

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 11th January 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

'I Can't Wait to Start School'

The final deadline for applying to join Reception in September 2019 is next Tuesday. If the sheer volume of visits from a universally effusive group of parents and carers and their children over the last few months is anything to go by, we are, once again, expecting a large number of applications. In recent years, those naming Thomas Jones as their 1st choice has been humbling, with a five-year mean average of 250 applications per year for 30 places.

Enduring Beauty of the Year's Turning

*I leant upon a coppice gate,
When frost was spectre-grey,
And Winter's dregs made desolate,
The weakening eye of day'.*

Thomas Hardy

For many, this time of the year is defined by the notion of snow, surpassing by its glamour the more common days of wind and rain. In our grounds, life persists, readying itself for the age old cycle to begin. The deciduous leaves are shrivelled and lost but life continues, deep beneath the bark, waiting for the days to lengthen. Shortly, Gardening Club will resume. The pond and its surroundings will be tended by Mr Joe Crosby and an avid group of junior horticulturists. There exists a wealth of literature that captures the enduring beauty of winter. In forthcoming weeks, pupils from across the school will recite poems and excerpts of prose in assembly by the likes of John Clare and Emma Kemp that celebrate the above.

Recalibration, Broadsheets and Self-Assurance

This weekend, please ensure that time is put aside to read with your child. It is crucial that after the Christmas holiday all pupils quickly recalibrate and adjust once more to the routine of reading daily. Older scholars will benefit enormously from reading extracts from quality broadsheets such as 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 huge 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