

Gesher Newsletter – 21/12/2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn Term has come to an end and this last week of school has been a fantastic opportunity to spend quality time with the children before the holidays. We were lucky enough to have a visit from the Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis this week, alongside Shabbat UK and the National Autistic Society who the children had great fun doing activities with! As we come to the end of 2018 I would like to thank all of our families for being so supportive over the last year. I would also like to say one final goodbye to Mr Harel and Gabi – you will both be truly missed.

Have a wonderful and restful winter break!

Shabbat Shalom
Miss Colizza

Jewish Studies

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcoming Shabbat UK in to film our children sing Lecha Dodi with the Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis was a special moment to be part of this week. Our children have been working so hard and they did themselves proud yesterday, singing and dancing their hearts out in front of all the school staff and in front of the Shabbat UK cameras. It was wonderful to see our children embrace and engage with a song that is so central to the celebration of Shabbat every week. It is with a heavy heart that I write my last message this week. It has been a privilege to work with your children and will miss each and every one of them in their own special way. I wish every family all the best for the future.

Shabbat Shalom,

Mr Harel

D'Vash Class

Attendance this week – 80%

Absence – 20%

Lateness – 0%

We have ended our term on a high note with a fantastic week of activities that we have enjoyed very much – they have been a really fun way for us to practice and demonstrate some of the great skills we have been learning this term.



On Thursday, D'vash class took part in a very special occasion with a whole school singing of 'Lecha Dodi' alongside our peers and the Chief Rabbi!! We sang our hearts out and received high praise from the Rabbi

himself. We have also made our cards and said our goodbyes to Mr Harel this week, and hope to see him soon.



As we look forward to the holidays ahead, we look back on all the progress our children have made and as a team we couldn't be prouder. Happy holidays and see you next term!!



Shabbat Shalom
Miss Tammy

Seorah Class

Attendance this week -98.4%

Absence - 1.6%

Lateness - 4.8%

And that's a wrap!

We have made it to the end of our first term having learned loads, made new friendships and full of smiles and great memories of all the fun we have had since September!



We spent the beginning half of the week consolidating our skills in Maths and Literacy; reviewing some of our old targets, and briefly exploring new ideas and concepts in preparation for next term!! We spent the second half of the week

celebrating all of our achievements this term, and saying goodbye to some of our most favourite staff.



On Thursday, we had a very exciting visit from Shabbat UK and the Chief Rabbi, where we showcased our singing, joining in with him in rendition of Lecha Dodi! The children were FABULOUS, and I can't wait to see the film of them singing and dancing. We were all so proud!



I hope everyone has a lovely holiday full of rest and time well spent with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you back in January for another fun exciting term at Geshet!

Shabbat Shalom
Miss Mari

Gefen Class

Attendance this week – 40.7%

Absence –59.3%

Lateness – 0%

Gefen class joined up with Rimon class this week and what a way to end the term! We have had lots of fun!

Chris, the Dramatherapist, led an interactive story called 'The dinosaur that pooped Christmas'. Pupils participated by acting out some of the actions in the story and then they decorated a crown.



We have used the laptops this week to practise our maths skills and to practise our spelling on Doorway Online. We have also used the iPads to practise forming letters correctly and to revisit giving instructions which involve forward, backwards, left and right on the A.L.E.X. app.

We were pleased to welcome Chief Rabbi on Thursday and participated in singing 'Lecha Dodi' for Shabbat UK. On Thursday, we made tuna and mayonnaise sandwiches. Pupils independently chose the ingredients they wanted, spread the mayonnaise on the bread and spread the tuna on their sandwich. Afterwards, pupils tasted their sandwich and wrote a recipe to give to someone so that they could also make tuna sandwiches.



Maddi and I wish you all a lovely holiday and look forward to seeing you in January.

Shabbat Shalom
Miss Nicola

Rimon Class

Attendance this week – 73.5%

Absence – 26.5%

Lateness – 2.8%

We've had lots happening this week at Gesher, where we have celebrated the final week of term and also learnt about Christmas holiday traditions around the world with Mr Chris. We have been swimming, had a special visit from the Chief Rabbi, and we have also been visited by the National Autistic Society!



Last week, we started writing letters to people as if we were in the Stone Age and this week we finished them. Everyone wrote great letters sharing with their pen pal what they saw in the Stone Age, where they live, and asking great questions to whomever they were writing to.



In PSHE, we chose and voted to make a healthy meal as a class. The winner was tuna and sweetcorn sandwiches. We made them, cut them and ate them! They were delicious.

In Science this week, the class have been learning about magnets. Learning about positives and negatives and which ones attract and repel. We played a great magnet game to demonstrate this with a mat and a car with magnets in the boot and front. We used another magnet with a matching side to the magnet in the car boot and as it moved closer to the car, it drove itself! We will continue this next term.



As well as a swimming trip this week on Wednesday, we had a very special visit from the Chief Rabbi for Shabbat UK which is in March. We have been learning the song 'Lecha Dodi' in singing for the past 3 months in order to sing it with the Chief Rabbi. We sang it whilst being filmed for a special video for Shabbat UK. This was a great experience! We also had another visit On Thursday from the National Autistic Society. They brought in colourful shirts and a camera to take photographs of some children for Autism Awareness week next year.

In Jewish Studies, the students have been continuing their personal siddurim (prayer books) by sticking down the words to the song 'Shema'. We also designed our front covers for the siddurim on JStudio on the iPad. This was great fun! Thank you everyone for your amazing homework projects also – I look forward to showing them off to the rest of the school next term!



Have a great winter break!
Shabbat Shalom.
Miss Rowan



Kodesh corner



This week's



Middah

is



celebrations

The festive celebrations happening through the holiday period present a number of opportunities to explore religious belief in a number of ways. Learning about the nativity story and Christmas celebrations can be linked back to stories from Jewish history and how we mark them with festivals today. Looking at different ways people celebrate Christmas can also present excellent opportunities for comparison with the Jewish (and other) religions, explore differences and similarities and the central role symbolism plays within religious belief!



PSHEE/British Values

This week in our British Values assembly we explored the Christian festival of Christmas. We learned about different traditions around the world and how people in different countries celebrate Christmas in different ways. In India, Christians decorate mango trees with lights and decorations instead of fir trees. In Italy, people believe that a kind witch, called La Befana delivers the presents on Christmas Day. In Britain, some families eat turkey for their Christmas dinner but in Japan, lots of people eat K.F.C for their Christmas dinner. But the one thing that is the same all over the world is that Christmas is about spending time with loved ones.

Dates for your Diary



Are emergency contact details/numbers correct for your child?

Please inform the school office of any changes at any time

Term begins for pupils – Monday 7th January 2019
School finishes for half term – Friday 15th February 2019

Half term – Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February 2019

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 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.