

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 10th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

If Nothing Else

'My education was the liberty I had to read indiscriminately'

Dylan Thomas

If nothing else this summer, please ensure your child reads as widely as possible. The above lines from poet and playwright Dylan Thomas evoke so much – perhaps most profoundly, a ‘prompt’ for each and every pupil to embrace the opportunities they are afforded and to immerse themselves in literature. Our nearest library, on the corner of Lancaster Road, has now re-opened. Thomas Jones’ favourite bookshops, Lutyan’s & Rubinstein on Kensington Park Road, Waterstones at Notting Hill Gate, Oxfam on Portobello Road and Daunt’s next to Holland Park tube station are, having been closed for several months, as keen as mustard to welcome customers. All of the aforementioned have designated children’s sections, albeit modest in scale, promoting an eclectic mix of ‘classic’ and more contemporary publications.

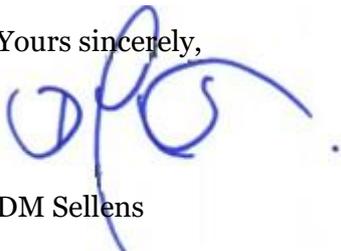
Larkspurs and Honey Bees

Of late, whenever I visit our beehives, there is a frisson. I sometimes wonder if these exquisite creatures know something we don’t. You may recall I wrote a rather wistful newsletter in June, referencing the past at this time of the year. I cited the Year 6 scholars’ play, cricket tournaments, punnets of strawberries at Sports Day and cream teas at Godshell Village on the Isle of Wight. Returning as we did at the start of this half term, there was an undeniable sense of trepidation. The reality is that the last few weeks have been magical. With fewer pupils on site and in no small part because of the unique nature of the current situation and the parameters it has accorded, there has been much to celebrate. The quality of the learning that has taken place is impressive. It has been exceptionally calm. Our beautiful grounds are at their most vibrant, with larkspurs standing like sentinels, and the bees harmonious and oblivious to the pandemic.

Eager Anticipation

Staff eagerly anticipate seeing their classes at the forthcoming transition and orientation mornings. By way of a gentle reminder, the expectation is that all pupils return to school on Monday 7th September. By that point, some children will have been out of school for six months. The leadership team are single-minded in our resolve to quickly re-establish momentum and exactitude. The school shop will be open between Wednesday 2nd September and Friday 4th September. I strongly urge families to purchase items of uniform during this final week of the holiday.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens