

THOMAS JONES

an Ofsted outstanding and DfE designated teaching school

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Friday 21st May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Strawberries, Cricket and Dylan Thomas

*There swelled a sense of falling,
Like an arrow-shower,
Sent out of sight, somewhere becoming rain'*

Philip Larkin

Like autumn, winter and spring, summer resonates in its own unique way. Much of the mythology that surrounds this time of the year, arises, I suspect, from memory. As a six year old boy, May and June seemed to last forever, with seemingly endless sunny days. For some, a punnet of strawberries and the sound of willow on leather, or the cries of seagulls and exquisite light, are symbols of the starting point of the season. In a nod to the above, pleasingly, older pupils have started to play cricket again. I gather that the forecast for the weekend is for yet more rain. Rest assured, classes will jump at the opportunity to utilise fine weather, as and when it returns, with teddy bears' picnics and sporting events on the agenda once more.

Our Year 6 scholars have just studied Philip Larkin's The Whitsun Weddings. I have lauded this cohort on a number of occasions recently, mainly concerning the manner in which they tackle complex literature. The level of discourse, visceral insight and sheer brio are disarming. Shortly, they will embrace excerpts of Dylan Thomas' 1954 'play for radio', Under Milk Wood.

Friend of the School

Next month is the fourth anniversary of the Grenfell Tower fire. As most of you are aware, in 2017 Deputy Head Lindsay Johnson curated the landscaping of an area of the school grounds, referred to as The Orchard. Here, five fruit trees were planted to remember pupils Yasin and Nur Huda El-Wahabi, their younger brother Mehdi, and parents Abdulaziz and Faouzia. Earlier this week, we were visited by surviving family member Hanan El-Wahabi. Well known to many of you as a former parent, Hanan was filmed in this special place by documentarists, Will Ferris and Matthew Beckett, from Big Small TV.

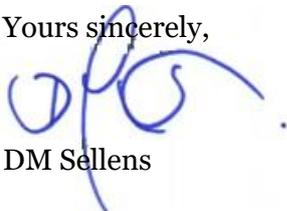
Evaluation

On Monday, all families will be sent an annual evaluation to complete, on this occasion electronically. I would be most grateful for your support in regard to this important questionnaire. Your input and views are crucial.

Robust Readers

As we rapidly approach the final week of this half term, please read with your child as much as possible. The most resilient and capable of learners are those who develop a desire to immerse themselves in the world of books. Crudely, the more robust they become the better. Being in a position to access stories, poems and plays that are age-appropriate, is a veritable rite of passage, and one that can be hugely rewarding.

Yours sincerely,



DM Sellens