

NEWSNOTES



Friday 19th October 2018 10 Cheshvan 5779

Shabbat begins tonight at 5:44 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 6:44 p.m.

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and carers,
As always we have been having lots of fun with our learning. On Monday, our newly elected School Councillors visited the Houses of Parliament. They were taken on an exciting tour of the Palace of Westminster, including the House of Lords, House of Commons and Central Lobby. They also watched an informative video that outlined the history of Parliament and touched on the concepts that the pupils had learnt about during Democracy Day.



The School Council saw some famous politicians including John Bercow, the Speaker of the House of Commons and the Labour Party MP Dennis Skinner. They then met with our local MP Dianne Abbot, she talked to them about how she became involved in politics and about some of her duties. Thank you to Mr DasGupta for arranging this!

This year we are working towards an Art Mark as we think our work is great and we should get some recognition for it. Arts Mark celebrates our work in all the arts including music and performing.

We had our Autumn term Art exhibition. Each class spent the day completing a unit of work in art or design and technology. Lots of amazing work happened in classrooms and children developed their art and design skills.



When our work was complete we held an exhibition and invited parents in to have a closer look at our work.

Attendance and punctuality

Thursday the 18th of October was the first day this term when every single pupil was marked in for morning register, which meant we had 100% attendance. Well done Simon Marks! It is really important that children are in school every day and that they are on time. All schools are monitored by the Local Authority and you are at risk of a fixed penalty notice for unauthorised absences, these stay on your child's file. The school is not able to authorise any term time holidays.

Short Fridays

A gentle reminder to all families that we will start our 1.30 finish on Fridays straight after half term. Our first short Friday is the 2nd of November.

Uniform and footwear

After the half term break we will be moving into our winter uniform. Please remember that it is fine to come into school with boots but for health and safety reasons children must wear shoes during the school day so please bring a pair to change into.

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Upcoming events:

Each class will have a short class assembly this term, thank you to year 6 parents who came to watch their presentation. Other dates are as follows:

Year 5- 22nd Nov

Year 4/3-6th Dec Year 2/1-20th Dec

Please join us if you can.

Week Beginning 22nd of October – half term.

Short Fridays start after half term.

Ms Metin- Headteacher

Message from our Jewish Studies Department:

It is difficult to believe that it is already the end of the first autumn term. Thank you everybody for your food donations for the Hackney food bank. They were greatly received and needed. We have now entered the month of Cheshvan, and school life has now settled in after all the chaggim in Tishrei. With the start of the month comes the start of the Parsha cycle and the children have been learning about Creation, The Garden of Eden and the rebirth of the Earth with Noah. The children are now focusing on their Ivrit reading skills and Chumash understanding, as well as looking closely at the meaning and understanding of key teffilot.

When we return the children will begin to start their preparations for our Chunnakuh assembly on 5th Dec at 14:40. We are looking forward to you joining us for this special assembly. Also starting after the holiday is our Ivrit club, supporting those who would like to further their Hebrew skills.

Over the next couple of weeks we will be reading the Torah portions about Avraham and Sarah, both of whom displayed the character trait of goodness and kindness, which in Hebrew is 'Chesed'.

We can always learn a great deal from important role models throughout history and Avraham and Sarah were no exception. When Hashem told Avraham that He was going to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah because of their wicked ways, Avraham pleaded with Hashem, that perhaps there were some good people on behalf of whom the cities could be saved. Unfortunately there weren't any good people but we learn an important lesson; to always try and find the good in every situation, however bad it may first appear. More often than not, we will find goodness in most people and most situations.

We wish all our families a Shabbat shalom and a restful half term break.

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.