

# THOMAS JONES

*an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school*

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Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Frisson of Wonder**

*'One by one they came stumbling,  
Over the snow,  
Their lanterns around their heads'*

Laurie Lee

Precisely a year ago, pupils were busy rehearsing for the final concert of the calendar year. The nativity was beginning to take shape and the choir, having invested countless hours fine-tuning the cadence of their performance, were excited at the prospect of carol singing on Portobello Road. This year everything is different. Nevertheless, there exists an undeniable frisson of wonder with fir trees exquisitely adorned in the hall and main entrance, fairy lights twinkling brightly and mandarin, clove and cinnamon candles lit. In many respects, the last few weeks could not have gone better, in no small part because of the way in which Deputy Head Ms Lindsay Johnson, capably supported by Mr Scott Gourley, have executed the school's revised risk assessment. With an astonishing 98% attendance and numerous effusive comments from a wide representation of families, pupils returned after half term with an acute sense that this was their moment to re-engage properly.

### **Visceral Message**

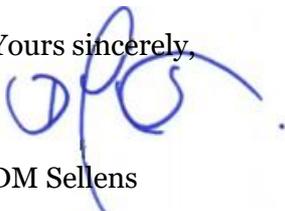
As is our tradition, the Year 6 scholars have been studying Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. The last line, 'Merry Christmas, everyone' still resonates so powerfully. Frequently, we revisit the notion of being 'kind and friendly' at Thomas Jones. Living in an age that can be cynical and arch, we can all, in varying degrees, transcend by being more selfless and by challenging the myopic and intolerant, the vituperative and judgemental and by celebrating shared values, those qualities that, given half a chance, can make for a more gentle and forgiving world.

Pupils arrived at school on Monday wearing their smartest non-uniform clothes as part of an important fund-raising venture. Between now and the end of term, class councillors are determined to raise at least £500 for people who are homeless. Voluntary contributions will be gratefully accepted, however modest.

### **Our Resolve**

Term finishes on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December. The next five days are huge in terms of learning. Despite the pandemic, the last year has been remarkably successful and rewarding. Our resolve, to see all pupils shine has been further galvanised. On behalf of the staff team, I would like to thank each one of you for your trust, partnership and unerring loyalty.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens