

# THOMAS JONES

*an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school*

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Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **In Hearts at Peace**

*'There shall be,  
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed'*

Written just before his death in 1915, Rupert Brooke's *The Soldier* still powerfully resonates. At 10.45 this morning, pupils and staff silently assembled in the hall to contemplate Remembrance Day and the words of the above sonnet. It was humbling to see the entire school collectively embrace the opportunity to pause and reflect.

## **Impressive Staging and Moustaches**

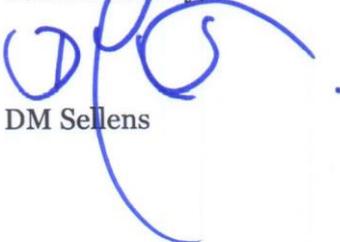
The hockey team goes from strength to strength, reflecting rigorous early morning training afforded by former Oxfordshire county player Ms Molly Manners. It is no exaggeration to describe these young athletes as ambassadors for competitive sport, such is their ardent endeavour. Yesterday morning, Year 4 immersed themselves in an impressive staging of Ted Hughes' story 'How the Fox Came to Be Where It Is'. Exquisitely clad in an array of costumes representing nature and woodland creatures, this talented group of children exuded confidence. 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'. Next week, the class will visit The Golden Hind. Thanks to your generosity, last Friday's 'Moustache for November' event raised £500 towards the Cancer Research Charity.

## **Clarity of Purpose and Dulcet Tones**

One of my favourite days at Thomas Jones is Wednesday, when the sounds of cello, violin and piano can be heard in the east wing of the school building. Younger pupils are determined to emulate the success of their more deft, older peers, practicing far beyond what is expected. Rehearsals for the end of term concert have begun in earnest. Choir Master Mr Miles Cruz is adamant that this year's performance will be exacting. Letters will be sent home in regard to both of the Christmas concerts on Monday. Increasingly popular, to the extent that it is not always possible to accommodate everybody, it is crucial the attached reply slip is returned promptly. Tickets will be distributed at the end of November.

Earlier this week visitors effusively commented on the clarity of purpose that is so evident in lessons. From the start of September to the end of last week, attendance across the school is a remarkable 98%. Positives aside, the Leadership Team will shortly revisit the Improvement Plan to critically evaluate what has been achieved. Looking ahead to 2019, we will, once again, request your assistance in appraising relative strengths and weaknesses. In the meantime, rest assured, rigour and aspiration remain absolute.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens