

## **Gesher Newsletter – 09/03/2019**

Dear Parents and Carers

It is hard to believe that we are already 2 weeks into the Spring Term! Preparations for Purim are now well underway and I hope to see as many of you as possible at our Purim Celebrations on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 9-11am. School will also close for Purim at 1pm, so please ensure that your child is collected at that time.

I hope you all have a wonderful Shabbat with your families!

Shabbat Shalom  
Miss Colizza

### **Jewish Studies**



We are busy getting in the mood for Purim which is coming up in a couple of weeks! The children have been having fun learning the story of Purim and getting to know the main characters: The heroes of the story Queen Esther and Mordechai and also the mean Haman. There has been a lot of exploratory learning with some dressing up and a treasure hunt with the children working together to crack the clues to find all the parts of the Purim story to sequence correctly. Over the next couple of weeks, we will continue to learn about the customs and mitzvot of Purim and be getting ready to celebrate!

## D'Vash Class

**Attendance since the start of term – 96.6%**

**Absence – 3.4%**

**Lateness – 0.5%**

Spring term 2 is here and we have galloped straight into our new topic, 'The Farm'!

We started learning about our theme through the use of the song, 'Old Macdonald', whilst finding out about all the different animals we find on the farm. We continued throughout the week by looking at these animals with a little more depth; we learnt about their size and colour, as well as the sounds each one makes. Some of us did our best listening to follow instructions by putting 'big cow' or 'small pig' into the farm sensory box. Other children listened to their friends' questions to find out exactly what animals they had chosen from the box.



In maths, the focus has been on learning about time. We have looked at daily routines and how to sequence them. We have talked about what time we wake and go to sleep, as well as what time school starts. Some children are working on telling the time on clocks and moving the hands to change it. Another focus in our maths has been positions. The children have identified where the farm animal has been placed and labelled the position, i.e.

"The cow is on the box".



Overall, we have had a busy first fortnight back which included a hugely successful trip to Bushey synagogue, where lots of fun was had by all! There was such excitement with all of the different things to do, make and see. We also concluded last week with the Challah mummy coming to Geshet to make Challah with all the children and their parents...by the end of the day we had expert Challah-bakers! We hope the children had the chance to share their Challah with you, and hopefully this is something you can do together at some point in the future.

Shabbat Shalom  
Miss Tammy

## Seorah Class

**Attendance since the start of term – 96.9%**

**Absence – 3.1%**

**Lateness – 5.1%**

And just like that we are two weeks into Spring Term 2! We've had a very busy start to our term, tackling new targets and participating in a number of really exciting extra-curricular activities. You know what they say – start as you mean to go on!



Our overarching theme for this term is 'The Farm'. We have spent the past two weeks learning about the farm in our Literacy, Science and Geography lessons! With the story 'A Farmer's Life for Me' as our focus, the students have learned about the different animals on the farm as well as the different homes for all the animals on the farm. It has been really interesting listening to their conversations about the farm – whether they have visited the farm, if it's similar to their homes, and more importantly whether or not the even like the farm!



In Maths, we have been looking at the concept of Time. We spent last week grasping the general concepts of time: Morning, Afternoon and Night Time, and slowly moved towards understanding the function of a clock and telling time. The students have really been enjoying their Maths lessons and can now confidently tell the time to the hour!

Last week was a very busy week in our Kodesh lessons as we celebrated Shabbat UK in a couple of exciting ways.

We took a whole school trip to Bushey Synagogue to participate in an immersive sensory Kabbalat Shabbat experience, and we had the Challah Mummy teach us how to make challah with our families here at school!

I hope you have all had a great couple of weeks back to school. Wishing you a lovely weekend!

Mari Stein

## Gefen Class

**Attendance since the start of term – 84.5%**

**Absence – 15.5%**

**Lateness – 0.5%**



We had a lovely welcome back from Gefen pupils after the February half-term, with one pupil exclaiming on their first day back about how much they had missed Geshet! Pupils were also excited to find out what their new topic was for Spring 2. Our topic this term is Journey's and across the curriculum, we will be learning about the history of flight, significant people that have impacted different modes of transport, evaluating different designs to make the best aeroplanes and exploring forces in Science using cars.

Our focus for Literacy these past two weeks has been the story 'A Way Home for Wolf'. Pupils have created storyboards and freeze frames to retell the story. Pupils have also embarked on the journey as Wilf, the young wolf pup, leaving the confines of the warm, cosy classroom with the rest of the wolf pack on an adventure to find a new home. Along the way, Wilf veers off the track and gets lost; pupils acting as Wilf found and met many other animals in the playground that helped them to find their back to their family and they found a lovely new home in the forest.



Continuing the theme, pupils have been on a journey in Maths too, venturing around the school hunting for everyday examples of 2-D and 3-D shapes. Pupils have also demonstrated their understanding of sides and corners on 2-D shapes, and edges, vertices and faces for 3-D shapes. Pupils seemed to have a lot of fun making shapes with grapes and cocktail sticks, and sneakily eating the grapes at the same time!

Gefen pupils all appeared to enjoy their visit to Bushey synagogue and participated in making a range of Shabbat related arts and crafts, as well as a fantastic singing session. Some pupils even had the opportunity to look at the Torahs inside the ark.

Shabbat Shalom  
Miss Nicola

## Rimon Class

**Attendance since the start of term – 93.1%**

**Absence – 6.9%**

**Lateness – 4.7%**

What a fab first two weeks in Rimon! Also a big welcome to our eighth and final member of Rimon class – it's great to have you here! This term we are looking at journeys, and specifically at flight. In Maths, we have been looking at multiplication and division and the importance of having equal groups to start with. Others of us have enjoyed packing for a journey to a secret destination, listening carefully to the requested number of objects needed.



Literacy has seen us read and retell the story of Wilf, a wolf who gets separated from his pack and has to find his way back home. We have used sensory experiences and drama to learn how Wilf might be feeling. Alongside this, we have used storyboards to write it up into our books. This week, we have been focusing on describing the feelings, setting and characters in the story. Some of us have been

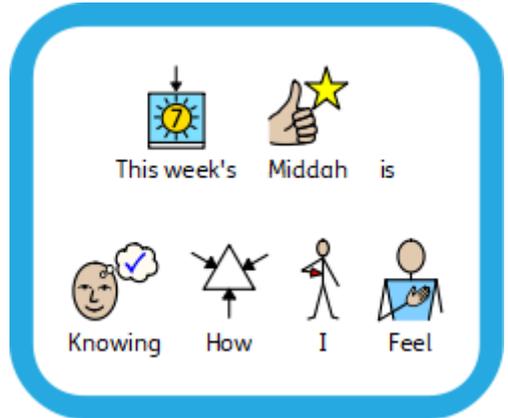
learning what clothes are appropriate for different locations like the beach and the mountains as well as sequencing our outfit choices into first, now and next. Next, we will move onto action words.

In Art, we built a variety of different aeroplanes and made our very own hot air balloons, with our faces floating in them. During PSHE, we have been focusing on what it means to be a good friend, using certain scenarios to help us improve and be a better friend. Science has seen us begin looking at how forces work, starting with making our toys out of Lego that push and pull.



Last Thursday, we had a fab trip to Bushey synagogue yesterday where we participated in a multisensory activities involving the five senses. We also had a visit from the Challah Mummy for the Challah bake, which was all in aid of Shabbat UK. It was excellent! check out seesaw to see some pictures.

Shabbot Shalom  
Miss Rowan



### **This Week – 08.03.19**

Our Parsha this week, Pekudei, is the last of a string of Parashot that speak about the *Mishkan*. It details the completion of the *Mishkan*, how Moses erects and officially anoints the Sanctuary and how Aaron (Moses' brother) becomes the Holy Priest in charge of work in the Sanctuary. It is said that once the *Mishkan* and High Priests were officially anointed a cloud descended upon the Tent of Meeting, and G-d's presence filled the *Mishkan*.

Our weekly Middah – Knowing How I Feel - is based on the belief displayed by the Jewish Nation in G-d and his presence. Without need for justification, it was widely accepted that G-d's presence was in the *Mishkan*; the nation wholeheartedly believed the Hand of G-d was present amongst them. We took the concept of 'Belief' and made it more relatable and accessible to the students, focusing on understanding our own feelings. In our morning assemblies the students were asked how they felt, giving them a chance to identify with how they were feeling in that specific moment, and to share those feelings with their peers. It was lovely to hear the students sharing how happy, smiley (and tired!) they felt!



This week's



Middah

is



Generosity

### Last Week – 01.03.19

In our Parsha last week we saw Moses sharing the commandments he received on Mount Sinai with the Jewish Nation. He explained G-d's detailed guidelines for living; 6 days of work and one day of rest, reserved solely for honouring and showing gratitude for G-d's handiwork. Moses also called for a collection for the *Mishkan*: "Everyone whose heart so moves him shall bring gifts for the Lord – gold or silver, wool or linen, wood or oil, spices or stones, anything to make the sanctuary more glorious for G-d". The community collected gifts on mass, donating endlessly to G-d and the *Mishkan*, to the point where Moses had to ask for the donations to stop as the generosity was too much.

Our Middah for the week was taken directly from the Parsha, as the students at Geshar endeavoured to emulate the generous actions of the Jewish Nation. The students blew us away with how innately generous they were, and how selflessly helpful they were to their peers throughout the week.

Last week was also Shabbat UK! Shabbat UK for those who don't know is a weekend of events organised by the Office of the Chief Rabbi in an attempt to connect people with Shabbat. As part of our celebrations, Geshar visited Bushey Synagogue and participated in the first ever SEN Shabbat UK Program which was truly ground-breaking! The children had a fabulous time and really embraced the spirit of Shabbat!



## PSHEE/British Values

This week, we recapped the importance of using the internet safely. Here are 4 top tips to help keep you safe when online.

1. People you don't know are strangers. They're not always who they say they are.
2. Be nice to people on the computer, just like you would in the playground.
3. Keep your personal information private.
4. If you ever get that 'uh oh' feeling, you should tell a grown up that you trust.

Most importantly, if there is anything you are ever unsure of, you should always ask an adult.



# Dates for your Diary



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

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

**Last day of school** – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019 (school closes at 1pm)

**Half term** – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019

**Children return to school** – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019

**Purim Assembly – Thursday 21st March at 9-11am** (school closes at 1pm).

Please RSVP to the office if you are able to join our Purim assembly, parade performance and party! We hope you see as many of you there as possible – and please don't forget to send your child to school in fancy dress!

**Parent Coffee morning** – this will be rearranged and a new date sent out via email imminently.

**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 that you notify the office via email as soon as possible if pick up arrangements for your child need to change so security and the relevant staff members can be informed