

DATES FOR  
YOUR DIARY

- ◆ 18th September  
Rosh Hashanah—  
school closes at  
1.30
- ◆ 28th September  
Yom Kippur—  
school is closed
- ◆ 2nd October—  
Sukkot  
School closes at  
1.30
- ◆ 9th October -  
Simchat Torah  
school closes at  
1.30
- ◆ 20th October  
Flu nasal pro-  
gram
- ◆ 26th-30th Octo-  
ber— half term

Parents evening is on the 3rd of December (format of this will be confirmed nearer the time).



**simon marks**  
jewish primary school  
תורה עם דרך-ארוץ

11th September 2020 22 Elul 5780 Shabbat starts tonight: 19:10 and ends: 20:10 tomorrow

**Shabbat time:**

**Welcome back everyone!**

A huge thank you to everyone for following our new set of rules. It pains me to have to enforce these but we are in difficult times and the well being and safety of everyone comes first.

We have had some amazing and brave children— most have held back their tears and re joined school life with optimism and vigor. I am proud of all of them. We have also welcomed a number of new families into our community and I'm sure that over time you will all have the

opportunity to meet and socialize beyond the school playground (depending on which way the government turns!)

It's wonderful to see classrooms buzzing with eagerness and here are a few snapshots of work in different classes. Year 1 were busy writing with smiles on their faces! They are practicing using lines.

Lots to enjoy and learn!



Year 2 are very happy working as a small group!

Years 5 and 6 may have empty walls but their books are filling up!



Year 3 and 4 are busy concentrating on their work!



## Jewish Studies team

Welcome and hello to a new school year. We are very excited about the year ahead and can't wait to make up for lost time. As always the first term packed with some of the most important and meaningful Jewish festivals.

We start of course with the spiritual festi-

val of Rosh Hashanah closely followed by Yom Kippur, to help us reflect and improve ourselves. Next up we enjoy the outdoors with Sukkot, then we round off with Simchat Torah, finishing and restarting reading of the Torah.

Below we have included some extra

thoughts and insight into some of these festivals, we hope you enjoy.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone Shana Tova, a happy new year.

## Rosh Hashanah

Put those party hats away! Getting the year started is serious business!

New Year's day is for us Jews not a time for frivolous rejoicing, but rather a solemn day of prayer. It is the Day of Memorial when all creatures of the earth are remembered by the Creator and judged according to their merits.

Yet, solemn and awe-inspiring though this day is, we know that the Supreme judge of the

universe is kind and merciful. He is not out to punish us, but merely wants us to follow the laws and regulations He laid down for us for our own good. He has made this Day of Judgment a day of forgiveness and mercy.

Rosh Hashanah does not find us unprepared. In the month of Elul the approach of Rosh Hashanah was heralded by the daily sounding of the shofar in the synagogue (except Saturdays). During the month

of Elul the Jewish person is particularly careful in the observance of the religious precepts—he takes more time for his prayers, he finds himself overflowing with charity and loving kindness, and resolutely determines to cast away his evil ways and habits of the past.

And a wonderful feeling grips the heart of the true repentant, as if a magic hand has removed the heavy burden that has been weighing upon it in

the past. It is the feeling of being able to begin life anew, like a newly born innocent child, with no blemish on his record.

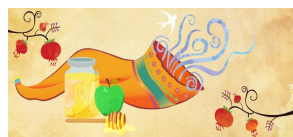
Such is the feeling that the Jewish person brings with him into the synagogue on the first night of Rosh Hashanah. He finds himself close to G-d, with his prayers pouring out from the very depth of his heart.

## Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the year, when we are closest to G-d and to the essence of our souls. Yom Kippur means "Day of Atonement," as the verse states, "For on this day He will forgive you, to purify you, that you be cleansed from all your sins before G-d."

For 25 hours we "afflict our souls": we abstain from food and drink, do not wash or apply lotions or creams, do not wear leather footwear,

and abstain from marital relations. Instead, we spend the day in synagogue, praying for forgiveness.



Jewish tradition records that G-d first informed the heavenly angels that He intended to create mankind. The angels were horrified and asked G-d

why He would create such flawed beings; weren't the perfect angels enough? G-d replied: although mankind is flawed, human beings still have the ability to achieve greatness through their free will, achieving spiritual heights that perfect angels who lack free will can never scale.

On Yom Kippur, we recognize our ability to achieve perfection by acting like angels who do no wrong. Many Jews wear white clothes like angels. We

fast as if we were living entirely on a spiritual plane. For one day, we leave behind the physical and focus purely on our spiritual selves.

