

## **Gesher Newsletter – 09/11/2018**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we finish the second week of this half term, it is great to see the children settling back into their routine and adjusting to being back at school. We have welcomed a new pupil to D'Vash class this week which we are very excited about! The Gesher cohort is growing, and it is so wonderful to see more and more little faces around the school!

And well done to D'Vash and Seorah class managing 100% attendance for the third week in a row – fantastic work!

Shabbat Shalom  
Miss Colizza

### **Jewish Studies**

Dear Parents and Carers,

In Jewish Studies this week we have been continuing to look at our theme Tefillah, Prayer. In D'vash and Seorah they looked at the song 'we open one eye, we open two', which is about saying the prayer Modeh Ani, said when we first wake up. The children enjoyed singing and recalling this familiar Tefillah. Seorah, Gefen and Rimon started exploring the Shema, the oldest and one of the most important prayers in Judaism. They had great fun being a 'sofer' (the scribe who writes the shema on a scroll for a mezuzah) and had a go at using feather and ink to write their names and try writing some Hebrew too.

Shabbat Shalom  
Mrs Petar

## D'Vash Class

**Attendance this week – 100%**

**Absence/Lateness – 0%**



It's been an exciting week in D'vash class this week as we welcomed a new classmate, and we continued to enjoy further exploration of our topic, 'Earth'.

This week in Literacy we worked on our individual targets within the topic. Some children worked on making lists of animals living on land versus those that live in water, while others worked on labelling these animals and sorting them into sensory trays. Another target included looking through different books to find the relevant information about these animals, which proved to be very interesting for everyone.



In Messy Play, we explored all things relating to the planet Earth. This included sorting recycling materials into plastic and paper, and learning the importance of looking after our wildlife. We also learned about the cycle of nature by following the sequence of planting seeds, and took part in water play to learn about our planet's most important natural resource. In Art, we

recapped all the key features of the Earth, and used this knowledge to stick these on to our decorated earth templates.

This week's middot has been 'Celebrations', where we looked at the festival of Diwali. Following on from this, we look forward to a workshop later on in the term where we will make traditional food that is enjoyed during Diwali celebrations. Please keep a lookout for more information on this multicultural event coming soon.



In the meantime, we look forward to next week's topic which will revolve around 'the sun and the moon'.

## Seorah Class

**Attendance this week – 100%**

**Absence/Lateness – 0%**



We have been moving at rocket-speed through our learning this week in Seorah Class! The students have continued to explore our 'Space' theme across all of our lessons, focusing this week on the features of our planet, which included different animals and their habitats on earth.

In Maths, some of the children worked on estimating, and using language to support their understanding. While some of the class focused on simple addition and subtraction sums,

others worked on quantifying numbers 1 through 3 using tangible materials to support their learning.



In Science, we explored 'growth', and what a seed needs in order to grow into a beautiful plant or flower. Each child had a chance to plant and water a seed, and we will be monitoring their growth over the course of the upcoming week.



This week's middah has been focused on 'Celebrations' – more specifically Diwali. We have begun learning about different winter-time celebrations, and will be participating in a special Diwali cooking lesson in a couple weeks' time to re-enforce our learning!

We have all readjusted well into being back at school, and we look forward to continuing our learning over the next couple of weeks!

Have a lovely weekend, and see you on Monday!

## Gefen Class

**Attendance this week – 85.2%**

**Absence/Lateness – 14.8%**

This week in Gefen class, we have been exploring light and dark in Science. We created a Stone Age cave in the classroom and agreed that the cavemen would have lit up their caves with fire back in the Stone Age. We explored different light sources in our cave including battery operated candles, torches, string lights and sensory light objects. However, pupils said the cave wasn't quite dark

enough to enjoy the lights. Some of the

pupils suggested how we could make the cave even darker; by turning off the lights in the room and closing the blinds.



We have also been learning about the role of an archaeologist in History. We learned that archaeologists study things that were left behind by the people who lived before us.

Gefen pupils appeared to enjoy their first swimming session this year. Pupils participated in structured lesson time and then enjoyed some free play where they played with balls and floats in the pool. We're already looking forward to going back next week!



## Rimon Class

**Attendance this week – 72.2%**

**Absence/Lateness – 27.8%**



Rimon class have had an action packed week this week. We have really been getting stuck into our learning. Our Maths just keeps getting better and better, Miss Rowan can barely keep us with our subtraction and multiplication skills! The column method and long multiplication are a doddle now.

In Literacy, we have worked hard on writing up our Stone Age diaries written from the perspective of Om, a cave girl and a lost boy. We have been trying really hard to describe everything really clearly so our readers can understand how what we might see and feel.



Jewish Studies this week taught us all about the Shema, a special prayer found in the mezuzah. We then practised writing with a feather, just like the scriptures in the Torah. It turns out it is very tricky!

Topic turned us into archaeologists! We learnt all about what kind of things archaeologists find and then we had a go digging for our very own fossils. It was hard work but eventually we found a little dinosaur skull!



The exploring didn't stop there – in Science we conducted our very own experiment all about dark and light. To start with, we sorted some light sources into most bright and most dull and discussed where dark and light places can be found around school. Then we entered the hall, where a dark, sensory tunnel awaited us. We had three different light sources to choose: a fibre optic fairy wand, a torch and a plastic candle. We tried all three and all decided the torch was the brightest!

What a fantastic week of learning and exploring!

Shabbat Shalom  
Miss Rowan



## Kodesh corner



Our



Middah



this week



is



celebrations



- Diwali

This year Shabbat UK have released a special tune for the Shabbat Song 'Lecha Dodi'. This song is used to welcome Shabbat on a Friday Night. Our children are learning this song and tune in preparation for Shabbat UK to come and film our singing to be featured on the Shabbat UK video in March! The song is made up of 9 verses, with the below chorus after each one. The tune has been sent home separately in an email to parents.



Lecha



dodi



likrat



kala

Come, my beloved. To meet the bride



p'nei Shabbat



n'kabelah

the presence of Shabbat, let us welcome.



## PSHEE/British Values



We learned that Diwali was celebrated on Wednesday and is celebrated with family, feasts, gifts, lights and fireworks. We looked at an interactive Powerpoint in our assembly where pupils were able to click on an image to find out more information about the symbolism of cows, flowers and lights. Gefen and Rimon class listened to and compared two Diwali songs. Each pupil chose which piece of music was their favourite and gave a reason why.

# Dates for your Diary



**Are emergency contact details/numbers correct for your child?**

**Please inform the school office of any changes at any time**

**Friday Early Closures** – School will close at 1pm on Friday afternoons up to and including Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

**Non-uniform day** – takes place on the **last Friday of the month.** The next one will take place on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November.

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November** – Maccabi GB Community Spinathon.

## **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November – Toy Collection for Camp Simcha**

To mark Mitzvah Day, we are taking part in a Toy Collection for Camp Simcha who are distributing toys to children in hospitals across Manchester and London. Anything new would be appreciated! The Toy Collection will finish on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Parent Morning** – Emotional wellbeing/zones of regulation (9-11am). Please RSVP to the school office whether or not you are able to attend.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December - Seed Assembly and Activity and Geshher Chanukah Show** (9-11am).

## **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December - Dawnosaurs at the Natural History Museum**

Enjoy the Museum without the usual crowds and queues at this special free event for parents, carers and children on the autistic spectrum aged between five and 15 years old. Register your interest with our online form. Spaces are limited and priority will be given to first-time attendees.

Before booking, please read the Dawnosaurs FAQ and Register here:

[www.nhm.ac.uk/events/dawnosaurs](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/events/dawnosaurs)

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## **Health and Safety**

Please ensure that your child now has their jacket, hat and scarf/gloves in their bag for when they are playing and learning outdoors.

## **Safeguarding**

In keeping with Geshher's Safeguarding policy please ensure that if you require your child to be picked up by an alternative adult, please inform the school office **via email** ahead of time. Photo ID will also need to be presented upon their arrival at the school before they will be able to collect your child.

# BUY A SERIOUSLY ILL CHILD A NEW TOY FOR CHANUKAH

## CAMP SIMCHA TOY DRIVE 2018

Support our Toy Drive and ensure seriously ill children, in over 100 hospital wards, hospices and in the community, receive a brand new toy.

**Just bring a new toy into school between 5th and 22nd November, or simply choose your toy via our online Amazon wishlist at [www.campsimcha.org.uk/toydrive](http://www.campsimcha.org.uk/toydrive)**

No cuddly toys please due to risk of infection.

- CAMP SIMCHA HELPS SERIOUSLY ILL CHILDREN UP TO THE AGE OF 18
- CAMP SIMCHA GIVES VITAL PRACTICAL AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT TO THE WHOLE FAMILY
- CAMP SIMCHA PROVIDES LIFE-ENHANCING EXPERIENCES FOR ILL CHILDREN AND THEIR SIBLINGS

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