

Gesher Newsletter – 05/04/2019

Dear Parents and Carers

I can't believe that we are almost approaching the end of the Spring Term already – Summer really is just around the corner!

Thank you to all of our parents and families who attended the coffee morning today with myself and Howard Zetter – it was lovely to see you all informally, chat about your children and plans for the school.

This week at school we have been marking School Autism Awareness Week! It has been lovely to see the children come together and celebrate just being who they are. Onesie Wednesday in particular was a huge success as was the baking of their gingerbread people – all in all a fun filled week at Gesher!

Shabbat Shalom
Miss Colizza

Jewish Studies

This week has been School's Autism Awareness Week. We have been celebrating what makes everyone different and unique. In Rimon class, we have talked about what we all like doing and what we dislike doing. We compared this to a group called the Trummies, who shared the things they found tricky and things they loved. It was great to see all the children joining in and sharing their uniqueness. On Thursday, we enjoyed making gingerbread altogether as a school and decorated them today. We also made individual puzzle pieces and decorated them, writing or sticking words that summed us up. It was lovely to see the children celebrating their positive attributes. We will put them together with the rest of the school to make a big mural.

Last week, we also enjoyed sharing the things we loved about our mothers in celebration of Mother's Day.

Alongside this some of us have begun looking at adverts and brochures for holiday destinations and thinking about how they are written. We then chose which destination we would like to write about from: Disneyworld, Disneyland Paris and Centre Parcs. Other children in the class have been focusing on their mark marking and its relation to journeys, exploring cars, planes, trucks and buses. Good work everyone!

In Maths we have been looking at division, angles and shapes in our different rotations, Fab work!

Last week, we had a blast at swimming and are perfecting our front crawl and back crawl. In Art, we also created a huge airplane and are creating logos and patterns for our very own Rimon Air. In Jewish Studies we have started focusing on Pesach, performing the story and acting it out.

Next week, all our learning will be linked to Pesach to ensure we continue to give the children cross-curricular learning at any opportunity.

Shabbat shalom!
Miss Danielle



D'Vash Class

Attendance since the start of term – 97.3%

Absence – 2.7%

Lateness – 0.3%

What a fun filled celebratory fortnight we have had. We kicked things off with a full week of Purim celebrations last week and this week we celebrated Schools Autism Awareness Week. In our lessons we have continued with our 'farm' theme.



In Maths to keep with our Purim theme some children

followed patterns using shapes to make king and queen crowns while others followed instructions to add 1-10 shapes onto their crowns! This week the groups are working on problem solving skills, finding and counting objects within the whole school environment while others continued with shape patterning extending their current knowledge.

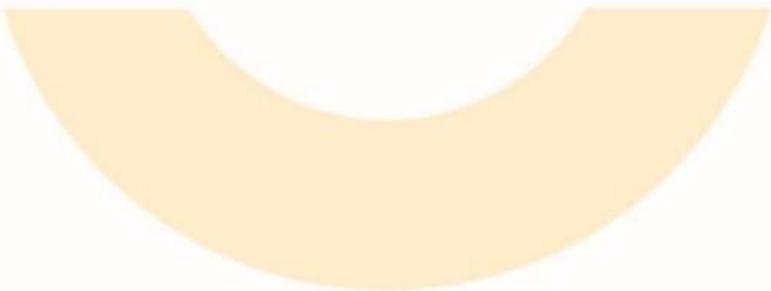
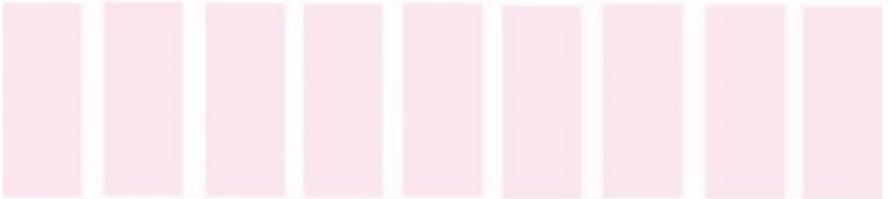


Over the two weeks in Literacy we started with our Purim story, identifying the characters, role playing and sequencing the story. The children seemed to really enjoy dressing up as kings and queens and remembering their lines! As we continued our farm theme this week we looked at our story 'Are you my mother?' Children focused on identifying the characters in the story, taking part in reading the storylines and answering a variety of questions. Everyone cheered when the baby bird was plopped back in the nest alongside its mummy!



We had lots of fun at swimming this week and the children seem to be growing in confidence with their swimming skills! We will pick up our Swimming next term! Next week we will be welcoming Miss Marli Stein as our class teacher for the Summer Term. It has been an absolute pleasure teaching the D'vash class children and I look forward to watching them flourish in the coming term. Happy weekend!

Shabbat Shalom
Tamaryn Yartu



Seorah Class

Attendance since the start of term – 97.4%

Absence – 2.6%

Lateness – 4.9%

Our lessons in Seorah class resumed back to normal after a week of Purim festivities, as we refocused and furthered our learning about 'The Farm'.



In Maths, we worked on our individual targets. Some children began learning about surveys and how to best record their findings. They began looking at, using and analysing tally charts before they translated their skills into creating and reading pictographs to discuss their

survey evidence. Other children took part in counting and sorting activities with our 'pop-up' vegetable patch Maths game! All of the children worked on recapping their addition, subtraction, number bonds and partitioning in their tray work as well. We've been really impressed these past couple of week as Seorah class have all worked so hard to achieve their targets – well done everyone!

In Literacy, we began to learn about Baby Animals! The children learned to differentiate between adult and baby animals, identifying them by name. They then recapped their learning on the farm, discussing where the animals live on a farm, and what the key features of a farm are.



We began celebrating School's Autism Awareness Week on Wednesday, where everyone was invited to dress up in a onesie or their pyjamas! We celebrated all of our differences in a school-

wide assembly Wednesday morning. Throughout the week, the children partook in art activities making puzzle pieces to create a school mural, cooking activities where we made and decorated gingerbread, and celebrated with a school wide celebratory lunch on Friday. Seorah were very engaged in all the activities and really embraced and celebrated their differences in a lovely way.



Next week, Seorah Class will be joined by Mr. Sam to begin our week of transition. Sam and I will work side-by-side for the first half of the week, slowly transitioning the children from myself to Mr. Sam as their class teacher. It has been an absolute joy teaching Seorah Class – I am so proud of how much they have achieved this year and am excited to see how they grow with Mr. Sam in the coming months.

Shabbat Shalom!
Miss Marli



Gefen Class

Attendance since the start of term – 90.4%

Absence – 9.6%

Lateness – 0.7%

Pupils continue on their learning journey in Gefen class. This fortnight in Literacy, pupils have created a biography about Bessie Coleman, the first African American woman to earn a pilot's license. We are now able to recognise a contents page, page numbers and sub-headings in a non-fiction book and incorporated these features into the biographies that we made. Next, we listened to a meditation and let our minds wander on a journey through a forest and down a path leading to magic waterfall and wonderful rainbow. Pupils drew pictures of the images that were in their mind as they listened to the meditation and then typed up their journey story.



In P.E Gefen pupils have been developing their ball skills and balancing skills. They have been learning different ways of passing the ball, including chest pass, over arm throw and under arm throw. They have also been exploring different ways of travelling and balancing along the beam.



It fills my heart with pride to see Gefen pupils show such care for each other. It has been wonderful to see them help and learn from each other; from small acts of kindness such as helping to put a peers shoe on or offering a peer the chair that you were sitting on; to reading with a peer and listening and learning how to play chess

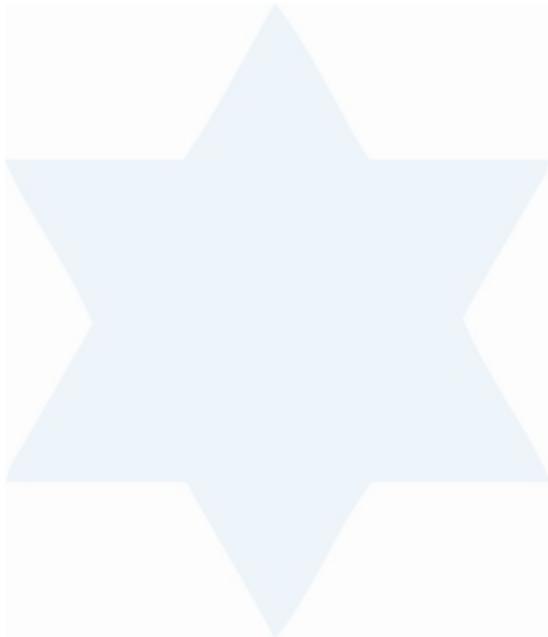
with a peer.

We have participated in a range of activities this week to mark School's Autism Awareness Week, starting with Onesie Wednesday. We watched 'Meet the Trummies' and completed a fact file for each of the Trummies, describing what



they liked and what they don't like. Each Trummie was different, just like us! On Thursday, we designed jigsaw puzzle pieces which represent our individuality and baked gingerbread biscuits. We look forward to raising further awareness around our own individual differences throughout the year and celebrating in different ways.

Shabbat Shalom
Miss Nicola



Rimon Class

Attendance since the start of term – 95%

Absence – 5%

Lateness – 3.7%

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Shabbat shalom!

Miss Rowan

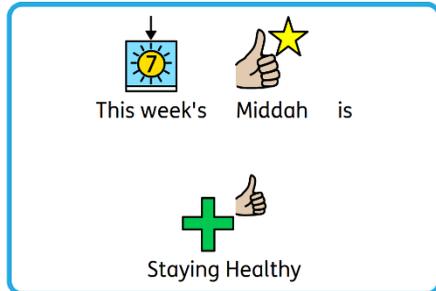


This Week – 05.04.19

Tazria, this week's Parsha, continues the discussion of the obligations made by Hashem unto the Jewish People. This week, specifically, the Parsha discusses the laws of *tumah v'taharah*: ritual impurity and purity. The Parsha goes into detail about the process of

purification a woman is obliged to undertake after childbirth. It also discusses the importance of *Brit Milah* for infant boys eight days after birth. Leprosy, a common plague at the time, is also discussed as an illness that elicits quarantine as the afflicted is considered impure whilst infected. The Parsha details the process of purification after the disease has passed, and the important role the *Kohanim* hold in deciding whether or not the afflicted remains 'pure' or 'impure'.

With these lessons from the Parsha in mind, our Middah focus this week at Gesher was Staying Healthy. Hashem passed down strict instructions on how to make sure the Jewish People stay healthy and how the community can keep itself clean and pure. We have spent the week discussing the different ways in which we can Stay Healthy at school. The students have made some fabulous suggestions on how we can stay healthy: washing our hands before we eat and after we use the toilet, dressing warm in the cold weather and eating healthy foods full of vitamins to help us grow big and strong. With the weather as inclement as it is, the students have vowed to try and make smart decisions to stay healthy inside and out of school!



Last Week – 29.03.19



Shemini, which literally translates to 'Eight' in Hebrew, is the name of last week's Parsha. Named after the inaugural eight days of the *Mishkan*, the Parsha details how Aaron and his sons began their work as High Priests. As part of their officiating duties, the *Kohanim* (High Priests) were instructed by Hashem to uphold the laws of Kashrut (Kosher). Hashem

identifies the animal species permissible and forbidden for consumption by the Jewish People; land animals may be eaten only if they have split hooves and chew their cud, fish must have fins and scales and a detailed list of non-kosher birds and permissible insects are given as well.

As such our Middah this week, rightfully so, was 'Keeping Kosher'. In our Jewish Studies lessons, as well as at Snack and Lunch Time, the children spoke about what it means to be Kosher vs. Not Kosher and how they could uphold the Middah at school. The students made a mindful effort to eat Kosher foods throughout the week and had meaningful conversations about why the laws of *Kashrut* are so important and prevalent in the Jewish community.



'Learning for Life'



This week we were introduced to The Trummies. The Trummies look very similar but they like and dislike different things but at the end of the day, they're all friends and try to be kind to each other. One pupil compared this message to the children and staff at Gesher and said we're the same because we're all human and we're different because we look different and have different personalities.



Following on from 'Meet the Trummies', we read a story in assembly called 'We're all different' which explores how we all look different, have different kinds of families and have different interests. Pupils shared and discussed how they were the same and different from a peer but at the end of the day, the most important thing is that we're all kind to each other!

Therapy Corner

Dear Parents and Carers

Please accept our apologies for the malfunctioning of the therapists@gesherschool.com email address. Please do instead send the most up-to-date information for your child to admissions@gesherschool.com, as well as any other additional information that we may not be aware of.

We would like to kindly request the following information be provided to us:

1. Reports relating to your child's diagnosis, specifically in reference to any medical/genetic issues that may impact on their ability to learn.
2. Any documentation relating to medication your child may be taking on an ongoing basis.
3. The most recent and up-to-date copy of your child's EHCP.

We may already have the majority of these reports, but there may also be further diagnosis information that has occurred since your child began their placement at Gesher, and so we hope you understand why we are making this request.

Kindest regards,

Gesher Therapy Team

Notices/Diary Dates



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 17th April 2019 (school closes at 1pm)

Half term – Thursday 18th April – Wednesday 1st May 2019

Children return to school – Tuesday 30th April 2019

Parents Therapy Morning – SLT & OT – Wednesday 10th April 2019 at 9am-11am. Please RSVP to the office to confirm your attendance

Non-uniform day – takes place on the **last Friday of the month.** The next one will take place on Friday 3rd May.

Health and Safety



Parking

Please ensure that when parking at the school you use the bays allocated to Gesher School only (these are the spaces on the right hand side as you enter the car park). Please refrain from using remaining spaces that are reserved for local residents.

Safeguarding



Please RSVP

Please ensure that you RSVP in writing to the school office to confirm your attendance to school events/parent assemblies and groups **at all times.** To ensure tight security and safety within the school, if you do not RSVP to the office to confirm your attendance you will not be permitted to enter the school.