

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 27th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

'You can hear the dew falling, and the hushed town breathing. Only your eyes are unclosed, to see the town fast, and slow, asleep'

Dylan Thomas

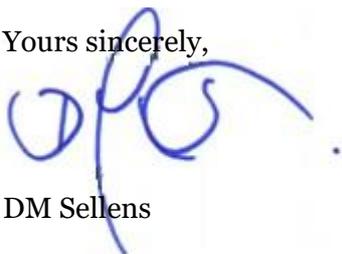
As we embrace the end of March, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your unerring loyalty, trust and kindness. The prevailing mood last Friday, whilst saying farewell, was tinged with sadness, anxiety and a sense of trepidation. It seems incongruous that the fine, sunny weather arrived just as we found ourselves in what has rapidly become the new 'normal', using phrasing that would have been unheard of a few weeks ago. 'Lock-down', 'self-isolation' and 'social distancing' now trip off the tongue as if they have always been a part of our vocabulary. I am intrigued by how speedily we have adapted to the above and now accept an entirely different set of parameters and values.

I have no more capacity than the rest of you to forecast what the next month and beyond holds. It would be wholly remiss and naïve to make sweeping predictions but I am hopeful that when this dreadful initial period passes, we will all perhaps have learned something about ourselves and society that, if anything, further galvanises our community. In terms of guidance that pertains to pupils' on-going education, rest assured the Leadership Team are currently considering various mechanisms to facilitate remote learning. We have already established 'schoolcomms' to enable communication with all families via email and you should have received a 'test' of the aforementioned, sent from the School Administrator. Schoolcomms will permit class teachers to contact you after the Easter holiday.

In the meantime, do encourage your child to read to you as much as possible. Consider watching a nature documentary together and discuss its contents. Older pupils can write a response, citing the elements that resonate most. So long as it is carefully monitored, utilise the internet. There is a wealth of appropriate material that can be made practical use of, in particular when exploring nature and science and the humanities.

There is no denying that these last few days have been debilitating for everybody. Do look after yourselves. I am optimistic that we can re-open sooner rather than later, in the first instance, for key worker families and vulnerable children. I will write again next week.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens