

# NEWSNOTES



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017 19 Kislev 5778

Shabbat begins tonight at 3.37 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 4.46 p.m.

## Headteacher's message:

We have had some exciting events at Simon Marks recently. Our Early Years Building dedicated to William (Billy) Sharron was officially opened on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of December by Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis. Chief Rabbi Mirvis joined us for our assembly. The children in years one and two sang songs; year six performed an inspirational short piece and the school band performed to the school and our guests. We were joined by many other Rabbis across London, members of the United Synagogue, Anne Canning (Head of Hackney Learning Trust), governors and trustees and donors and donor families.



All children were given the opportunity to enter our Chanukah competition. We had some fantastic entries and it was really difficult choosing winners as every entry was a winner!

Our two runners up were Hannah in year 1 and Nandi in year 4. Our winner was Kitty in year 6 and our Chief Rabbi presented her with her prize donated by the United Synagogue.



## Upcoming events:

**Chanukah Assemblies:** Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> of December will be for Nursery/Reception, year 4 and year 6. Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> of December will be for years 1,2,3 and 5. Both assemblies will start just after 2.30pm.

We will be holding a **Chanukah Disco** led by parents, after school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> of December- please look out for flyers and further information on this.

**End of term** is Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> of December at 1.30pm.

At the end of this term we will be saying our goodbyes to Ms Crouch and Mr Noone. We would like to thank them for all their hard work for the Simon Marks family and wish them all the best for their future adventures.

Ms G Metin - Headteacher

## Jewish News

We are in the month of Kislev and our value this month is Chazak ve'Ematz: Courage and Resilience.

We have been thinking about why it is important to keep trying and not to give up when we are struggling with something. This links well to our festival of Chanukah coming up next week, where the Maccabees were fighting the mighty army of the Greek Seleucid empire and the battle continued for 25 years: They did not give up but kept fighting and standing up for what they believed in. When they arrived to clear up the Temple, which had been ransacked and defiled, they only found one jug of oil, enough to light the menorah for one night. Again, they did not give up but lit the menorah right away and started to work on making more oil, even though this would take all week. Hashem made a miracle for them and the oil burnt for eight nights.

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The weekly Torah portion (parashat hashavua) is Vayeshev. Yaakov gives his son Yosef a special coat, Yosef has dreams of ruling over his brothers and he is sold into slavery in Egypt by them. We learn from this not to be jealous of others but to focus on all the good that we have ourselves. Connecting to our monthly value of resilience, if one is jealous you will easily give up and blame others rather than seeing how you can improve things through your own efforts.

## Ivrit Club

We are excited to be launching an Ivrit Club, with a Taster Session starting on Wednesday morning the 20<sup>th</sup> of December from 8am to 8.55am.

The aim of the club is to extend the Ivrit speaking and listening skills of children who already speak some Ivrit in a playful way as well as to build on their knowledge and appreciation of Israeli culture. The club will be run by parent volunteers with the support of Jewish Studies and Ivrit staff.

Please email the office with your child's name and year-group if you would like them to take part in the taster session. Places are limited so please let us know by the 13<sup>th</sup> of December.

We are planning to offer this club regularly on Wednesday mornings in the Spring term and will provide more information about cost etc. to interested parents.

## Islington Chanukah Event Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> of December.

On Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> of December, Chabad is hosting a Chanukah event with music, entertainment, crafts, food and drink. This is taking place on Islington Green between 5pm and 7pm and Simon Marks pupils have been asked to sing some Chanukah songs as part of the celebration.

Please see more details about the event, which should be a great family outing, at the link below.

<https://www.jewishislington.co.uk/chanukah>

This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our school and we would like to encourage as many pupils and families to attend as possible.

Please let us know if your child will be able to attend the event by emailing the office

## PJ Libraries

Children in Year 2 and below were given a postcard about PJ Library (PJ for pyjamas!) which sends high-quality, Jewish books to families with children aged between six months and seven 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 FREE and posted directly to children so they can build their own Jewish bedtime libraries. Over 4,000 children receive these books throughout the UK. Sign up your child at [pjlibrary.org.uk/friends](http://pjlibrary.org.uk/friends)

## Chanukah Disco

# IT'S CHANUKAH!



# LET'S PARTY!



MONDAY 18TH DECEMBER

3.30-5PM

SCHOOL HALL

DISCO, HOT CHOCOLATE AND DOUGHNUTS

**ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT**