

Gesher Newsletter – 16/11/2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another very busy week at Gesher! I attended a two day Headteacher conference at the start of the week and got the opportunity to meet Heads from other Jewish schools in and around London. It was fantastic to be able to speak to them about Gesher, the ethos of our school and share the message we are trying to send out across the community.

Please continue to refer to the Dates in the Diary section which is updated weekly with what is happening at school and also accessible on the school website - You can also catch up on your child's class blog online which is regularly updated by their class teacher as well!

Shabbat Shalom
Miss Colizza

Jewish Studies

Dear Parents and Carers,

In Jewish Studies this week the children continued to learn about the Shema. In Dvash they loved learning the song about the Shema that is based on the well known nursery rhyme 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.' In Seorah we looked at familiar bedtime and morning routines as part of understanding when we say certain Tefillah. In Gefen and Rimon they made their own mezuzahs and placed their scrolls from last week inside. The children were very creative and made some beautiful mezuzahs, which we hope they can put on their own doors at home or at Gesher!

Next week we will begin to learn about Chanukah which is the next Jewish festival approaching, starting on the night of Sunday 2nd December. The children will spend the next couple of weeks learning the traditions, song and stories of Chanukah so that we build to creating a very special and fun week of festivities the week of Chanukah!

Shabbat Shalom
Mrs Petar

D'Vash Class

Attendance this week – 94.4%

Absence – 5.6%

Lateness – 2.9%

This week, D'vash class' lessons have revolved around the sun and the moon, as we have continued our topic of 'Space'.

In Maths the children have worked really hard at achieving their targets; these have included problem-solving with word sums, sorting big and small objects, and sorting shapes according to their properties. We look forward to the children showing off these new-found skills within their homework activities!



In Messy Play, we explored the impact of the sun and the moon on our planet. We made day and night pictures on paper plates, drew letters or shapes in moon dust, and counted the number of sun beams that we could see in a picture. We also explored hot and cold objects, and spoke about what we could feel: “brrr, the ice is cold”!



Meanwhile back on Planet Earth, D'vash class had a thoroughly enjoyable first swimming lesson! We travelled on the school bus to the



swimming pool before getting changed and jumping in the pool. We practised our kicking and bubble blowing, while singing along to some of our favourite songs. We look forward to our next swimming lesson on Tuesday 27th November, where we will keep on improving our swimming skills.

Next week's topic is 'The Stars', so take a moment this weekend to look at the sky and enjoy the wonders of our universe before we head to infinity...and beyond!

Seorah Class

Attendance this week – 100%

Absence – 0%

Lateness – 1.9%



The week has really flown by in Seorah Class! We have been busy working on new individualized targets in Maths and Literacy, while still focusing on our Space Theme. This week we learned all about the Sun, Moon and Stars, and had a great time exploring these parts of our galaxy!

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 colour identification, and were able to sort based on specific criteria. Others began exploring money, and were introduced to 1p, 2p, 10p and 20p coins that they then had to sort into 'Piggy Banks'!



In Science, we transferred our beanstalks we began growing last week from the windowsill into proper plant pots. We have been monitoring their growth over the course of the week, and are really excited to see our beanstalks beginning to sprout flowers!

We continued exploring the Celebration of Diwali, where each student had the opportunity to create their own Rangoli. The children used coloured sand and glue to create their own patterned art pieces, which turned out beautifully!

Have a restful weekend, and we will see you back at school next week!



Gefen Class

Attendance this week – 92.6 %

Absence – 7.4%

Lateness – 6%%

This week in Gefen Class we have been exploring non-fiction books in Literacy. At the start of the week, we discussed the similarities and differences between fiction or story books and non-fiction books with real information and we sorted a pile of books into 'fiction' and 'non-fiction'. We then looked for features of books. Some pupils worked on identifying a page, cover and picture; other pupils worked on identifying features of non-fiction books such as a contents page, glossary, index, photographs and labels.



In Maths, some pupils have been working on following instructions that include positional language and then using positional language. First, they listened and followed instructions from an adult in order to build a Lego model, then used position words such as under, behind, in front of and next to describe where different animals were in a picture. Other pupils have been working on their awareness of 'one' and 'lots' by putting 'one' or 'lots of' marbles down the marble run.



We explored objects which reflect light in Science. We discovered by shining a torch on different objects that a mirror, spoon and watch all reflect light. One pupil also said that the moon reflects the light from the sun!

Shabbat Shalom

Miss Nicola

Rimon Class

Attendance this week – 75%

Absence - 25 %

Lateness – 0%

Another week has flown by. Rimon class have been up to all sorts. In Maths, we are all finished with addition and subtraction and are ready to move onto multiplication and division.

In Literacy, we have enjoyed a new story all about a boy genius called Ug. We have enjoyed creating a story mountain detailing the important parts of his life. He was so clever he invented a wheel, 10,000 years ago! Unfortunately, nobody would listen to him... Next week, we are going to start writing stories inspired by Ug. Watch this space!



We made our very own mezuzahs in Jewish Studies, complete with a tiny scroll. They look fantastic.

In ICT, we started coding. To code, we had to follow and write really simple instructions. After that, we felt ready to move onto getting robots to follow simple sequences using forwards, turning right and left on a programme called A.L.E.X.

During Science, we predicted which items were going to be reflected by the torch and those that weren't. We tested our predictions by going into the art cupboard (where it was very dark!) and shining the torch onto the objects. It was amazing how bright the room became with white, shiny card and a torch. We also tested Jacob's security reflective jacket – that was almost glow in the dark! What a fun week.



Shabbat Shalom

Miss Rowan



This week's Middah is doing my best

This week we have been learning about the Shema, and the Mezuzah. A Mezuzah is fixed upon all doorposts of a Jewish home and inside is a scroll containing the first paragraph of the Shema, written by an expert scribe.



Have a go at one of these activities at home!

- Build a Mezuzah out of Lego
- Go on a Mezuzah hunt around the home!
- Have a go at writing with ink and a feather!
- Mezuzah cases come in all shapes and sizes, design and draw your own Mezuzah case
- Practice saying or singing the Shema
- Draw something that is special to you and roll it up in a scroll!



Feel free to send any pictures in to school of children doing any Mezuzah related activities to be shared with the class!

Just a reminder to all families that next week is the last week for your child to bring in toys for our Mitzvah Day Toy Drive for Camp Simcha! If you do not have any toys at home that can be donated, and wish to purchase something online, you can visit Camp Simcha's Amazon Wish List (see link below), and purchase a toy to children in need there. Thank you so much to everyone who has brought in donations so far, it is amazing to see our student's participating in fulfilling Mitzvot!

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/baby-reg/camp-simcha-daniel-gillis-december-2018-london/TVYJX603KAZO>



PSHEE/British Values

This week was Anti-Bullying Week. We discussed in our PSHEE assembly that 'bullying' is hurting someone else on purpose. Bullies can hurt people in different ways such as physical bullying like pushing, hitting or kicking, or verbal bullying like calling people names or using unkind words. If we see bullying, it's important to tell an adult and be kind to the person that has been hurt by smiling, talking or playing with them. This year the theme for Anti-Bullying Week is 'Choose Respect' – 'respect' means to treat someone nicely and care about their feelings. We practised 'choosing respect' by smiling to the person sitting next to us and some pupils chose to give their peer a hug to show respect.



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 15th February 2019.

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

Thursday 22nd 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 15th November.

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

Friday 6th December - Seed Assembly and Activity and Gesher Chanukah Show
(9-11am).

Sunday 8th December - Dawnosaurus 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 Dawnosaurus FAQ and Register here:

www.nhm.ac.uk/events/dawnosaurus

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

- Trips offsite -When the children are taken offsite it would be ideal if they could either have the purple Gesher coat or Blue Gesher Baseball to wear as a means of identifying them. This helps to uphold our Safeguarding protocols and ensure the children are safe when not on school grounds
- In keeping with Gesher'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

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

camp simcha

supporting families with serious childhood illness

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T: 020 8202 9297 E: office@campsimcha.org.uk

www.campsimcha.org.uk    CampSimchaUK