

# NEWSNOTES



Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016 13 Ellul 5776 Parashat Ki Teitzei

Shabbat begins tonight at 6.53pm and ends tomorrow evening at 7.59pm

## **Dates for your diary**

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

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September

Parents' evenings  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> 3:45pm – 5:45pm  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> 4pm – 7pm

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October

Rosh Hashanah – School closed

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October

Erev (Eve) of Yom Kippur – School finishes at 1.30pm

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October

Yom Kippur – School closed

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October

Sukkot – School closed

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October

Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah – school closed

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October

Half Term – School closed

## **Headteacher's message**

Dear Parents,

It's been a hot but productive week: the school looks bright and cheerful and there is a lovely purposeful atmosphere in the classrooms. Children have settled into their new classrooms well and are producing some lovely work, some of which you will see on display during parents' evenings. Visitors to the school have noticed the improvements made and we have received many positive comments about them.

You may have noticed that the new school website is now 'live' and can be accessed by typing [simonmarks.hackney.sch.uk](http://simonmarks.hackney.sch.uk) into your browser. Many people have worked hard to build this website and its contents and I would like to thank all involved for their dedication in this. We are already in the process of refining, editing and making improvements to the site, and will be updating it on a regular basis to keep everyone involved with the school up to date with our news.

I'm enjoying meeting pupils and parents and look forward to working with the school community.

Debra Crouch  
Interim Deputy Headteacher

## **A message from the Governors**

The Governors are seeking your feedback on an important issue relating to Simon Marks Jewish Primary School and have emailed parents. To gather your views, they have prepared a confidential questionnaire for you to complete.

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To take part in this survey please click the following link:  
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/simonmarksurvey>

The questionnaire will take no longer than 4-5 minutes to complete and we would be grateful if you could respond no later than Monday 26 September 2016.

Thank you very much for your co-operation in advance.

Howard Pallis (On behalf of the Gov's)

## **Roald Dahl's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday anniversary**

On Tuesday we were delighted to welcome Professor Tom Solomon to a special assembly to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Roald Dahl. 'Professor Tom' was a junior doctor when he first met Roald Dahl and treated him towards the end of his life. He has now written a book about Roald's experiences and interest in medicine, entitled 'Roald Dahl's Marvellous Medicine'.



'Professor Tom' entertained and informed the children with his stories and curious and interesting facts about the brain, and was later put into a 'hot seat' by Year 6 children. The response to the visit was

very positive – here is a review from Yr 6:-

*"It was so exciting to 'hot seat' professor Tom because we'd throw a question and then catch the answer – it was as if Roald Dahl was with us (his spirit definitely was!)"*

*I think it was the best lesson the class has ever had! It was a fabulous mix of science and literature, and enjoyable for everyone. I think we learned a lot of fun facts and it was a memorable day for all of Simon Marks' Roald Dahl fans."*

*Amber Parmar, Year 6.*

Professor Solomon was highly complimentary about the school and in a later press interview stated that 'The school really is a hidden gem in Hackney'. To see the full report please visit the Hackney Gazette website ([http://www.hackneygazette.co.uk/news/education/roald\\_dahl\\_s\\_doc\\_visits\\_school\\_to\\_launch\\_book\\_1\\_4695150](http://www.hackneygazette.co.uk/news/education/roald_dahl_s_doc_visits_school_to_launch_book_1_4695150))

## **Parent Governors**

Parent Governor nominations are due in next week Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September. Please complete the form sent out this week, and return to the office before 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **Information Forms**

Twice a year we have to complete a census for the local authority and they provided a pro-forma for this which was sent out this week. Please make sure that these are completed and returned by Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September. We realise this was done last term but additional information is now required by the L.A. and also some parents left important parts blank. Please be aware that if you do not wish for photographs/videos of your children to be put on the website we will also not be able to include them in the newsnotes.

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## Alternative pick up arrangements

If you make arrangements for another adult to collect your child from school, could you please let the office know before 3pm as after this time we are usually very busy on the phone and with visitors to the school, which can make it difficult for us to inform your child's teacher.

## Parent Pay

If you have not done so already, please register with parent pay as this will be used not only for dinner money, but also for school trips, music lessons and voluntary contributions.

## Tzedakah

Please could we remind you once again that each Friday we'd like to encourage children to be charitable and bring Tzedakah (charity).

## Thank you

Sadly the Victoria Park book shop has now closed down but we would like to thank the owner, Joanna De Guia, for the generous donation of Jewish books received by the school today.

We would also like to thank Mr & Mrs Cohen (Noyah's parents) for lending us an amazing Shofarot.

## Thought for the Week

The Parasha this week is Ki Teitzei. In this week Moses continues to teach Bnai Yisrael (the Israelites) about further mitzvot (good deeds) including how to be kind to all types of animals. We also learn that our home must be safe and that all

dangerous objects must be kept away from children. Thought for the week: 'Tzaar baalay chayim' (prevention of cruelty to animals).

## Achievements

Each week we will celebrate the achievements of two children in each class during assembly. This week's recipients are:-

**REC:** The whole class, for drawing their portraits and making their 'Marvellous Me' books

**YEAR 1: Nathan Joseph** - Beautiful green sitting

**Lydia Ibeh** Asking really interesting questions

**YEAR 2: Joel Kaye Williams** - Making valuable contributions in literacy

**Asia Sterling** - Trying hard to complete all work set this week

**YEAR 3: Nina Crasnow-Dodd** - Fantastic descriptive writing including noun phrases

**Zak Stephens** - Persevering with his maths work in comparing 3-digit numbers

**YEAR 4: Ruth Touitou** - Excellent work in maths and making positive contributions

**Felix Balzer** - Showing excellent green behaviour all week and helping others

**YEAR 5: Ian Da Santos** - Giving his best effort in all classwork

**Mia Brandhuber** - For being a kind, considerate and helpful classmate

**YEAR 6: Amber Parmar** - Outstanding literacy work

**Jasmine Lewis** - Outstanding literacy work

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In addition to these achievements we would like to present to you the best work in a particular year group. This week we have asked Miss Gough to choose the best piece of work in Year 5 and she has selected Leona Lewis' writing prompted by 'The Princess' Blankets' by Caroline Duffy. In the story the King has a problem and children were asked to imagine themselves at the entrance to the palace, persuading the King to let them in as they may have the solution.... You can read Leona's work below.

Dear Lord,

You might be thinking of who I am. Well, think no further, I am Jack. The amazing, the almighty, the greatest of them all. I live in the mysterious land hidden far away from all the others. Now we need to talk.

I have, the absolute best idea. It's not one of the ordinary, useless solutions from the horribly poor widows or young children that live on the streets in measly cardboard boxes. No, it's the magnificent, amazing, extraordinary, greatest idea of all time, that you, King Arthur, is just about lucky enough to grab hold of. If you have any common sense you'll be literally begging me to share my extraordinary idea. And, I, the almighty, amazing, Jack, will deserve, and get, the best prize of all.

Sincerely,  
Jack

*Fantastic writing, Leona! I like that you used the skills on your lines to remind you to skip lines. Your words are fantastic. If I was the King I would be persuaded!*