

NEWSNOTES



Friday 24th March 2017 26 Adar 5777 Parashat Vayak'hel-Pekudei

Shabbat begins tonight at 6.02 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 7.12 p.m.

Dates for your diary

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

March

Wednesday 29th

Parents' evening 3.45 – 5.45p.m.

Thursday 30th March

Parents' evening 4.30 – 7p.m.

Thursday 30th March

EYFS Seder

April

Tuesday 4th April

KS2 Seder

Thursday 6th April

KS1 Seder

Friday 7th April

School closes at 1.30

10th – 21st April

School holiday

Monday 24th April

New term starts

May

SATs dates

KS1 – all of May

KS2 – 8 – 11th May

14th – 17th May

Yr 6 school journey

Useful contact details

School telephone number: 0208 806 6048

School email address (general):

info@simonmarks.hackney.sch.uk

Email address (Chair of Governors):

howardpallis@hotmail.com

School website:

<http://www.simonmarks.hackney.sch.uk/>

Please do not book any holidays during the scheduled SATs weeks.

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents,

I'd like to start by thanking parents, staff, governors and pupils for being so supportive during this time of change: the teamwork demonstrated, together with the commitment of staff is making a difference at Simon Marks.

Thank you too for parents and governors who attended the meeting on Wednesday evening. The Governors and I fully understand your concerns and were pleased to be able to try to answer them at the meeting even though we cannot discuss the personal issues of ex staff members. I'd like to apologise for the late and hasty announcement that Ms Cheevers was no longer teaching in Year 2 which was due to a mis-communication with an agency and would also like to welcome Mr Abrahams to Year 2.

One parent asked whether any other class teachers were planning to leave and I was happy to state that we have received no resignations, which means that staffing should be secure for the summer term. Today I have checked with our fabulous long term supply teachers and they have confirmed that they too intend to be with us during the summer term, which is a testament to the strong team ethos we have here at present.

I met with a parent this morning who stated that one of the reasons she chose Simon Marks was the 'family' feel of the school and the care that staff have always shown to children. I'd like to reassure the school community that the level of care and commitment has not faded at all – in fact it was noted in a recent one day review by the local authority that they were impressed by the commitment of staff to children's well-being, both inside and outside the classroom. Staff here go

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out of their way throughout the school day to take time to nurture and support children and positive relationships are evident for all to see.

Parents who attended the meeting had the opportunity to meet Lisa Campbell, our new Interim Headteacher, who I am very much looking forward to working with. We are hoping that Lisa will be able to join us for a day or two before the summer term.

This week Year 3 have been out at the Waterworks, Nursery went to the Hackney City farm, Year 5 took part in an Israeli Dance Festival and Year 6 led an assembly, so once again we've been busy! Photographs of these activities should be on the website soon and I hope to persuade year 6 to sing for me as I missed the assembly.

In the wider world, it's been a difficult week for London but the response has been to unite, as together we are stronger. Let's remember this as we settle down at home this weekend, by showing support to each other, our neighbours and to Comic Relief.

Shabbat Shalom,

Debra Crouch
Interim Deputy Headteacher

Lost property

There are an ever-increasing number of items in the lost property box which is situated in the school reception area. Please make a point of claiming lost items and if at first you don't find what you are looking for, please come back another day as sometimes it takes a while for items to be taken to the lost property box.

Parashat Vayak'hel-Pekudei

Though we have read about the Mishkan in previous Parashat, in this parasha Moshe announces that Hashem has forgiven Bnai-Yisrael for making the golden calf and therefore it is the right time to build the Mishkan.

Moshe called a meeting with Bnai-Yisrael and said "I am asking all of you to contribute materials for the Mishkan, I will not force any of you to donate or tell you how much to give, that will be entirely your choice." Bnai – Yisrael were more than delighted and very joyful, they were happy and excited to take part. They were so grateful that Hashem had forgiven them and were eager to donate, to show G-d that that they feel remorseful. The women donated their gold and silver jewellery and Moses has to tell everyone to stop giving as they had collected so much gold, silver, copper and other materials. It took Bnai – yisrael three months to complete the Mishkan.

Once completed, the only thing that was missing were the eight priestly garments, clothes for the Cohens, which were made of different colours with strands of gold just as Hashem instructed and communicated to Moses in the Parashah of Tetzveh

Hashem had instructed the Israelites: "I would like you all to stop work on Shabbat; it is Shabbat Kodesh (holy)"; hence the reason for the celebration of Shabbat today.

Thought for the week.

Please try to always give tzedakah. Remember, think of others at least once a week and hope that in return others will be thinking of you for the rest of the week.

Year 5 Israeli Dance Festival

On Tuesday, Year 5 had the exciting opportunity, along with several other Jewish schools to take part in the annual Israeli Dance Festival, which is put on by the Israeli Dance Institute. Over the last 2 months we have been working tirelessly with Mrs. David and Mrs. Cohen to learn over **20 dances!** All of the children participated in the dance routines and they had a blast!

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Getting ready for the parade!



Our favourite dance, Yesh Lanu Tayish!

Achievements

Rec:

Ariana: for making up and solving her own subtraction sentences.

Ausaris: for learning and using new words to describe farm animals.

Year 1

Isabelli: For working independently and participating during carpet time.

Lydia: For always being ready on time and joining in beautifully during phonics.

Year 2

Zion: For excellent behaviour and good writing

Evie: For great use of wow words in her story writing

Year 3

Samuel: For positively representing his school – showing good manners to adults when on our class trip.

Jessica: For being brave and trying something new – using tinder to light a fire.

Year 4:

Miya H: For writing an excellent non-chronological report

Emil: for giving his best in Literacy

Year 5:

Eleanor – for writing a fantastic story about polygons for her homework assignment

Isabella – for amazing improvements her writing of discussion texts

Year 6

Jael – For a fantastic hot write with some amazing, interesting sentences.

Isaac J – For writing, producing and acting brilliantly in the Year 6 class assembly

Well done to all Year 6 pupils,
who performed in the
assembly wonderfully and
made everybody proud.
