

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 23rd April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

'Mystery Reader' and a Sublime Rendition

*'You can dance on the breeze,
Over houses and trees'*

One particularly magical interlude this week, was a sublime rendition of Mary Poppins' 'Let's Go Fly a Kite', performed in assembly by Year 1. With poise in abundance, the children enchanted and captivated in equal measure, their faces a picture of intent and focus. On Wednesday, Reception launched a new venture that entails family members sharing a story using Zoom technology, the identity of the person withheld until the moment at which it is read. I'd like to thank everybody who has agreed to contribute to this initiative.

Evaluation and Gingham Dresses

Shortly, families will be afforded the opportunity to complete an evaluation questionnaire. Your opinions and ideas are important and valued. Accountability remains absolute. I hope that as many of you as possible will assist us in reviewing the last year.

On another note entirely, it is advisable to machine wash our summer uniform dresses at a temperature no higher than 30 degrees. Ideally, drip-dry on a hanger. Please avoid putting the dress in a dryer. Ironing will damage the fabric.

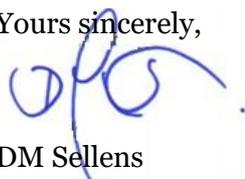
Custodians of Aspiration

During the recent holiday, the Year 6 scholars eagerly researched the 1917 Russian Revolution. Yesterday they started to read George Orwell's Animal Farm. It is crucial that, periodically, we shift the dynamic of what is taught. Last year, John Keats' Bright Star was studied with aplomb and in the previous April, Philip Larkin's The Whitsun Weddings beguiled and inspired. We live in an age that increasingly veers from embracing the complex. It is my view that we have a responsibility to challenge ourselves to avoid the temptation to simply tread water. We are, after all, the custodians of each and every pupils' aspirations.

Visceral Teaching

Despite the pandemic, last term was hugely successful. Priorities going forward are, as always, to safeguard and sustain what has been achieved, and to further improve. The notion of complacency is anathema. I want all pupils to shine. Gaps and anomalies in learning must be remedied. The thrust of our professional development programme is triggered by rigour and an uncompromising set of standards. Visceral teaching continues to be the most influential factor. Positively, the staff team are strong. At this juncture, I am optimistic about three elements: Skill, capacity and insight - the 'pre-requisites' that are necessary if quality is to be achieved.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens