

NEWSNOTES



Friday 21st December 2018 13 Tevet 5779 Parsha: Vayechi

Shabbat begins tonight at 3:38 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 4:48 p.m.

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and carers,
This will be our last newsletter for 2018.
What a fantastic year it has been for Simon Marks!
We are all looking forward to our upcoming successes in 2019 and beyond.
This week we had our key stage two cricket celebration, after six weeks of training with the Middlesex County Cricket coaches we had a Key stage 2 play off. We used our hall and playground for matches.

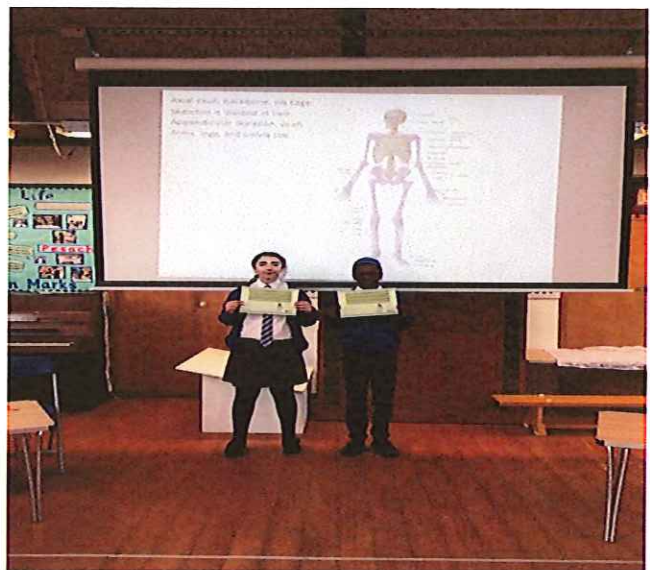


On this occasion year four were the overall victors- well done year four!

Our Ivrit team Ms David and Ms Cohen have been doing a lot of behind the scenes work with supporting our Chanukah assembly and more importantly enabling our pupils to become even more fluent with their reading and writing of Ivrit. We have introduced Aleph Champ reading program in school along with our Jewish interactive program with a view to further developing our speaking and reading skills



Our termly general knowledge quiz focused on 'Bones' this time and everyone has been busy learning about the different bones and groups of bones in the human skeleton. On Wednesday we held our quiz and our overall winners were David and Ruth from year 6, Theo and Nandi from year 5 were in hot pursuit:



Well done and congratulations!

On Tuesday afternoon yr 3/4 had their photo taken by the Tate gallery photography team as part of the National Steve McQueen project, where all pupils in this year group will have their picture taken as a National project. Images will be put on display at Tate Britain from November 2019. McQueen— whose film 12 Years A Slave won three Oscars including Best Picture in 2013 — said the pictures would offer an overview of an entire age group “and to some extent our future” (evening Standard 2018)

Upcoming events:

3rd January- school reopens for the Spring term

10th January- Individual school photo shoot day

28th January- Parents coffee morning 9.15-10.00am
Focus: Emotional wellbeing: Here's a little something from our lead clinician:

NEWSNOTES



Friday 21st December 2018 13 Tevet 5779 Parsha: Vayechi

Shabbat begins tonight at 3:38 p.m. and ends tomorrow evening at 4:48 p.m.

'As you may know, Simon Marks School is participating in the Hackney-wide 'Wellbeing and Mental Health in Schools (WAMHS) Project'. As part of this project the school has been allocated a WAMHS clinician to help promote wellbeing within the school.'

6th February: Bring a dad/significant male into school event 9.00-10.15am

18th—22nd February- school closed-half term break

Class and other key assemblies:

24th January - Yr 6 class Assembly

7th February - EYFS class Assembly

28th February - Yr 5 class Assembly

14th March- Yr 3&4 class Assembly

21st March - Purim Assembly

4th April - Yr 1&2 class Assembly

Please join us if you can.

Our PR team are still running the 'estate agent' advertising board campaign; please let us know if you are willing to join this scheme in order to further promote our school in the community.

Ms Metin- Headteacher

Message from our Jewish Studies Department:

This week's Parsha is Vayechi, followed by Shemot. As we have now arrived at the end of the Autumn term, we have also reached the end of Sefer (the book of) Bereishit. This gives us the opportunity to look back, not only at the last term, but also the first book of the Torah. We remember the beginning and creation, and the children's start back in September. We welcomed in the New year, made resolutions and commitments for the year ahead. Children experienced sukkot at school, sitting in the Sukkah,

shaking the Arba Minim, with the accompanying prayers and songs. The term culminated in the celebration of Chanukah and the children's fantastic performances. These particularly showcased the amazing deeper knowledge and understanding that the children had learnt.

We have successfully launched the Aleph Champ Hebrew reading programme, to work alongside the reading of Ivrit. The School now has the amazing Jewish Interactive computer app 'JI Tap' which children can access at home, on a tablet or computer as well as at school.

As well as learning about the Parashat Hashavuah, the weekly Torah portion and practising their Hebrew reading, the children in Year 1 and 2 have been learning about a variety of Brachot (blessings), Year 3 and 4 have been learning and understanding the meaning and history of key prayers and Years 5 and 6 have been studying the journeys of the Patriarch Abraham and the Matriarch Sarah.

The children will be learning about the various Jewish festivals, including Tu B'Shevat, Purim and Pesach. They will continue their learning of the Parashat Hashavuah by focussing on the book of Shemot; the Egyptian exile and subsequent exodus, the splitting of the Red Sea, the giving of the Ten Commandments and the building of the Mishkan, the portable temple which the Children of Israel took with them during their 40 years in the wilderness. We will continue to emphasise the importance of Hebrew reading through Jewish Studies and Ivrit and continue to explore a range of Jewish values through the Parashat Hashavuah.

The values and morals in the book of Bereishit, such as kindness, truth, care and understanding have been taught across the school and reinforced during Shabbat and Havdalah assemblies. As a result, these values have embedded themselves across the school and helped Simon Marks shine out like a beacon.