

Thursday 5th September 2024

Re: Head Teacher Welcome 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to welcome you all back to a new academic year at Tetherdown Primary School. I hope you had a fantastic summer break and cherished some special moments with your families.

Reflections on the 2023-24 Year

In my first year as head teacher, I have been truly inspired by the dedication and talent of both our staff and children. While there are countless achievements to celebrate, I'd like to highlight a few key successes:

- We have been recognised by Haringey for **our outstanding participation in sport and physical activity**.
- Our successful focus on **STEM and sustainability**, now integrated into the children's curriculum, has fostered the development of problem-solving skills.
- **Our Early Years** (reception classes) have been praised as an **excellent model in** a Haringey Audit, showcasing a remarkable start to the children's school journey.
- Please take note of the **outstanding academic achievements** our children have reached in various government assessments at the end of Summer 2024. I am extremely pleased with our results in Phonics, and our Y6 results in Reading, SPAG and Maths at Greater Depth.

| | Tetherdown 2024 | Haringey Provision 2024 | National Provision 2024 |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| EYFS Good Level of Development | 81% | 74% | 68% |
| Y1 Phonics | 93% | 84% | 80% |
| Y6 Reading Expected | 95% | 79% | 74% |
| Y6 Reading Greater Depth | 60% | 36% | 28% |
| Y6 Writing Expected | 81% | 77% | 72% |
| Y6 Writing Greater Depth | 16% | 21% | 13% |
| Y6 Maths Expected | 93% | 77% | 73% |
| Y6 Maths Greater Depth | 53% | 30% | 24% |
| Y6 Spelling and Punctuation Grammar Expected | 95% | 76% | 76% |
| Y6 Spelling and Punctuation Grammar Expected | 57% | 38% | 38% |

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 Nurture friendships, Share the magic... Exceed expectations!*

2024-25 Focus Areas (Aligned with Friends of Tetherdown Fundraising Initiatives)

This year, we are placing a strong emphasis on enhancing social and emotional support for our children, a priority I am particularly passionate about. I am also excited to welcome back our staff, who are committed to **enriching the curriculum, especially in Humanities (RE, History, Geography) and Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PHSE).**

Recognising the **importance of play** in fostering social and emotional skills, we are collaborating with OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) as well as **improving our playground.** Plans include adding sandpits, mud kitchens, more shaded areas, and increasing biodiversity in the outdoor areas.

Building stronger community connections is another focus. We will encourage more buddy partnerships across the school and strengthen links with our local community. Key Stage 2 students will engage in learning about social action and supporting charitable causes.

Finally, we aim to raise academic standards by integrating Oracy and Technology tools to support children, especially those with English as an Additional Language (EAL), Special Educational Needs (SEND), and those working at Greater Depth levels for our foundation subjects.



However, I must also express **my concerns about our financial situation due to the lack of government funding over the past 14 years.** Despite this challenge, I want to assure you that we are committed to providing the best possible education and support for your children. We will continue to explore creative solutions, seek partnerships, and make strategic decisions to ensure that your children receive the education they deserve. Should you wish to **donate to our Keep the Lights On Fund** please scan the QR code which will take you to the Just Giving Page. Or click this link

<https://justgiving.com/campaign/tetherdown-keep-the-lights-on>

Dates for your diary

Meet and Greets

We would like to invite you to our annual “Meet and Greet”, a more formal setting where your child’s class teacher will share specific information about what your child can expect in their new class and our expectations for the year. Both classes in a year group will meet on the same day in one of the classrooms and the children will be supervised by staff in the hall during this time:

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| Year Group | Date and Place | Time |
|------------|--|--------------|
| Year 3 | Monday 9th September in Y3 Classroom – Yellow floor | 8.50- 9.15am |
| Year 5 | Monday 9th September in Y5 Classroom - Green floor | 2.50-3.15pm |
| Year 6 | Tuesday 10th September Y6 Classroom - Red floor | 8.50- 9.15am |
| Year 2 | Tuesday 10th September Y2 Classroom – Blue Floor | 2.50-3.15pm |
| Year 4 | Wednesday 11th September Y4 Classroom – Yellow Floor | 2.50- 3.15pm |

Teachers will present information using PowerPoint. If you can't join us in person, you'll be able to access these presentations on the school website after they've been uploaded. Please note that all meetings will be conducted in person only.

Family Picnic - Friday 13th September (weather dependent)

Please join us Fortis Green Covered Reservoir (Archery Field) Southern Rd, Wood Green N2 9LH.

Please provide your child with a packed lunch on this day.

They should be prepared for outdoor eating and may require a sunhat, sunscreen, and their water bottle. Adults are very welcome to bring a picnic blanket and their own packed lunch, too. *Please do not bring alcoholic refreshments or dogs.*

The picnic's aim is to foster meaningful relationships, and we are thrilled about it! Meet your child's new class teacher over an informal lunch—an opportunity to put a name to a face and learn about their settling-in progress and meet some of the other parents in your year group. While quick, general questions are welcome, deeper concerns can be addressed separately. Afterward, all children will resume their afternoon classes.



This year, we've got something fun in store—a **special circus performance** featuring Sam the Juggler! The whole school will enjoy a 30-minute show out on the field, and afterward, everyone will head to their designated spots for lunch. It's going to be a juggling good time! **The children will be arriving on the field for the show to begin at 12.00-12.30pm**

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Infants (Y1 & 2) | Lunch 12.30 | Leave at: 1.15pm |
| Juniors (Y3 – 6) | Lunch 12.30 | Leave at: 1.30pm |

Looking forward to a great start to the new academic year! For any class concerns, don't hesitate to reach out to your child's class teacher, who will gladly provide information and support.

Head Teacher Coffee Meeting for Class Champions Friday 27th September 9.00-9.45am in the Music room

This meeting is an opportunity for you to connect with me, members of the Senior Leadership Team, and the Friends of Tetherdown. We'll have a chance to chat, share experiences, offer guidance in your role as a Class Champion, and address any questions or concerns you may have.

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Further calendar dates will be sent to families over the next few days but please always check the [website calendar](#).

In the meantime, feel free to stop me or any of the SLT members in the playground during drop-off and pick-up, or reach out via email if you have any questions, concerns, or simply want to share your experiences. I'm excited to be part of this incredible journey with you, as we support your child's development, celebrate their successes, and create meaningful memories together.

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Annie Ashraf', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Annie Ashraf

Headteacher

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