

NEWSNOTES



Friday 10th February 2017 14 Sh'vat 5777 Parashat Beshalach

Shabbat begins tonight at 4.49 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 6.00 p.m.

Dates for your diary

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

February

Mon 13th – Fri 17th

Half term break

27th – 3rd March

Book week

28th February

Pre-loved book sale

March

Thursday 2nd

World Book Day

Pre-loved book sale

Sunday 5th

Purim Disco (PTA)

Wednesday 8th

Yr 1 assembly to parents

Friday 10th

Purim celebration in school

Wednesday 15th March

Yr 2 assembly to parents

Friday 17th March

School closes at 3.30

Wednesday 22nd March

Yr 6 assembly to parents

Wednesday 29th March

EYFS assembly to parents

Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th March

Parents' evenings

Early closure on Friday ends 17th March

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents,

It's been another very busy week and children are working extremely hard. It was great to see so many parents at the wonderful Year 5 Assembly on Wednesday, and a short report on this can be found in this newsnotes.

This week we held our 'Tu B'Shvat' Art Day, with all children across the school developing their skills and producing art work linked to the festival. This was enjoyed immensely by the children and

we were also pleased to see so many parents attend the exhibition of work on Wednesday after school. Thank you to Mrs Crouch for organising both the day and the exhibition – children thoroughly enjoyed the art day.

To increase motivation, understanding and enrichment we are having a lot more themed weeks, but I must ask that the costs be covered otherwise school trips will have to be cancelled. Please check on ParentPay, or with the office, if you are unsure whether you have money owing to the school.

Please have a happy and safe half term break – we look forward to seeing you all again on 20th February.

Gareth Thomas
Interim 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.

Thought for the Week – Parashat Beshalach

After the tenth plague, Moses gathered all Bnai-Yisrael and although the Israelites had to leave Egypt in hurry, Moses did not forget the promise they had made to Joseph; that on leaving Egypt they would take his remains to be buried in Israel. Pharaoh was angry, he ordered his army to chase the Israelites in their chariots. When Bnai-Yisrael looked back, they saw Pharaoh's army in hot pursuit and they were frantic with fear. "Pharaoh will now take us back to Egypt to become slaves again - either that, or he will kill us!" they cried.

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When the Israelites reached Yam Suf (Red Sea) they complained to Moses, "What did you bring us here for? We will drown, we'd rather be slaves than dead!" Moses said "Have faith in Hashem, do you think that G-d would take you out of Egypt and then desert you?" Hashem performed yet another miracle; he parted the sea so the Israelites could walk on dry land. Meanwhile Pharaoh's army was also fast approaching the sea but they had to travel through showers of hail and burning coals thrown by Hashem to confuse them. The Egyptian soldiers entered the sea behind Bnai-Yisrael, but for them the sea was no longer a dry land as it was for the Israelites. They wanted to go back, but, they could not, their horses kept moving forward, dragging the Egyptians to a miserable end. They all drowned.

At Yam Suf (Red Sea) the Israelites became rich, as the Egyptians' horses were adorned with gold, silver and precious stones and Hashem made the sea wash all the precious metal and stones up onto the shore which Bnai-Yisrael collected.

When Bnai-Yisrael saw Hashem's wonderful miracles and realised how they had been saved by him, they began to sing songs of praise to G-d.

Thought of the week
One must have faith and trust in G-d. When we are fortunate and good things come our way we must always remember to say THANK YOU.

Year 5 Class Assembly

On Wednesday Year 5 took the whole school on an underwater adventure aboard our yellow submarine! Our students shared what we have been exploring within our Into The Deep topic this half term.



We displayed our skills of multiplying decimals by whole numbers in maths, exploring asexual and sexual reproduction in plants in science, report writing in literacy and a beautiful dance to end the show!

Year 5 Pajama Day



Year 5 have been working tirelessly over the last half term in their maths, literacy and science lessons. They have produced amazing work, and even presented an impressive class assembly! As a reward, they were given the opportunity to come to school in their pajamas! Great work this half term Year 5!

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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!

Achievements

Rec:

Leo: for designing and making an excellent fruit portrait.

Isaac: For writing tricky words from memory in phonics.

Year 1

Marlon: For all his efforts and enthusiasm in his reading.

Isabelli: For writing an outstanding story with awesome adjectives.

Leah: For working hard to improve and produce beautiful handwriting.

Year 2

Samuel G-M – realising that he **is** a great problem solver during our investigation

Hannah – using art day to express her own creativity

Year 3

Nina: For an outstanding fantasy story and for doing such a great job representing her class as school councillor.

Johnathan: For working so hard in Literacy lessons and writing a lovely fantasy story including dialogue and description.

Year 4

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Eslie: using imaginative and powerful vocabulary to write a great Viking myth

Daniel: working exceptionally hard to write a very interesting Viking myth

Year 5

Isabella: For her magnificent work during Art Day!

Abie: For his efforts and enthusiasm to learn our underwater assembly dance.

Year 6

Noah CD: For his amazing botanical watercolour

Ella : For her fantastic botanical watercolour.

Jasmine: For creating and designing an amazing persuasive advert.