

NEWSNOTES



Friday 5th May 2017 9 Iyar 5777 Parashat Acharei Mot-Kedoshim

Shabbat begins tonight at 8:12 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 9:32 p.m.

Dates for your diary

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

May

SATs dates

KS1: all of May

KS2: 8 – 11th May

14th – 17th May

Yr 6 school journey

June

29th May – 2nd June

Half term

Monday 5th June

School photographs

14th – 20th June

Book fair

July

Monday 3rd July

Hackney Music Festival Instrumental (school band and brass)

Tuesday 4th July

Hackney Music Dance (Year 3)

Wednesday 5th July

Hackney Music Festival Junior Singing

21st July

End of term: school closes at 1.30 p.m.

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/>

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents,

I am delighted to tell you I have had a wonderful first two weeks getting to know your children and staff. We are working very hard to continually raise standards. Pupil progress, attendance and punctuality are all very important in striving to be

an outstanding school. The school attendance is currently 95% which is in line with the national expectation, however we are aiming to be better than expected and so I would encourage all parents to not book days off during term time. All appointments should be made where possible outside of school hours.

The year 6 children are working extremely hard to get ready for SATs next week, I am sure they will do their very best and all their hard work will pay off. Please do ensure they have a restful week end. They are all invited to our breakfast club from 8.15am each morning. I hope this will give them an opportunity to alleviate any last minute nerves.

I am pleased to have introduced prospective Headteachers around the school this week. The school governors are very hopefully to appoint a new permanent Headteacher this term.

I look forward to sharing good news with you soon. Shabbat Shalom.

Lisa Campbell
Interim Headteacher.

Israeli Independence Day (Yom Ha'atzmaut)

Yom Ha'atzmaut is celebrated on the fifth day of the month of Iyar, which is the Hebrew date of the formal establishment of the State of Israel, when members of the "provisional government" read and signed a Declaration of Independence in Tel Aviv. The original date corresponded to May 14, 1948.

The children took part in Israeli dancing, had a special celebration cake and wore blue and white clothes as part of our celebrations for Yom Ha'atzmaut.



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Kippot

We would be grateful for donations of spare kippot if you have any at home to loan to children for a day who forget theirs. Thank you

Parashat Acharei Mot-Kedoshim

The kohanim (priests) were not allowed to enter the kodesh hakdoshim, the holiest room in the Mishkan (Tabernacle) without permission. Sadly Aaron's sons did enter and for that they were punished.

The only person who was granted permission to enter was Moshe. Hashem told Moshe, "You, Moshe are different. You may enter the kodesh hakdoshim any time you wish because you are holy."

G-d was so pleased with Moses and the way he led the Israelites out of Egypt without arrogance and with utmost modesty that he made him holy.

G-d told Moses to tell his brother Aaron when he could enter the Mishkan and what kind of garments he should wear and that he must keep himself clean before entering the kodesh hakdoshim.

The Kohen gadol (Aaron) changed his clothes on Yom Kippur five times. Each time he immersed himself in water. He poured water over his hands and feet twice, once before he took off his old set of clothes and once after he put on the new set.

Parashat Kedoshim has more mitzvot (good deeds) than any other parasha. Hashem spoke to Moses and said; "Gather and speak to the whole nation of Israel, man, women and children, and say: "You shall be holy, for I, the Lord your G-d, am holy. You shall be **קדוש** (holy).

The Torah teaches us to please and respect Hashem and our parents at all times. One of the mitzvot and in fact it is one of the Ten Commandments is **כבד את אביך ואת אמך** (honour your father and mother.) There are many ways of showing **כבוד** (respect); we may not call our parents by their first names, we must listen to our parents, we may not contradict our parents, we may not interrupt a parent who is speaking, we must always speak to our parents in a respectful way...

The parasha also teaches us how to treat other people and tells us **ואהבת לרעיק כמוך** (you shall love your neighbour as yourself). If only we were able to fulfilled the above mitzvot? We can try; as if we do the world will be a better place.

Thought of the week

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast. Love is free, so....spread it around.

Cake Sale

We are delighted and very proud to share some photos from the very successful 3rd cake sale Leona, Mia and friends have organised, which took place on Sunday at Millfields Park in Hackney two weeks ago.

Many friends, mostly from year 5, joined and made cakes, and they raised an amazing £286.97 for charities for the homeless (either Shelter or Crisis). Previous sales have raised money for wateraid and Teenage Cancer Trust. Well done to Leona, Mia, Jasmine Ella and the Year 5 team.



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Year 5 Junk Modelling Materials

Year 5 has been working on *channelling the force* within our science lessons and to do this, we have been creating different models to test the different types of forces and ways to oppose them. If any parents or carers would be willing to donate the following materials to Year 5 to continue constructing these models, it would be much appreciated:

- **Cardboard** (cereal boxes, packaging, shoe boxes, kitchen rolls, toilet rolls, etc.)
- **Plastic** (old bottles, bottle tops, margarine tubs, yogurt tubs, washing up liquid bottles, etc.)
- **Other bits could include:** foil wrap, plastic wrap, cello tape, masking tape, bubble wrap, tissue wrapping paper, etc.

Thank you very much!

Achievements (including those for last week)

Rec:

Malaika: For writing sentences independently about the Very Hungry Caterpillar Story.

Ruby: For persevering to balance on the climbing apparatus.

Uriel: For using great vocabulary to describe the class caterpillars.

Liam: For doubling numbers with totals to 20.

Year 1

Lori: For beautiful joined up handwriting.

Udemz: For working extremely hard to learn his phonics.

Leah: For fantastic participation during Literacy.

Daniela: For being polite and a super helper.

Year 2

Elena: Being a fantastic role model

Denny: Making contributions during class discussions

Angel: For always being polite and kind to others

Ray: For always giving 100% effort during class

Year 3

Sienna: For making a big effort to achieve her targets in Literacy

Reuben: For an informative and well-written homework project about his trip to Peru.

Ella: For hard work and fantastic progress in Maths.

Iago: For fantastic progress in Reading.

Year 4:

Hilary: for being consistently kind, courteous and helpful towards her classmate

Esther: for positive contributions and striving to achieve

Year 5:

Talya: For exceptional effort and progress in Hebrew lessons.

Anastasia: For exceptional effort and progress across *all* subject areas.

Samuel: for taking a leadership role in his handball team and helping the teacher during the lesson.

Carmen: for exceptional effort in her homework assignment to create a story map for one of the Benin creation stories.

Year 6

Blessing: For always being polite, friendly and hard working.

Joshua: For consistently demonstrating green behaviour and working hard.

Year 6: For being, positive, hard-working and polite while Mr Jacobs was away.

Alberto: for his excellent singing during music and prayers.

Cailin: For showing a great improvement in her reading comprehension.