

NEWSNOTES



Friday 30th June 2017 6 Tammuz 5777 Parashat Chuket

Shabbat begins tonight at 9:03p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 10.34p.m.



We are delighted with our OFSTED report

Thank you to all our Staff, Governors, Families and of course our children for their hard work in achieving a good OFSTED report. We are certainly happy to have demonstrated some of the brilliant work that goes on inside Simon Marks.

We are proud to have been recognised for our achievements and good work.

OFSTED say this is a good school because.....

- *The quality of teaching is consistently good
- *Pupils achieve well
- *Teachers use a range of strategies to ensure pupils' needs are met
- *The teaching of reading is particularly effective
- *Teachers are attuned to pupils' learning
- *There is strong leadership in the early years
- *Teachers check pupils' understanding carefully throughout lessons
- *Teaching assistants provide a good level of support
- *Pupils feel safe in school
- *Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted extremely well and is a key strength of the school
- *Pupils are adamant that bullying is exceptionally rare
- *The behaviour of pupils is good
- *Leaders know the school well and have worked effectively to ensure that improvements from the last inspection have been met
- *Pupils are attentive and focus well on tasks
- *Children learn well in early years
- *Adults in the early years are skilled at interacting with children
- *Pupils show respect and good manners
- *Pupils make good progress in English and maths
- *Creative projects... enrich pupils' learning
- *Outcomes in early years are good
- *Teaching in early years supports children to make good progress
- *The local authority has provided very effective support for the school



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Dates for your diary

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

July

Monday 3rd July 4.30 – 6p.m.

Hackney Music Festival Instrumental
(School band and brass)
Parents/carers welcome

Tuesday 4th July 10.15 – 11.45

Hackney Music Dance (Year 3)
Parents/carers welcome

Wednesday 5th July 5.00 – 6.20p.m.

Hackney Music Festival Junior Singing (Year 6)
Parents/carers welcome

Tuesday 11th July

School trip to Southend-on-sea
Parents/carers welcome

Wednesday 12th July 9.15

Year 2 Chagigat Siddur
Parents/carers welcome

Thursday 13th July a.m.

Sports day at Lee Valley Park - Springhill Sports
Ground (rugby pitch)
Parents/carers welcome

Tuesday 18th July 9.15 a.m.

Year 6 celebration assembly
Parents/carers welcome

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

Just 3 weeks to go before the end of term. We have been on an incredible journey this year and are looking forward to celebrating the year end with our children.



11th July we are going to celebrate our end of year achievements with a whole school trip to Southend. Families are welcome. This will be a great learning experience to visit the coast and enjoy a day in the sun. Further detail will follow in a letter to parents.

Next week some children will proudly represent our school in the Hackney music and dance festival. We do hope their nerves will hold off because we know how incredibly talented they all are. Some children have already performed in the Launch Concert held at the Barbican on Monday and we would like to say 'well done' to Kara who sang in a choir and to Gideon, Jacob, Nina, Noah and Theo who played in an orchestra.

I would like to apologise for the conduct displayed on the school premises between parents on Tuesday. We do not accept any form of verbal or physical abuse. Any parents deemed to present this form of behaviour could result in being banned from the school premises and grounds. If you do have a concern please do come along to meet with me.

Shabbat Shalom

Lisa Campbell
Interim Head Teacher

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Simon Marks & The Olive School

Following the terrible attack at Finsbury Park a few weeks ago, the staff at Simon Marks bought an Olive tree to give to the Olive School as a mark of our continued friendship.

As we were about to leave school to present our gift to them, a group of staff and children arrived at Simon Marks to present a hamper to us in celebration of the end of their fasting for the festival of Ramadan and the beginning of the festival of Eid-al-Fitr.

These terrible things that are planned to divide us, serve only to bring us closer together, and we wish our friends and neighbours at the Olive School continued peace and happiness.

Summer Fete

Thank you for all who attended or otherwise supported the Summer Fete held last Sunday. It was a great day and children and adults alike enjoyed it. If you did not attend, you missed the opportunity to target Mrs Crouch and Mr Jacobs with a wet sponge... as you will see from the picture below, others were there and right on target!



Mrs Crouch & Mr Jacobs were good sports!

Thank you to all PTA members and helpers for running the Fete, and a special thanks from the school and from the PTA to Diana Stephens and her team for all her/their hard work and commitment to this event and to the school.

Parashat Chuket

After forty years of journeying through the desert, the people of Israel arrived in the wilderness of Zin. Miriam died, and the waters that had miraculously flowed from the 'Well of Miriam' dried up. The people thirsted for water and complained bitterly to Moses about the lack of water. G-d told Moses and Aaron to speak to a rock and command it to give water, but when Moses became angry at the rebellious Israelites he instead struck the stone with his staff, disobeying G-d's wishes. Nevertheless, water flowed from the rock, but Moses was punished by G-d by being told that neither he nor Aaron would ever enter the Promised Land of Israel.

The journey continued and Aaron died at Mount Hor and was succeeded in the high priesthood by his son Elazar. After praying to G-d and thereby winning a victory in battle over the Amalekites, Moses' people complained about their food. After yet another eruption of discontent G-d sent venomous snakes to attack the Israelite camp for the people had yet again spoken against G-d and Moses. Praying to G-d to forgive his people, Moses was told to make a brass serpent upon a high pole, and all who gazed heavenward was healed of the poisonous bites.

Once again the Jews were attacked, this time by the Emorites who were waiting to ambush them in a valley between tall mountains, but miraculously the mountains moved towards each other, crushing their foe. Moses led the people in battles against the Emorite kings Sichon and Og (who sought to bar passage through their territory) and conquered their lands, which lie east of the Jordan.

Now the Jewish nation had finally reached the bank of the Jordan River, just across from the city of Jericho in the land of Israel.

Thought of the week

Goals cannot be easily achieved, but don't become negative. With G-d's help, perseverance and resilience incredible things can be achieved.

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Playground 'sprucing'

Many thanks to Emma Green, Tim Gutt, Avivit Katzil, Andrew Dwyer and Sabine Benzing-Balzer for the amazing job they are doing on cleaning the astro-turf.



EOD Friday Pitch 1- Done !

Volunteers are required urgently to finish the second pitch on Sunday or Monday – please contact any of the above parents, or the school.

Canada Day



In year 5, we have been celebrating Canada's 150th birthday this year. Canada is a country that is west of the UK across the Atlantic Ocean, and it is where our teacher is from! To celebrate Canada Day, we all wore our red and white clothes (which are the colours of the Canadian flag). We also put on a short assembly to tell the rest of the school about Canada Day.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who helped their children put together the amazing outfits we saw for this special day!

What a great opportunity it was to learn about another culture and important event for Canadians. Tomorrow, 1st July Canada celebrates its 150th birthday here in London in Trafalgar Square from 12pm- 8pm

Achievements

Rec:

Hannah: for playing and being friendly to lots of different children in the playground

Ausaris: for excellent reading of his reading book this week

Year 1

Marlon: For solving lots of difficult multiplication problems

Leah: For creating her own problems and solving them too!

Year 2

Asia: For her gaining more and more confidence in maths through listening carefully and working hard.

Joel: For his success in developing strategies to answer two-step money problems.

Year 3:

Nandi: For her hard work and excellent progress in Maths.

Jehu: For working much harder in Literacy lessons and writing a fantastic warning story as a result.

Year 4:

Olivia: for positive contributions during PSHE

Naomi: for giving her best in reading and helping others

Year 5:

Isabella: For working hard in her group to learn the model write in Literacy.

Reuben: For being a leader on the playground and demonstrating fair play and sensibility.

Ian: For fantastic writing of a suspense paragraph in Literacy this week.

Abie: For going above and beyond to create the Canada Day slideshow for our assembly.

Year 6

Isaac G: For using a systematic and logical approach to solving mathematical problems.

Kara: For developing resilience in Topic and P.E.