

# NEWSNOTES



Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 15 Adar 5778

Shabbat begins tonight at 5.28 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 6.31 p.m.

## Headteacher's message:

We have done very well considering how cold and snow filled the week has been! Thank you for getting children into school despite the weather. All classes have had some opportunity to play in the snow for short periods of time.

This week marked the beginning of book week and we were exceptionally lucky to have Francesca Simon come into school. Francesca told me that she hadn't done a school visit for 10 years and we were her first after all that time. Francesca gave pupils a very inspiring talk about her books and characters. Our children asked some fantastic questions which demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of her work.



Francesca read to the whole school and some children were able to read with her afterwards.

We held our Mid-Point review meeting for parents where we looked at our successes so far. Parents had the opportunity to meet some of our Governors and ask them questions. Our presentation will be available both on our website and on our Facebook page. Thank you so much for those of you who were able to join us in arctic conditions!

## Upcoming events:

**14<sup>th</sup> March- 8.30- 10.00** Dr Bike will be visiting Simon Marks, pls come along with any bikes that need repairs and the team will fix/advise you about next steps.

PHSCE exhibition of work takes place on **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> of March at 3.30**. Please pop in and find out

about what we have been doing in Personal, Health, Social and Cultural education.

Ms G Metin – Headteacher

## Jewish News

We are in the Jewish month of Adar and our values are Emunah (Faith) and Bitachon beHashem (Trust in Hashem). On Purim, even when things looked really bad for the Jewish people, they never lost faith in Hashem and Hashem set things in place 'behind the scenes' so that the people would be saved.

In school, we show our faith and trust by having a positive attitude and by looking to see what we can learn from everything life throws at us.

The weekly Torah portion is Ki Tisa, where the people are asked to bring half a shekel in order to be counted. Why half and not a whole shekel? Firstly, it is a small enough amount for everyone to be able to afford. However, most importantly, the lesson for the people of Israel is that one is never whole by oneself – true wholeness can only be achieved when you reach out to others. This is a great message for Purim, where we give food gifts to our friends and money to people who need it – reaching out and caring is what makes us human.

We have been raising funds for GIFT, a Jewish charity distributing food parcels and help to 2000 people a week and also for North London Action for the Homeless, who support homeless and people in need in a variety of ways. Thank you for supporting this by sending items and buying from our Bring and Buy sale as well as by sending weekly tzedaka.

## **FREE** STAY AND PLAY SESSIONS

*Simon Marks Jewish Primary School is starting 'stay and play' sessions for 2 year olds. These will be held every Friday between 9.00am and 11.00am. This provision is free. This is a great opportunity for young children and parents to get together and use our Early Year's facilities and getting young children ready for school.*

*If you are interested in joining us for any of these events then please contact the school office on: 02088066048 or alternatively you can email us at [info@simonmarks.hackney.sch](mailto:info@simonmarks.hackney.sch). We look forward to welcoming you to Simon Marks.*