

# NEWSNOTES



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017 22 Tevet 5777 Parashat Shemot

Shabbat begins tonight at 4.02p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 5.11 pm

## **Dates for your diary**

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

### **January**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>

Yr 6 to the Science Museum

Yr 1 to London Zoo

Yr 2 to The Old Operating Theatre Museum

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>

Year 3 assembly to parents

Friday 27<sup>th</sup>

Year 6 singing at Holocaust Memorial Service (Town Hall)

Monday 30<sup>th</sup>

Year 3 to the London Eye

### **February**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>

Year 4 assembly to parents

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>

Year 5 assembly to parents

Friday 10<sup>th</sup>

Fruit Seder

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>

Tu B'Shevat

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> – Fri 17<sup>th</sup>

Half term break

27<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Book week

### **March**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>

Nursery/Reception assembly to parents

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>

World Book Day

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>

Purim Disco (PTA)

Friday 10<sup>th</sup>

Purim celebration in school

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March

Yr 2 assembly to parents

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March

School closes at 3.30

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

Yr 6 assembly to parents

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March

Parents' evenings

**Early closure on Friday ends 17<sup>th</sup> March**

**Headteacher's message**

Dear Parents,

I would like to thank all those parents that attended the meetings last week, where I outlined the progress at Simon Marks Jewish Primary School, and as requested I will include a copy of the PowerPoint slides on the website next week.

It has been a pleasure to see all class teachers planning quality lessons, and it is clear that the children are enjoying their new topics and class trips, and I will include photographs of the visits on the school website. We have mapped out the activities that are happening this term, and the website will be updated regularly, ensuring that parents are informed of important information, which will also be included in our weekly newsnotes. I am really looking forward to the class assemblies that begin with Year 3 on Wednesday mornings at 9.10am – all parents are most welcome.

I would like to remind all parents of the uniform policy at Simon Marks, that is all boys **must** wear the Kippah and these are available at the school office, costing £3.50 - this is not optional.

I have employed a music teacher who will be teaching all classes National Curriculum music, and I would also like to start a school choir at Simon Marks – further details to follow.

This term, all pupils will have separate Parent Meetings with the Jewish Studies Department, as it is important to know how your child is progressing. We will be advertising for a Jewish Studies/Hebrew lead teacher imminently, but I have employed some additional consultancy to support the department in the absence of a Head of Department.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Gareth Thomas

## **Thought for the Week – Parashat Shemot**

While Joseph was alive and was the ruler of Egypt, the Bnai Yisraels (Israelites') life was pretty good as Joseph saw to it that no one bothered

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them. However, unfortunately when Yosef (Joseph) died, Pharaoh, the Egyptian king decided to be nasty to the Jews. He forgot that it was a Jew who once saved the whole country of Egypt from starving and made the country and its people prosper.

Pharaoh, together with his advisers, was worried that there would be more Jews than Egyptians and they devised a plot: They decided that all new-born Jewish boys would be thrown into the River Nile and they would also make all the Israelites slaves, who would work for them nonstop, day and night.

A baby was born and his mother was so worried about her baby's safety, "I cannot keep him at home any longer for fear of him being found. Perhaps, if I hide him in the River Nile, Pharaoh's people will think that he has been thrown into the river" she thought. She took a wooden box and put a cover on it to make it waterproof; she covered it with tar on the outside and clay on the inside for extra protection. She laid the baby in the box and put him into the Nile among the reeds growing at the river edge. She asked Miriam, his older sister, to watch over him.

One day, Pharaoh's daughter came with her maids to bathe. Miriam watched anxiously and she saw that the princess heard a cry and could see a box floating among the reeds. She was surprised to see a beautiful baby inside the box and thought that he must be a Jewish baby. She immediately fell in love with him and wanted to take him home with her.

Miriam's heart was pounding and she was full of trepidation when she overheard the princess saying "This baby is starving. I must get a nurse to feed him." But, the baby would not take the milk from the Egyptian nurse. Miriam nervously stepped forward and offered, "Shall I get you a Jewish nurse? Perhaps the baby would drink from her." When the princess agreed, she ran home and returned with the baby's mother and of course the baby gladly drank the milk.

The princess named him Moshe (Moses) because the word Moshe means pulled as she had pulled him out of the water.

## Thought of the week

Do not despair when things seem not to go your way at first. Be positive. Things can only get better.

## London Sea Life Aquarium

Year 5 visited the London Sea Life Aquarium this week and had a wonderful time! Students were given the opportunity to discover and explore animals they had never seen before, stroke the skin of a starfish and have lunch next to a tank full of sharks!

The most exciting exhibit for Year 5 was the penguins, where we watched them dive off the ice and into the water. Some of the penguins even started bickering with each other, which we all found very funny.

A huge thank you to Eleanor's, Leona's and Talya's mums for joining us on our trip!



*Talya braving the waters and stroking a starfish!*

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*Reuben immersing himself in the winter environment with the penguins.*

## Into The Deep Day

Year 5 had some ocean invaders come into our class this week! From jellyfish to penguins, and even some deep sea scuba divers! We had a fun filled day exploring the arts where we performed reports about mermaids and painted water colour paintings of underwater scenes.



Miss Gough and Miss Jem even tested their artistic skills with some face painting on the children. We have a very artistic Year 5 class! Thank you to all of the students and parents who made these wonderful costumes



*Beware of the vicious sharks!*



## Arsenal vs Burnley Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

The lucky winner of a trip with Mrs Crouch to see Arsenal vs Burnley this Sunday is Mulita in Year 3. Thank you to everybody who bought tickets, we will let you know what we buy with the proceeds.

## Environmental issues

This will be the last week that we send out news notes as a paper copy; instead it will be emailed and also available on our website.

If in future you'd still like a paper copy, please collect one from outside the office.

## The Three Bear and Goldilocks visit Year 1

These special visitors acted the story and then helped Year 1 with their acting skills. Year 1 were so excited and yes, they thought they were real!

Year 1 were on their best behaviour and didn't forget to say thank you! (A million thanks to Daniel, Shiloh, Carmen and Hannah)



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## Achievements

### Rec

**Ariana:** For writing sentences about the 'Naughty' Bus story.

**Louie:** For excellent thinking when solving subtraction sentences.

### Year 1

**Ivana:** For joining in class discussions in a loud clear voice.

**Paul:** For his great efforts in his writing.

### Year 2

**Angel:** for her great effort in making our classroom lovely

**Elizabeth:** for sharing her cheerfulness and enthusiasm

### Year 3

**Jehu:** For his excellent work in dance. Working well in a group and making up his own dance moves to music.

**Joshua:** For a fantastic homework project, making a fantasy world diorama.

### Year 4:

**Oren:** for improved handwriting and presentation

**Noyah:** for her fantastic effort in PE

### Year 5

**Su:** For giving her best effort in all subject areas, and maintaining a positive attitude towards failure! Great job, Su!

**Talya:** For putting in fantastic effort in literacy, which has given her improvement in adding relative clauses to her writing. Great work, Talya!

### Year 6

**Blessing and Naomi:** Both have shown huge improvements in their work due to the extra effort they have continually put in this week.

This week we would also like to celebrate the work of a pupil in Year 4. Mr Gilani asked us specifically to celebrate the homework by Felix who, after the visit to London Zoo, was inspired to write a fact file on tigers. We love the quality of Felix's work and the illustration is amazing! Well done Felix.

School trip to the zoo

On Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of January 2017 year 4 went on an exciting trip to London Zoo. Our school trip did not have a good start, because there was no coach available. But luckily a minibus took us to the zoo in the end. First, we visited the Aquarium, the Reptile house, the gorillas, monkeys and tigers. After lunch we visited the hippos, the lemur and the rain forest animals. Then we attended an excellent workshop. In the workshop we learned a lot about habitats of animals around the world. Afterwards we saw some more animals including giraffes, zebras and okapis. Finally, we went back to school.

Name: Felix

