

NEWSNOTES

Friday 7th July 2017 13 Tammuz 5777 Parashat Balak

Shabbat begins tonight at 9:00p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 10.28p.m.

Key Stage 2 SATs results: better than national and better than last year

Thank you to all our Staff, Governors, families and of course our children for their hard work in achieving great SATs results.

We are happy that some of the brilliant work that goes on inside Simon Marks has resulted in these results and are proud of the children.

<i>Percentage achieving expected levels of attainment</i>	Reading	Grammar, punctuation and spelling	Writing	Maths	R, W & M
Simon Marks	71%	88%	82%	82%	65%
National	71%	77%	76%	75%	61%

<i>Percentage achieving a higher level</i>	Reading	Grammar, punctuation and spelling	Writing	Maths
Simon Marks	47%	N/A	35%	35%

<i>Average scaled scores</i>	Reading	Grammar, punctuation and spelling	Maths
Simon Marks	108	109	107
National	104	106	104

* please note that all results are provisional. Final National figures will be available in December 2017

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Simon Marks makes the Headlines in the JS (Jewish Chronicle) this week

'Good' Marks gets new leadership

Positive Ofsted and new headteacher for Simon Marks



Ms Metin, head of Simon Marks Jewish Primary; Gulcan Metin

Simon Marks Jewish Primary School has announced a new leadership team in the week of a "good" inspection rating from Ofsted.

Gulcan Metin will start her duties as head of the Stoke Newington school in September. She previously led another local primary, Southwold, which was rated good to outstanding in every category by Ofsted.

Also coming on board as Jewish studies head is Yolande Pieters, the co-director of education at Partnerships for Jewish Schools. Ms Pieters fronted the development of the Pathways to Hashem prayer curriculum used by Jewish schools in the UK, Australia and South Africa. She also lectures on the BA course in Jewish education at the London School of Jewish Studies.

Ofsted found "consistently good" teaching at Simon Marks and that "pupils achieve well". The inspectors added that "pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is promoted extremely well and is a key strength of the school".

Governors' chair Howard Pallis said the report reflected "a genuine, close-knit community where children learn and grow together".

He was thrilled by the appointment of Ms Metin and Ms Pieters — "exceptional educators with a compelling vision for the school".

Mr Pallis also praised acting head Lisa Campbell and her deputy Debra Crouch. Their "hard work and focus on advancing Simon Marks has been extraordinary".

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Dates for your diary

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

July

Monday 10th July 3.45

Meeting for parents going on the Southend trip

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

Tuesday 18th July 3.30 – 5.30p.m.

Year 6 leavers' party
Parents/carers welcome from 5p.m.

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 Families,

We are fast approaching the end of term and the

sun continues to shine!

I would like to start by thanking Diana Stephens for her hard work and energy leading the PTA this academic year. Diana has given much of her time to help raise funds for the school. Diana will step down as head of the PTA this academic year as sadly she and the children will be relocating and therefore will no longer attend Simon Marks.

Ms Metin – our new head teacher, will be keen to ensure the PTA is fully functioning next academic year. She will send further information out in the Autumn term of how to get involved and her plans to recruit a new lead.

Well done to Mr Jacobs and Ms Crouch for their hard working in supporting the children through their year 6 SATs, as you can see there are some fantastic results to be proud of.

All children will receive their end of year report on Wednesday of next week, of which will outline their achievements this academic year and information of their new class teacher for 2017-2018.

There will be a Southend Parents' meeting on Monday at 3.45pm after school for all parents attending the trip.

Tuesday 11th July 2017 Please be at school for 8.30 for a prompt leaving time of 8.45 Let's not leave anybody behind! No late comers please.



Shabbat Shalom
Lisa Campbell
Interim Head Teacher

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Parashat Balak

This week we read in the Torah about Balak, King of the Moabs, who was worried that the Israelites would conquer his land and so summoned the prophet and sorcerer Balaam to curse the Jewish people.

G-d instructed Balaam not to curse the people, as they were blessed, but Balaam was promised great riches to go. G-d agreed to allow him to travel to Moab, but only if he agreed to speak the words that G-d gave him. On the journey, Balaam's donkey saw an angel of G-d in front of them and refused to move any further, even though Balaam hit the donkey. The angel finally revealed itself to Balaam and G-d spoke through the mouth of the donkey to tell Balaam that instead of cursing the Israelites, he must bless them.

Three times, from three different points, Balak asks Balaam to curse the Israelites, but each time his words came out as blessings from G-d instead. Balak finally gave up on this but Moabite women found a different way to bring about the downfall of the Jewish nation: they enticed the men into worshipping one of their idols. A plague erupted amongst the Jews until the worshipping stopped and the guilty were punished.

Thought for the week

When we are tempted to say unkind things, we too can change these to blessings.

Playground 'sprucing'

Many thanks once again to Sabine Benzing-Balzer, Andrew Dwyer, Emma Green, Peter Griffith, Tim Gutt, Avivit Katzil, Ziv Lazar and James Syme for the amazing job they are doing on cleaning the astro-turf.



Hackney music Festival

Three groups of children took part in the music festival at the Round Chapel this week. The band performed some wonderful 1970's/80's R & B, Year 3 performed a traditional Jewish dance and some of Year 6 took part in the Junior singing event.



As always, the children were amazing and we are



very proud of them. We'd like to thank them and the parents and staff who supported these events.

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Vegetable garden

Our garden, planted by the Year 2 children, is growing vigorously and as some of the vegetables will be ready to harvest over the summer we will be potting and selling them on for you to take home, nurture and eat!

We would be grateful for any empty plastic plant pots – medium sized and any half bags of compost you may have loitering in your garden sheds.

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

Elijah: For his positive contributions during class discussions.

Daniela: For being a superb helper.

Nathan: For putting extra effort into solving division problems.

Year 2

Noah: For his outstanding work in science devising a healthy yet tasty menu.

Hannah: For her continued outstanding work in maths, identifying missing digits in addition calculations of numbers up to 4 digits.

Year 3:

Leticia: For the kind and caring way that she helps other children in the class.

Leo: For being a great helper in the classroom this week.

Year 4:

Sophie: for giving her best in all subjects and helping others

Noyah: for being an enthusiastic learner and encouraging others

Naomi: for giving her best in reading and helping others

Year 5:

Jacob: for a fantastic job in his performances during the Hackney Music Festival.

Tia: for superb use of imagery and figurative language to create a suspenseful setting.

Leontin: for magnificent progress in reading and writing this term.

Leona: for being a wonderful friend to all of her classmates and setting an example for year 5.

Year 6

Noah C-D: For great singing at the Hackney Music Festival.

Ria: For a great piece of writing about a £5 note.