

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 15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Sleeping Flowers

Earlier this week, whilst visiting the Nursery and perhaps noticing my furrowed brow, a child quietly whispered 'the flowers are sleeping, all will be well'. At this difficult time, one can be forgiven for being somewhat introspective. I do, though, think it is important to remain optimistic. Rest assured, everything will right itself. In the meantime, the Thomas Jones staff team are resolute in their commitment to ensure that remote learning is absolute. This hugely important venture is proving to be a success. The teachers have been overwhelmed with encouraging, effusive comments. Many thanks for your on-going trust and support.

The Stronger One Becomes as a Reader

So far during the lockdown, a number of Year 6 scholars have continued to transcend as writers, most recently submitting first-rate essays focusing on Robert Frost's Nothing Gold Can Stay. Below appears a short extract from Greta Guttentstein's personal response. Such is its quality, it needs no commentary.

'This diminutive poem contains no interaction. Because beauty is ephemeral, the poem has a definite note of sadness to it. Flowers are used as a representation of youth. Frost uses the flower as an allegory but also, interestingly, in a literal sense too'.

It will not surprise you to hear that Greta is a veritable 'book worm' and her composition reflects this. Greta urges younger pupils to read as widely as possible. 'The more capable you become, the stronger you will be as a learner' she claims. Wise words indeed.

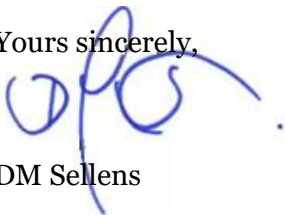
Enduring Beauty of the Year's Turning

*'Once more the wave of rain has passed,
And yonder the hills appear'*

Richard Jeffries 'Haunts of the Lapwing' 1883

Winter for many pupils is defined by the notion of snow, surpassing by its glamour the more common days of wind, rain and grey skies. In our grounds, life persists, readying itself for the age old cycle to begin again. Landscaper Mr Joseph Fada visited this morning, tending the shrubs and trees and tackling a multitude of tasks. As soon as possible, when there is a semblance of normality, Gardening Club will resume. An ambitious planting programme will be curated by Key Stage 1 Leader, Ms Melissa Kiley and an avid group of junior horticulturists. There exists a wealth of literature that captures the enduring beauty of this turning point in the year. I plan to share some of my favourite poems in assembly by Thomas Hardy, John Clare and Emma Kemp, amongst others, periodically, up to the end of this half-term.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens