

# THOMAS JONES

*an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school*

St. Mark's Road | London | W11 1RQ  
020 7727 1423 | www.tj.rbkc.sch.uk

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **In the Last Decade**

*'We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time'*

From TS Eliot's Little Gidding

In the last decade, the above stanza has appeared on more than one occasion in newsletters. At this difficult time, those four simple lines represent optimism and the intimation that we will reconvene, though it is almost impossible to forecast when this may be, mainly because there is no definitive or plausible narrative that ministers and scientists appear to agree upon. The Leadership Team have, over the last few days, been in communication with all key worker families and the parents of any children who are in receipt of an Education and Health Care Plan or are vulnerable. Almost all were adamant they wished to keep their children at home, certainly for now. They are, understandably, anxious about the current situation. This may change, depending on a number of variables. In the meantime, the expectation is that teachers immerse themselves in planning and organising appropriate learning opportunities that can be accessed remotely and for those with a curriculum responsibility, writing policies and associated documentation.

### **That Afforded Pupils**

Despite the abrupt and premature end to the spring term, there is no denying that from January to mid-March it was hugely successful. Rest assured, when we do return, our priority will be to safeguard and sustain what has been achieved and to further improve. I want all pupils to shine. The thrust of our development programme will continue to be triggered by rigour and an uncompromising set of standards. The scrutiny of the quality of learning must remain absolute.

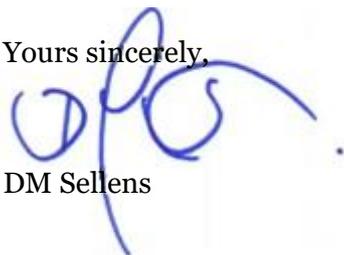
### **Oversubscribed and Cedar Panels**

There were 250 applications for 30 Reception places in January. Last week, those fortunate enough to be offered a place were in a position to access this information on-line. The school remains entirely full with 235 pupils. Most of the recent premises enhancement works are now complete. The cedar fascia panels have not yet been installed. It leaves the façade looking what it is, unfinished. However, with everything else in place there is the suggestion of how it will eventually look after the lock-down is eased.

### **Ramadan Mubarak**

I'd like to take this opportunity to send the warmest of wishes to everybody in the Thomas Jones community, and in particular our Muslim families. Ramadan begins later this week. The thoughts of the staff team and I are very much with you.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens