

NEWSNOTES



Friday 20th October 2017 30 Tishrei 5778

Shabbat begins tonight at5.42. p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 6.42 p.m.

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and carers,

A lot has been happening at Simon Marks over the last two weeks.

The NSPCC have visited our school and presented an Assembly on 'Speak out and be safe', raising awareness of personal safety issues for young children.

We have had our Art Day, pupils have been working on their art topics. Thank you to all our parents who came in to see our work. We had some amazing outcomes.



Our 'Bring a dad/significant male' into school day was very successful. We had a great turnout and dads were busy joining us in our classrooms. They took part in all our lessons.



Upcoming events:

Hackney Council with Cycle Confident are offering free cycle training courses for children from 5 years upwards on Hackney Downs during the October half term. There are 3 levels of course, from complete beginner to on-road cycling. Places are limited and bookable at <https://www.cycleconfident.com/sponsors/hackney/> or by calling Cycle Confident on 020 3031 6730.

Short Fridays- our school will close at 1.30pm on Fridays starting from our first Friday back 3rd of November 2017.

I wish you all a peaceful and restful half term break

Ms Metin
Headteacher

Jewish Studies updates

Tishrei is the holiest month in the Jewish calendar with the festivals of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah.

We started the month with the value of Yirah or Awe and Wonder, thinking about what this means to us and how we feel a sense of awe on Yom Kippur when we are asking Hashem for forgiveness. After Yom Kippur we added the value of Simcha or Joy, as that is what the festival of Sukkot is all about. Finally we have started the cycle of Torah reading, where we learn how Hashem created the universe with love and made human beings in His 'image'. The value we learn from this is kavod habriut or respect for all creation.

Pupils prepared for Sukkot by making decorations for the sukkah. During lunch break, each class had a chance to make beautiful fruit drawings and paper mache fruit to hang in our school sukkah.

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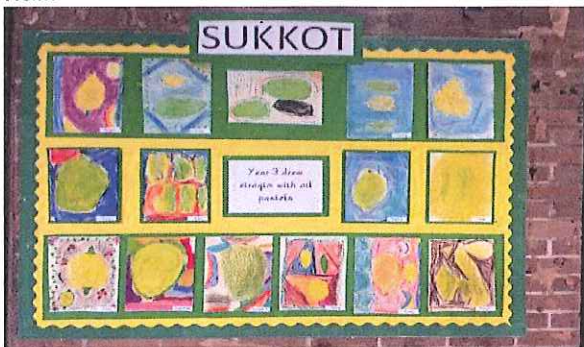
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Year 4 made individual sukkot and also performed a short play for the school to teach us about the laws and values of the festival.



Year 3 made beautiful oil pastel drawings of etrogim, one of the plants we use on Sukkot. These are displayed in the hall.



Everyone had a chance to spend time in the sukkah, make a blessing on the four species and say the blessing for eating in a sukkah.

Rabbi Mason, our school rabbi, visited us in assembly and showed us how the four species (lulav or palm, etrog or citron, hadas or myrtle and aravah or willow) are held together and we sit together in the sukkah, because that is one way of being full of joy. However, each of the species is unique and sitting under the stars we are also aware of ourselves as individuals and we all need some private time to be joyful as well.

When Rabbi Mason asked the children about what makes them happy, Paul in Year 2 replied: "Looking after our family".



The children have also learnt about the festival of Shemini Atzeret where Hashem asks us to stop another day and make the wonderful togetherness we feel at Sukkot last a bit longer. Finally, we celebrate Simchat Torah, where we rejoice and dance with the Torah and complete our cycle of Torah reading by starting it right away again.

On Tuesday the 17th of October, Year 4 and 5 took part in the ShabbatUK celebrations along with all Jewish schools in the greater London area. Pupils enjoyed singing and dancing and learning about Shabbat. There are many communal events to celebrate ShabbatUK – please check what is available in your local area. The focus is on creating a Shabbat experience for anyone who would like to keep Shabbat and there is also a communal Havdalah celebration – please see <http://www.shabbatuk.org/> for more details.

The Jewish Schools Awards are again taking place in January and parents are welcome to nominate teachers and non-teaching staff in the various categories. Please see <http://www.pajes.org.uk/jewish-schools-awards-2018.php> for more information.