

Gesher Newsletter – 18/01/2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy new year and a warm welcome back to you all for the first newsletter of the new Spring Term – I hope you all had a wonderful winter holiday with your families!

It has been so lovely having the children back in school and watching them all settle back in to their routine, friendships and learning in time to celebrate Tubishvat next week. There are some lovely activities planned to mark this next week, which will be great for the children to get involved in and have some fun with.

Please continue to check the 'Dates for your Diary' section at the end of the newsletter, which is updated regularly so you are aware of what is going on throughout another undoubtedly action packed term!

Shabbat Shalom
Miss Colizza

Jewish Studies

Dear Parents and Carers,

In Jewish Studies the term has begun with lots of excitement as we have been learning about the next Jewish festival, Tubishvat. As we approach Spring, Tubishvat is the birthday for trees and the children have been exploring through nature trails, games and art all about trees and thinking about why trees are important to us.

They have also been exploring different fruit and vegetables and learning which grow on trees and which grow in the ground. We have started to learn the different brachot (blessings) we say before we eat to say thank you to Hashem. The children have had fun playing games and making their own fruit and vegetables, and have been keen to correctly identify which bracha we say for the various fruits and vegetables.

Next Monday is Tubishvat and we will be celebrating in a special way with a Tubishvat seder; a fruit party! The children will have the opportunity to taste lots of different types of fruit and have fun singing our Tubishvat songs!

Shabbat Shalom
Miss Danielle

D'Vash Class

Attendance since the start of term – 97.8%

Absence – 2.2%

Lateness – 0%

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



In Literacy, we looked at the life cycle of the butterfly following on from last week's story of 'The Hungry Caterpillar'. The children made a life cycle using different art materials before labelling, sequencing, discussing or answering questions, depending on their individual targets.

In Maths, we worked on our coins and number skills by taking part in a shopping game. This would be a fun activity to try at home, and you can pretend to buy things around the house using real coins!



In Attention Autism (AKA 'Bucket time'), we used playdough to make our very own snails! We looked at the spirals on a snail's shell and used our fingers to recreate these spirals in paint. The children seemed very engaged and followed closely throughout these sessions.

We look forward to Mondays celebrations for Tu B' Shevat. D'vash class will be celebrating with Seorah class on Monday morning in our own Seder, and Danielle has arranged some other special activities to bring us all together.



Next week's topic is 'Ladybirds'...it's looking to be a bit chilly next week (don't forget hats and gloves!), but we could be lucky enough to spot a few in the playground in the build up to spring!

Shabbat Shalom
Miss Tammy

Seorah Class

Attendance since the start of term – 99.2%

Absence – 0.8%

Lateness – 5.9%



Seorah Class have hit the ground running this term, diving right back into our lessons and starting to work on our new topics and targets! The students were so happy to be back at school and have loved spending time talking about their holidays with their friends!



We have spent the past two weeks looking at our new theme for this term – INSECTS! The students have been engaging in cross-curricular explorative lessons on different insects. The students have explored sensory boxes filled with different insects, gone on a bug hunt throughout the school looking for insects, and we even bought an Ant Farm which we have been tending to throughout the week!



In Literacy, we're continuing with our Insect theme and have been looking at The Very Hungry Caterpillar. The students have been learning how to sequence the story – based on what the caterpillar ate as well as through the Days of the Week.



Our Maths lessons were focused on solving simple addition and subtraction sums, quantifying groups as having the 'most' or the 'least', and identifying the odd one out within a group of objects. We began solving word problems, and really enjoyed using bug themed math counters to help us visualise and solve our number bonds!

We are so excited for our upcoming term, and look forward to sharing all our learning with you along the way!



Have a wonderful weekend!
Miss Mari

Gefen Class

Attendance since the start of term – 91.5%

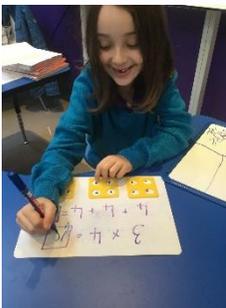
Absence – 18.5%

Lateness – 0%

For our topic this half term, we are going on a 'journey to Ancient Egypt'. In Week 1, we discussed what we already know about Egypt and spoke about pyramids, Sphinx and the River Nile. After the discussion, pupils had some questions that they were left wondering about. Did crocodiles snap at people swimming in the River Nile? Are there any crocodile statues in Egypt? We watched a video all about Ancient Egypt to see if we could answer some of our questions and to learn more!



We have been working on making predictions in Literacy this week. Using only the image on the front cover of the book, we predicted that the book would be about Egypt and a boy swimming in the River Nile, because we could see pyramids and people in a river. It turned out that the story was called 'Nachshon, who was afraid to swim.' We then read the story in sections, checking to see if our predictions had happened yet and if we wanted to use clues in the story to change our prediction. Towards the end, we predicted that the Israelites were going to have to swim because they were stuck between the Egyptians and the Sea of Reeds. Our prediction was almost correct. Nachshon was courageous and walked into the water.



We have also been exploring Ancient Egyptian jewellery and necklaces in Art. We looked at lots of different necklaces and noticed that a lot of them are red, blue and gold in colour. They also have a lot of pattern. After looking at some necklaces for inspiration, we designed our own necklaces that included similar colours and patterns.

In Maths, some pupils have been learning to add within 10 and others have been learning about multiplication. We have all been



learning that we can use different strategies to help us.

We can use objects or pictures to help us with addition or multiplication problems.

We will be learning all about magnets in Science this half term. In Week 1, we explored magnets, then predicted if different objects were magnetic and investigated our predictions. We discovered that all of the objects that stuck to the magnet all had one thing in common; they were all made from metal.

