

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

St. Mark's Road | London | W11 1RQ

020 7727 1423 | www.tj.rbkc.sch.uk

Friday 4th October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Circumnavigation and Egyptology

Forming the nucleus of a cross curricular 'Explorers' topic, our Year 2 scholars' attention has now turned to the exploits of Sir Francis Drake, who led the 1577-1580 circumnavigation of the world and is considered one of the principal figures of the period known as the 'Heroic Age of Exploration'. On Tuesday the class visited The Golden Hinde, a hand built replica of Drake's three masted 16th century galleon. Year 3 returned from a fascinating day at the British Museum yesterday, keen to share their knowledge of sarcophagus, mummification and the tomb of Osiris.

That Which Resonates Most

As we approach the second week of October, it is perhaps apt to briefly revisit some of the successes of the last four weeks. Year 5's recent staging of Ted Hughes' The Iron Man was accomplished and inventive, with some remarkably deft performances. Attendance across the school is an astonishing 98%. This bodes well and evidences pupils' commitment in real terms. Twenty prospective parents and carers have visited, all keen to enrol their children in 2020. You may recall that earlier this year there were 250 applications for 30 Reception places. Enrichment opportunities are increasingly diverse. Cello, violin, netball and the perennially popular Robotics Group are oversubscribed. The beekeeping venture continues to thrive. In a climate that can be so overtly arch, it is, though, the robust and symbiotic relationship that exists between the community and the school which resonates most.

Affording Insight and Joy

*'This is the place I want to know,
London is the Place for Me'*

Aldwyn Roberts 1948

When the Empire Windrush arrived at Tilbury on June 21st 1948 and inaugurated modern Caribbean culture to Britain, it supplied calypso, with its best known image on Pathe News of a young Lord Kitchener singing 'London is the Place for Me'. The calypsonians brought with them the music of Carnival. Traditionally ranging from social satire to pressing issues of the day, the experiences of a growing Caribbean population were to be fabulously rich in raw material. For the last decade, the Alexander the Great Arts Company has afforded insight, and joy, inspired by the above, and later this month, older pupils will immerse themselves in the history and music of calypso, culminating in a performance to their younger peers.

Organic Café

Thomas Jones was one of the first schools in the country to introduce organic lunches for children. We have certainly come a long way since then, with the quality of provision transformed over the last 15 years. Earlier this week, pupils were served a delicious chickpea cassoulet with fresh tomatoes and basil and locally harvested fruits and vegetables. At every opportunity the staff team promote, encourage and cajole pupils to eat healthily. Please support us by limiting the amount of processed and sugary foods that your child consumes at home.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens