

# NEWSNOTES



Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 7 Sh'vat 5777 Parashat Bo

Shabbat begins tonight at 4.36 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 5.48 p.m.

## **Dates for your diary**

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

## ***February***

Monday 6<sup>th</sup>

Art Day

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>

Year 5 assembly to parents

Exhibition of artwork – school open from 3p.m.

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

28<sup>th</sup> February

Pre-loved book sale

## **March**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>

Nursery/Reception assembly to parents

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>

World Book Day

Pre-loved book sale

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,

In this week's newsnotes you will see a message from the Friend of Simon Marks – please read it to discover just how much support this group has given to the school and how you can help in the future.

We are starting next week with an art day on the theme of Tu B'Shevat and hope that you can support us by collecting resources with your child – the gathering of these is a part of the process of seeing how ordinary items can be used to inspire or create artwork. Items on the list include interesting fruit, potatoes for printing (and old fashioned peelers for 'sculpting' the print block), wrapping paper or wallpaper of all colours for collage and small branches for a wood sculpture.

On the subject of Art Day we would like to invite all parents to an exhibition of the art on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February, from 3p.m. You are more than welcome to come into school early, or at 3.30, to look around at the wonderful things that the children will have studied, planned and created.

I look forward to seeing as many parents and friends as possible on Wednesday afternoon, and also the Year 5 parents in assembly on Wednesday morning at 9.05.

Have a happy and peaceful weekend,  
Shabbat Shalom,

Debra Crouch  
Interim Deputy Headteacher

## **Payment for school trips**

Most classes have been on exciting trips this term to stimulate their curiosity and increase understanding of what they are learning. The school does not have a budget to fund trips and they can only go ahead if parents pay.

Please, could you check your ParentPay, account and if you have outstanding amounts please pay these as soon as possible to enable us to continue to enrich the curriculum with these opportunities.

If you have any queries about your account, or what is required, please contact the school office.

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## Thought for the Week – Parashat Bo

Since Moses and his brother Aaron had first come to Pharaoh with G-d's message to free the Israelites, seven plagues had struck Egypt. Each time Pharaoh agreed to release the Israelites but as soon as the plague ended he refused to let them go. Now Moses came to Pharaoh an eighth time with yet another warning of punishment: a plague of grasshoppers. This time Pharaoh agreed to let only the older men leave Egypt. Quote "ה את ועבדו הגברים נא לנו." "Go men and serve your G-d." By doing this Pharaoh was hoping that the younger men would remain slaves and also G-d would no longer inflict yet another plague on him and his people. Moses of course refused to agree to this deal and said "בנערינו. נלך ובזקנינו" "our youth and our elderly will go." Hashem inflicted the plague of grasshoppers upon the Egyptians. They attacked and ate every bit of crops: trees and fields were completely bare. The Egyptians worried, they complained to Pharaoh. "We will die!" Pharaoh himself feared that they all would die of starvation and begged Moses to ask G-d to stop the plague, but as before he did not let the Israelites have their freedom. The ninth plague was DARKNESS. It began to cover the land of Egypt like a heavy, black blanket - the day was dark and the night was even darker.

The tenth plague was taking the life of the first born. Pharaoh himself was a first born and he was worried. The Israelites took this opportunity to flea Egypt.

Thought of the week.

Changing one's mind continually (like Pharaoh did) can only cause further anxiety.

## Friends of Simon Marks

The Friends of Simon Marks are a voluntary group of parents who organise and run regular fundraising and social events for the whole school community. We work alongside the school and support its ethos.

Over the last 4 years the Friends had been co-chaired by Flora Raymond and Sophie Jones with Lauren Buck as secretary/treasurer. We would like to thank them for all their hard work and enthusiasm. They, together with a small

committee, have supported the school in raising funds and celebrating Jewish festivals. There have been a number of fundraisers including grandparents reading to children, school fun runs, teatowels, Friday challa stall and cookery books in addition to school fetes, Purim discos, BBQ's, movie club, Mitzvah day, comic relief, comedy night, Yom Haatzmaut and Chanukah celebrations.

The funds raised have contributed to the following:-

Merav's retirement party

£2400 distributed per class for resources, book corners and learning environments

Microphone for assemblies, light show, hot chocolate and donuts for Chanukah, apples and honey for Rosh Hashanah, refreshments at assemblies

SEND equipment (such as sensory toys, fidget cushions, and bean bags)

Playground equipment & bouncy castle

£4000 towards computers and more playground equipment is currently in progress.

The new Friends of Simon Marks committee chairperson is Diana Stephens, the treasurer is Avivit Katzil and secretary, Mark Boland. We are organising our first event, the Purim Disco on the 5th March 2-5pm. If you would like to volunteer to help on the day, please contact Diana.

We look forward to seeing you all there! Don't forget to come in costume! Parents/Carers included!

Shabbat Shalom!

## Environmental Issues

As discussed in recent newsnotes, we are no longer automatically sending paper copies of this publication to families.

Newsnotes is available electronically via email and the school website. A small number of paper copies will be available in the office should you wish to take a copy.

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## School Council

Congratulations to our School Council on their whole school assembly presentation on Monday.

The School Council presented a wide range of agenda items namely:

- A tuckshop during playtime
- School uniform
- New playground equipment
- Visiting other schools for competitions
- Refurbishing the outside toilets

The School Council looks forward to meeting with Mr Thomas to discuss their agenda items further. They will keep their classes posted on the outcomes from their meeting.



Our School councillors are:

Year 2: Elena and Noah

Year 3: Nina and Leo

Year 4: Isaac and Ruth

Year 5: Jaden and Kitty

Year 6: Noah and Ria

## Year 3 trip to the London Eye



135 metres above the ground

On Monday Year 3 went to the London Eye to get the best views of our fabulous city. The children were able to identify many of our famous landmark buildings, comparing and contrasting new with old, and could see, with the number of cranes, how our city is constantly changing.



*On the way up – and we will look down on the Houses of Parliament which is only 96m high!*

## Achievements

### Rec

Taylan: For writing a caption about the Chinese New Year.

Ruby: For using the vocabulary heavier and lighter when weighing objects.

### Year 1

Daniela: For her beautiful neat handwriting.

Paul: For all his reading efforts and enthusiasm.

### Year 2

Odelia: For using her imagination and creating a brilliant alternative story

Dov: For his commitment to finishing his work, using his own time if necessary

### Year 3

Ella: For working hard in Maths lessons and kindly offering to help others in the class.

Sienna: Outstanding 'green' behaviour and being very helpful to adults.

### Year 4:

Emil: for using interesting expanded noun phrases to describe the characters in his story

Naomi: for using powerful and imaginative vocabulary in her Viking myth

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## Year 5

Moses – For his exceptional behaviour and initiative in class over the last 3 weeks.

Leona – For having an open mind when approaching every new challenge given to her in class.

## Year 6

Anastasia – For her effort, reliance and hard work in Maths

Amber – For giving up her own time and helping others

Last week two children in Year 3 (Leo and Olivia) received achievements awards for creating fantastic dioramas of fantasy settings. Leo's pirate world and Olivia's candy world included fabulous detail and we thought that you would like to see exactly what we meant!



*Leo's pirate World used a range of materials*

*Olivia's Candy World looks good enough to eat and has been tempting all the teachers for days!*

