

## Geshher Newsletter – 01/02/2019

Dear Parents and Carers

As we are about to enter the last two weeks of this half term (which has gone so quickly it seems), it has been lovely to see the children celebrate Tubishvat in school! The forest area we have is especially fitting for this particular celebration and we are very lucky to have use of this amazing space – the children adore it. There is still plenty going on until February half term at Geshher, including another visit from the Challah Mummy and SEED charity which we are very much looking forward to.



Please note that there is a Teacher/Parent Coffee Morning taking place on Friday 8th March from 9-10am with myself and Howard Zetter, Chair of Governors which I would like to invite you all to attend. This is an informal coffee morning where you can meet and chat with us about all things Geshher! We always welcome your feedback, and would like to make this as beneficial and positive as possible. Please feel free to suggest any items that you would like to discuss beforehand via the school office so we are able to touch upon the main subjects that are important to you. We hope to see as many of you there as possible, so please confirm your attendance by Friday 1st March to Carly.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Shabbat Shalom

Miss Colizza

Shabbat Shalom

Miss Colizza

## Jewish Studies

Dear Parents and Carers,

In Jewish Studies we have had a lot of fun preparing for Tubishvat. Last Monday with the children coming to school in their own clothes, we celebrated Tubishvat in a very special way with a sensory Tubishvat seder - a fruit party where the children participated in four parts which linked to the four seasons and involved seeing, tasting and smelling. At each part the children had a small cup of grape juice which changed colour with the season! After saying the bracha together the children then tasted a variety of fruit. For the last stage the children got to smell some cinnamon and mint. They were then all really engaged in making their own scented orange decorating it with cloves. We all had a lot of fun singing our special Tubishvat songs and learning how trees are so important!

Shabbat Shalom

Miss Danielle



## D'Vash Class

**Attendance since the start of term – 96.5%**

**Absence – 3.5%**

**Lateness – 0%**

This week, D'vash class have continued our theme of 'Insects', specifically exploring worms in more detail within our cross-curricular lessons.

With the cold temperatures this week, the children have been very interested to see how the playground has changed. Some children investigated different ways to melt the ice!!



We listened and engaged in the story of 'Superworm'! This would be a great story to read at home with your children. You can read the story and see how what your child remembers.



D'vash class have been working hard on their phonics targets. Children are following the Read, write Inc. programme. We practised tracing and writing letters with verbal supports for formation. Some children worked on identifying objects that started with different letters while others have started to blend and segment CV and CVC words. Take a look for our phonics pictures on Seesaw

Next week we will put our aprons on again and get ourselves ready for another fun-filled workshop with the Challah mummy!



Next week's topic is 'dragon fly's'... I wonder what the week's topic has in store for us!

Shabbat Shalom  
Miss Tammy

## Seorah Class

**Attendance since the start of term – 99.6%**

**Absence – 0.4%**

**Lateness – 6.8%**

Another 2 busy weeks gone by!



We are well on our way, working through our targets, closing in on the last two weeks of term. I cannot believe how quickly this term is going! But more so than that, I am so impressed with how well the children are doing, despite the fast natured pace the past couple of weeks.

We have wrapped up our work with The Very Hungry Caterpillar! The students have worked on sequencing the story, composing shopping lists for the caterpillar, sounding out and writing out familiar words from the story, and they've acted out the story – taking on the role of the caterpillar very seriously!!!



In Maths, we have been looking at the concept of More/Most and Less/Least, adding 1 one more and sequencing numbers. The students have really been enjoying their Maths lessons, working hard and truly engaging in their activities!

Unfortunately, our Ant Farm couldn't withstand the cold the same way we do. As a whole class we took the time to remember our Ants and have a little ceremony for them. We used it as a learning experience to talk about life and how important it is to show love and kindness to everyone and everything around us. The students were marvellous – talking about how much they loved the ants, and how excited they were to see a new colony of Ants inhabit the Farm.

Have a fabulous weekend! Keep warm and enjoy the Snow!

Shabbat Shalom  
Miss Marli

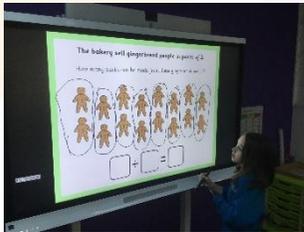
## Gefen Class

**Attendance since the start of term – 89.2%**

**Absence – 10.8%**

**Lateness – 1.1%**

To continue the celebrations of Tu Bishvat, Gefen class explored poems about trees. We looked at lots of different types of poems and discussed some of their features. We then created our own poems about a topic of our choice. There was a concrete poem about rhinos, a concrete poem about family and an acrostic poem about trees.



This week in Literacy, we have returned to Ancient Egypt. We compared the story of 'The Egyptian Cinderella' with the English version of 'Cinderella' and found lots of similarities and differences between the two stories. Did you know there are at least 7 different versions of Cinderella across the world?



We also used the theme of Tu Bishvat to continue our learning of addition and multiplication. We used trees and fruit to solve word problems involving addition and to help solve multiplication calculations. This week, we have started working on taking away using objects and division by putting objects and images into groups.

In Music, we explored playing drums, just like the African drummers in the video we watched. We are going to continue practising playing different beats.

We are looking forward to a day of Science next week where we will have the opportunity to explore and investigate magnets, as well as working on skills such as predicting and recording findings.



Shabbat Shalom  
Miss Nicola

## Rimon Class

**Attendance since the start of term – 94.3%**

**Absence – 5.7%**

**Lateness – 6%**

Rimon class have been very busy the last two weeks. We have been getting stuck into Ancient Egypt, across all areas. From sandy deserts and River Nile messy play to mapping the length and importance of the River Nile, many areas have been covered in Topic. In Art, we have designed and made Ancient Egyptian style necklaces with mosaics, jewels and painted pasta.



Literacy has involved the story of Nachshon, an Israelite in Ancient Egypt, and his fears of water, which are overcome with the help of Moses. The children have enjoyed exploring the contents of the story through role play and story mapping. Other members of the class have been focusing on the nature and role of trees in the Tu Bishvat festival, interacting with puppets and soft toys to bring the story alive.

In Maths, Rimon class have been focussing on measurement and its practical uses. The children have worked on geometry such as area and perimeter of regular and irregular, 2D and 3D, shapes. Time and sequencing patterns have also been



explored. In PSHE we continued to discuss differences between families and what makes up a family.



Jewish studies has continued to focus on Tu Bishvat and the Siddur with the children learning to label foods in Hebrew. Next week we are looking forward to a

visit from the Challah mummy and a science day where we will explore forces and magnets.

Shabbat shalom!  
Miss Rowan



Last Week – 24.01.019

Last week's Parsha highlighted the importance of Moses as a Leader and Role Model for the Bnei Yisrael once they left Egypt. In a poignant moment between Moses and his father-in-law Jethro, Moses speaks of how "the people come to [him] to seek G-d", how "[he] decide[s] between man and his neighbour and make[s] known the laws of G-d". It is here that we see Moses in his leadership role, imparting the words of G-d onto the Jewish nation.

Last week at Gesher, we applied this notion of being a 'Leader' / Role Model, to our weekly Middah. We spent the week looking at how Moses was not your quintessential leader: he was humble, shy and not the most eloquent of public speakers. He was an understated leader, but instilled courage, hope and trust in Bnei Yisrael. The students aimed to embody these soft characteristics seen in Moses, whilst being a supportive, guiding role model for their peers around them.

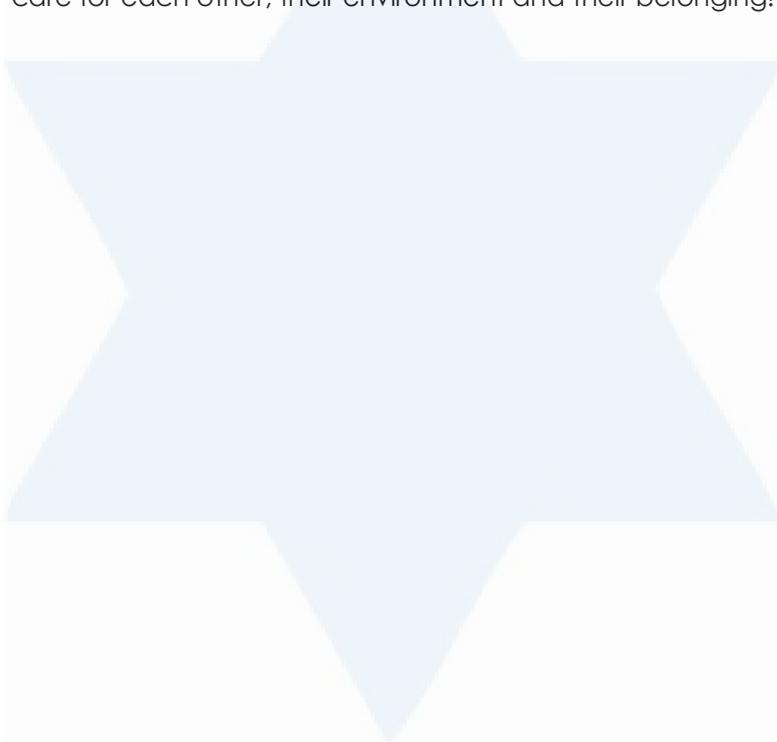
Our Parsha this week, Mishpatim, discusses all the laws by which Bnei Yisrael are governed. Having received the 10 Commandments from G-d, Bnei Yisrael are now instructed by G-d on the 613 mitzvot (Good



Deads) they are obligated to uphold. The commandments given to the Jewish People are sectioned off into groups relating to: Servants, Crimes Against Others, Misbehaving Animals, Taking Care of Someone Else's Stuff, Different Ways to be Kind, Laws for Court and Judgement, Shemita (Harvest) and Holidays, and Laws on Kashrut (Kosher).



You may be wondering how we got this week's Middah of Helping Hands from a list of laws given to Bnei Yisrael by G-d? From this week's Parsha we can derive that first and foremost is the importance of learning how to treat those around you with love, kindness and respect. Many of the laws given to the Jewish People are focused on how you treat those around you, and the respect one must uphold for people, places and things in their community. It is only once we learn to extend respect to those around us, that we are ready to learn from the Torah. 'Derech Eretz Kadma L'Torah'; Acting with Kindness, Acceptance and Respect precipitates learning Torah – what an important lesson! This past week the students focused on ways in which they could help their teachers and peers, showing kindness, acceptance and respect for those around them. They used 'Helping Hand's as a way of showing their care for each other, their environment and their belonging!





## PSHEE/British Values

This fortnight, we have revised our Class Charters and discussed the rights and responsibilities of the child. Rights are things that children need and adults must make sure the children have, including the right to healthy food and water, to learn and to play and rest. But with rights come responsibilities; these are things that children must do, such as listen to others and tidy up.

This week we learned about Chinese New Year, which will be celebrated on Tuesday 5th February. We learned that 'red' is a special colour during the Chinese New Year celebrations. There are often red Chinese lanterns and fireworks, and children wake up to find red envelopes filled with money and sweets under their pillow left by family members. Just like New Year and Rosh Hashanah, Chinese New Year is a time for reflection. We used this time to remember the goals that we set at the beginning of January.



# Dates for your Diary



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

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

**Parent Curriculum Session** – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February (9-11am). Please RSVP to the school office to confirm your attendance.

**School finishes for half term** – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February

**Friday Early Closures** – School will close at 1pm on Friday afternoons up to and including Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February. **Regular 3pm school finishes resume from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March.**

**Half term** – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

**Children return to school** – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February

**Whole School Trip** – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February to Bushey Synagogue. The children will leave school at 9:15am and arrive back at 1pm (via coach both ways)

**Parent Teacher Coffee Morning** – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March (9-10am). Please confirm your attendance with the school office before Monday.

**Non-uniform day** – takes place on the **last Friday of the month.** The next one will take place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March.

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## **Health and Safety**

- As temperatures are dipping please continue to send your child into school with their hat, gloves and scarves!

## **Safeguarding**

- Please ensure the office is notified via email as soon as possible if pick up arrangements for your child need to change.



SHABBAT UK 01-02 MARCH 2019

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**JEWISH CARE**

# INTERGENERATIONAL CHALLAH BAKE IN AID OF JEWISH CARE

**Wednesday 27 February 2019  
7.30 – 9.15pm**

**Betty and Asher Loftus Centre  
Asher Loftus Way  
Colney Hatch Lane  
London N11 3ND**

**Adults £7.50  
Children £5  
To purchase tickets  
visit [jewishcare.org/events](http://jewishcare.org/events)**

**For more information email Tanya at  
[tmiller@jcare.org](mailto:tmiller@jcare.org) or call 020 8922 2407**