Shabbat Shalom
Miss Nicola

Rimon Class

Attendance since the start of term – 96%

Absence – 4%

Lateness – 5.8%



Happy new year! We've had lots happening these last two weeks at Geshet. We came back from the winter holidays ready to learn.

Our focus has been shape, space and measure in Maths and that has led us to all kinds of practical learning. From telling the time to measuring lengths to overcoming obstructions in a sensory circuit, we have all worked hard! This week has

been no different, our focus has been differentiating between object sizes, coordinates on 2D grids and weight – including making our own salt dough!



Our topic this term is Ancient Egypt and we have been getting stuck in. We have created and designed our own necklaces, which next week we will make out of 3D materials.

Alongside this, we have mapped out where Egypt is, explored the climate through messy play and a fascinating video and began to

understand how important the River Nile was and still is! We have enjoyed learning about mummies,

pyramids and Egyptian gods and even tried dressing up as them – check out Seesaw to see more pictures.

In Literacy, we have carried on this learning, trying out hieroglyphs as well as writing up a non-fiction report.

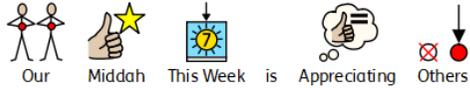
While some of us have been enjoying the puppets and animals present in Oi! Cat.



In PE, we have been practising our balancing in a variety of different ways. While in PSHE, we have been learning all about family, what makes them unique and how they are connected through family trees! Jewish Studies has focused on the importance of Tu B'Shevat, making beautiful tree paintings and learning some Hebrew readings. We will continue to celebrate this on Monday.

What a busy first two weeks!

Shabbat Shalom.
Miss Rowan



Background

Shemot. The current book of the Torah recounts how Bnei Yisrael (the Jewish Nation) leave slavery in Egypt through the strength of G-d. Led by Moses, they journey through the wilderness to Mount Sinai, where they are eventually given the Torah (their covenant of laws and instructions between G-d). This week's Middah is drawn from one of the covenants instructed by G-d; to adornment of Tefillin as a way highlighting an appreciation for G-d.

In last week's Parsha we see Moses and Aaron demanding that Pharaoh let Bnei Yisrael free from Egypt. When he refused to do so, Hashem blasted Egypt with ten momentous plagues. Some plagues came to an end on their own, while others were so horrific that Pharaoh pleaded with Moses to end the terror. With the arrival of the final plague, Death of the Firstborn, Pharaoh agrees to set Bnei Yisrael free, as he himself was a firstborn and was terrified of what was to come. Bnei Yisrael rushed to leave Egypt quickly, so quickly in fact, that their dough did not have time to rise and becomes matzah – the very same flat bread we eat on Passover. Once Bnei Yisrael are free, G-d tells Moses of the holiday they will celebrate each year to commemorate the occasion – Passover. The Jews also receive the mitzvah of Tefillin: special boxes adorned on the head and arm to remind us of our exodus from Egypt, and the appreciation we have for G-d since then. This week, the children have been focusing on showing their appreciation for one another, both inside and out of the classroom, by sharing with one another, saying please and thank you, and by talking about all the wonderful things they think of one another.



Our



Middah



This Week

is



Happiness!

We read at the end of last week's Parsha how the Jewish people were relinquished from slavery by the strength of G-d. However, in this week's parsha, no sooner are the Jews out of Egypt that Pharaoh changes his mind and begins chasing after them! With this change of heart, Bnei Yisrael find themselves in a dire position; with the Red Sea in front of them they cannot move forward or they will drown. But, behind them the Egyptian army are encroaching! G-d tells Moses to take his staff and stretch it over the sea. As he does so, an amazing miracle happens – the sea splits, allowing the Jews to walk through to safety. As the Egyptians try to follow behind, the sea closes up and drowns the entirety of the army. When the Jews reach the other side of the sea, they sing a beautiful song of thanks, and rejoice in their gratefulness for the miracles G-d has performed for them. It is from this display of exuberance and gratitude that we take this week's Middah – Happiness. The children have spent their week at Gesher talking about Happiness: the importance of being happy ourselves, but also of making others around us happy!

And with Tu Bishvat next week, there is no better way to show our gratitude and happiness for all G-d does for us than by having a communal seder (celebratory meal) on Monday 21st January, in honour of Tu Bishvat!

Below is an online resource cultivated by Ji-Tap that you can access at home to help make Tu Bishvat more meaningful for your child:

- <https://info.jewishinteractive.org/tu-bishvat-make-it-grow>



PSHEE/British Values



In our first British Values assembly after the holidays, we discussed New Year. We learnt that different cultures celebrate New Year at different times of the year. People that celebrate New Year on 1st January often make new year's resolutions which are like goals for the year. We talked to our peer's about goals that we would like to work

towards. Some ideas that we came up with included 'I want to do more arts and crafts', 'I want to learn more Science' and 'I want to be kinder to my friends'.

Individual Liberty is one of our British Values. Individual Liberty means that we have the opportunity to make choices at school, that people are interested to find out more about what we like, and that our voices and opinions are heard and listened to. One way in which Geshar pupil's 'individual liberty' is valued is through our half termly home learning projects. Pupil's interests and opinions are taken into consideration and pupils can choose or vote for the activity that they would like to complete.

Dates for your Diary



Are emergency contact details/numbers correct for your child?

Please inform the school office of any changes at any time

Dress down day for Tu Bishvat – Monday 21st January

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

School finishes for half term – Friday 15th February

Half term – Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February

Children return to school – Monday 25th February

Friday Early Closures – School will close at 1pm on Friday afternoons up to and including Friday 15th February.

Non-uniform day – takes place on the **last Friday of the month.** The next one will take place on Friday 25th January.

Health and Safety

- Please ensure that your child has a pair of indoor soled slippers to leave in school to wear whilst in class.
- 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.