

NEWSNOTES



Friday 7th April 2017 11 Nissan 5777 Parashat Tzav

Shabbat begins tonight at 7.26 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 8.38 p.m.

Dates for your diary

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

April

10th – 21st April

School holiday

Monday 24th April

New term starts

May

Monday 1st May

May Day Bank Holiday – school closed

Tuesday 2nd May

Israeli Independence Day - Yom Ha'atzmaut
(Year 5 parents invited)

SATs dates

KS1 – all of May

KS2 – 8 – 11th May

14th – 17th May

Yr 6 school journey

26th May

Festival of Lag BaOmer (school open)

June

29th May – 2nd June

Half term

Monday 5th June

School photographs

14th – 20th June

Book fair

July

Monday 3rd July

Hackney Music Festival Instrumental (school band and brass)

Tuesday 4th July

Hackney Music Dance (Year 3)

Wednesday 5th July

Hackney Music Festival Junior Singing

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/>

Please do not book any holidays during the scheduled SATs weeks.

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents,

There are so many people to thank this week in particular that this edition of newsnotes may sound a little like an over-long Oscar acceptance speech!

Many of you came to the school to either take part in or to watch the Seders and it was lovely to see so many parents, carers and friends, so thank you all for coming. The children were brilliant: I've just told them how proud and pleased we all are at the way they continue to make progress and to amaze us, so I'd like to thank them and the wonderful staff who helped make the Seders so special.

We were delighted to welcome Mr Klajn back to accompany the children's singing and thank him for remaining in touch with the school in this way and would also like to thank Diana and Flora for preparing food for all three Seders.

This term could have been a very difficult one but although there have been challenges it has been successful due to the hard work and dedication of staff and children, together with the support of the parents and carers. I'd like to thank everyone for their support during this period: the school is a calm and happy place where the progress of the children is evident. I am very much looking forward to working with our new Interim Headteacher, Lisa Campbell next term.

You may have noticed that our 'garden' by the Year 1 class has started to grow quite vigorously and we can now begin to identify some of the seedlings. I'd like to thank Emma Green for her work in maintaining this: many hands make light work, so if you'd like to offer our expertise or learn

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a little about how to grow fruit, vegetables and flowers please speak to Emma or myself about volunteering an hour or two a week to help our garden grow.

The weather is beautiful and if it continues, is timed perfectly to encourage us to sit, walk or ride and enjoy London, this country or further afield at their best. I wish you all a very happy Pesach and a relaxing break.

Shabbat Shalom and Chag Same'ach,

Debra Crouch
Interim Deputy Headteacher

Parashat Tzav

Parashat Tzav tells us about the five groups of korbanot (sacrifices), for example some sacrifices may be slaughtered only during the day. Hashem taught Moshe that if a korban was slaughtered during day time and its blood sprinkled before sunset, the kohanim may continue burning it all night long.

Some Kohanim were on duty in the temple all night long! And other kohanim would have to begin the avoda (work) at day break in the morning. Despite the long hours, the kohanim were always ready and eager to perform the avoda. Hashem forbade us to eat blood, a law that applied not only in the time of the temple but also today. The ashes must be lifted from the mizbeach (altar) and put on the floor always in the same spot.

They say that a miracle occurred with the ashes, the floor swallowed them and no ashes could be seen. That showed every one that Hashem accepted their offering of korbanot and that Hashem was very pleased with the kohanim's commitment to their work.

In orthodox Judaism we must 'kosher meat' before cooking and the method of doing so is as follows;

The meat (Or chicken) is soaked in cold water for half an hour. Then it is carefully salted on all sides. The salt draws out the blood. The meat is left salted for about an hour in a position which

allows the blood to flow off. The meat is rinsed and it is ready for cooking. (Fortunately nowadays the butcher does this task for us).

Thought of the week.

Laws, faith and customs are important and we must respect other people's, as well as our own.

Reception visit to Hackney City Farm

As part of their topic about animals Reception visited Hackney City Farm. There, they got to see sheep, lambs, chickens, donkeys and goats. The children were really excited to see some new born lambs and feed some hungry kids.



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Pesach at Simon Marks

This week KS1 and KS2 had their sederim. The children worked really hard to prepare and it showed in their fantastic performances. Each and every child was amazing.

We were very happy to welcome so many friends and parents and it was particularly good to welcome back Mr Klajn on the piano.

Happy Pesach to you all and Chag Same'ach.



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Achievements

Rec:

Esther: For using great vocabulary to describe farm animals.

Isaac: For helping his friends to make models.

Year 1

Paul: For his splendid performance during the KS1 Seder.

Aleph: For never giving up and always trying his best.

Mrs Jones: For being a super role model and always helping Year 1.

Year 2

Nina: For great speaking and a wonderful performance in the key stage 1 Seder.

Dov: For great speaking and a wonderful performance in the key stage 1 Seder.

Year 3

Nandi:

For excellent behaviour and her sunny, positive attitude.

Iago: For supporting other children on the carpet with their maths work.

Year 4:

Daniel:

For working extremely hard and making great progress and for being such a positive asset to the classroom.

Felix: For giving his best and striving to achieve at all times.

Year 5:

Talya: For exceptional effort and progress in Hebrew lessons.

Anastasia: For exceptional effort and progress across *all* subject areas.

Year 6

Noah C-D: For an amazing poem: an updated version of 'The Listeners', using powerful, evocative language. Also for reading the poem in assembly.

Isaac J: For an amazing poem: an updated version of 'The Listeners', using powerful, evocative language. Also for reading the poem in assembly.