

NEWSNOTES



Friday 3rd March 2017 5 Adar 5777 Parashat Terumah

Shabbat begins tonight at 5.26 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 6.36 p.m.

Dates for your diary

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

March

Sunday 5th

Purim Disco (PTA)

Wednesday 8th

Yr 1 assembly to parents

Friday 10th

Purim celebration in school

Wednesday 15th March

Yr 2 assembly to parents

Wednesday 15th March

Yr 5 trip to Tower of London

Friday 17th March

School closes at 3.30

Tuesday 21st March

Yr 5 trip to Israeli Dance Festival

Wednesday 22nd March

Yr 6 assembly to parents

Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th March

Parents' evenings

Thursday 30th March

EYFS Seder

April

Tuesday 4th April

KS2 Seder

Thursday 6th April

KS1 Seder

Friday 7th April

School closes at 1.30

10th – 21st April

School holiday

Monday 24th April

New term starts

Early closure on Friday ends 17th March when the school will be open until 3.30.

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents,

We have had a wonderful week with many activities including storytelling workshops and author visits and the children looked amazing in their book character costumes. A prize for the best costume was awarded in each class and the winner will be able to select any book from the scholastic website.

Book Week tokens were given to all children and can be redeemed in most bookshops for a free book – there is a selection to choose from.

Next Friday we will be celebrating Purim and a separate letter has been sent out with details of what we will be doing. On Sunday our Purim celebrations will start with a Disco which the PTA have organised.

I'd like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the school council, to say a huge 'thank you' to the PTA for responding to the school council's request for playground equipment. We now have new skipping ropes, balls, hoops, scoopers, badminton racquets and shuttlecocks to play with which make playtime so much more fun. Thank you too for the netball set which can now be used in PE lessons.

Please make a note of the dates for our Seders and for the end of this term and start of the new term – I have noticed that not all schools have the same holidays as us so please do check.

Have a happy and restful weekend,

Debra Crouch
Interim Deputy Headteacher

PJ Library

This is an amazing initiative and one that I think a lot of our school families would love.

PJ Library (PJ for pyjamas!) gives away high-quality Jewish books to families with children aged between six months and eight years old every month. The award-winning books celebrate Jewish culture, values and traditions through a wide range of stories and beautiful illustrations. PJ Library books are posted directly to children so they can build their own Jewish bedtime libraries.

The library is free to all families raising Jewish children and although there is currently a waiting list it's worth signing up at <https://pjlibrary.org.uk/Home>.

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PE Kits

Please make sure that all items in PE kits are labelled and that you check PE kits when they are brought home, as a large number of items are now missing. Please could you also check the basket in the reception area for lost property.

Cazenove Road Traffic Safety Committee

Mara Bodis-Wollner (a parent of a child at Grasshoppers Nursery) together with James Simoniti of Hackney Safer Neighborhoods, is putting together a traffic safety committee to work towards improving safety for everyone during times of school drop off and pick up along Cazenove Road.

Ideally they would like to have two representatives from each of the schools along the road to come together, possibly only digitally at first, to look at the big picture (from a bird's eye perspective of Cazenove Road during drop off and pick up times), brainstorm about what the problems are (such as identifying bottlenecks and peak times) and what we can suggest to help ease them. They will then go to the council together with thoughts/suggestions and requests.

Would anyone be interested in being a part of this initiative? Mara is ideally seeking two people to represent Simon Marks. If you are interested please contact Debra Crouch who can forward on your details to Mara.

Parashat Terumah

Hashem commanded Bnai-Yisrael to build a Mishkan (temporary dwelling as the religious focal point in the desert). G-d told Moses that when he gave the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, he showed his "shechina" (divine presence) only for a short while. Now he wished to dwell among Bnai-Yisreal as he wanted to be near them wherever they went.

There is a parable to indicate Hashem's need to be near his people.

Hashem announced to the Jewish people, "You are my sheep, and I am your shepherd. Just as a

shepherd sets up his tent close to his sheep in order to watch them, I want to have a dwelling place near you." When the Israelites wandered in the desert, Hashem dwelt in a Mishkan which was similar to a shepherd's tent. A shepherd does not live in a fixed place but moves along wherever his flocks pasture and sets up a tent next to his sheep in order to guard them and find food for them. Similarly, Hashem moved along with his people in the desert, like a faithful shepherd. He watched them day and night by spreading his clouds around them, and he fed them with manna from heaven.

Hashem instructed Moses how the Mishkan should be built and what the layout should be. He also told Moses not to force the people to give materials towards the Mishkan or the clothes that the Cohanim (Cohens) needed to wear, all contributions should be given on a voluntary basis. All Bnai – Yisrael were delighted and eager to help, they were very happy to use the treasures, gold and silver they obtained from the Egyptians, they wanted to show their love and appreciation to Hashem, they wanted to serve Hashem in the best way they could.

Thought of the week.

Try your hardest to do the best you can, never settle for second best.

Sainsbury's Active Kids 2017

Sainsbury's are once again giving out one voucher for every £10 spent in their large stores or online and one for every £5 spent in a 'Local' store. This will continue until 2nd May and we will then have until June to collect, count and redeem them for sports and/or fitness equipment.

If you, friend or family shop at Sainsbury's, please collect the vouchers and bring them to school – they can be handed to classteachers or put straight into the collection box outside the office.

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World Book Day-Year 1

Year 1 were extremely lucky, author Gareth Edwards read them a story called Fabulous Pie.



They then made and baked their own fabulous pie. Below you can see we are making the dough.



Here we are stuffing our pies with spiced apples. We stayed safe and clean throughout!



Achievements

Rec:

Uriel: for using great vocabulary to describe his 'longest' tower.

Liam: for using great thinking skills when using the magnets.

Year 1

David: For working exceptionally well in Maths.

Isabelli: For working independently and thinking of her own ideas.

Year 2

Zion: for making a great effort to improve his handwriting

Barsaam: for making a big effort to focus on spelling

Year 3

Melita: for her enthusiasm in all subjects and a fantastic effort in homework tasks

Johnathan: Working hard and making good progress in Writing.

Year 4:

David: consistently showing green behaviour and striving to achieve

Olivia: always being kind and considerate

Year 5

Mia: 150% effort in her all of her literacy lessons and literacy homework.

Joe: Exceptional letter in literacy from the point of view of Anne Boleyn.

Year 6

Isaac Glassman: For producing some fantastic descriptive writing for a setting, including modal verbs.

Ria: Great problem solving and investigations with both 2D and 3D shapes