

Gesher Newsletter – 30/11/2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Gesher School's first official fundraiser last weekend was a huge success! We surpassed our target and all had an incredible night. It was wonderful to see such overwhelming support for our school, and to celebrate what we are trying to achieve for our children – it was great to see some of our parents there too!

With Chanukah coming up next week we are all looking forward to our Chanukah Show and SEED assembly on Thursday 6th December. We hope to see as many of you there as possible to join our celebrations with the children.

Shabbat Shalom
Miss Colizza

Jewish Studies

This week the children have been having a lot of fun continuing to learn about Chanukah. They have been exploring the Chanukah story and learning all about the miracle of the oil and also the victory of the Maccabees. Through songs, interactive ICT programmes and art, the children have also been learning about the special way we light the Chanukah candles. The children have also been getting ready for Chanukah by making special Chanukah decorations.

The children are very excited for next week when we will be having a special candle lighting assembly every day with fun activities planned based on what the children have chosen.

Shabbat Shalom
Danielle Petar

D'Vash Class

Attendance this week – %

Absence – %

Lateness – %

This week's lessons in D'vash class continued to revolve around the sun as we furthered our learning about 'The Planets'.



In Maths, we worked on our individual targets. Some children worked on addition, which was taught through a bus game where we had to pick up passengers. Other children took part in familiar counting songs including 'Five Little Speckled Frogs', 'Ten in the Bed' and 'Five Little Monkeys Swinging in the Tree' ...please do sing these at home, as they are a great way of practicing our numbers! Meanwhile, some children worked on matching big and small

objects, whilst others continued with identifying the groups of objects that had 'more or less'. We've been really impressed this week as D'vash class have all worked so hard at their targets, and they were all achieved – well done everyone!

In Messy Play, we made galaxies using marbles, stars and playdough. Through this we explored and talked about the key features of the planets, such as 'Jupiter is the biggest', and 'Mars is red'. The children were then encouraged to practice their fine motor skills within another Messy Play activity using earbuds to paint a dot to dot earth picture – their creative art skills were out of this world!

On Wednesday, we took part in an olive pressing workshop with Rabbi Simon, where we all participated in making fresh olive oil with a mechanical press. We were encouraged to taste olives before we got started, and learned about where they came from. The children then took turns to rotate the lever to grind the olives and watched the process of squeezing the oil out of the small fruit. We watched the Rabbi pour the fresh oil into the Menorah, before we made a wick out of rolled up cotton wool. D'vash class were very engaged in the whole activity and watched closely as one of their peers helped to light the olive oil candle at the end with help from an adult.



Next week, we will continue to explore the universe through our theme of 'The Planets', and we look forward to learning more about what makes our world go round.

Seorah Class

Attendance this week – %

Absence – %

Lateness – %



Another very busy week in Seorah Class! We've had a couple visitors come in to run workshops for us, and we gained a new student – so this week has really been filled with loads of excitement!

Continuing on with our Space theme, Seorah Class has been looking above the clouds, stars and sky to learn all about the different planets in our solar system. The students focused on learning the names of our planets in Literacy, while some extended their learning by identifying key facts about different planets. Our favourite planets are 'Mars' and 'Neptune'; Mars being "really hot" while Neptune is "the furthest planet from the sun!"

In Maths, we re-visited our targets from earlier on in the year, in order to develop our knowledge further. Some students built on the concept of 'Big', 'Bigger' and 'Biggest' while other's learned about 'Taller' and 'Longer'.

Our beanstalks have REALLY grown in the past couple of weeks! The students keep asking if we are going to be able to climb up our beanstalks to visit the Giant in the Sky! They get so happy seeing how much their beanstalks have grown, and are taking great pride in caring for their plants!

With Chanukah starting on Sunday, we have been busy learning all about the holiday, making Chanukah cards, decorations for our classrooms and we even had a workshop all about making Olive Oil! The kids have really enjoyed all the activities and are very excited about celebrating all together next week!

Enjoy the weekend, Chag Sameach to those celebrating, and see you back on Monday!



Gefen Class

Attendance this week – %

Absence – %

Lateness – %

This week in Literacy, some pupils have been demonstrating their ability to match rhyming words and continuing a rhyming string, as well as identifying how many syllables are in a word. Other pupils have been working on answering literal questions about a story.



In Maths, we have been working on our number bonds using concrete resources and pictorial representations, while other pupils have been working on recognising and using the language of first, second, third and last.

Gefen pupils participated in an Olive Pressing workshop on Wednesday. They

engaged with the story of Chanukah and the relevance of olive oil. Pupils put the olives into the olive press and pulled the lever to squash all of the juice out of the olives, before separating the juice and the oil. Rabbi Simon then used the oil that we made to light a wick for the menorah.



We joined with Rimon class for Music and sang 'Lecha Dodi'. We experimented with singing the song at different tempos, pitch and volume. Pupils said that the 'Lecha Dodi' song is a medium tempo and pitch.

We are looking forward to lots of celebrations next week for Chanukah.

Rimon Class

Attendance this week – %

Absence - %

Lateness – %



What an exciting week! Three new children arrived from Gefen class and they have settled brilliantly. It feels really lovely to have such a warm, busy classroom!

In Literacy, some of us began looking at non-fiction texts, thinking about the features they share. These included titles, glossaries and indexes! Others of us, have been enjoying a song called the Stone Age stomp, participating and joining in. Alongside this, we have been working on our prepositions.



On Wednesday, Rimon and Gefen class got a special visit from Rabbi Simon. He led an olive pressing workshop where the children were lucky enough to make and press olive oil ready for the menorah. Rabbi Simon also helped the children understand the importance of the oil in the Chanukah story. It was a fantastic experience!

Jewish Studies saw the children learn and retell the story of Chanukah. We have also been busy making decorations. We created Chanukah themed sun catchers with wooden sticks and cellophane, the children chose between making a dreidel or a Star of David.

During Science, we thought all about the importance of keeping safe in the sun. We shared ideas on what we can wear to protect our skin from UV rays.

Next week we are looking forward to celebrating Chanukah together as well as getting up to lots more learning.

Chag Semeach
Miss Rowan

Next week we will be celebrating Chanukah as a whole school every day by lighting candles. Below are the brachot (blessings) we say when we light the candles each night. Please practise them at home with children over the weekend to help them learn the words!



Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech
 ha'olam asher kidishanu bemitvotav
 vetzivanu lehadlik ner shel Chanukah.



Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech
 ha'olam sheasar nisim l'avoiteinu
 bayamim hahem b'zman hazeh.



PSHEE/British Values



We have been learning that voting is an important part of democracy. Voting helps to keep things fair and allows our voices as pupils to be heard. This week, we were offered a choice of 4 activities and each pupil in the school voted for which of the activities that they would like to take part in. Our votes have been collected and are being verified and the winning activity will be announced next week.

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.

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

Friday 13th December – Cinema Trip

Thursday 20th December – Shabbat UK filming to take place in school

Friday 21st December – End of Term - School will close at 1pm.

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

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 Geshher coat or Blue Geshher 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 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.