

Tetherdown News!

No.3

Remember we are a 'NO NUTS' School

16th Oct 2015



admin@tetherdownschool.org

School Notices
<https://twitter.com/tetherdown>

www.tetherdownschool.org



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



As we approach the end of the first half of this term I would like to thank you all for your continuing support. This was particularly evident from our excellent turn out at Parents' Evening. All of the teachers were extremely grateful for the opportunity to learn about your child, strengthening their understanding of them as a learner and how best to support them. We really appreciate the support you are able to offer in the home and encourage you to follow through with these activities as always. The teachers now need the time and space in which to absorb this incredible amount of information for thirty children in their class. We hope that the strong relationships being built up since your child's return to the new academic year will instill between you and your child's class teacher an equal amount of trust – trust that they are aware of each individual's needs, trust that they know how best to meet those needs and trust that they will contact you should there be any concerns.

All of you lead busy lives – a class teacher's time is also tremendously precious. They have thirty children to cater for and are doing an exceptionally challenging job. Meeting face to face is extremely valuable but it does require a great deal of time. I am concerned that some unnecessarily long meetings are having an impact on the class teacher's time to follow through for the child or indeed plan the next day's learning for thirty children. ***I am simply being mindful of, and ask you kindly to consider, our teachers' well-being.***

In light of this conundrum, of course we want parents and carers to celebrate and share the work of their children. And so we welcome parents of children in Years 1-6 to our [Open](#)

Afternoon on Thursday 22nd October between 2.45 and 3.30pm to sit with your child and look through their work. Many of you may take this opportunity to say hello to the class teacher, if you have not already done so. However, class teachers will not be available to discuss your child's progress on an individual level. This information will be provided to you at a later date.

Thank you for your understanding.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very restful half term break at the end of next week. We return to school on Tuesday 3rd November.

NB. At the end of a full term (December, March and July) school will close at 2.00pm. Please make a note in your diaries.

Tony Woodward

Christmas Fair cancelled!

At the PSA AGM held last night a number of committee members stepped down after giving several years support in their capacity as members and officers. Firstly, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation for all their hard work. However, we face an unusual situation as no one stepped forward to take the Chair.

Without a Chair person events simply cannot be organized, because no one will be able to formally make a decision. Without a Chair there will be no Christmas Fair and no Summer Fair. These events are big money makers for the PSA and Tetherdown children rely on this funding to supplement the curriculum and the learning that we can provide. The PSA has plans to spend around £25,000 on resources for the school. With current commitments of approximately £15,000 there will only be around £2,500 to

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spend over the course of the year if we don't have organized activities. We need more money.



Haringey currently fund each pupil to the sum of £3,586 per year compared to secondary pupils who are funded to the sum of £5,324. Currently both figures are above national average funding. However, in April 2015 a new national funding formula implemented by government will be published and will inevitably lead to cuts.

We need someone to step-up! All of you are automatically members of the PSA. You can join us at our next meeting on Wednesday 11th November (7.45pm) and join the committee. By becoming a committee member you can put yourself forward for Chair. It's a great opportunity to work closely with the school, make new friends, demonstrate your organizational and leadership skills with strong support from the Headteacher. Please email Sophie Plimley (ex-Chair) sophie@plimley.name if you require any further information.



Reception Intake 2016

**Please let us know if your child is due to start school in 2016 and add your child's name to the list kept in the School office.
(DOB 01.09.11– 31.08.12)**

Harvest Festival

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those parents / carers who have already donated non-perishable foods to Tetherdown for our upcoming Harvest Festival. This year our celebration will take place on Friday 23rd October and we would really appreciate lots and lots of food. All your donations will be passed to the Muswell Hill Soup Kitchen who rely on donations and support in looking after homeless people in our local area.

Please place your donations of tins, packets, boxes, jars of foods that have a good shelf life in the Yellow Hub just off the playground on the tables provided. Any flowers, bundles of straw or straw dollies will be gratefully received!

Unfortunately it is not possible to invite all our families to join us but we will make sure you see how well your children have done on the day in our next Newsletter and via the school website. Thank you in anticipation of your support.



Our governors recently held their full governing body meeting under the new constitution. As a result of the statutory reconstitution governing bodies across the country had to consider scaling down. However, at Tetherdown our governors felt the most important task was to identify the best governors within the old governing body with the prerequisite skills to lead our school in to the future and as a result the

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number of roles and types of governors have changed.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Joseph Ejiofor who was Chair of Governors for the last two years and for his commitment to ensuring a successful restructure. As we begin the new academic year we have a new Chair in Luke Collier.

If you would like to know more about the workings of the governing body please follow this link to the governors' page on the school website:

<http://www.tetherdownschool.org/governors>

Class Reps - Update

We held a successful coffee morning for class reps on Friday 9th October which provided an opportunity to network and catch-up over a number of topical areas. We presented to class reps the opportunity to become involved in a new electronic communication forum called Estora. Estora is a communication platform and personal organiser for parents that Ms Mann, parent of Elisa in Y2 Owls has been working on. The system is accessible via the web from any device through the secure link <https://www.estora.com>. Ms Mann explained how using Estora might support parents and class reps in the school as an alternative to email.

These are some of the benefits being promoted:

For parents:

- the information is organised by topic rather than aggregated, and easier to observe and digest
- reduced manual creation of information: if a notification email contains any date / time information, this will be attached to the email in the form of an .ics file which can be imported into any calendar by just clicking on it, for example, all the dates and times corresponding to the beginning / end of the term can be shared and imported into one's calendar in one go
- parents do not need to be registered on Estora to benefit from it as they receive email notifications with the full content of the notes shared with them. Parents who decide

to register can login and check out any ongoing information on their dashboard

- registered users get weekly email reminders for the upcoming week and new parents can get up-to-date very easily by having previous notes shared with them

For class reps:

- an easy use dashboard helps to organise information individually or as part of a group before sharing it with the parents
- the user always works with the latest version of a topic instead of reconciling information from chains of emails
- it can reduce duplicated work by re-sharing notes created by other class reps or notes previously shared with other reps or parents
- added versatility around sharing of information across distribution lists without disclosing people's contact details

This is working progress. Your class rep **may choose** to use this system to communicate with you. You will simply notice a change in the incoming email – the address identified will be Estora. This **does not** mean you have to then sign up. You will continue to receive emails without signing up if this is how your class rep has chosen to work. However, Estora **may not suit** all class reps' preferred way of working and so some of you will continue to receive emails from them using their regular email address.

Should you have any concerns regarding communication of any form, please liaise with your class rep.

We also discussed how parents can support the school through providing some of their time. We are looking for a team of gardeners to help support the upkeep and tidying of our beautiful grounds. We are also looking for artistic and creative people to help us with developing displays around the school to make the environment more attractive and inspiring for the children. If you can help in any way, PLEASE, contact your class rep or email Mr Evans via the school office.



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COMMUNITY AND SPORTING NEWS

Keep safe at Halloween message

To all parents and carers – remember to keep safe at Halloween by keeping your lit pumpkins out of reach of flammable Halloween costumes.



Dates for your diary

October 2015

Tuesday 20 th	Y5 Komodos school trip
Thursday 22 nd	Open Afternoon (Y1-6) (2:45-3:30pm)
Thursday 22 nd	PSA Halloween Disco after school Time to be confirmed
Friday 23 rd	Year 3 Joint assembly
Friday 23 rd	Harvest Festival
Friday 23 rd	Y5 Chameleons school trip
Friday 23 rd	Last day of term (3:30pm)

November 2015

Monday 2 nd	School closed – INSET Day
Tuesday 3 rd	Return to school
Friday 6 th	Y4 Joint assembly
Wednesday 11 th	PSA Meeting (7.45pm)
Friday 13 th	Y6 Griffins assembly
Friday 13 th	Upper Phase Cake Sale (Y4,5,6)
Thurs 19 th	Governing Body Meeting
Friday 20 th	Y2 Eagles assembly
Friday 27 th	Y1 Joint assembly

December 2015

Friday 4 th	Y5 Komodos assembly
Monday 14 th	Christmas Carol singing 6pm
Friday 18 th	Last day of term (2.00pm)

January 2016

Monday 4 th	Return to school
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February 2016

Wednesday 3 rd	Parent Consultations 4-7pm
Thursday 11 th	Parent Consultations 4-7pm
Thursday 25 th	Parent Workshop – Our Curriculum

Friday 11th March Middle Phase Cake Sale (Y2, Y3)
Friday 17th June – Lower Phase Cake Sale (Rec, Y1)

Cake Sale

A Cake Sale will take place on **Friday 13th November**. Donations of cakes, biscuits will be made by Years **4, 5 and 6** and will be available for purchase at the end of the day in the playground weather permitting. Proceeds will go to Asmita Singh whom we sponsor via ActionAid. She is living in Nepal and would not have the chance of an education without our support, so get baking!! Class reps please get together to help with setting up and selling of the cakes.

Thank you in advance.

Parents' Purple Visitor Badges

Please return any visitors' badges to the school office – no questions asked! Thank you.



Save the Children

**CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY**

Friday 18th December 2015. Hold the date, buy your Christmas Jumper over the half term break!

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PSA NEWS

PSA AGM - yesterday

Thanks to all the parents and staff who came to the AGM last night! Full minutes of the meeting will be put on the PSA section of the school website in the coming weeks.

The past year's activities were reviewed in the form of the Chair's Report, as were the finances of the PSA. Mr Woodward updated those present on the aspects of the School Development Plan that the PSA can support through fundraising – please see minutes when published.

The members of the recent PSA Committee stepped down and 5 members were reappointed by those present at the meeting and 2 new members were voted in too.

However, you should be aware that both the Chair and Secretary roles are now VACANT. This puts much of the event planning and organisation of the PSA in jeopardy for this coming year. There are lots of 'lovely helpers' out there in the parent body, but the PSA does need people to steer and minute the PSA activities.

It IS possible to join the PSA at any stage of the year, not just at the AGM. So, if you would like to find out more and/or volunteer your time as Chair, Secretary or as a General Committee Member, please contact the previous Chair, Sophie Plimley on sophie@plimley.name

OTHER PSA NEWS

Parental First Aid Course – Tue 20th October 7.00-9.00pm

We still have 10 spaces still available on the course. £10 pp (to cover the cost of the provider).

If you would like to reserve a place please email Naomi Greenland on n.greenland@me.com asap.

Your place will not be confirmed until you have left £10 and your contact details at the school office, marked for the attention of Naomi Greenland. Your place on the course will then be confirmed to you via email. This is to ensure we do not have any 'no shows' which means that others miss out.

Halloween Disco - 22nd October NOTE CORRECTED TIMES

Come in your best Halloween fancy dress if you wish and dance the evening away! £1 voluntary contribution on the door to cover costs of disco hire and juice & biscuits for hot halloweeners!

As usual, there will be 2 sessions:

Year 1-3 5.15pm – 6.00pm

Year 4-6 6.15pm – 7.00pm

Please note Reception children are not invited as we have found in previous years it is all too much for them.

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Breakfast Club

Monday – Friday 07:50-08:50.

£4.00 per child per session or £7.00 for two siblings.

Booking forms available from the office or email

businessmanager@tetherdownschool.org for more information.

Tetherdown After School Club

Manager: Louis Frederick

Ctc: weekdays after 2pm

Ph: 07580 576 147 or

Email:

afterschoolclub@tetherdownschool.org

for more information.

Food supplied by Haringey Catering Services

Cake Baking, Sports, Games, Arts & Crafts

October Half Term Gymnastics Camp at Tetherdown.

LAGAD are running our popular Gymnastics and Half Term Camp at Tetherdown Primary School from Monday 26th September – Thursday 29th September.

The camp is available for kids aged 4 – 10 years.

Activities will cover General Gymnastics, Aerial Gymnastics, Dance and Circus Skills. Our club is run by high skilled and experienced professionals and bookings are going fast. You can book ½ day, full day or all 4 days.

Early birds from 08:30. Camp runs from 09:30 – 16:15.

To book a session go to www.lagad.co.uk or call Julia at 07887367171.

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