

# NEWSNOTES



Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016 16 Kislev 5777 Parashat Vayishlach

Shabbat begins tonight at 3.33 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 4.42 pm

## Dates for your diary

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

## Chanukah celebrations/presentations

### Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

9.30 Years 3 - 6 (Years 3 - 6 parents invited)  
p.m. class parties (EYFS/KS1 non-uniform all day, **KS2 please bring change of clothes but uniform must be worn for the performance**)

### Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December

9.30 EYFS (N and Rec parents invited)

## 2017

### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January

Yr 4 Viking Day  
Year 5 Into the Deep Day

### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January

Yr 4 to London Zoo  
Yr 6 to Science Museum

### Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January

School photographs

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January

Dental checks – Rec and Year 1

### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January

Headteacher 'meet the parents' 9.10 a.m.  
and 6.30 p.m.

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January

Year 5 to London Aquarium

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January

Year 3 assembly to parents

### Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February

Year 4 assembly to parents

### Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February

Year 5 assembly to parents

## Headteacher's message

Dear Parents,

I would like to say thank you to all the children and staff who have been working incredibly hard this term with Chanukah celebrations and each class performing to celebrate the different aspects of the festival.

Today we held a special assembly to celebrate the departure of Mr Ralph Klajn, who has taught Music and Jewish Studies at Simon Marks for the past seven years. The children performed their favourite songs, and I know that he really appreciated their efforts and kind words.

As you are aware, the school is subject to regular monitoring visits by Her Majesty's Inspector's (HMI), and they will be visiting next term to monitor the progress we have made. I have found the support from parents invaluable, but I am aware that with the improvements to Simon Marks, there have been many changes, including new teachers starting in the Spring Term 2017.

There will be meetings on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 9am and 6.30pm for all parents**, where I will update you on the recent developments at Simon Marks. There will be an opportunity for questions on all aspects of the school, and I will share the plans for the rest of this academic year and beyond.

Debra Crouch will be lead the school in my absence next week, as I am having an operation on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December, but I look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

Gareth Thomas  
Interim Headteacher

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## Chanukah Celebrations



Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December  
9.30a.m. Years 3 - 6

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December  
9.30a.m. EYFS



### Thought for the Week – Parashat Vayishlach

After spending many years in Lavan's house, Jacob (Yaakov) decided to return together with all his wives to his home land. He was not sure whether his brother Esav (Esau) had forgiven him or still hated him. He sent some messengers to find out Esav's intention towards him; they came back with the bad news that Esav was marching with four hundred men in the direction of Yaakov and he was terrified. "This means battle" he thought.

Jacob came up with the idea that perhaps if he sent gifts to Esav it would soften him and show him that he wanted nothing but peace.

He instructed his servants, "Don't give Esav all the animals at once keep some back and when I face Esav he will see that I do not wish to fight".

In the morning Jacob saw Esav approach him with his army. He walked to the very front of the camp and said, "If Esav wants to attack, let him fight me first and not my people."

As both brothers got closer to each other, Jacob bowed to Esav several times, when seeing this gesture of peace, Esav said: "How can I be angry with my brother after all these years?" He immediately ran towards him and both embraced each other. He forgave Jacob and in return Jacob gave Esav many herds of animals.

### What we learn from this

The importance of forgiveness and of not holding a grudge.

Shabbat Shalom.

### Mr Klajn's leaving assembly

We said a big 'Thank You' to Mr Klajn today for his contribution to the school, especially by playing the piano during the celebration of festivals.



Children in each class presented Mr Klajn with special leaving cards containing individual messages.



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## KS1 Chanukah Performance

Thank you to the pupils and staff who made this such a joyous occasion, and for the parents who attended and joined in with our encore! (Also to Marlon and Aleph's mums for providing swords.) The singing, acting and dancing were superb with some children showing signs of real star quality!



We are now looking forward to the KS2 and EYFS celebrations.

## Class Parties

These will be held on Tuesday afternoon next week. EYFS and KS1 children may come to school in their own choice of clothes, but KS2 children must wear school uniform to school but may bring in a change of clothing for after the Chanukah performance.

## Achievements

Today we recognised consistency, effort and progress by awarding special Headteacher's certificates for pupils who had achieved over the Autumn Term. The children receiving the awards were:-

**Nursery:** Benjamin who has been working with the Reception children, writing short words on his own

**Rec:** Esther who has been consistently trying hard to practise reading and writing, and who can now write a sentence independently.

**Year 1:** Lori who has been a consistent role model for others on how to behave, how to write and how to help others.

**Year 2:** Hannah, for her wonderful story writing, behaviour and exceptional all round efforts.

**Year 3:** Leticia, for outstanding effort all term in all subjects across the curriculum.

**Year 4:** Ruth, who has been a pleasure to teach as she consistently gives her best in all aspects of her learning and is helpful to others.

**Year 5:** Samuel, who has been constantly on green or better – there has not been a day (or a part of one!) when his behaviour hasn't been good.

**Year 6:** Joshua, for exceptional focus and concentration, quality of work and for being a role model for behaviour.

## **And special awards for this half term from the Jewish Studies Team go to:-**

Emil Boland (Year 4) who has made amazing progress in reading Hebrew through his hard work and dedication.

Isabella Alves Dos Santos (Year 3) who is always hardworking and enthusiastic in her studies, practising and singing songs outside of the classroom too.

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This week we would also like to celebrate the work of a pupil in Year 1 and Miss Pinchover has chosen Eli'Ora's writing. Year 1 have been reading a book about a naughty rabbit and the class had to imagine that they had met Foo Foo and were writing about the encounter in a diary entry. They also were encouraged to think about what we should do when we make a mistake...

Dear Diary,

Today I was playing  
in the grass with my <sup>family</sup> famale  
~~sa~~ <sup>Suddenly</sup> sudnee little Rabbit

Foo foo scoopt me up and  
bump me on the hed I was  
<sup>angry</sup> angree and blue.

What should Rabbit Foo Foo say to the animab?

He fr needs to say sorry. ✓