

NEWSNOTES



Friday 23rd September 2016 20 Ellul 5776 Parashat Ki Tavo

Shabbat begins tonight at 6.38pm and ends tomorrow evening at 7.44pm

Dates for your diary

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

Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th September

Parents' evenings

Wednesday 28th 3:45pm – 5:45pm

Thursday 29th 4pm – 6.50pm

Monday 3rd & Tuesday 4th October

Rosh Hashanah – School closed

Tuesday 11th October

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

Wednesday 12th October

Yom Kippur – School closed

Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th October

Sukkot – School closed

Monday 24th & Tuesday 25th October

Shemini Atzeret & Simchat Torah – school closed

Wednesday 26th – Friday 28th October

Half Term – School closed

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents,

It has been another busy week at Simon Marks and it is clear that all pupils are continuing to work extremely hard – their enthusiasm for learning is infectious!

There will be an opportunity to meet your child's teacher next week, and they will be able to explain many of the changes that have been implemented this academic year and update you on your child's progress.

Both Debra Crouch and I will be available at both Parent's Evenings next week, should you wish to speak to us.

I will be sending further information out next week regarding school trips and enrichment activities that will be starting soon.

Have an enjoyable weekend!

Gareth Thomas

Interim Headteacher

2016 KS2 SATs results

Our KS2 SATs results have now been checked and validated, and we are pleased to report that Simon Marks has done better than national (provisional) in achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths (R, W & M), and is three times better than national (provisional) in achieving a high level in R, W & M. Results in reading at a higher level than expected are a very impressive 46% compared with 19% nationally (provisional, to be confirmed later this year). Full results are in the table overleaf.

In 2016 the new, more challenging curriculum was assessed by tests for the first time. Results are reported as scaled scores which are calculated by standardising raw scores: these scaled scores are used in schools' performance data. The expected standard in the tests is a scaled score of 100 and the threshold for a 'high' score this year has been set at 110.

Comparison with previous years' attainment in school and nationally is not possible due to the change in the curriculum and tests.

Progress is measured against KS1 data and further information on this can be found on our website here: <http://simonmarks.hackney.sch.uk/our->

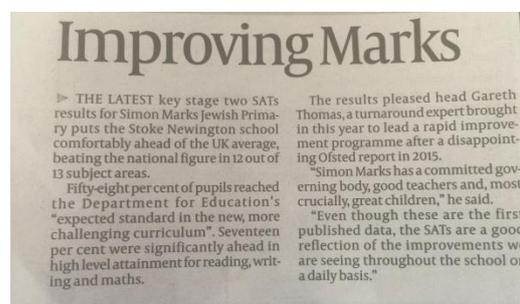
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[school/ofsted-and-pikuach/school-data-at-a-glance/](#) A progress score of 0 means that pupils on average do about as well at KS2 as those with similar prior attainment. A positive score means pupils on average do better than those with similar prior attainment, and a negative score means pupils on average do worse at KS2 than those with similar prior attainment.



Pupils achieving:	National	Simon Marks
The expected standard in R, W & M	53%	58%
A high level of attainment in R, W & M	5%	17%
The expected standard in reading	66%	67%
The expected standard in writing	74%	79%
The expected standard in grammar, punctuation and spelling (SPAG)	72%	79%
The expected standard in maths	70%	71%
A high level of attainment in reading	19%	46%
A high level of attainment in writing	15%	17%
A high level of attainment in (SPAG)	23%	17%
A high level of attainment maths	17%	25%
Averages		
Average scaled score in reading	103	106
Average scaled score in (SPAG)	104	104
Average scaled score in mathematics	103	104
Average progress in reading	Available	+3.1
Average progress in writing	Dec	+0.5
Average progress in maths	2016	+0.7

Until national progress data is released in December we cannot make comparisons on progress figures. Meanwhile, improvements throughout the school continue to be made.

STOP PRESS!

We have just been sent this snippet (see below) from the Jewish Chronicle featuring Simon Marks.

Information Forms

The school census date is rapidly approaching so if you have not returned your form please do so on Monday as a matter of urgency.

Young Presenter competition

BAFTA have announced a competition for 7-14 year olds to be a presenter at this year's children's BAFTA awards. To enter the competition, children are invited to submit a short video of no more than two minutes, which shows them interviewing someone to whom they would like to give an award to. This might be a teacher, parent, brother, sister or friend. Further details can be found on the BAFTA website (see below) and Mrs Crouch is happy to support and advise children interested in taking part. The closing date for entry is 6th October.

<http://www.bafta.org/media-centre/press-releases/bafta-launches-its-young-presenter-competition>

Voluntary contributions

Last week the Governors sent out a letter regarding voluntary contributions but did not attach details of payments. These can now be found attached to this newsletter.

Roald Dahl's 100th birthday anniversary

Hopefully you all saw the article mentioning Simon Marks in the Hackney Gazette last

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week. Professor Solomon was also interviewed about his book and the anniversary of Roald Dahl's birth on BBC radio by Mark Forrest, and our school gets a mention about 42 minutes into the show. You can listen to the interview by clicking the following link.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p045h630>

Homework books

We have ordered exercise books for homework but are still awaiting delivery of KS2 books. Please bear with us until they arrive.

Brass Instrument Tuition KS2

There is availability for children who wish to learn to play a brass instrument in school. Please see the office for details and costs.

Parent Governors

Several candidates have been nominated for parent governor therefore ballot papers and candidates' statements will be sent home with children early next week.

Tzedakah

Many children are remembering that each Friday we'd like to encourage children to be charitable and bring in Tzedakah (charity) in the form of a coin. Thank you for your donations.

Thought for the Week

The Parasha this week is Ki Tavo. In this week's Parasha, the Bnai Yisrael (Israelites) are about to enter The Land of Milk and Honey (Eret zavat chalav udvash). G-d commanded Moses to take 12 large stones from the river and lay them nearby. This is to remind us of G-d's miracle and his helping Bnai Yisrael to cross the river.

When Bnai Yisrael entered the land of milk and honey (Israel) they began to farm the land. They kept the first crop of fruits to

give as a gift to Hashem (G-d) in gratitude for all his help and kindness.

Thought for the week: We must be kind and helpful to others.

Achievements

This week's recipients of our achievement awards are:-

REC: Ariana Ahronee - Fantastic work in maths

Louie Green – Contributing so much during class discussions

YEAR 1: Leah Morgan – Always giving a helping hand to her friends

Chaplain Damte – Awesome work in English!

YEAR 2: Evie Kallushi – Working hard in writing a non-chronological report

Kaambe Mioko - Working hard in writing a non-chronological report

YEAR 3: Jessica Howard – Consistent green behaviour

Leo Eroglu – Fantastic attitude to his work, approaching each task with enthusiasm

YEAR 4: Maya David – Clear explanations on place value in maths

Isaac Ros – Fabulous letter to Hogarth giving advice about the Iron Man

YEAR 5: Joseph Thorne – Always displaying green behaviour

Maytal Ahronee – Going beyond all expectations in her work.

YEAR 6: Jael Seli – for great improvements in literacy work

Ria Sabaroche-Samuels – excellent written work across the curriculum

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In addition to these achievements this week we have asked Mrs Harris to choose the best piece of work in Year 3 and she has selected Nina Crasnow-Dodd who, after studying Greek Myths and Legends, was asked to create a poster advertising for a hero. You can read Nina's work below.

Hero Wanted!

Are you an immensely tough hero? Do you have huge muscles and have never been beaten? Then we ~~do~~ need you! The City of Athens is seeking a determined hero to defeat King Minos. We require an immortal amazing hero with strong armour. This is all because of King Minos. He is taking our children and feeding them to the wicked beast Minotaur. If you can save our village we will give you a reward of 200kg of a pure shiny gold. Please please save all of our lives by murdering the Minotaur who has giant dagger like-jaws. We really want an excellent hero with courage courage and bravery. Once again you need to be as strong as a stone.



VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

There are a number of different ways that you can pay your Voluntary Contributions:

SCHEDULED REQUESTED PAYMENT

<u>Number of children in school</u>	<u>Single cheque</u>	<u>Three standing order staged payments</u> <u>28/10/2016</u> <u>27/01/2017</u> <u>28/04/2017</u>	<u>Ten monthly standing order staged payments commencing on 28th October 2016</u>
<u>1</u>	£1444	£ 482	£144
<u>2</u>	£2519	£ 840	£252
<u>3</u>	£3527	£1176	£353

The figures above reflect the following savings on the single child contribution, for two children -20% and for three or more -25%

We would like to request that **all staged payments are made by standing order.** Other methods e.g. by cheque, BACS or charity voucher will be the **figure in full** as described above, please refer to the administrator for guidance if needed.

Where you are unable to make your contribution by standing order payments, please forward post-dated cheques or cash to the correct amount for the attention of Mrs Sue Zion. Payments will also be able to be made via your Parent Pay account. An announcement will be made in the school newsnotes when this is available,

If you will be making a gift aid declaration or paying by charity voucher, to obtain the tax relief, the amount payable has to be covered by income at the standard rate of income tax of the donor signing the gift aid certificate.

HMRC are reviewing arrangements for Gift Aid, but until we receive notification for any changes, please continue to fill in the Gift Aid Declaration attached.

The bank details for making standing orders are as follows:

**SIMON MARKS JEWISH PRIMARY SCHOOL TRUST,
HSBC BANK,
PO Box LB 663,
39 Tottenham Court Road,
London,
W1A 1FP**

Sort Code: **40-07-07**
Account Number: **71492381**

The date for return of all standing order forms is Friday 14th October, 2016.

We are required by law to point out that you are not legally obliged to make your contribution nor does failure to make a contribution mean that a child will be treated any differently.