

NEWSNOTES



Friday 4th November 2016 3 Cheshvan 5777 Parashat Noach

Shabbat begins tonight at 4.09 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 5.18 pm

Dates for your diary

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

Tuesday 8th November

Years 4 & 5 to Kabbalat Shabbat UK

Wednesday 9th November

Year 6 assembly 9.10 (parents invited)

14th – 18th November

Anti-bullying week

Wednesday 16th November

Year 3 assembly 9.10 (parents invited)

Wednesday 23rd November

Year 2 assembly 9.10 (parents invited)

Chanukah celebrations/presentations

Thursday 15th December

9.30 Years 1 & 2 (Year 1 & 2 parents invited)

Tuesday 20th December

9.30 Years 3 - 6 (Years 3 - 6 parents invited)

Wednesday 21st December

9.30 EYFS (N and Rec parents invited)

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents,

It has been another busy week at school and I have been strongly encouraged by the majority of pupil's positive behaviour and attitudes to learning. It is a pleasure to confirm that the new staff team are working extremely hard, and it is clearly evident that the children are enjoying the new curriculum. As you are aware, we are expecting a visit from one of Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) this term and I am confident that he will see the improvements at Simon Marks.

It is so important that children get an enriched curriculum, which is taught in a fun and interesting manner. I have asked all teachers to ensure that pupils get the opportunity to go on trips and I am proposing to introduce a series of events that will be happening in school, which will begin to broaden the curriculum.

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, I have arranged for a theatre company called 'The Power of One', who will be doing two performances to raise the awareness of bullying through PHSE and Drama – further details to follow in next week's newsnotes.

The school will also be celebrating Chanukah and each class will be doing a short presentation on the various aspects of this important festival towards the end of term. As a special treat, there will also be another drama company who will be doing a special performance of a well - known fairytale, which will be kept secret and not revealed until the end of term!

I would like to thank Debra Crouch for providing strong leadership of the school in my absence last term, and together we will work in partnership to ensure that Simon Marks continues to make rapid progress.

Thank you for your continued support.

Gareth Thomas
Interim Headteacher

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is on Sunday 13th November and to show support for this we will be holding a two minute silence and poppies will be on sale in the playground before school.

NEWSNOTES



Friday 4th November 2016 3 Cheshvan 5777 Parashat Noach

Shabbat begins tonight at 4.09 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 5.18 pm

School outcomes

In addition to the positive Key Stage 2 SATs results last year we would like to share the outcomes for KS1, where the school's results were significantly better than National and Hackney. Results can be seen below.

Percentage working at expected standard				
	Reading	Writing	Maths	RWM
Simon Marks	87	83	87	83
Hackney	81	78	82	74
National	74	66	73	60

Percentage working at greater depth				
	Reading	Writing	Maths	RWM
Simon Marks	39	22	43	22
Hackney	28	20	25	14
National	24	13	18	9

Friends of Simon Marks

There will be a meeting on Wednesday 9th November from 7.45 to 9pm to elect a new committee and plan for the year ahead. All are welcome and invited to attend.

Punctuality

Please could we remind you that school starts at 8.55 and that all children should be in the playground ready to go into class then. Thank you for the parents who are prompt every day.

P.E. Kits

Please could all parents ensure that children have a full P.E. kit in school with navy blue shorts and a white t-shirt. Jogging bottoms and sweatshirts can be used for outdoor P.E. during the colder winter months, but these must also be navy blue. Coloured t-shirts/shorts are not acceptable.

Hackney Music Service Gala

A gala concert, featuring Hackney primary and secondary schools was held yesterday at the Hackney Empire. Simon Marks was well represented with Jacob Deegan (trumpet), Gideon Rochman (violin) and Noah Crasnow-Dodd (cello) performing pieces from Mendelssohn's A Midsummer Night's Dream with the Hackney Training Orchestra and Kara Adunyame singing 'Your Love Keeps Lifting Me Higher' with the Hackney Borough Youth Choir.

Book Fair

We will be holding a book fair on Thursday 10th Nov and Mon 14th – Wed 16th after school in the hall. Parents and children are welcome to browse and purchase books from 3.30 – 4p.m on these days and children will also have the opportunity to visit the book fair during the day.

Simon Marks will receive commission on all sales in the form of books, so it is a good way of supporting the school but also to buy books and gifts for Chanukah and birthdays.

If you are unable to come to the book fair, and would like books, please fill in the order form at the back of the leaflet.

Bonfire Night

We have spoken to children about staying safe around fireworks and bonfires. Please ask them what they have learned, and stay safe this weekend.

If you have your own bonfire in your garden, please check underneath before lighting for hedgehogs – it's just the kind of environment that they love to find at this time of year!

NEWSNOTES



Friday 4th November 2016 3 Cheshvan 5777 Parashat Noach

Shabbat begins tonight at 4.09 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 5.18 pm

Thought for the Week - Parashat (Noach)

During the ten generations that followed Adam and Eve, the earth was filled with people, but sadly these people began to pray to the sun, the moon and other idols, Hashem (G-d) was angry, he could have punished them immediately, but he didn't. Hashem hoped that they would be sorry, repent and mend their ways. On the contrary, they were worse and they sinned even more.

Amongst these wicked people there was one righteous man: his name was Noach, only he and his family followed Hashem's commands. G-d said to Noach "I have not created this world to fill it with wicked people; I will wipe them out together with everything around them, but, you Noach and your family will be saved".

G-d instructed Noach to build a teiva (an arc), while Noach was building the arc he urged the wicked people to repent, telling them that Hashem was going to destroy the world with the mabul (flood) but to no avail. They mocked him and sinned even more.

The teiva was built on three floors; one to accommodate Noach and his family, one for the animals and the third for the food. Hashem commanded Noach to bring the non-kosher animals two by two, and seven pairs of each kosher animal. When they were all in the ark the mabul began, the whole earth was flooded and this lasted forty days. At first Noach sent a raven to find out if the flood was over; the raven did not come back which indicated to him that the flood was still on. He later sent a dove and when the dove returned with an olive twig in its beak that was a sign that the flood was over.

Noach asked Hashem not to send another mabul. Hashem promised that there will never be a mabul again to destroy the world, and as a sign of G-d's promise we now have the rainbow.

What we learn from this

Like Noach we must endeavour not to be influenced by people who are badly behaved.

Shabbat Shalom.

Achievements

Rec:

Evangeline- for her fantastic effort in phonics.

Leo- for his fantastic independent art work linked to our 'Fireworks' topic.

Year 1:

Aleph – for consistent hard work in Maths.

Paul – for always being kind and considerate to his friends.

Year 2:

Denny – for writing wonderful comparative sentences when describing a character

Rey– for his detailed answers during carpet sessions

Year 3:

Iago – Showing 'Green' behaviour and making a really big effort to complete his work independently.

Kate – For her outstanding work in Literacy, writing a fantastic Greek myth.

Year 4:

Talia – working really hard and making good progress in Maths

Naomi – writing an excellent suspense story

Year 5:

Richard – outstanding work and effort in Geography.

Sianna – working extremely hard and making great progress in Maths.

Year 6:

Amber – being supportive, helpful and a positive role model

Isaac Jones– excellent contribution throughout Literacy activities this week

NEWSNOTES

Friday 4th November 2016 3 Cheshvan 5777 Parashat Noach

Shabbat begins tonight at 4.09 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 5.18 pm

This week we would also like to celebrate the work of a pupil in Year 6. Mr Alderton has chosen some writing by Gideon Rochman. The class wrote reports on Diwali, and Gideon's work can be seen below.



Big Diwali Fireworks

The festival of Diwali takes place on the 30th October and tells the story of a ~~princess~~ ^{Princess} called Sita who was kidnapped by a 10-headed monster called Ravana. A ~~prince~~ ^{Prince} called Rama came to ~~resc~~ rescue her and killed Ravana.

Fireworks are set off and lamps are lit due to the ~~diva~~ ^{the citizens} lamps that Rama lit on the way back to the palace.

The festival of Diwali is celebrated by Hindus and other people celebrate it as well. Will you celebrate it this year?