

# Tetherdown News!

*Where friendships thrive and children learn to discover a world of possibilities –  
challenged and supported to be the best they can be.*

No.10

Remember we are a 'NO NUTS' School

1<sup>st</sup> February 2019



[admin@tetherdownschool.org](mailto:admin@tetherdownschool.org)

<https://twitter.com/tetherdown>

[www.tetherdownschool.org](http://www.tetherdownschool.org)



All Newsletters are available on the school website at: [www.tetherdownschool.org](http://www.tetherdownschool.org)

Dates for your diary – click [here](#).  
These are available on the website front page.

Dear Parents and Carers

This week's Newsletter brings you up-to-date with a number of activities across the school. Governors are mindful of the fact that we need to find creative ways of raising funds to provide for our children. A separate working group of governors is focusing on such issues and will focus on funding streams, grant applications, parental donations, sponsored events and more. We will keep you updated with progress and activities.

Recently I asked you to complete a short survey about your experiences at Tetherdown. Having had only 40 responses, I have extended the deadline to provide a further opportunity to respond. Please click [here](#) to link to the questionnaire. Closing date is **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February**.

Question 13 asks about how you might like to help and we had these specific responses:

- Science and engineering
- Grant applications
- Marketing
- Social media
- Music activities
- Events management
- Language learning

As the questionnaire is an anonymous process, if you have answered and identified your ability to support one of the topics above, please get in touch by emailing the admin team on [admin@tetherdownschool.org](mailto:admin@tetherdownschool.org) and include your topic of support in the subject heading.

Please make a note in your diary of the upcoming **Open Afternoon**, which will take place on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February** between 2:45pm and 3:30pm. This is an opportunity for you to come and sit with your child as they explain their work to you. You will then have the opportunity to discuss how your child is progressing at **Parents' Evening**. The dates for parents evening, as well as, the **SENCo Open Evening** are **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February** and **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March** (4:00pm – 7:00pm). Please make your booking via ParentMail if you have not already done so.

Week commencing **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February** all the children and teachers will be engaging in "well-being week", where learning will be organised thematically, and provide further opportunities to explore children's preferred learning approaches. Activities will include outdoor learning, Independent Learning Time (ILT), explorations in to math word problems and creative links with the arts. We hope this will provide time for the teachers to really understand how the children learn best, and influence future practice.

You may be aware that the government recently provided schools with funding, through money generated from the 'sugar tax', to help schools improve facilities for physical activity, healthy eating, mental health and wellbeing, or medical conditions. We will be responding to this funding input and will keep you

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advised of how we will use this money. Having recently met with Meinir Jones, the co-ordinator leading on the "Healthy Pupils Capital Fund" for Haringey, I am advised to encourage our school community to reconsider how birthdays are celebrated collectively in school, specifically the sharing of sweets and cakes. In the past we have always welcomed the sharing of either small cakes or small chocolate sweets, but would encourage celebrating your child's birthday through our "Birthday Book" system.

Our "Birthday Book" system helps to increase the numbers of books in classrooms by asking you to purchase a lovely book and donate it to your child's class on their birthday. The school will celebrate the occasion by sharing the book with the class and inserting a book-plate with your child's name and birthday in the front cover. Muswell Hill Bookshop holds a list of age appropriate books.

We will be reviewing our policy on the types of food that can be brought in to school as birthday treats as we seek to work towards meeting government objectives, and will inform you of any changes in the very near future. In the meantime, any treats that are given out at the end of the day should only be eaten with the permission of the receiving adult.

I look forward to working with you in the coming weeks.

Tony Woodward  
Headteacher

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## SCHOOL NEWS

Our "Tetherdown Teddy" for best attendance was given to Reception Ladybirds Class with 98.94% – well done!

### How is your Class Attendance?

Class	% Attendance
0 Butterflies	94.57
<b>0 Ladybirds</b>	<b>98.94</b>
1 Bumblebees	95.68
1 Dragonflies	96.73
2 Eagles	97.89
2 Owls	96.84
3 Parrots	94.74
3 Peacocks	98.81
4 Jaguars	94.21
4 Leopards	97.19
5 Chameleons	97.82
5 Komodos	90.72
6 Griffins	95.62
6 Phoenix	95.44



### Building and Maintenance Fund Update

To date we have received a fantastic **£20,242.40** through your generous donations to the Building Maintenance Fund, and have spent **£19,295.00** on a variety of school based projects which are listed below, as such we now have **£947.40** in reserve.

This terms projects included:

- Replacement of 26 fire extinguishers
- Service boiler pump due to leak
- Update CCTV
- Classroom blinds for 4 rooms
- Service sensors in pupil toilets
- Service underfloor heating in the hall

Your continued support is greatly appreciated as the BMF will pay for the completion of the above projects and ensure the school is fit to operate at its full capacity.

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## World Book Day

This year, World Book Day takes place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March and we would like to invite you to help your children to make the most of this special occasion.

World Book Day celebrates the joy and value of books and reading, especially for children. To help them in their reading journey, every child receives a £1 World Book Day Book Token that can either be exchanged for one of the TWELVE special £1 World Book Day books, or be used to get £1 off any book or audio book costing £2.99 or more. Your child will receive their token on the Day itself. You can find out more about the books on the World Book Day website as shown <https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>



To really make the most of this exciting day, we would like all children to get dressed up as their favourite character from any book that has inspired them. Each key stage will have their own fashion catwalk for all of the children to show off their wonderful costumes. There will be a prize for the most creative and authentic costume. We look forward to an inspiring and exciting day! We are proud of our standards in Reading, where we are currently third in Haringey and encourage all our children to develop a love of reading throughout their learning.

*Mrs Banks (English Coordinator)*

## Calling all Tetherdown Children – BBC 500 words 2019 story competition please spread the word!

The world's biggest short-story writing competition for kids has returned to the BBC. For more details please click [here](#) to find out everything you need to know about this year's competition. Tetherdown were top performers in the End of Key Stage Tests (2018) when comparing progress with other local schools in the area. Inspiring opportunities like this encourage children's creativity, which we so value at Tetherdown.

## Apollo Music



Year 5 recently received another visit from the musicians at Apollo. The string quartet came to each class and spent around an hour sharing their love of music, demonstrating the skills involved in playing a stringed instrument, analysing components of a small variety of pieces and engaging with the children to seek their views and thoughts around how composers convey feelings and mood within a piece. The children really enjoyed this opportunity and were keen to engage with some really thoughtful questions.

## SEND

### Coffee Morning with Tetherdown Send Support (TSS)

The TSS Group is having a **Coffee Morning** at Tetherdown School with the SENCo. If you would like to find out more about how the school can support your child academically or are interested in what changes the school and the TSS group jointly put in place for parents and pupils with SEN please

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come to the school coffee morning held in the Music Room on **Thursday, 14th February, 9:00am-10:00am.**

Please email: [szabo.eszter.agnes@gmail.com](mailto:szabo.eszter.agnes@gmail.com) the TSS Coordinator by **10<sup>th</sup> February** to confirm whether you are able to attend. Thank you.

## COMMUNITY & SPORTS NEWS

### Chess Success

Congratulations to the U9 chess team who qualified for the semi-final stage of the National Primary Schools Chess Championship.

Playing in the Bishop Douglass zonal qualifier, the team - Y4s Alex M, Cali B, David N, Rafi W, Maia L and Jackson W - finished in fourth place with wins against The Hall, St Paul's NW3 and local rivals Coldfall.

The U11 team sadly missed out on qualification to the semi-finals by just half a point.



The team - Y6s Bruno C, Joe L, Harry L, Alfie T, JoJo S and Y5 Tomer S - had great wins against William Patten and St Paul's NW3 but needing at least a draw in the final match against Wetherby, they narrowly lost 3-2.

Mr Karia who runs the lunchtime chess clubs said, 'Both teams did very well. This was a particularly tough qualifying tournament with many of the stronger North London chess schools taking part.'

He added, '*Tomer deserves a special mention. He won all his five games. A fantastic feat.*'

**PSA NEWS** - Please click [here](#) for a link to the PSA page on our school website.

**Silent Disco: Friday, 8th February**  
**Years 1-3 from 5:30pm-6:30pm and Years 4-6 from 7:00pm-8:00pm**

Only one week to go! Don't miss out! It's going to be a great party! Tickets are selling fast, so get yours quick. You can buy these in the playground on **Monday and Wednesday** next week.

**The 2nd Tetherdown Short Film Competition: Deadline Friday, 8th March**

Perhaps you haven't heard the news...we've had an incredible offer from a Tetherdown dad who works at the Everyman...the 10 shortlisted movies entered for the 2nd Tetherdown Short Film Competition will be shown on **Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> March** at the Everyman Cinema in Muswell Hill on the big screen!! - pretty awesome stuff! So kids, get creative and it could be you! See poster and text below for all the details.

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**TETHERDOWN SHORT FILM COMPETITION**



**THINGS TO REMEMBER ...**

GET PERMISSION FROM ANYONE THAT YOU ARE FILMING.

MAXIMUM LENGTH IS 5 MINS. BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE THIS LONG. A 1 MINUTE FILM COULD WORK JUST AS WELL.

YOU CAN MAKE YOUR FILM IN ANY STYLE THAT YOU LIKE. IT COULD EVEN BE AN ANIMATION OR A DOCUMENTARY.

KEEP IT SIMPLE! DON'T MAKE YOUR STORY TOO COMPLICATED. SPEND LOTS OF TIME PLANNING YOUR FILM. A STORYBOARD CAN REALLY HELP WITH THIS.

WINNING ENTRIES WILL BE AVAILABLE TO VIEW ON VIMEO

**UP TO 4 PEOPLE IN EACH TEAM. YOU CAN ENTER MORE THAN ONE FILM**

**ENTRY FEE £5 PER FILM. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE PSA**

PLEASE SEND YOUR ENTRIES VIA WETRANSFER TO <a href="mailto:competitionfilm@gmail.com">competitionfilm@gmail.com</a>	THERE WILL BE ONE WINNING FILM FROM INFANTS AND ONE FROM JUNIORS	WINNING FILMS TO BE SHOWN IN ASSEMBLY AND PRIZES TO BE WON.
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**COMPETITION DEADLINE FRIDAY MARCH 8TH**

- The competition is open to all years.
- Winning films will be shown in assembly and will be available to view on Vimeo (which is open to view by the public).

**Entry is £5 per film and payable via ParentMail.**

**Comedy Night: Saturday, 16th March from 7:30pm – 11:00pm**

As you might have heard, Comedy Night is coming to Tetherdown! Tetherdown dad and comedian, Mark Maier, will comper an evening of three fantastic and hilarious comedians - Dominic Holland, Ivo Graham and Tania Edwards.

There will be a fully stocked bar and we are working on arranging for food to be purchased on the night!

**Tickets are £15 each and payable via ParentMail.**

Tickets are **on a 1st come 1st served basis** so book a babysitter and get ready for a great night out!

## **Family Comedy Magic Show: Friday, 10th May (evening)**

Another date for the diary...Amigo's Magic is coming to Tetherdown. Details to follow.

## **Friends of Tetherdown Facebook Page**

We are now on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Friends-of-Tetherdown-Primary-School-2222244641331777/>

We will be using this page to advertise PSA events and for shout outs for donations and assistance. (Don't worry, if you're not on Facebook, you will receive the same information in the traditional ways, via reps and the Newsletters.) Please remember, there can be **no photos of children** uploaded to the page. Thank you!

**Thanks, as ever, to all those that help out selling tickets and on the day of the events.  
Your help is invaluable and we couldn't do it without you!**

**Thanks also to everyone who attends!  
The money you spend is greatly needed and much appreciated!**

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## Pabulum Catering

We had a very busy Autumn Term and in particular the Christmas Lunch which was a huge success with a big increase in pupils choosing to join us for a hot meal. January been an equally busy month for the Pabulum Kitchen team at Tetherdown.

We are currently in the process of putting new menus together for rolling out after the Easter holidays, and have been seeking and compiling feedback on our current menus to better understand how we can cater for our hungry pupils.

Both KS1 and KS2 have taken pupil surveys and the overall results were very positive, with most pupils saying they enjoyed our hot meal offer at Tetherdown.

KS1 have a higher uptake, and scored us higher in most departments than KS2. Going forward, we will be targeting KS2 - particularly in Years 5 and 6, with more focus groups and hope to meet with the student council during the next term to see what else we can improve. It was great to hear that our theme day menus are very popular, as we have Chinese New Year, Pancake day, and World Book day theme menus coming soon!

### **The questions and answer below from KS1 are:**

Did you enjoy lunch today? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes - 82%</li><li>• OK - 15%</li><li>• No - 3%</li></ul>	How tasty are your lunches at school? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Very - 79%</li><li>• OK - 13%</li><li>• Not very - 8%</li></ul>
Do you like our themed menu days? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes – 91%</li><li>• OK - 9%</li><li>• No - 0%</li></ul>	What is your favourite school meal? <i>Fish fingers and chips was an overwhelming favourite here!</i>

### **The questions and answer below from KS2 are:**

How was the food today? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good - 63%</li><li>• OK – 24%</li><li>• Not good – 13%</li></ul>	How was the service? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good – 70%</li><li>• OK – 15%</li><li>• Not good – 15%</li></ul>	What other food would you like to see at the school? <i>A lot of pupils requested sushi, many requests for more pizza and burgers, we had almost equal amounts of comments requesting less spicy food, and more spicy food</i>
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In our next newsletter piece, we will be telling you a bit more about the kitchen team who prepare the food for our pupils every day.

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## OFFICE NEWS

### Attention! Breakfast and After School Club Attendees

ParentMail is now supporting Breakfast and After School Club, which means we can now register your attendance, produce real time balance reports for payments, and parents can now make advance payments. Paying for your Breakfast and After School Club sessions has also been simplified and you will no longer be invoiced monthly. Simply log into your ParentMail account to pay in the same way as you pay for school dinners, trips etc.

We would appreciate prompt payment (i.e. weekly). Please note you are also able to pay more than your outstanding balance (i.e. for the whole term). ParentMail will automatically send you a weekly reminder of your balance.

Payments by childcare vouchers will remain the same. We do expect you to monitor your voucher payments, ensuring there is money on your account at all times. Please ensure there is enough to clear any outstanding balances and future sessions until your next voucher payment.

In this current financial climate, schools can't afford non/late payment for the services we provide. In future failure to keep your account up to date may result in a suspension of the service.

Thank you.

## Reminders

Please can children refrain from "scooting" on the playground at the start and end of the school day. Please also ensure scooters are stored appropriately in the scooter rack nearest the main gate. If your child must bring their scooter on to the playground please encourage them only to "walk it". Thank you.

### **Parent Messages**

**For Absence:** Please leave a **clear** voice messages with the following information:  
Year, class, child's full name and **brief** reason for absence.

### **Can you help our children with your donations?**

We ask parents, carers, wider family members and friends of Tetherdown to identify the following items below. We hope you will understand that we can only accept items that are of the highest second-hand quality. Items can be dropped off at the school office

- *Children's books in top quality condition; general toys in top quality condition*
- *Construction toys, e.g. Lego, in top quality condition*
- *Board games in top quality condition, Soft furnishings, e.g. cushions and rugs*