

## Headlines

Autumn Term

8<sup>th</sup> November 2019

# WELCOME TO TATE MODERN



Year 4 venture into the depths of the Tate Modern

### Letter from the Headmaster

#### Dear Parents

There is, as ever, much to celebrate. However, this week, I'm going to have a last crack at traffic and safety matters.

Overleaf, you will find my letter to the leader of the council. But, in brief, for some years I have been petitioning to get a safe crossing point for our boys outside the School, along with some traffic calming measures. We have worked hard on this and the boys have helped us to be awarded 'Gold' from the Transport for London STARS Scheme in 2017 and 2018.

Several parents have joined me in this. Thank you very much for your kind help. It would be great if a lot more of you took an active interest, as ALL of your children have to cross the road (for example when we do sports at Sutton Cricket ground).

After petitioning, back in April, the Local Authority Road Officers came up with a scheme to slow traffic with a raised platform and some re-consideration of better parking layout etc. Councillor Kevin Burke has fully supported us throughout, and I thank him. But not all Councillors share the same ideal that children are entitled to be safe.

We pushed a Freedom of Information request through on this and found that around 10 local people objected in a consultation on this.

The Councillors tell me this is why they have decided to stop the scheme. This is very disappointing,

To be fair, a very small minority of you really do aggravate the neighbours with some wantonly selfish parking. It is never ok to block someone's drive. These people affected are now very angry. Please park up with care and have respect for our neighbourhood. We have been part of this community for 150 years, back to when people used horses, we need to look after it and it will look after us.

Currently there is another online consultation on the Council website. You will notice that there are more yellow lines mentioned but no safety measures in play. Please let them know what you think (try to be constructive!) and let's see if we can persuade them to try harder to keep our boys safe:

[https://www.sutton.gov.uk/directory\\_reco rd/128096/western\\_road](https://www.sutton.gov.uk/directory_reco rd/128096/western_road)

You might also like to let the Local Ward Councillors know what you think about the decision to stop the proposed safety scheme (which, by the way, would have been fully funded by Transport for London).

Cllr Kevin Burke:

[kevin.burke@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.burke@sutton.gov.uk)

Cllr Catherine Gray:

[catherine.gray@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.gray@sutton.gov.uk)

Cllr Lily Bande:

[lily.bande@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:lily.bande@sutton.gov.uk)

Have a good weekend

**John Towers**  
Headmaster



8<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Cllr Manuel Abellan  
Chair of Sutton Council  
Environment and Neighbourhood Committee  
London Borough of Sutton  
Civic Offices  
St Nicholas Way  
Sutton SM1 1EA

Dear Cllr Abellan

I write this open letter to express the disappointment and concern of my school community regarding your Councillors' decision to stop proposals for the road safety scheme. These improvements were recommended by your Traffic Officers and were to be fully funded by TfL. Please forgive my candour here, but I am passionate about keeping children safe. I am sure the Council is busy with pressing business; however, I would appreciate it if you might look at this decision again, as I believe it creates a risk that a child will be seriously injured or worse:

The pupils here have no safe crossing points and there are no traffic calming measures. Children have to cross Western Road every day in order to access sports fields on the far side of the road. Western Road is a 'rat run' for speeding vehicles and over the last year or so we have witnessed an increasing amount of near misses, including a 'hit and run' where a white commercial van struck a legally parked car containing a parent and child. As well as this, there is a main line train station on an adjoining road as well as a busy row of shops just next to the School. Local parking restrictions and controls are in need of reform, as they channel traffic into one lane and cause congestion.

The School has worked tirelessly on this matter and attained TFL Gold Awards for sustainable transport in 2017 and 2018. We invest more in sustainable transport (such as the WOW Scheme, School Buses and Estate Staff) than any primary school in the district. Your Councillors have previously invited our young students, our 'Travel Ambassadors' (another TfL Scheme), to address them and congratulated them on their success in managing traffic around the School.

Homefield goes 'above and beyond' to support the Local Authority, including supporting two of your maintained primaries and your Virtual School for Looked after Children as well as support to various community groups, including the Sutton Youth Orchestra. We ask for nothing back. We have been a vital part of this community for 150 years and have operated as a charity for the last 60 years.

Within this context, it is hard to understand why some Councillors would appear to care so little for the safety and well-being of our children.

Earlier this year your Traffic Officers provided a plan to make the road safer and to better manage parking. We wholeheartedly endorsed this.

