

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 18th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Exquisite Melancholy of this Turning Point

*'Yellow alder, russet beech,
Sessile oak and broadleaf trees'*

Traditionally, crisp, clear days mark the end of September and usher in a new season with its rich scents and vivid palette. There is an abundance of berries and nuts, as animals make stores for the colder months, and there is decay, which gives rise to the next cycle of life. There exists a wealth of poetry that captures the exhilaration and melancholy of this turning point. In forthcoming weeks, pupils from across the school will, albeit sometimes remotely, recite works by John Clare and Edward Thomas amongst others in assembly.

New Normal

Over the last couple of weeks, the entire school community has, I am delighted to say, settled into its 'new normal' with grace and dignity. Deputy Head, Ms Lindsay Johnson, and I are quietly pleased with how our Risk Assessment has been actioned to ensure the safety of pupils and staff. Attendance is an impressive 98%. There is a palpable frisson of positivity and a real sense of momentum pertaining to learning per se.

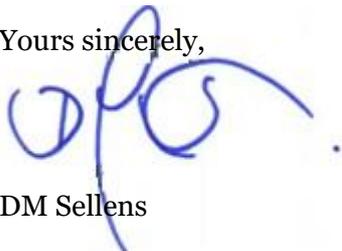
To Eat, Socialise and Play

As you are aware, as well as the staggered nature to the beginning and end of the day, pupils have, since the start of term, had shorter lunch breaks in their respective class 'bubbles'. After much consideration, and a rigorous review with the staff team, we have decided that reintroducing hot midday meals at this juncture is simply not feasible. Crudely, cooked lunches will take far too long to execute and in turn, erode the amount of time pupils have to eat, socialise and play with their peers. We feel the opportunity for them to re-connect in this way is crucial for their emotional wellbeing after such a long period in isolation, and it is primarily for this reason that packed lunches will continue for the remainder of the term. The menu will certainly be reviewed and extended after the October half term, so that there is more variety and choice. Thank you in advance for your support.

Barbour-Style Jackets and Cable Knit Bobble Hats

By the end of this month, pupils are expected to wear winter uniform. This includes the Thomas Jones tie, Barbour-style jacket and midnight beret. The popular navy cable-knit bobble hat, scarf, and gloves can also be purchased directly from the school.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens