

# 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.11

Remember we are a 'NO NUTS' School

15th 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

We have had such a great week focusing on well-being and the children have had a thoroughly enjoyable time learning in different and exciting ways. We will be working to review how some of these activities can continue so that everyone, children and staff included, can really appreciate the benefits of reflecting on our collective well-being. I have been delighted by the positive feedback from parents on the morning exercises and end of day singing renditions. Please read on to learn more about what the children have enjoyed.



Many thanks to the PSA for their wonderful "Silent Disco". The children had such a great time: dancing, chatting, choosing music on their headphones. The most popular playlist selected by the children was Year 6 Griffins Class. Each child received a prize from the PSA and Phoenix Class received a runners up prize, too. I was super impressed to hear that this event raised **over £1,500**. Well done PSA, and thank you to all those parents who were able to stay and help.

The controlled parking situation introduced at the start of this year has presented the school with quite a challenge. You may be aware that the school is only allocated a limited number of permits – 8 – and unfortunately, a number of staff are therefore having to park further away. For those with young children (dropping off on their way to work), those who regularly take work home (all teachers), and key workers who visit the school to support children's learning, this has made work life more difficult. I raised my concerns with governors who suggested I make a request to parents in the immediate locality for their support. Could you help by:

- Offering your driveway to a member of staff during the day?
- Donate a strip of visitor parking permits which could be used by essential visitors?

If you are able to help, please drop me an email via [admin@tetherdownschool.org](mailto:admin@tetherdownschool.org). Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Our governors have kindly given up their valuable time to visit us this week and to understand what life is like as a Tetherdown child. I have received extremely positive feedback on their experiences and I would like to extend my thanks to them for their continuing support. Governors play a crucial role in the strategic development of the school, and it is with their support, guidance and challenge as a critical friend that we are able to provide a unique learning experience here at Tetherdown.

Finally, on a rather sad note, we have experienced significant issues with flooding in two of our toilets in the new block. Elvis and Nnamdi have spent a considerable number of hours over the weekend, and I myself was at school until 10:00pm on Wednesday sorting out blocked and flooded toilets. This is such a disappointment, as we have only just refurbished and decorated toilets on the Blue Floor, which will

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now need further reparatory works. We are extremely grateful for your generous donations to the Building Maintenance Fund, which will go some way to addressing this disastrous situation.

If any parents have expertise in damp issues (an ongoing issue), or know any friends in the business who might be able to help our situation, please do contact the school office. We would be very grateful.

Thank you for your support this term and I wish you all a very pleasant half term holiday. We look forward to seeing the children on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019.**

Kind regards

Tony Woodward  
Headteacher

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## SCHOOL NEWS

### Wellbeing Week

Here are some of the activities that children have enjoyed this week:

- Reception classes had lots of fun singing Mr Cricketty Cane and gave a wonderful performance in assembly this morning to the rest of the school. They enjoyed making Valentine's Day hearts with lovely messages. Ruth in Ladybirds Class wrote that she "loves her mommy and daddy because they are special!"
- Year 2 children have collaborated with Year 5 to produce dioramas of different habitats. They have discussed and researched "save the panda" posters, made endangered animal cookies and highlighted random acts of kindness towards one another throughout the week.
- Year 3 have focused on mindfulness colouring, drawing feelings, calming breathing techniques (the breath star), and finding lost games on the playground.
- Year 5 introduced morning greeters, mindfulness art, endangered animals cookies and have rehearsed their "Wonder" song.
- Year 6 started the week with a math monopoly tournament, learned a variety of meditation techniques, learned mindfulness songs, and created calming glitter jars.
- Children in Year 1 and 4 collaborated on mindfulness yoga with the support of one of our mums.

Everyone celebrated their learning this morning in a special wellbeing assembly. Across the school children have enjoyed "laughter therapy" in their MAGIC groups and some have participated in "Guardian Angels"; taking time to care for our friends and simply "being there" for someone else.

### Tetherdown Teddy

Our "Tetherdown Teddy" for best attendance was given to Year 2 Eagles Class with **98.25%** – well done!

#### How is your Class Attendance?

Class	% Attendance
0 Butterflies	88.99
0 Ladybirds	92.66
1 Bumblebees	97.37
1 Dragonflies	97.64
2 Eagles	98.25
2 Owls	95.79
3 Parrots	98.14
3 Peacocks	97.62
4 Jaguars	96.49
4 Leopards	97.02
5 Chameleons	95.46
5 Komodos	94.40
6 Griffins	98.07
6 Phoenix	86.36



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## Results

Earlier in the year we highlighted our recent successes with the end of year results and shared that Tetherdown is third in Haringey for overall performance. We have since learnt that this is a misinterpretation of the DfE table. We would like to correct this statement which should read "*third in Haringey for overall performance in Reading*". You can access the table and see the information for yourself by clicking [here](#). We apologise for any confusion this may have caused.

## Charities and Fund Raising Using Cake Sale Monies

Many of you will remember that the school continues to maintain its link with ActionAid and enjoys the opportunity to provide support to a little girl called Koshila in Nepal. The money we raise at cake sales is split between the school and Action Aid to support improvements in sanitisation of water systems – new toilets, fresh running water and effective drainage systems. Children in Year 5 write to Koshila, and more recently, I am advised that a letter has been sent to us, back in December which will arrive towards the end of February. We hope to provide you with further information on how our donations are being used.

Recent cake sales have raised a grand total of **£179.09** with **£89.55** to be sent to ActionAid in the next few days. We feel an altruistic approach to fund raising demonstrates our community spirit, whilst recognising that our own school also needs to benefit from such fund raising activities.

## Parking Issue Affecting Residents Driveways

This continues to be an issue for our local residents. I would like to ask you to consider where you park your car for drop off. Many of our staff have to "park and walk". It increases heart rate and blood to the brain ready for a day's work. Could you consider this? One of our residents has been most upset because of inconsiderate parking and rudeness from parents. We really need to respect the fact that our school community should be working together to create a happy environment for all. **We need your help, please.**

## Building and Maintenance Fund Update

To date we have received a fantastic **£22,922.40** through your generous donations to the Building Maintenance Fund. Your continued support is greatly appreciated as the BMF will pay for the completion of a number of projects and ensure the school is fit to operate at its full capacity. We will continue to update you on these projects and how we use your generous donations.

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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)*

## The Young Songwriter Competition 2019 – ENTRIES CLOSE 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2019

This is the 8<sup>th</sup> year, of The Young Songwriter competition which is the leading competition for young songwriters aged 8-18. To enter the competition and for further information please click [here](#). Entries close 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

## SEND

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

Many apologies for postponing the arranged Coffee Morning this week. We will be re-arranging this in due course and will let you know via the newsletter. The purpose of the Coffee Morning is 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.

## COMMUNITY & SPORTS NEWS

### Pabulum Catering

**Coming up after half term -**

Pancake Day on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March and World Book Day on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March – sign up at the school office **asap** to have lunch on these days. See attached poster with this newsletter for details.

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

**\*\*\*Brilliant News Alert!\*\*\***

**Gift Aid is coming to Tetherdown from the Summer Term onwards**

## **GIFT AID**

### **What exactly is Gift Aid?**

Gift Aid is a fantastic way a way to get the government to increase your donations to the PSA by 25% at no extra cost to you.

### **How it works**

Gifts (donations) from UK taxpayers to formal charities (like the PSA) qualify for "Gift Aid", which is a mechanism by which for every £1 you give to the PSA, we can claim 25p from the HMRC. For example, if you bought a £10.00 Quiz Night ticket, we could claim £2.50 from HMRC. It all adds up!

It won't cost you a single penny more, but it will go towards enhancing your child's educational experience at Tetherdown!

### **What do I need to do?**

When buying any PSA event tickets or products using ParentMail from Summer Term onwards, there will be a Gift Aid check box for you to tick as part of the payment process. Once you tick the Gift Aid box, we can claim Gift Aid on that specific amount – it's that simple!

## **GIFT AID PLUS DONATION**

### **Even better – making Gift Aid go even further**

Parents will also be able to 'top up' with a donation on **PSA payment items** bought via ParentMail as the donations check box will **also** be enabled. For example a ticket may cost £10.00, but you can pay more by adding a donation.

**Any donation made in addition to the original cost price is voluntary.** By increasing what you pay with your donation Gift Aid can be applied to the **ENTIRE AMOUNT** e.g your ticket costs £10.00, you donate an additional £5.00 the PSA can claim Gift Aid on £15.00 !!

## **GIFT AID RETROSPECTIVELY**

Finally, if you want us to claim Gift Aid on ALL payments you have made in the last 4 years, and will make in the future to the PSA, a Gift Aid Declaration form will be available soon which will allow us to claim Gift Aid on all these donations!

**If all the above is overwhelming – all you need to remember is to TICK the GIFT AID BOX**

**So watch this space and let's increase the money raised for our lovely school**

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## 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.

- 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

**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**

As you might have heard, Comedy Night is coming to Tetherdown! Tetherdown dad and comedian, Mark Maier, will compere 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.

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## 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!**

## 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.



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## 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*

### School Notice Board

In case you did not know! There is a school and PSA notice board outside in the bike passage as you enter the main school office. Please **check** this for news and information.

### LUNCH TIME

If your child is going to go home for lunch please do remind your child on the day and give the teacher a note too.

Please come just before 12pm as a lot of time is spent trying to track children down once they have left the classroom.

They **must be signed out and signed in** before registers start (Y3 to Y6 1:10pm and Rec to Y2 1:25pm)

### PACK LUNCH and SCHOOL MEALS

**A reminder** to parents that children can only change from packed lunch to school meals, or vice versa, in the first week of each half term. Thereafter, from the second week, they need to stick with their preference for the rest of that half-term. This allows the kitchen to plan and order food, and cook meals effectively. If there are exceptional circumstances which mean a child needs to change their preference mid-term, please discuss this with the school office otherwise you will still be required to pay for the whole of the half-term.

Please use the change of preference form which is available from the office or on the website.