

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 7th September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Harmonious Colony and Onion Soup

'No spring nor summer beauty hath such grace as I have seen in one autumn face'

John Donne

Our bees continue to thrive, eliciting much discussion and presenting unique learning opportunities. In August, the hives produced over a hundred jars of honey. Gardening Club will re-commence shortly, with twenty eager pupils from across the school, including children as young as four years of age, digging, weeding and preparing for the forthcoming planting of seeds. Some parents will recall that earlier this year delicious soup was made from onions grown in our allotment. It is hoped we will have a splendid harvest of carrots, courgettes and beans.

Reading Together

I've previously referenced Le Myth de Sisyphus, Camus' philosophy of the absurd. You'll recall that Sisyphus, a figure of Greek mythology, is condemned to repeat forever the task of pushing a boulder up a mountain. Keen to avoid this plight, despite advocating reinvention, some of what we do cannot be adapted without losing validity. Reading together at home is one such example. This weekend, please consider visiting the library or a bookshop with your child. Ensure older pupils read the National Geographic, The I or Observer. Even in short bursts this will be palpable and can have a profoundly positive impact.

In Demand

As a Department for Education Teaching School we have been overwhelmed by requests to visit. In October, the Leadership Team will host senior staff from a number of schools. Rest assured, this adds a positive dynamic, affording opportunities to share expertise as well as to disseminate outstanding practice.

Berets, Cello and Exactitude

Later this month Year 6 girls will model the midnight blue beret, an integral element of our autumn uniform. The popular straw boaters will appear over the next few months, albeit for special occasions. The Year 6 boys have requested that they too wear something that singles them out and as such, they will periodically wear smart navy blazers. The quality of cello, violin and piano teaching at the school is exacting, as evidenced by the deft touch of our musicians, performing with such energy and sensitivity, most recently in the summer recital. Peripatetic lessons begin next week.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens