

Gesher Newsletter – 15/02/2019

Dear Parents and Carers

As the first half of the Spring Term draws to a close, it is lovely to celebrate the progress that all the children have made with our wonderful SEED assembly and activity in school this morning! Thank you to all of the parents and carers that also attended the curriculum morning this week - I hope that you found the content useful. Please do remember to RSVP (if you have not already) to the parent teacher coffee morning being held next term - It would be lovely to see you there.

I hope you all have a wonderful and restful half term and I look forward to seeing all the children on the first day back!

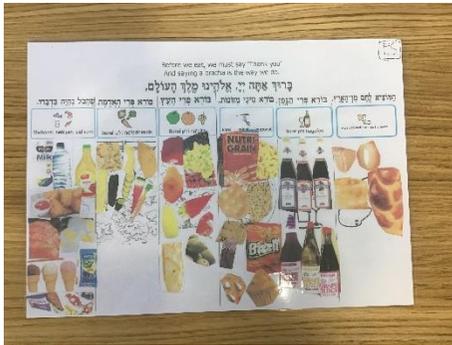
Shabbat Shalom
Miss Colizza



Jewish Studies

The last couple of weeks in Jewish Studies we have been learning many more brachot for all different types of foods. We have had a lot of fun 'shopping' in our bracha market and sorting and matching foods to the correct bracha. In Dvash and Seorah they made their own pasta necklaces and arty donuts whilst in Gefen and Rimon they created their own fabulous ICT bracha game using a Ji Interactive.

To end the unit and continue encouraging the children to use their new knowledge, they are making their own colourful collage bracha placemat that they will use during snack and lunch time.



D'Vash Class

Attendance since the start of term – 95.2%

Absence – 4.8%

Lateness – 0.8%

It's been a busy two weeks in D'vash class. We have continued our theme of 'Insects', ending the term learning all about spiders and dragonflies in our cross curricular activities. We are super excited for next term's theme, 'The Farm', where we will move on to looking at some much larger creatures! The class have had very successful swimming lessons this term, with all the children becoming more confident and independent in the pool. We have practised different key swimming skills with the help of songs, including kicking on our tummies and backs, as well as blowing bubbles. We are looking forward to becoming even stronger swimmers next term.



This week, D'vash class have also welcomed a new student to the class. The children were eager to show their new peer around the classroom, as well as helping her navigate through the class day. We look forward to building on these relationships in the term to come, and working on sharing and turn taking skills with our new peer.

We were all also very excited to see some of our mummies and daddies at school and demonstrate our great reading skills. It was very different having them come in to visit us, but the whole class was very proud to have the opportunity to show our classroom to these important adults.

Our parents also had ANOTHER chance to come and see us at school this week, when we ended our term on a high note with a special kabbalah Shabbat assembly. SEED provided yet another exciting activity for us to do, and much fun was had by all!



Don't forget that our school weeks will no longer finish early on Fridays after the half-term, and hopefully we can use that extra afternoon to enjoy the warmer weather in our forest area. Meanwhile, we hope everyone has a restful yet fun-filled break, and we look forward to seeing everyone back for Spring term 2!

Shabbat Shalom
Miss Tammy

Seorah Class

Attendance since the start of term – 95.8%

Absence – 4.2%

Lateness – 6.1%



Half Term Already?! I genuinely cannot believe how quickly this term has flown by. Nonetheless, we have managed to pack loads into the short 6 weeks we've had back. The past two weeks in Seorah Class have been very busy. We have been focusing mostly on Number Bonds in Maths, starting with Number Bonds to 5 and working our way up towards 10, 20 and even 50! The students have really enjoyed building math sums and solving them – really highlighting their numeric knowledge.

Our Literacy lessons shifted from looking at *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* to working from our new story *What the Ladybird Heard*. We have been looking at rhyming words, specifically from the book itself; learning how to identify rhyming words and coming up with rhyming word sets in small groups. The children have really enjoyed this story, and often take part in the reading filling in words and reciting common phrases as we go along.

Our theme on Insects has taken us outside into the forest for our Science lessons! We have been putting on our 'Investigation Hats' and have become 'Outdoor Investigators' looking at the different insect habitats found in our forest. The students have really loved seeing wildlife in its natural habitat. We've seen slugs, spiders, caterpillars, ants and flies living amongst the leaves, in the trees and under logs!



We also had a very special visit last week from the Challah Mummy! She has visited us once before, teaching us how to make challah. Last week, instead of challah, we learned how to make homemade veggie pizzas! The students really enjoyed their session with her, and even tried some of their veggie pizza in class afterwards!



I am very proud of all the hard work the students have done over the course of this term. With the inclement weather and lack of sunshine, this really is one of the toughest terms to get through, and the children have done a fabulous job at working towards their targets, learning and just generally developing overall. Well done Seorah Class!

I hope everyone has a lovely holiday full of rest and time well spent with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you in a week's time, ready for Spring Term 2!

Shabbat Shalom
Miss Mari

Gefen Class

Attendance since the start of term – 84.3%

Absence – 15.7%

Lateness – 0.7%

It's hard to believe that another half term has been and gone and what a fortnight we have had to finish the half term! Gefen class have participated in lots of special activities in the last two weeks, including a day of Science, making pizzas and a Shabbat UK SEED activity.

Science Day seemed to be a big hit, with Gefen and Rimon class coming together to explore, predict and investigate all things magnetic. We learned that magnets stick to each other and some metal objects, and that



magnets have a North and South pole. When you place the North pole of one magnet near the South pole of another magnet, they are attracted to one another but when you place the same poles of two magnets near each other, they repel! Pupils used this knowledge to race magnetic cars and send a ball around a maze.

Gefen pupils also enjoyed making homemade pizza dough with the Challah Mummy and topped their pizza with healthy vegetables.

We rounded off our learning about Ancient Egypt by creating play scripts. Pupils created their own characters, setting and storyline, then with some adult support wrote a play script. Pupils engaged in a script read through, rehearsed their plays and then performed them in front of a small audience.



We look forward to starting a new topic of 'Journeys' after the half term break.

Wishing you all a fun-filled break!

Shabbat Shalom
Miss Nicola

Rimon Class

Attendance since the start of term – 92%

Absence – 8%

Lateness – 5.2%



What a fabulous two weeks we have had! We have been actors the last few weeks, looking at play scripts and performing it in groups. The team work has been amazing and I have heard such wonderful loud performances. This week, we used our expertise to write up our own play scripts, which were inventive and great. Other members of the class, have also been working on role play, including getting themselves dressed and ready to go outside following instructions on how to dress appropriately.

In Art, we cut out net templates of pyramids and worked out how to cut and fold them then sticking them on sandpaper. We have also made beautiful valentine's day cards for our loved ones, discussing what it means to love someone. Last week, we also had a fab visit from the Challah mummy, where we made yummy vegetable pizza.

In Maths, Rimon class have been going fraction mad! We have been looking at halves, quarters, unit fractions, adding and subtracting fractions and fractions of amount. Some of us have also been continuing to look at sequencing of numbers.

PSHE saw us discussing about how our emotions change in different situations, linking it to our own experiences and discussed how as we got older, we change and grow.

Jewish studies has continued to focus on bracha, with some children remembering and showing off their skills during snack and lunch. Our parsha stories for the last two weeks have been Terumah and Tetzaveh. We have been learning about the Jews building the Mishkan. We have been learning new songs for Purim in singing with Ms Simone, in preparation for another visit from the Chief Rabbi. To top it all off, we had a wonderful visit from SEED to lead us into the upcoming Shabbat UK, which is coming up in two weeks' time.



Shabbat Shalom
Miss Rowan



Last Week – 08.02.019

Last week we read about the instructions Moses received on how to build a special 'house' for G-d, called the *Mishkan*. This house would become the dwelling place for G-d's presence; a place where Bnei Yisrael could go to not only perform services for G-d, but a place to seek solace and pray as well. It is said that the *Mishkan* was the first ever original synagogue, and that modern day synagogues are modelled after and stand in-place of this *Mishkan* of old. However, alongside the instructions given for how to build the *Mishkan*, we also learn that every Jew, regardless of their status, wealth or role in society, was obligated to contribute to the needs of the *Mishkan* once it was built. A donation of sorts and a communal sharing of resources.

This timeless lesson of giving seen in Parashat Terumah was the impetus behind last week's Middah – Sharing. The student's spent the week focused on talking about, learning how to, and actually completing the act of sharing. As one of the most fundamental mitzvot we can do as a Jewish nation (and globally as well for that matter), we spent the week trying to understand that by sharing and subsequently giving, we are not only helping those around us, but we are also enriching our own lives in the process.



This Week - 15.02.19

Our Parsha this week, Tetzaveh, is all about the detailed list of instructions given by G-d to Aaron and his four sons on how to become, and anoint themselves as High Priests. These instructions given by Hashem, acted as a guideline for how to appropriately build an alter within the *Mishkan*, how to dress appropriately within the *Mishkan*, and how to service the *Mishkan* whilst make sufficient sacrifices to praise G-d.

Our weekly Middah - Following Instructions - is taken directly from the Parasha, correlating to Aaron and his sons being governed by a list of holy instructions. Whilst discussing the weekly Parasha in our Monday Morning Assembly, the students highlighted how important it is to follow instructions as they are put in place to help keep us safe. The students worked together to explore the idea that our parents and teachers often put rules and instructions in place to help guide us and to help us learn. Our job, is to try and follow those instructions as best we can in order to develop and grow in safe, comfortable environments. Each and every student at Geshar did a fabulous job adhering to the Middah this week, following instructions inside and out of the classroom, listening to their teachers and peers!



PSHEE/British Values

In our PSHEE assembly we marked Safer Internet Day. Some pupils told us about the devices they use to go online, including tablets, Alexa and laptops; and what they use these devices for such as watching YouTube and playing Angry Birds. The focus of Safer Internet Day this year is knowing that there are choices to be made online and making sure to ask an adult if you're not sure of anything by asking 'is it okay if...!' Pupils watched a video in assembly of two young children who were faced with buying more rocket fuel for their online game and being asked to accept a friend request. They were unsure what to do so they asked their parents who praised them for asking.



Safer
Internet
Day 2019 | Tuesday
5 February
Together for a better internet



Dates for your Diary



Are emergency contact details/numbers correct for your child?

Please inform the school office of any changes at any time

Regular 3pm school finishes resume from Friday 1st March.

Half term – Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February

Children return to school – Monday 25th February

Whole School Trip – Thursday 28th 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 8th 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 29th March.

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

Supported by Wohl Foundation

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**

**For more information email Tanya at
tmiller@jcare.org or call 020 8922 2407**