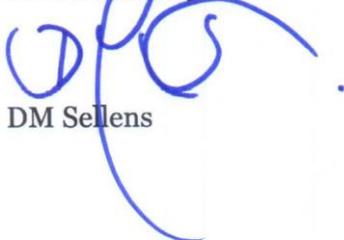
This week, Year 6 pupil Robin Murray has begun to transcend as a writer. He has struggled in this discipline but never for a moment stopped trying his best. His energy and willingness to embrace the advice that has been afforded is impressive. Below appears an extract from Year 6 scholar Lea Sandulovic's short story 'Strange Cosmos'. Such is its quality, it needs no commentary.

'We are going to crash' yelled Nana. 'Evacuate!' screeched her robot. Hurling towards the Abyss, the miniscule vessel erratically descended. Then, nothing, only silence. Stumbling, with a throbbing head, Nana scrutinised the horizon. Hostile and inhospitable, this strange place exuded menace. It was as if every smidgeon of goodwill had been absorbed by the cosmos'. It will not surprise you to hear that Lea is one of our most accomplished readers, and her story reflects this. An avid reader of *The Guardian*, Lea urges younger pupils to read at every opportunity. 'The stronger you become as a reader, the more opportunities there are to read the books that you want to read', she claims. Wise words indeed.

Led with Aplomb

Our cellists and violinists are shortly to meet for the first ensemble rehearsal of 2019. Led with aplomb by tutor Francisco Jimeno, it is anticipated that the string musicians will perform together in the hall in April.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens