

NEWSNOTES



Friday 9th September 2016 6 Ellul 5776 Parashat Shoftim

Shabbat begins tonight at 7.11pm and ends tomorrow evening at 8.17pm

Dates for your diary

Please check the calendar section of the school website for more detailed information.

Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th September

Parents' evenings
Wednesday 28th 3:45pm – 5:45pm
Thursday 29th 4pm – 7pm

Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th October

Rosh Hashanah – School closed

Tuesday 11th October

Erev (Eve) of Yom Kippur – School finishes at 1.30pm

Wednesday 12th October

Yom Kippur – School closed

Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th October

Sukkot – School closed

Monday 24th & Tuesday 25th October

Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah – school closed

Wednesday 26th – Friday 28th October

Half Term – School closed

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome you back to the start of the Autumn Term and I hope you had an enjoyable summer break.

As you are aware, Simon Marks is on a journey of rapid improvement, and I can assure you that with continued strong leadership, the school will become 'good' again as we work to transform it in all aspects.

I would like to introduce Mrs Debra Crouch, our new Deputy Headteacher, who also has a strong track record of school improvement, and together we will lead the school through the next stage of development.

We both have high expectations and insist on raising standards, exemplary behaviour and pupils achieving their full potential. We value the partnership with parents and carers and will both be available before and after school — alternatively, please make an appointment through the school office, should you wish to discuss any important matters concerning your child.

I will be making some important changes this term and they are as follows:

- All lessons start at 9am and finish at 3.30pm. The school gates open at 8.45am where you are welcome to drop off your child, as there will always be someone on duty. Teachers will meet their classes in the playground at 8.55am and at 3.30pm they will lead their classes on to the playground where all pupils will be handed over for collection.
- Parents will be notified of what their children will be learning over the next half-term, and a curriculum newsletter will be sent out next week. This will also outline the class teacher's expectations, daily routines, forthcoming trips, homework and

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important information concerning your child's class.

- The wearing of the Kippah for all boys is compulsory and is part of the school uniform policy.
- The new website will greatly improve communication, and this should be 'live' next week – please check regularly for important updates.
- Any parents who would like to offer their skills and volunteer at Simon Marks, please email info@simonmarks.hackney.sch.uk and you will be sent a form to complete. All applications will be considered, according to the needs of the school, and subject to DBS checks.

I look forward to working with you this term.

Gareth Thomas
Interim Headteacher

Parent Governors

Parent Governor nominations are due in on Wednesday 21st September. Please complete the form sent out this week, and return to the office before 21st.

Home-School Agreement Forms

Home-School Agreement forms will be sent out next week. Please read, sign and return the form to the office.

Swimming in Year 4

Year 4 children have already begun their programme of swimming lessons and got off to a fantastic start. Please remember to bring in the full swimming kit every Wednesday.

Parent Pay

All pupils received a letter this week with details of Parent Pay and their unique login username and password. Please register with parent pay as this will be used not only for dinner money, but also for school trips, music lessons and voluntary contributions. You will be able to see each day how much you are in credit for your dinner money, or if you need to top up your balance to avoid outstanding amounts. If you would like to top up your dinner money for this term, the amounts are as follows:

First Half Autumn Term = £69.00

Second Half Autumn Term = £87.40

Full Autumn Term = £156.40

Tzedakah

Please could we remind you that each Friday we'd like to encourage children to be charitable and bring Tzedakah (charity). As you know, we have supported many causes in the past including the Great Ormond Street Make a Wish Foundation, and many others.

Thought for the Week

The Parasha this week is Shoftim. At this time of year we remember the importance of being nice to each other.

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Achievements

Each week we will celebrate the achievements of two children in each class during assembly, and the children will be presented with a certificate. This week's recipients are:-

REC: The whole class for settling in so well

YEAR 1: Udemezuo Evans Anele – Beautiful green sitting all week
Phoenix Dennis – Beautiful green sitting all week

YEAR 2: Hannah Balzer – For being kind and friendly
Noah Green – For excellent writing

YEAR 3: Reuben Syme – For persevering with his work even with a broken arm
Kyle Mugami – Trying hard to keep up green behaviour all week

YEAR 4: Emil Boland – For being helpful, kind and respectful
Noyah Cohen – Excellent contributions in class and helping others

YEAR 5: Samuel Antunes – Being a leader and setting a good example
Moses Moore – Having a fantastic first week and being a class leader

YEAR 6: Joshua Wright - Excellent contribution in topic lessons
Naomi Da Costa – An excellent start to Year 6 – always smiling and trying her best

In addition to this we would like to present to you the best work in a particular year group. This week we have asked Mr Alderton to choose the best piece of work in Year 6, and he has selected Joshua Wright's topic work on natural phenomena. You can read Joshua's work at the end of this newsnote.