

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 7th February 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Oversubscribed
*'On whose forbidden ear,
The distant strains of triumph
Break, agonising, clear'*

Emily Dickinson

Thomas Jones is entirely full, with long waiting lists for every class. There were 250 applications for 30 Reception places at the end of last month. This bodes well for the future and is testimony to the school's on-going success. It is worth mentioning that a large proportion of prospective families, when visiting, cite our warm and inclusive ethos as a key factor in their decision to apply.

Opera, Sculpture and Country Dancing

Ms Verity Handyside's spring term art initiative is proving to be the perfect vehicle to experiment with animal sculptures, using card and acrylic paint. Each animal was initially crafted in parts, painted, and then carefully built so that the sea lions, elephants, orangutans and leopards could stand independently and be seen in the round. Earlier this week Year 5 were both enchanted and riveted, watching an abstract staging of Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland at the Royal Opera House. Still relatively new, one particular venture that goes from strength to strength, involves pupils immersing themselves in traditional country dancing.

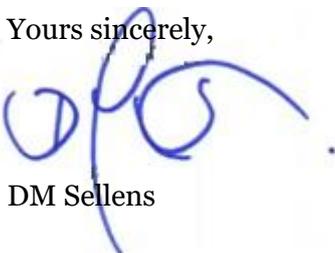
Romans, Chess and Sporting Prowess

Year 4 scholars recently visited the Museum of London, near to the Barbican, to explore life in the Roman Empire. They investigated the museum's exhibits and original artefacts, and were greatly inspired by the 'Roman Citizen' Marcus' live enactment. Every Year 6 scholar can now play chess. Led with aplomb by Mr Jason Dass, it is hoped that younger pupils will be taught how to access this complex game by their older peers. The football team won their most recent away fixture 5-1, with a robust and convincing performance from a group of players who, although not physically imposing, are veritable giants in regard to humility and passing accuracy. We wish them well for the rest of the season.

Assiduous Learning Ethic

Minister of State, Mr Nick Gibb MP, wrote to pupils and staff earlier this week, highlighting that we continue to be amongst the top 3% of primary settings in the country, in terms of the progress made between Key Stage 1 and the end of Key Stage 2 in reading, writing and mathematics. Considering the above, a few simple truths resonate. The powerful tri-partite relationship that exists is exacting. Last year's Year 6 scholars shone so brightly, demonstrating an assiduous ethic, frequently disarming their peers and teachers with a willingness to delve and explore beyond the curriculum. Their capacity to read the Guardian and to discuss at length a variety of subjects established a platform from which, seemingly, anything was possible.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens