

NEWSNOTES



Friday 19th May 2017 23 Iyar 5777 Parashat Behar-Bechukotai

Shabbat begins tonight at 8:34 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 9:59 p.m.

Dates for your diary

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

May

SATs dates

KS1: all of May

May 22nd

Yr 4 to British Museum

May 23rd

Yr 5 to British Museum

May 26th

Yr6 to City Centre

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/>

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents,

It is Friday and a lot has happened since the last newnotes: Year 6 have not only finished their SATs but have also been and returned from their school residential trip. We are so very proud of all

our year 6 children for the dedication, focus and hard work all week; Mr Jacobs, Ms Crouch, Miss Faber and Miss Payne too. The children, with Mr Jacobs and Ms Harkness, went on their school residential on Sunday and had a fabulous time and a well earned rest from revision. Thank you to all the parents that have supported them through the year. We should receive results in July.

Week beginning 22nd May 2017 year 2 will start their SATs which will be completed in small groups over the course of the week. If any year 2 parents have any questions regarding SATs please do make an appointment to see a member of senior staff via the school office.

We are pleased to inform you that the school has finalised the long-standing plans for the refurbishment of the Early years. The children in reception and nursery will be moving into the main school building as from Monday 5th June 2017. The planned works are due to start during the half term holiday and will be finished by mid September. Year 1 class will move upstairs temporarily into one of the spare classrooms. This has given us the opportunity to review our curriculum resources, some of which will go into storage, some older resources will be disposed of and others donated to charity.

If any parents know of and are able to take recyclable resources to any known charities please do get in touch.

Shabbat Shalom.

Lisa Campbell

Interim Headteacher.

Parashat Behar-Bechukotai

In this week's Parashat God promises that if the people of Israel keep His commandments, they will enjoy material prosperity and live securely in their homeland. But there is also a harsh warning of the exile and other evils that will befall them if they abandon their promises to Him.

NEWSNOTES



Friday 19th May 2017 23 Iyar 5777 Parashat Behar-Bechukotai

Shabbat begins tonight at 8:34 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 9:59 p.m.

Nevertheless, God promises that even when exiled to the land of their enemies, He will not cast them away, hate them or destroy them; even though people may break their promises to God, he will never break His promises to them.

Thought for the week

God's love is like the love of a parent: even when a parent punishes their child for wrong-doing the love is constant.

Lag B'Omer

Last Sunday, 14th May we celebrated the festival of Lag B'Omer. This day marks the remembrance (some people feel it's the anniversary of the death of) Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai who was a leading sage (wise man) in the 2nd century and the greatest teacher of the Torah of his generation. It is also the day on which he revealed the deepest secrets of the kabbalah (teachings).

Many families celebrate the day by lighting bonfires (some say that Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai made a specific request that fires should be lit to symbolise the impact of his teachings or going on picnics and outings. Children play with bows and arrows. At Simon Marks our picnic plans were thwarted by the rain: How did you celebrate Lag B'omer?

Kippot

We would be grateful for donations of spare kippot if you have any at home to loan to children for a day who forget theirs. Thank you

Our Learning

Reception class is currently working on "The creation of the world" and they are learning what God created each day. By exploring their environment they are also learning to differentiate between what God made and things that are man-made.



Year 6 School Journey

The Year 6 children had a fantastic time at Kingswood residential activity centre. They took part in some mind blowing activities, including Jacob's ladder, 3G swing and even a leap of faith! They all loved the activities and pushed themselves not only to break their limits on the high-ropes activities but also to support each other in everything they did. The Year 6 children would like to say a big thank you to Katie (our group leader) who made each activity amazing while keeping us safe and Mr Jacobs & Ms Harkness for looking after us so wonderfully and for their amazing cooking skills.

Photos to follow

Year 4 Kayaking Trip

Year 4 were fortunate enough (due to Felix Balzer winning an award) to have been given the opportunity to participate in kayaking at Leaside earlier this week. The weather was perfect for a lovely day on the River Lea, which was packed with buckets of fun. If you would like more information similar activities then please visit <http://www.leaside.co.uk/>



NEWSNOTES



Friday 19th May 2017 23 Iyar 5777 Parashat Behar-Bechukotai

Shabbat begins tonight at 8:34 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 9:59 p.m.

Own Clothes Day

Year 5s have been reading a story in class called The Unforgotten Coat which is a story about two Mongolian boys who live in Liverpool as refugees. As a result of this story, and other research we did about refugee children, two of the year 5 students have asked the school to help make a change.

“We were very inspired by this story and we thought that a donation to a charity that helps refugees would be good. We asked Miss Gough for some help and she found a charity called Save The Children, which gives refugee children the support that they need. We put together a presentation for the school to persuade them to bring in donations for the cause.”

– Mia Brandhuber and Su Ozcelik

On Friday 26th May (the last day of the half term) we will be having an own clothes day. Each child is asked to bring £1 to participate. All of the money raised will be given to Save The Children, and hopefully we can make a difference to the lives of some refugee children!

Achievements

Rec:

Ariana: for being a good friend and helping others.

Liam: for writing facts about spiders.

Year 1

Aleph: For cheering up the class with his cool dance moves.

Ivana: For writing an engaging report about wolves.

Year 3:

Isabella: For listening carefully to instructions in Maths so that she can work independently.

Nina: For designing and explaining a marvellous ‘teacher pleaser machine’. I am very pleased!

Year 4:

Ruth: for being an expert at kayaking and helping other to kayak

Crispin: for being a positive member of the class

Year 5:

Daniel: for painting a magnificent landscape in our literacy/art session using only green.

Jaden: for exceptional progress in maths so far this term.

Year 6

Blessing: for helping and encouraging others to try and succeed on each activity during the residential.

Naomi: For overcoming her fears being incredibly brave and taking part in each activity so she wouldn't miss out.