

NEWSNOTES



Friday 31st March 2017 4 Nissan 5777 Parashat Vayikra

Shabbat begins tonight at 7.14 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 8.25 p.m.

Dates for your diary

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

April

Tuesday 4th April
KS2 Seder 9.30

Thursday 6th April
KS1 Seder 9.30

Friday 7th April
School closes at 1.30

10th – 21st April
School holiday

Monday 24th April
New term starts

May

Tuesday 2nd May
Israeli Independence Day - Yom Ha'atzmaut
(Year 5 parents invited)

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,

This week we have been busy practising for our Seders and in fact, the Nursery and Reception children have already held theirs! Thank you to all parents who attended.

Thank you also to the parents who attended our parents' evenings and for your valuable feedback. Teaching is very much a team effort and the staff here appreciates your support.

Next week our new Interim Headteacher, Lisa Campbell, will be visiting Simon Marks and I hope to be able to introduce her to many parents, children and staff, so if you see me in the playground talking to an unfamiliar face, that is who it will be.

The weather is brightening and spring is upon us which means that gardens grow vigorously. You may have noticed that Year 2 children did some planting a few weeks ago and many of the seeds have now germinated. If you'd like to help to keep this 'garden' under control, please let me know; many hands make light work!

I wish you all a restful and happy weekend,

Shabbat Shalom,

Debra Crouch
Interim Deputy Headteacher

Road Safety

Please find a parking space away from the front of the school and accompany your child(ren) into the playground. We understand that there are some Year 6 children who come to school alone, but all other children must be supervised until 8.55 when the class teachers collect them from the playground.

We have received complaints from neighbours about the noise caused by angry motorists when cars stop in the middle of the road and there have been 'near misses' with cyclists passing while doors are opened, so please do not drop off children outside the school gates.

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Parashat Vayikra

Parashat Vayikra begins where the book of Shmot ended. (There are 5 books in the Torah: Bereshit, Shmot, Vayikra, Bamidbar and Dvarim.)

Hashem's clouds (shechina) surrounded the Mishkan from all sides and from above and Moshe stood outside. "I may not enter the Mishkan," he thought. As the Mishkan was even holier the Mount Sinai he reasoned "I was not allowed to go up on the mountain until Hashem called me, so I am surely not allowed to enter the Mishkan without permission.

Moshe was such a modest man, he always felt that he may not be worthy of any honour, being always humble. However our sages tell us that if someone runs away from honour, honour will run after him, but if he runs after honour, honour will run away from him.

Of course that was not the case with Moshe, and that is why Hashem called Moshe "ויקרא אל משה" Hashem invited Moshe to enter the Mishkan. "Now that Bnai Yisrael have built the Mishkan I would like you to teach them the laws of the korbanot" (animal and meal offerings) that Bnai - Yisrael will give me." The korbanot that Bnai - Yisrael give would be something like a sheep. A man may have all kinds of sheep in his pen, healthy ones, strong ones, sickly ones, big ones, small ones. What do you think he should choose for someone he loves?

Moshe instructed Bnai - Yisrael and that they can give קורבן יחיד (a sacrifice on behalf of one person only) or קורבן ציבור (offered on behalf of the entire people).

The Israelites were told they should not try to get away with a cheap korban but should try to give to Hashem the best animal he has. And similarly, whenever he fulfils the mitzvah, he should do it in the best possible way.

Thought of the week

We must not praise ourselves; we should wait for others to praise us.

Achievements

Rec:

Hannah: For finding one more and one less using a number line.

Louie: For thinking of his own sentences to write during phonics sessions.

Year 1

David: For making great progress in phonics.

Ivana: For being kind and helpful to her friends.

Year 2

Hannah: For always setting such a great example and for helping others too

Samuel M: For working hard to improve his writing

Year 3

Nina: For outstanding writing in Literacy and for working hard to achieve a merit in her bassoon exam.

Theo: For achieving a distinction in his piano exam.

Year 4:

Isabelle: for making wonderful progress in Literacy

Maya D: going beyond expectations in her work

Year 5:

Shiloh: phenomenal progress in Geometry.

Jacob: fantastic diary writing from the perspective of a bee during its life cycle.

Year 6

Cailin – For writing an interesting and creative story as part of her Hot Write.

Kara – For being a fantastic role model during school and in class rehearsals.