

NEWSNOTES



Friday 9th February 2018 23rd Shevat 5778

Shabbat begins tonight at 4.49 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 5.54 p.m.

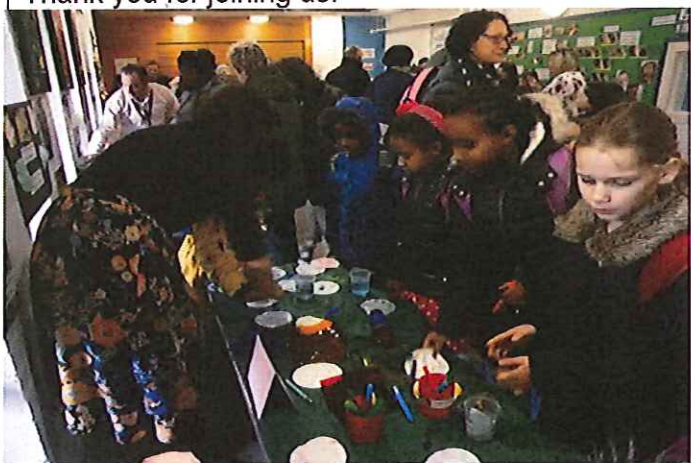
Headteacher's message:

We can't believe it's half term! The last couple of weeks have been really busy with lots of learning and fun for us!

Years 2 and 3 had an amazing trip to Kew Gardens, where they explored different plants and plant life in preparation for Tu B'Shvat. Our resident scientist, Ms Green also talked to us about the science of plants in our assembly.



Our Science day was a great hit; pupils were able to share their classwork with families and friends. We looked at what each class had been working on and even had a go at some of their science experiments. Thank you for joining us!



Friends of Simon Marks had their first meeting and are really interested in your views and thoughts. Please follow the link below and complete our short survey.

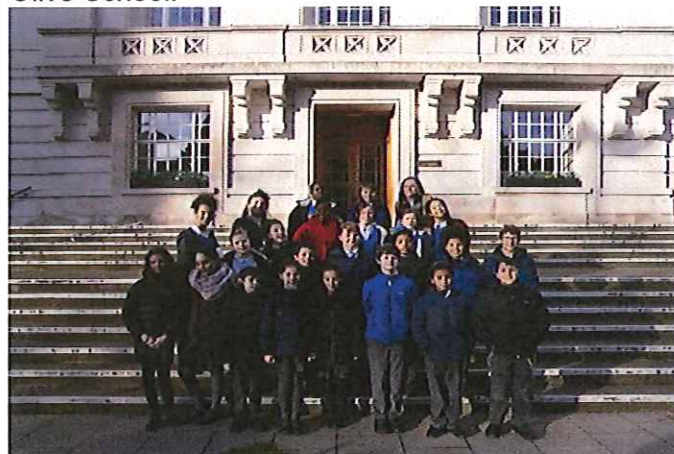
Survey Link to share:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PRJPSB5>

Ms Pieters was honoured at the Jewish Schools Awards for leading the PaJeS Chumash Curriculum which is used by over 10,000 pupils globally. Well done Ms Pieters!



YR 6 took part in the Holocaust Memorial Day held at Hackney town hall. The Hackney Mayor, the speaker of the house and lots of other members of the community attended the commemoration. We worked with The Olive School.



This event had a lot of media coverage and our school was in The Jewish News, The Jewish Chronicle, Hackney Gazette and Hackney today.

As next week is half term you may be interested in getting your child involved in a BBC 500 word creative writing competition. Please follow the link to register: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/13FxbKIOD1DP8OzvWRgw2CK/submit-your-500-words-story>

From Friday 23rd of February (after half term), school will close at 2.30pm on Fridays until the summer term begins in April when we will be back to a regular 3.30 finish on Fridays.

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Upcoming events:

Half term- 12-16th of February

Tuesday 20th of February- 8.30am-Next Friends of Simon Marks meeting followed by **Parents Internet Safety Coffee morning at 9.00am.** Pupils will have workshops the following day. All parents and carers welcome- we look forward to seeing you there!

On the **26th of February** Simon Marks will welcome Francesca Simon (author of the Horrid Henry books) as part of our World book week celebrations.



I would like to invite you all to a 'mid point' review meeting for parents on **Wednesday 28th of February** between **9.00-10.00am.** This meeting will inform you of how the school is doing to date. It is also an opportunity for you to meet some governors and ask any questions.

We are now on countdown to Purim, lots of exciting activities are being planned so look out for further information.

Ms G Metin - Headteacher

Jewish News

We continue with the month of Shvat and our values of Tikkun Olam: Repairing the World and Bal Tashchit: Do not waste or destroy. Our Tu be'Shvat Bean Project has been really successful with a veritable forest of bean plants sprouting all over the school windowsills. We planted some of them in the school garden and others were sent home.

The weekly Torah portion is Mishpatim, where the people of Israel are given various rules for creating a just society. In assembly we have focused on the

rule to respect other people's property, including returning lost property and we have discussed various ways in which we can respect property in school.

Purim

We are busy preparing for Purim, which falls on the 1st of March this year. We are planning a day of dressing up and fulfilling the various mitzvot (commandments) of Purim and more details will follow soon about activities on the day.

We would like each child to receive mishloach manot (a food gift) on Purim day and we will be asking parents to send in kosher food items on the week of the 25th of February for us to make up into individual parcels on the 1st of March. A letter with details about the food will be sent after half term and thank you in advance for your support..

Purim Evening Event 28th of February

We are excited to host a Megillah reading and Purim party on the 28th of February from 6.15pm to 9pm. Please bring along the whole family to come and hear the story of the Megillah and enjoy some great food and atmosphere at our school. The attached flyer gives more details. We are grateful to the United Synagogue for funding this event and look forward to celebrating with everyone.

Pesach Dates for your Diary:

Monday 26th March 2.45 – 3.30pm: Nursery and Reception Seder.

Tuesday 27th March 2.30pm – 3.30pm: Year 1,2 and 3 Seder.

Wednesday 28th of March: 2.30pm – 3.30pm Year 4,5 and 6 Seder.

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/>