

NEWSNOTES

Friday 29th June 2018 16 Tammuz 5778

Shabbat begins tonight at 9.07 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 10.27 p.m. The fast of Tammuz is on Sunday from 1.04am in the morning till 10.20pm at night.

Headteacher's message:

Wow- what an amazing couple of weeks we have had. Firstly we had an exceptional afternoon of performances by our Simon Marks has got talent contest. Pupils worked with Mr DasGupta, Mr Jacobs and Ms Harkness, they had one week to prepare and the show was amazing! Well done to everyone.



Our winner from yr 6 with his Diabolo talent!

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for sports day. We had lots of fun and everyone had a go at all the activities set up for the children. The adult races at the end were fantastic and it was great to give pupils a rest and for them to cheer you all on. The tug of war was very popular, grown ups and pupils tried their best!



The parent's egg and spoon race was a huge success! A huge thank you to Mr Gilani, Ms Osbourne and Mr Anthony for planning and organising this event.

Friends of Simon Marks hosted our annual Summer Fete. There were lots of fun activities to take part in. Some grownups and pupils took this opportunity to sponge me in the face! Diane Abbott (MP) joined us for part of the afternoon. She also picked our raffle winners!



Photo by Tim Gutt

Some raffle prizes are still to be collected. Winning numbers are posted around the school. You have until the 6th of July to collect your prize with your winning ticket so please check.

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A huge thank you to Friends of Simon Marks, staff and everyone that helped to make the day such a great success- a real warm community event. We are hoping to follow in England's footsteps and score 6 pieces of coverage!!

Changes to staffing next year:

At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Ms Pinchover, who is relocating to another part of London. Ms Pinchover has been with us for two years and she will be missed by everyone. We have appointed Mr Durak who will be joining us in September.

Ms Pieters will also be leaving us in July. Ms Pieters has transformed Jewish studies for us this year, her knowledge and understanding is impeccable and we are sorry to see her go. Ms Pieters will continue to liaise with the school and we may see her back in the not so far future. Mr Jacobs will be stepping into an Acting Assistant Headteacher role, coordinating Jewish studies. We will also have a Consultant Rabbi in Residence, Rabbi Nicolas Goldmeier. Rabbi Goldmeier will be working with us part time, he will be heavily involved in the development of the Jewish Studies curriculum. In the Autumn term we will be advertising for a new Head of Jewish Studies.

Ms Nagle, who has been with us for a long time will also be leaving us in July, she has always wanted to work in a Catholic school and this opportunity has become available for her. We will miss her dearly. Ms Jem will also be leaving us, Ms Jem will be training as a teacher, she will return to us as part of her teacher training studies, so we will continue seeing her.

Upcoming events:

5th July- RE demonstration day- parents welcome to come and see our work at the end of the day
12th July- Parents evening
Friday 20th July- End of term- 1.30 finish.

Ms G Metin – Headteacher

Message from our PR team...
SMJPS SCORE A HAT TRICK!

Last week our recent PR activities saw the school feature in three Jewish publications.

On Thursday we received coverage in The Jewish News and The Jewish Weekly and on Friday we featured in United Synagogue's mailing; You & US.



Jewish News

It has been a real privilege working at Simon Marks this year and getting to know the very special pupils here. For many reasons, including a very long daily commute, I am no longer able to continue and I will really miss learning with and from all my students. I also want to thank parents who have been supportive – it always makes a big difference to know that we are working together to achieve great things for the children.

We are in the Jewish month of Tammuz and our value is Tzedek/Tzedaka: Fairness and Justice. Giving tzedaka is one of the ways in which we can create a more just and fair society and we have also been talking about ways in which we can behave fairly by sharing, listening and taking turns. The weekly Torah portion (Parashat hashavua) is Balak, where the prophet Bilaam is struck by the respect that the Bnei Yisrael show for each other, ensuring that their tents are private. Instead of cursing them, as King Balak asked, he gives them a blessing that we still say today: Mah tovu ohalecha Yaakov – how good are your tents, Jacob!

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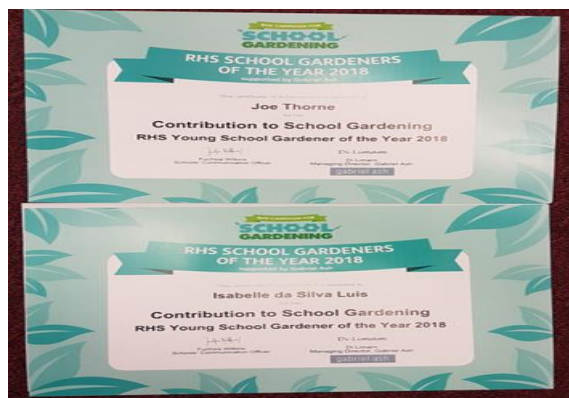
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Year 5 had a very exciting day on Tuesday, taking part in the national Etgar competition and testing their Jewish General knowledge against 1200 pupils from across the UK. We all had a wonderful time and even though we did not win, everyone did their best in all the different challenges.



Gardening Awards

One of the real pleasures I have had this year was to be responsible for gardening in the school and under the leadership of parent and governor Emma Green our garden has flourished. We have grown food from kitchen scraps and in our rather limited space we have grown an incredible selection of vegetables and flowers. The children have really loved working in the garden and have learnt many valuable lessons in this way. We are very proud that our gardeners Emma Green as well as Joe (Year 6) and Isabelle (Year 5) have received Certificates of Commendation from the Royal Horticultural Society in recognition of their amazing work



FREE STAY AND PLAY SESSIONS

Simon Marks Jewish Primary School runs free '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.uk

We look forward to welcoming you to Simon Marks.

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/>



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