

# THOMAS JONES

*an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school*

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Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021

## **'World Class School' Re-Accreditation**

*'It was the time of these,  
Of sudden plenty, of slow hours and actions,  
Of diamond haze and dust on the eyes'*

Laurie Lee

On several occasions lately, we have had to send classes home to isolate. Adhering to protocol belies the debilitating impact this can have. Momentum inevitably stalls and logistically it can present a myriad of challenges. For the weakest learners it is especially disruptive. Despite all of the above, the last year has been hugely successful. We have just been re-accredited as a 'World Class School' – one of only five primary settings in the country to be accorded such a prestigious accolade. The 2020/2021 Curriculum Project is another highlight. Who could have forecast a year ago, that this initiative would be nearing completion? Professional development, led by the schools' subject leaders has been exacting, influencing planning and pedagogy. At 97%, attendance is contextually exceptional. Priorities going forward are, as always, to safeguard and sustain achievements and to reinvent and further improve where possible. I want all pupils to excel. The thrust of our improvement programme continues to be triggered by rigour and an uncompromising set of standards. Visceral teaching is, above all else, the most influential factor.

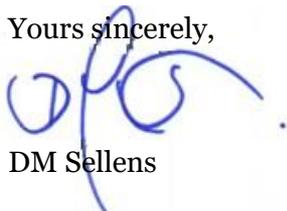
## **Second to None**

As we rapidly approach an 'end-point' of sorts, I feel it apt to briefly comment upon the staff team. There is harmony and collegiality in abundance - these are individuals that excel. Later this month, we will say a heartfelt farewell to long-serving play therapist Ms Geraldine Thomas. One of my first appointments at Thomas Jones, it is no exaggeration to say that over the last twenty years, Geraldine has played a key part in our success. Her insight and intellect are second-to-none. We will greatly miss her. Senior Leader Ms Emma Jones will shortly go on maternity leave. Emma is integral to everything we do and her absence for the next year will resonate. The Leadership Team are in the process of reconfiguring roles and responsibilities.

## **Magnanimous Scholars**

These last few weeks have been a curious affair. Predominantly, it has been sublimely calm, with a mood defined by joyful younger pupils and a magnanimous Year 6. The latter have been steadfast in their resolve to depart in July with dignity. Determined to stage Dylan Thomas' 'play for radio' Under Milk Wood, albeit a socially distanced interpretation, amongst the scholars transferring to secondary school are a fair few who are remarkably assiduous.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens