

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 22nd May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Halcyon Days

This time last year, we were just about to say farewell for the half term holiday. I distinctly recall it was a non-uniform fund-raising day. The weather was sublime. Pupils from across the school were resplendent, some sporting dapper blazers and bow ties, others disarmed in exquisite attire that reflected their cultural background. There was a mood of jubilation, in no small part because our Year 6 scholars had, once again, excelled, tackling the annual standardised national tests with grace but also having recently competed with brio in cricket and hockey. They were ebullient at the prospect of spending a few days on the Isle of Wight, sailing around the Needles, exploring Carisbrooke Castle and having a cream tea in the picturesque village of Godshill. Halcyon moments indeed. Sadly, it will be a while before we enjoy such days again. In the meantime, it is about ensuring that what is afforded each and every pupil is exacting. Just this last week, I have been humbled by stories of pupils embracing opportunities to immerse themselves in reading and in the execution of remote learning.

See, They Return

*'See, they return; ah, see the tentative
Movement, and the slow feet'*

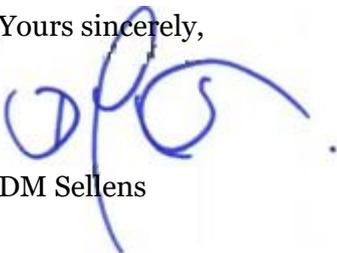
Ezra Pound

What I am about to scribe may change, such is the nature of the seemingly forever shifting direction of travel. On the back of a huge amount of dialogue between the leadership team, governors and the local authority, and following the formulation of a comprehensive risk assessment, our plans are moving forward for the potential re-opening of Thomas Jones on Tuesday 2nd June. The parents and carers of pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 who have informed us that they wish for their children to return, have been in receipt of additional communication from Deputy Head Ms Lindsay Johnson.

Eid Mubarak

On behalf of all staff, I'd like to wish our Muslim families Eid Mubarak. Let's hope this weekend is gentle and joyful and that the sun continues to shine brightly.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens