

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 10th January 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

For many, this time of year is defined by the notion of snow, surpassing by its glamour the more common days of wind and rain and grey skies. Incongruously, so far, January has been the antithesis of icy. In our school grounds everywhere life persists, readying itself for the age old cycle to begin. By now the deciduous leaves are shrivelled but life continues, beneath the bark, waiting for the days to lengthen. Gardening Club will resume shortly. The Nature Area and its surroundings will be tended by an avid group of junior horticulturists. There exists a wealth of literature that captures the winter. In forthcoming weeks, pupils will recite poems and excerpts of prose in assembly by John Clare, Emily Dickinson and Edward Thomas that celebrate the enduring beauty of the year's turning.

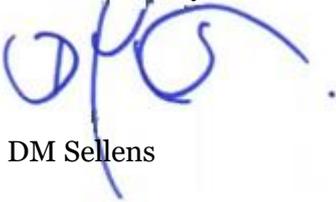
Oversubscribed

The deadline for applying to join Reception in September 2020 is next Wednesday. If the sheer volume of visits from a universally effusive group of prospective parents and their children is anything to go by, we are expecting a large number of applications. Those naming Thomas Jones as their '1st choice' school is humbling, with a five-year mean average of 250 applications for 30 places each year.

Recalibration and Self-Assurance

This forthcoming weekend, please ensure that time is put aside to read with your child. It is crucial that after the two week Christmas holiday, pupils quickly recalibrate and adjust once more to the routine of reading every day. Older scholars will benefit enormously from reading extracts from the 'I', the Guardian or Observer. In regard to younger pupils, visits to the library or, if fortunate, local bookshops Lutyens & Rubinstein, Daunts or Waterstones can reap rewards. Crudely, the more a child reads certain kinds of literature, the stronger he or she will become and, in turn, more self-assured.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens