

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.12

Remember we are a 'NO NUTS' School

8th March 2019



admin@tetherdownschool.org

<https://twitter.com/tetherdown>

www.tetherdownschool.org



All Newsletters are available on the school website at: www.tetherdownschool.org

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

Dear Parents / Carers

This week I have been working closely with Ms Barber to set a budget for the next financial year. In my fifteen years as Headteacher I have never found this task so challenging. The financial scenarios show that we may need to make cuts. Governors are very aware of the difficult financial situation we face and have formed a working group to tackle the serious issue of managing the school's provision with a reduced budget. The governor's working group are looking at ways to increase income to combat such decisions. So far we have looked at additional funding from grant applications, parent voluntary donations, options for funding swimming and funding raised by the PSA.

Recent changes to government funding have led to an additional funding stream for the management of school premises. £16,000 has been provided to Tetherdown (other schools nationally receiving similar funding) for this purpose for the last financial year 2018-19 and the next 2019-20. Unfortunately, this is specifically ring-fenced for expenditure on the premises and cannot be transferred to pay for staff or resources. This funding award and its subsequent use was made clear to schools only in the last couple of weeks. As a result of this additional funding for the maintenance of premises, albeit short-term, governors agreed that funding from parents'/carers' voluntary donations should be used to pay for educational resources. As such, I am advising that in the new term (starting April) we will be asking for voluntary donations towards the **Education Enhancement Fund**, as opposed to the Building Maintenance Fund. Your donations will enable the school to pay for a wider variety of resources, thereby increasing the school's capacity to pay for staff. We will always advise you where this money is being spent and look forward to your continuing support.

Many thanks to parents for supporting us with our regular Parents' Evenings this term and especially to staff for their continued commitment. We hope you have found the opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher informative. If you missed this, please make contact with the class teacher on the playground to organise your meeting.

Finally, thank you to the PSA for purchasing a defibrillator for the school. After some discussion it was felt that installing this piece of equipment was necessary. We have a wealth of activity in our school community involving people of all ages. The defibrillator has been installed next to the medical room.

Thank you again for your continuing support, I look forward to working with you over the course of the next few weeks.

Tony Woodward
Headteacher

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SCHOOL NEWS

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Race

In celebration of Shrove Tuesday this week all the children took part in a 'flipping good' pancake race which was done in each year group throughout the morning. This traditional fun event was done of course as a marker for the beginning of the Lent period of fasting that the Christians in our community will now be observing in the lead up to Easter.



Mental Health and Well-being Week

Thank you to everyone for your very kind and supportive feedback following our Mental Health and Well-being Week prior to half term. We know that the children and families have really appreciated our focus on sustainable activities that will support our approaches to every day learning and busy lifestyles. Staff and children will be evaluating the best practice to continue as we move forward in to the remainder of the academic year.

Turning a Story into a Book

Year 4 classes were lucky to have a visit on Thursday morning from Sebastian's mother, Angela Vives Florez, who outlined the process of researching the subject, making a leap of imagination, thinking of a story-arc or plot with a problem that needs to be solved, and the need to redraft and redraft again to get the best story and illustrations. All aspects of writing that the children have as an integral part of the writing process at school. Truly a wonderful and appropriate presentation for the children of Year 4 to see on World Book Day. Mr Evans and Ms Clarke would like to thank Ms Vives Florez for sharing this fascinating and wonderful experience with Year 4.

Junior Choir Fortismere

Our Junior Choir visited Fortismere on Wednesday to share a song and learn alongside the Year 7 pupils. A huge thank you to Ms Williams, Choir teacher, for preparing the performance, but who sadly couldn't be there. The Choir were amazing – the best I have ever heard them perform: "Ain't no mountain high enough" was performed by soloists, and four part harmonies, which was such a pleasure to hear. Well done everyone, I am very proud of you. Many thanks to parent helpers for your support too.

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Be the Best you Can Be

Our *Be the Best you can Be* assemblies are held to celebrate children's achievements throughout the course of the week. In the last few weeks we have been encouraging our eldest children, in Year 6 to, to start the assembly with a presentation of their talents. We have recently heard a piano duet, a song written and performed by Year 6 children with acoustic accompaniment, and this week the children were "wowed" with two performances. Thank you to Poppy, Clara and Ellie and to Marika, Gabi and Caroline for bringing your musical prowess to our assembly this week.

Tetherdown Teddy

Our Tetherdown Teddy will, this term will be focusing on punctuality. We found that teddy was great at spotting those children who came to school every day, but some children are regularly late to school. We appreciate that the start of day can be challenging but we encourage all children to be on time and ready for learning. After all, punctuality is a life skill!

Start of day is 8:50am
Afternoon sessions begin at 1:10pm for Juniors
1:25pm for Infants.

The class who get to work with our Tetherdown Teddy for the next fortnight is: Year 1 Bumblebee Class with **98.57%**

How is your Class Attendance?

Class	% Attendance
0 Butterflies	94.83
0 Ladybirds	97.67
1 Bumblebees	98.57
1 Dragonflies	98.45
2 Eagles	97.00
2 Owls	96.50
3 Parrots	97.26
3 Peacocks	97.74
4 Jaguars	96.33
4 Leopards	97.00
5 Chameleons	97.66
5 Komodos	97.83
6 Griffins	97.00
6 Phoenix	95.99



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Parents E-Safety Workshop

E-safety workshop for parents **Wednesday, 13th March 6:30-7:30.**

The areas being covered in the workshop are:

- How we educate children regarding staying safe online
- Update into the online world of children
- Making things safer at home

Please come along to find out what you can do to keep your child safe online.

The Young Songwriter Competition 2019 – ENTRIES CLOSE 31st MARCH 2019

This is the 8th 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 31st March 2019.

Staffing

Last month we saw the departure of Marlene Benjamin who has worked at Tetherdown for over 9 years. We wish to thank her for her dedication, and wish her all the best for the future.

We also look forward to Sylvia Piyotis returning back from maternity leave at the end of this term.

SEND

Coffee Morning with Tetherdown Send Support (TSS)

Tetherdown Send Support - TSS Group invite you to 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 the school and the TSS group jointly put in place for parents and pupils with SEN please come along to the school TSS coffee morning held in the Music Room on **Thursday, 27th March, 9:00am -10:00am.**

Please email: szabo.eszter.agnes@gmail.com the TTS Coordinator by **Friday, 22nd March** to confirm whether you are able to attend. Thank you.

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Advantages of Dyslexia Documentary – being produced by a past Tetherdown Teacher!

Alix Hattenstone, who used to teach Year 6 at Tetherdown School is now producing TV documentaries!

Alix will be producing a 15-minute TV documentary on the advantages of dyslexia. This will explore strengths often associated with dyslexia, like problem solving, design, creativity and thinking outside the box. If you would like to take part in this documentary read on....

Alix is looking for people of all ages, but children in particular, who would like to be interviewed about their dyslexia. This would involve speaking about what being dyslexic is like, the strategies they use to help them, and strengths/confidence they've learned.

This documentary will be broadcast internally at City University, but it may also be submitted to competitions. Occasionally, final project documentaries are broadcast on the BBC or other popular networks. Filming will take place during March and April. Each interviewee should be needed for no longer than an hour or two.

For more information or if you would like to get involved, please email: Alixhattenstone@gmail.com

Please note all enquiries and any further correspondence should be made directly to Ms Hattenstone who is leading this research and producing the TV documentary, and not via the school.

COMMUNITY & SPORTS NEWS

Haringey Year 5&6 Cross Country Competition

Last Thursday, 11 children from Tetherdown competed at the Haringey Year 5&6 Cross Country Competition at New River Sports Centre. The girls' race was first, with a strong field of 100+ Year 5&6 girls competing from schools across the borough. Tetherdown did fantastically well, with Ellie in Year 6 finishing 1st out of the whole field, and with 8 girls running, 6 finishing within the top 20 which is a fantastic achievement. Alongside this, they also scooped the Gold for best team at the event, scoring the highest combined team results overall.

The boys' race was second, with 3 boys running for the very first time at this event. All boys put in a great effort across a very difficult field and did the school and themselves proud. Congratulations to all who competed with some extremely strong running, and a very big thank you to all the parents who helped transport and support this event, your on going support is greatly appreciated.'

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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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Short Film competition Deadline Extension: Now Monday, 11th March

To allow your creative children time to hone their movie masterpieces, we've decided to give you all a bit more time...The new deadline is **Monday, 11th March**. Good luck and we're really looking forward to seeing all their creations! For details of how to enter click here (link to previous newsletter)



Comedy Night – Saturday, 16th March from 7:30pm: Ivo Graham

Joining Dominic Holland at our night of comedy is Ivo Graham who has appeared on Live At The Apollo, Mock The Week and Comedy Central at The Comedy Store. Catch a glimpse of his outstanding comedy here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nlCa1479C2w>

Seating on the night, will be arranged around tables for 8-10 people. If, after you have bought your ticket via ParentMail, and you would like to reserve a table, please email Mia at jenkins_mia@yahoo.co.uk with all the names. (Minimum number of people per table for a reservation is 6). Alternatively, there will be unreserved tables on the night.

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

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



Summer Fair Date: Saturday, 15th June

Some of you have been asking, thanks for the reminder!.The Summer Fair date has been set for **Saturday, 15th June**. Save the date for a fantastic afternoon of fun at Tetherdown. Further details to follow soon.

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!

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The money you spend is greatly needed and much appreciated!

OFFICE NEWS

Extra Curricular Clubs and Attendance

In recent weeks we have had after school extra curricular club providers (e.g. tennis club) contacting the school office to find out why a pupil is not present at registration for their club.

May we kindly remind parents that when you enrol your child with an extra curricular club provider after school please liaise **directly** with the club provider for all matters relating to that club and **in particular remember to notify them if your child will not be attending the club (e.g. play dates or medical appointments).**

Extra curricular club providers manage all associated administration for their club themselves (i.e. registration, attendance monitoring, and payment). This is not managed by Tetherdown School who only provide the facilities to host the club and organise the timetabling for the club.

Fortismere Links – Young Inspirational Women Event

Fortismere would like to invite interested **Years 5s and 6s** to their Young Inspirational Women's event. Guests this year include Fortismere alumni Kate Osamor MP; there'll be poetry, music and artwork from fellow students as well as a representative from the charity we're fundraising for, Plan International UK, who work to advance the rights and equality of young girls worldwide.

The event is aimed at inspiring, enlightening and championing the stories and work of Young Inspirational Woman with students of the next generation. On that note we look forward to welcoming pupils and parents to the **North Wing Hall on Thursday, 14th March at 6.30pm.**

Tickets for the event are £5 and available at:

<https://www.fortismeremusiccentre.co.uk/events/international-womens-day-concert> with, all proceeds going to Plan International UK.

Queenswood Open Morning for 2019/18

Queenswood's final open morning for the 2019/18 academic year is taking place on **Saturday, 16 March 2019**. If families are unable to attend please contact the Admissions Office to organise an individual visit before the school breaks up for the summer on 5 July 2019

QUEENSWOOD
OPEN MORNING
Queenswood Sat 16 March

A leading independent boarding and day school for girls aged 11-18, in a beautiful 120-acre campus near London

01707602500 | admissions@queenswood.org | www.queenswood.org
Shepherd's Way | Brookmans Park | Hatfield | Hertfordshire | AL9 6NS
Charity number 311000

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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/carers 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.

Parking Issues and 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.

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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.