Subsequently, in April, I was told by Cllr Gray that discussions on Facebook, followed by some emails provided an "overwhelming" local resistance which put an end to the safety and parking proposals. However, when we made a Freedom of Information request it appears the actual numbers responding to the consultation were remarkably low, at 14 (3 for, 10 against, 1 abstain). I would suggest that any consultation needs a sense check. Indeed, the detail of the consultation reveals several comments from people who 'disagreed' because they want more, not less, safety measures; for example, requests for a 20mph zone, a zebra crossing or cycle lanes. There are a few residents (who have elected to live near a busy school and train station) who are rightly frustrated by a few selfish motorists. Such problems are common around every school in Sutton. Some comments attributed to them include that the safety scheme "is a joke" as well as incorrect statements such as "there are no Traffic Wardens operating in the area", in addition to several bizarre and unworkable suggestions for traffic management in the area.

It's unfortunate that your approach to consultation pays no heed at all to the voice of children and is skewed towards the rather unbalanced views of these few residents. To counter any misinformation shared on social media, the School has written to all residents with details of the significant investment we have made in sustainable transport and, furthermore, we shared this with residents at a meeting. In fact, we have far less cars coming to the School than we had 5 years ago, after managing the majority of the school population into sustainable transport.



In July, following my expressions of concern over this matter, Ward Councillors held a further consultation for local residents at the School. Of the few attending, some were frustrated by a lack of parking controls in the vicinity. Most understandable. However, all present recognised the primacy of keeping children safe. I was disappointed to hear nothing back after hosting the event. I wrote to the Ward Councillors in September and it was encouraging that Cllr Burke took time to acknowledge my email and to re-affirm his support for the original scheme and the importance of keeping children safe.

Perhaps your duty of care for the many (and the vulnerable) should be considered, rather than the somewhat unbalanced comments of a few. Although I appreciate Councillors do need to listen to local residents, it is worrying that within the context of a school, you would ignore the sage advice of your own Traffic Officers and create so much risk for children. I can see there is a current proposal, on the Council website, to put in more double yellow lines on Western Road, but the proposals for basic safety measures appear to have been removed. Sadly, children, parents and schools do not appear to have any voice here.

During communications I have picked up the implicit assertion of some Ward Councillors that the control of parking on the highways and byways is under the agency of a Headteacher. I've been told by a Councillor to "change my strategy" to placate a few local residents. Yet we have gone above and beyond any reasonable expectation in promoting sustainable transport at this School, of acting with integrity and with care. This work has been both recognised and validated. It is your job to control parking, so please do so. It is mine to encourage a civic, sustainable and productive school.

This morning the carriageway, as usual, became effectively one lane due to the poor positioning of parking bays and layout. A refuse lorry, presumably timed and dispatched by the Council, blocked the road throughout the school drop off period. One of the many commercial van drivers (with Manchester livery) using the road as a 'rat run', verbally abused my staff as they could not get through, before nearly hitting pedestrians. This is a commonplace occurrence. Likewise, the ice cream vans that you license, idle with diesel fumes for several hours on Western Road and slow or stop traffic. Many London boroughs have stopped this, but not Sutton. I do not want you to license junk food outside my School and I do not want you to allow my children to suffer toxic levels of diesel fumes. Please stop enabling this.

Sooner or later there will be a serious accident or a fatality to a child on Western Road. The Councillors involved in blocking safety improvements can't really sit behind the excuse of less than 10 people, who didn't really like the idea of keeping children safe.

We are all accountable for our decisions. The solution is not to scapegoat parents (a tiny majority of them park badly, the majority park well or use sustainable transport), but take more responsibility and interest in safer roads outside schools.

Yours faithfully

John Towers  
Headmaster





## Early Years Department

Welcome back after a lovely two-week half term. We hope you all had a good break. The boys have enjoyed sharing their holiday news with us all.

We have now begun practising our songs for the Christmas Nativity, if you have wondered what the boys are coming home singing! We will soon be casting the boys and sending out letters about their parts and any words they need to learn.

Our topic this half term is 'Where Does Snow Go?'. This is a brand new topic for us so the teachers are looking forward to exploring it as much as the boys are! We have some lovely lessons planned and with the change of weather, I think it's a perfect fit. This will also lead us nicely into Christmas.

Reception have been very excited this week to receive their reading and record book! They contain a slip of paper inside and an explanation about our Superbird words! Please feel free to keep these words at home to practise them.

When your son brings a book home please encourage him to share his book with you, then if you could write a small comment in the diary or initial it, the teachers know to change the book. Don't worry if they are too tired to read or would like to keep that book for another day, just let us know.

## Junior Department

It was lovely to welcome the boys back after the half term break and, in our Monday assembly, several of the boys shared their holiday news with us.

Our Tuesday assembly on the 5<sup>th</sup> November had to be about the gunpowder plot! The boys also learnt about the fireworks code and offered many sensible suggestions about keeping safe on fireworks night. There was great excitement about the prospect of Homefield fireworks on Friday evening!

On Wednesday, it was 'Wellbeing Wednesday' and the Year 1 boys were thrilled about spending some time getting to know Year 5 boys. They did an activity together and it was great to see different year groups working so well together.

A reminder that as the weather is now colder, please could all boys bring their blue coats to school each day. Please ensure that they are named.

## Wellbeing Wednesdays

This week, saw 'Wellbeing Wednesday' throughout the school with the focus being 'Connect'. Across the school, pupils were thinking about their connections, be it celebrating and sharing their experiences, their heritage or working to support their peers. Year 5 and Year 1 worked together to complete this activity and recorded those they connect with both inside and out of school. Good relationships are important for our well-being and can help us feel secure and happier.

Felix, in Year 7 described connections as "being important to have good relationships, showing that we have respect for others. Peer support is important and we should try to make our feedback to others positive."



## Our Special Award this week goes to:

**Mikael** in Elephants for being such a good friend – always sharing and showing kindness to others

## Our Students of the Week are:

**Ryan** in Tigers for his determination with blending sounds together

**Yug** in Monkeys for his excellent progression when writing his name

## Homefield Heroes

**1H Daniyal**, for always helping in class to tidy up at the end of lessons. Thank you!

**1S Dyllon**, for super work in Mathematics and for being so helpful. Well done, Dyllon!

**2H Oliver**, for making good choices and being responsible and focused.

**2S Yusuf**, for always being hardworking, kind and helpful.

**3H Harry**, for always demonstrating kindness, consideration and supportive behaviour to other boys.

**3S Isaiah**, for exceptional work in English.



## Parents' Association

Fireworks night is here! Doors open at 6.00pm so come early and enjoy some delicious food in the hall. There will be biryani (halal chicken and vegetarian), hot dogs, crêpes, Krispy Kreme doughnuts, mulled wine and plenty more snacks and drinks. If you haven't got tickets, you can buy them at the door. The display will start promptly at 7.30pm. Many thanks to parents who are volunteering for this event to make it possible.

### Dates for your diary:

**Friday 15th November**

HA Meeting 8.30am

**Friday 29th November**

Christmas Coffee Morning 8.30am

**Friday 6th December**

Christmas Fair 3.45pm



## Geography News

Thank you and well done to all the boys who entered the 'Young Geographer of the Year' competition. There were some amazing posters created from boys in Year 4 through to Year 8 - all under the title of "Where Will Geography Take You?"

Special mention to Rishabh in Year 6 whose poster has been Highly Commended and he has been invited to a special prize giving at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington, on Tuesday. Well done, Rishabh!



## Globe Theatre and Tate Modern Visit

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, Year 4 went on an Art/English trip to The Globe Theatre and Tate Modern.

When we arrived at The Globe, a lady came and took us backstage to practice a line from Romeo and Juliet. Our group said "Tybalt, you ratcatcher, will you walk?" Which means: 'You play fighters! Will you come and battle me!?' We then went into the main theatre and were able to have a question and answer session which was followed by a visit to the rehearsal room, where we were taught how to change our movements as we walked around the rehearsal space. We then split into two groups and then had the opportunity to do some acting.

After lunch, we paid a visit to the Tate Modern and studied some examples of cubism as part of our art topic.

We had the opportunity to draw our own designs and then it was time to board the train and return to school.

What a great day!

**Vir Year 4**



## SuperClubs News



SuperClubs will be welcoming a Zoo Lab to the after-school club on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

Zoo Lab will be bringing spiders, snakes and other animals, so if boys want to get some 1:1 interaction they will need to book a space in good time. Please make your booking for a space through your on-line SuperClubs account.

## SuperCamps

From 16<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> December, we will be running our Multi-Activity camp, offering a selection of inspiring activities from festive crafts, winter sports and fantastic team-building games. We will also take on a brand new camp theme: The Winter Olympics! Children will be able to enjoy exciting themed activities such as Speed Skating, Storm the Igloo and Snowball Blizzard, alongside partnership challenges from the LEGO ® group that bring Frozen 2 and Speed Champions LEGO ® sets to be won.

We are delighted to offer our SuperClubs parents a 10% discount on our Multi-Activity SuperCamps, meaning prices start from £36.00 per day. Book now using the code PARENT19 to redeem your 10% off.

For any more information please email [info@supercamps.co.uk](mailto:info@supercamps.co.uk) or call on 01235 467300



## Charitable Endeavour

A big thank you to all of our parents and boys that supported our first ever **House Cake Sale**, prior to the half term on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October. We are pleased to announce that we raised an impressive **£411.20!** The majority of the money raised will be donated to Cancer Research, as chosen by Walfords, Grays and Bomfords houses, as their nominated charity for this term. Ellis will be donating their money to the Red Panda Society.

Well done to the House Captains, Vice Captains and the teachers for helping to organise and run the event on the day. It was a great way to end our first half term.

### Under 8s v Claremont

Well done to all the U8 team boys who played in the Claremont football fixture before half term. The boys scored an amazing amount of goals: 20 across three games without conceding a single goal - a fine achievement by all.

Homefield 'A' team opened up with another impressive win over Claremont. Olivier (3), Noah (2), Nathan, William, and Samuel were all on the scoresheet for Homefield.

The 'B' team also performed very well winning by a healthy 6-0 score line. A hat-trick for Austin and a goal each from Sheldon, Matthew S and Lachlan.

The 'C' team squad also enjoyed a feast of goals, winning by 6-0. Zinedine, Calum, Gbemi, and Seyon all scored a goal each with two goals from Abdullah.

All of the U8 boys should be extremely pleased and rightly so after some solid team performances since coming back to school in September. The boys will continue with both House football and basketball matches in the coming weeks before they change sports and get involved in tag rugby, which is a non-contact game for these U8 boys.

### Year 4 Football v Kingswood House

Year 4 finished the half term with a superb afternoon of football on Thursday 17th October. After heavy rain all morning, the sun shone on Homefield's pitches as Kingswood House arrived for three matches. It was extremely pleasing to see our boys applying the strategies we have been developing in lessons which led to some excellent performances.

Goals from Dhruv (3), Iliham (2) and Muhammad, secured a 6-0 win for our 'D' team. Our 'B' and 'C' teams were combined and Kailan (3), Kavin, Krish, Vedanth, Zayn and Alex scored in Homefield's convincing 8-2 win. In the 'A' team match, Raece (3), Jake (2), George, Ismail, Rahul and an own goal meant a 9-1 win for Homefield.

With twenty-two goals in total across the three matches, and a hat-trick in each match, it was a thrilling afternoon of football. Well done to our Year 4 boys who showed great team spirit and played with a smile!

### U10 v Lanesborough.

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November, the whole of the U10 year group played a football fixture against Lanesborough. The 'A' team began the game by scoring in the first minute. Luke H latched on to a through ball pass from George and smashed the ball into the net. Within four more minutes, Homefield were two nil up as Tim S rounded the keeper and slotted home. The passing of the ball was slick, fast, and wonderful to watch. Lanesborough hit back but Louie in goal was superb and made some incredible saves. Alexander then made it three nil with a well-worked goal as Rayhaan beat the defender and played him in to score. Tim then scored a contender for 'goal of the season' bending in a shot in the top corner from seven metres out! Phillip and George continued to defend with gusto and although Lanesborough did manage a goal it was nothing more than a consolation. Despite winning with a large amount of goals the 'man of the match' was Phillip who covered every blade of grass on the pitch!

The U10 'B' team were beaten but they showed some true spirit and some lovely link-up play from Shun, Musa and Boris allowed Elliot to score a fine goal. Hari made some super saves in goal not least the last minute tip of the bar from close range.

The 'C' team were once again victorious and played out a six-goal thriller. A hat-trick of goals for Hamdan and a super strike from Zac led to a 4-2 win. Zac, Henry and Parth dominated the midfield and Andrew showed some fine defending. Well done to Jonas who demonstrated great teamwork throughout.

The 'D' team were to play out a very close game only losing by one goal with Saideep and Tejas playing very well up front. Hanlin was noted as the best tackler in the match and really got stuck in. Humzah cleared the ball well from defence and overall it was a good team performance.

The 'E' team had an enjoyable game and despite a heavy loss, Jake managed a well-worked goal with Ethan and Reece working tirelessly in the midfield.

Well done to all the boys who played.

### U13 Football v Willington

The U13, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> teams all played their last football fixture at Willington this week. The 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 performance deserves special mentions with the way the team moved the ball and created many goal scoring opportunities. Daniyal P, Felix P, Theo M, Niraj M and Captain Hugo S, all scored a goal each in the team's 5-1 victory. Felix P was duly announced as 'Man of the Match', as his performance was full of energy and commitment. This team performance delighted Mr Matthews who was watching from the touchline.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> X1 team also had a good win, narrowly beating Willington. With such a large squad of players, the boys rotated around and shared the opportunity to play and encourage from the sidelines. Goals from Rafael, Ilyas, and an own goal saw Homefield win this entertaining match.

The 1<sup>st</sup> X1 team dominated most of the game; however, it was a lack of concentration just before half time that caused Homefield to concede the first goal after Tom H's long range effort had put Homefield in front. Yasir and Harry H had the chance to increase the lead but took too long to make a decision, which resulted in the ball being cleared from danger. Sam S and Tom H both had good efforts saved late in the game by the inspired Willington goalkeeper.

## Cross Country Event

Well done to all the senior boys who competed in the House Cross Country competition; these are the individual and team results:

### Year 4

Vir	Grays	1
Jake	Bomfords	2
Oscar	Bomfords	3
George	Grays	4
Magsud	Bomfords	5

### Year 5

George	Walfords	1
Philip	Walfords	2
Luke	Ellis	3
Tim	Ellis	4
Elliot	Walfords	5



## Sport / continued ...

### Year 6

Cass	Grays	1
Omasan	Ellis	2
Dron	Grays	3
George	Walfords	4
Carter	Ellis	5

### Years 7 and 8

Tom	Walfords	1
Sam	Ellis	2
Oliver	Bomfords	3
Vinicius	Grays	4
Kwame	Walfords	5

Overall average and team winners  
(lowest scores win)

1st	Ellis	83.49
2nd	Bomfords	90.65
3rd	Walfords	91.37
4th	Grays	103.8

### Gameweek 10

League	Most Points	Team	Manager
Pupils, Parents & Staff	87	Abra Dúbravka	Mr Smith
Year 7 & 8	80	Tos da Boss	Tosan
Year 6	65	nunoismy(e)spirit(o)	Riccardo
Year 5	78	I am not GUNNER win!	Tim
Year 4	72	Roaring Reds	Vir
Junior	71	Westside Wombles FC	Noah
Parents	81	Blues Minty Gel	Lee C
Staff	87	Abra Dúbravka	Mr Smith
Alumni	68	The Stadium Raiders	James

### Gamesweek 11

League	Most Points	Team	Manager
Pupils, Parents & Staff	88	Gajan's Lads	Gajan
Year 7 & 8	78	Juicestain!!!	Justin
Year 6	88	Gajan's Lads	Gajan
Year 5	83	Leonardo's Leopards	Leonardo
Year 4	70	Sid's Titans	Sid
Junior	95	The Pog Show	Nathan
Parents	85	Salahvation	Sami B
Staff	73	Boom Chicka Pow Pow	Mr Powell
Alumni	59	The Stadium Raiders	James

## Music

### Christmas Concerts

Early Years – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December in the school hall at 2.30pm.

Junior Department – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at Trinity Church (SM1 1DZ) at 2.30pm

Senior Department – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at Trinity Church (SM1 1DZ) at 6.30pm

Please note that **all** senior boys will be involved in the concert and are expected to attend. If there is a legitimate reason for absence, please email me to let me know.

[ameyers@homefieldprep.school](mailto:ameyers@homefieldprep.school)

**Chamber Choir** - The Chamber choir will be singing carols at the St Nicholas Centre on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 12.30 – 1.00pm and in the upstairs foyer of Sainsbury's on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 12.00-12.50pm.

**HoJO** – The Jazz Band will be giving concerts at the Children's Trust (Tadworth Court School) on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 2.00 – 3.00pm and at the Star and Garter on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 11.15am – 12.30pm.

## Jingle Bells

'Mr Chops' charity Christmas cards will be on sale soon – details to follow in the next edition!



## Tweet of the Week



## The Homefield Art Gallery



Tom H, Year 8 - Botswana Landscape Light

Keep abreast with Homefield news as it happens...   