

NEWSNOTES



Friday 2nd December 2016 2 Kislev 5777 Parashat Toldot

Shabbat begins tonight at 3.36 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 4.47 pm

Dates for your diary

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

Chanukah celebrations/presentations

Monday 5th December

Jack and the beanstalk show for pupils

Wednesday 7th December

Year 5 trip to the Science Museum

Thursday 15th December

9.30 Years 1 & 2 (Year 1 & 2 parents invited)

Tuesday 20th December

9.30 Years 3 - 6 (Years 3 - 6 parents invited)

Wednesday 21st December

9.30 EYFS (N and Rec parents invited)

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents,

As you are aware the school was visited by the Hackney Learning Trust on Monday to review the progress at Simon Marks. It was clearly evident that the school is continuing to improve in all areas. Once the report is finalised, I will be able to share the main findings and inform you of the next steps, in preparation for our visit by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors (OFSTED).

I am currently in the process of reviewing the Jewish Studies Department, and there is an important questionnaire which is attached – I do need your views, and I would appreciate if you could return the questionnaire to the office next week.

I have arranged for a West End Theatre Company to perform 'Jack and the Beanstalk' which will be our end of term pantomime on Monday 5th December 2016 – the children are really excited about this and I know that

they will enjoy the performance.

I am currently planning for next term, and this will include a range of themed weeks which will provide curriculum enrichment – further details to follow.

I am meeting with the School Council on a regular basis, and they have certainly impressed me with their suggestions to improve Simon Marks.

All class assemblies that were scheduled for this term will now take place next term – I will make sure that the website is updated accordingly.

Gareth Thomas
Interim Headteacher

Thought for the Week – Parashat Toldov

Isaac and his wife Rebecca's prayers were answered and they finally were able to have children. Rebecca felt the children 'struggle within her' and when she asked G-d the meaning of this she was told that there were 'two nations within her', which highlighted the differences between the twin brothers, Esau and Jacob.

Esau grew to be a hunter, happier outdoors and a favourite of Isaac whereas Jacob was a learned man and a favourite of Rebecca.

One day, Esau returned from a long day in the fields to find Jacob preparing a hot meal of lentils, and as he was so hungry he offered his birthright (as the oldest son) for a bowl of lentil stew, which Jacob gave him.

Years later when their father Abraham, who was blind, was about to die he asked Esau to come to him for a blessing, but Rebecca wanted Jacob to receive the blessing instead. Rebecca helped Jacob to disguise himself as Esau and received the blessing from his

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father, making him 'the Lord over your brethren' (brother) so that even though Esau was older than Jacob, he would serve his brother and Jacob would be the leader of the family.

What we learn from this

This is based on the idea that in the Torah we are told that Jacob and his brother Esau were both good at different things and had different personalities and should therefore not be treated in an identical way. We need to appreciate and nurture the natural qualities of all children – something that parents and teachers try to do every day.

We can also think about why Esau was willing to sell his birthright for a bowl of stew because 'one day he was going to pass away anyway'. Esau only cared about what he wanted *now* – there was no thinking about tomorrow. This is a similar rationale that we follow when we are trying to make a decision about the 'hear and now' and the future. For instance, we all know that we should eat healthily, but when offered food loaded with sugar may help ourselves and think 'I'll be good tomorrow'. G-d set up a system that demands that we grow and this can only happen through fighting temptation and doing what is right.

Shabbat Shalom.

Achievements

Rec:

Lee – for her beautiful letter formation

Taylan – for trying his best when writing letters

Year 1:

Elijah - for fantastic effort in all subjects and for receiving a Gold!

Eli'Ora – for writing a beautiful and magical story in literacy

Year 2:

Sara – working hard to complete her fact file on rabbits

Romi - Working very hard in maths and then using her expertise to help others

Year 3:

Joshua – Working hard in Literacy, staying focussed on the task and producing good work as a result.

Ella – Taking care in Literacy to make sure that she achieves the success criteria, resulting in a well-structured report about dragons.

Year 4:

Crispin – writing a very interesting and imaginative magical story

Daniel – giving his best and making great progress in Maths

Year 5:

Reuben – Fantastic behaviour this week (going on gold!) and progress in his literacy.

Talya – Wonderful progress in her literacy work.

Year 6:

Joshua Wright - For excellent attitude to work, behaviour and consistently high standard of work.

Amber Parmar - Consistently working well throughout the week.

This week we would also like to celebrate the work of a pupil in Year 2. Ms Lewis has chosen Romi's maths work (she received an award certificate for her work this week in maths). Year 2 were learning about multiplication and its link to repeated addition, and Romi was able to identify both the repeated addition and multiplication number sentences to describe groups of items. Romi's work can be seen below.



$$6 + 6 + 6 + 6$$

$$= 4 \times 6 = 24$$


$$4 + 4 + 4 + 4$$

$$+ 4 = 5 \times 4 = 20$$


$$10 + 10 + 10 +$$

$$10 + 10 + 10 =$$

$$6 \times 10 = 60$$


$$10 + 10 + 10 +$$

$$10 + 10 = 5$$

$$\times 10 = 50$$


$$7 + 7 + 7 = 3$$

$$\times 7 = 21$$