

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 1st May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Bees, Nature and Petrichor

*'If ever I heard blessing it is there,
Where birds in trees that shoals and shadows are
Splash with their hidden wings and drops of sound
Break on my ears their crests of throbbing air'*

Laurie Lee

Over the last five weeks, nature has started to recalibrate somewhat. Urban spaces that are usually defined by incessant noise and the frenetic toing and froing of people, are eerily silent. On many occasions of late, I've been humbled by the simple sounds of birdsong, its exquisite quality heightened by the stillness of the city. Alongside the above, it has been unseasonably warm. At the first intimation of a shower, on Monday, I experienced that sensation when, after a long spell of uninterrupted sunshine, rain settles on tarmac and elicits a unique smell, technically referred to as petrichor. Both of our school beehives continue to thrive. We are keenly expecting a bumper harvest in August. With so little traffic on the roads, I gather London's air is the cleanest it has been for years.

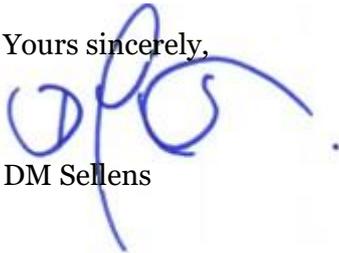
Eager Anticipation

Traditionally, the beginning of this term is exemplified by the notion of eager anticipation. There's no denying that during May and June, Thomas Jones is at its most rewarding. With the advent of the corona virus everything has shifted. There can be no cricket tournaments, punnets of strawberries at Sports Day or the annual string recital, a veritable show-case of ardent endeavour and exactitude. Nor will Nursery or Reception venture to Kensington Palace Gardens for a Teddy Bear's Picnic. The staging of a classic work of literature, in recent years Treasure Island, Romeo and Juliet and last July's inventive and heartfelt rendition of Peter Pan, will be on hold. Instead, our single-minded resolve is to ensure that support is afforded to each and every family during this difficult period. We will embrace all of the above and far more, as and when life returns to a semblance of normality, but it will not be this summer.

Endless Speculation

In the current climate, one can be forgiven for despairing in regard to the endless speculation as to when schools will reopen. The latest update from Education Secretary Mr Gavin Williamson, MP appears to suggest that a 'phased return' is likely. What this means, in real terms, is anybody's guess. The Leadership Team will do its utmost to keep abreast of any developments. In the here and now, please focus on that which matters most. In short, remaining healthy and safe. Encourage your children to read, if at all possible aloud to you or an older sibling, wherever possible. Endeavour to ensure pupils commit to the home learning that the teachers have organised. I appreciate this will not always be linear.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens