

Gesher Newsletter – 22/03/2019

Dear Parents and Carers

What a great week we have had in school preparing for and celebrating Purim! It was lovely to see so many of our parents and families attend our assembly and celebrations in school yesterday, some of the outfits were absolutely fabulous – Thank You All!

Gesher has also announced the appointment of Rabbi and Rebbetzin Birnbaum as joint honorary Kodesh Principles of the school - together they bring a wealth of experience and warmth to Gesher. I am sure that you will all join us in wishing them a warm welcome to the Gesher family.



Shabbat Shalom
Miss Colizza

Jewish Studies

We have had such a fun two weeks continuing our learning and preparing for Purim. The classes have had plenty of opportunity to dress up and role-play the characters from the Purim story. The children have completed wonderful character profiles where they explored more deeply the role their particular character played in the story and made beautiful posters to represent the four mitzvot of Purim. We have also had a lot of fun making brightly coloured Graggers and the children especially enjoyed making a lot of noise when hearing Haman's name! This week Seorah and Dvash got ready to celebrate with the children making choices to plan for their Purim party day. The children even voted on their favourite party game and had a lot of fun playing pass the parcel which was unanimously the favourite in both classes!

Chag Sameach to you all!
Miss Danielle

D'Vash Class

Attendance since the start of term – 95.8%

Absence – 4.2%

Lateness – 1.6%

Over the last few weeks, D'vash class seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed the 'farm animal' theme that we have been exploring. We have learnt the names of farm animals, the sounds that they make, and the homes that they live in. This week however, we took a brief break from this theme to prepare for Thursday's Purim celebrations. We will return to the farm next week though, learning about farm animals and their young just in time for the official start of springtime.



In Maths, we practised using our number skills; these included identifying numbers on a dice, making sets of numbered objects, and finding the number that is 'one more' or 'one

less'. We used these number skills in different ways, from counting out farm animals to counting out actions. We transferred these skills across to this week's festive theme, by counting out shapes to make patterns on our Purim king and queen crowns!

Within Literacy, we have focused specifically on the Purim Story for the entire week. We portrayed the different characters using props and answered some simple questions to show our understanding. We also had the opportunity to act out the story and use puppets so as to be able to engage in the tale in a variety of different ways.



Finally, we celebrated Purim on Thursday with a special assembly and party. It was such a delight to see all the children dressed up, as well as those parents who came in full costume too! The children eagerly made masks and greggers before exchanging Mishloach Manot (Purim Gifts) with their peers. Judging from the cheers in the crowd, the Purim story movie directed by Chris and narrated and performed by Geshur children was the biggest hit. All of the children contributed to the video in some way, whether it was by creating props and decorations, or by becoming superstar actors for the day. A huge well done to all of them for working so hard on their creative skills.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Purim, and we look forward to doing some more great learning next week.

Shabbat Shalom
Miss Tammy

Seorah Class

Attendance since the start of term – 96%

Absence – 4%

Lateness – 4%

What an exciting couple of weeks we've had! The past two weeks have been filled with some really fun and exciting activities that led up to our Purim celebration on Thursday!



In Maths, the students wrapped up looking at clocks and telling the time. They all grasped the concept really quickly, and are very confident in using and exploring clocks to tell the time. We moved on and started looking at tallying. We've been tallying lots of different things inside and out of class – taking surveys of our favourite foods, and making tally charts for the characters in our Purim Story.

In Literacy, we focused specifically on the Purim Story this week. The students are now well versed on the different characters and themes of our Purim Story, and have spent the week reading, sequencing and acting out the Purim Story.

Our Purim Assembly and party was so much fun! I loved seeing all the students in their costumes,

and it was so wonderful to see them exchanging Mishloach Manot (Purim Gifts) with their peers! The students also made a Purim Story video with Mr. Chris over the past week which was a great hit!

I hope everyone has had a nice couple of weeks and a wonderful Purim if you celebrated!

Marli Stein



Gefen Class

Attendance since the start of term – 90.4%

Absence – 9.6%

Lateness – 5.2%

Since our last newsletter, Gefen class have been learning about biographies in Literacy. We now know that biographies are a type of non-fiction book and that they are about someone's life. It might be someone famous or someone that has achieved something extraordinary in their life. We also know that biographies use features such as titles and sub-headings, glossary, contents page and index to help the reader to find information. Pupils explored a biography about Amelia Earhart who was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic and created their own biographies based on the characters in the story of Purim.



In Maths we have been learning all about fractions. Some pupils have been identifying and making halves and quarters, others have been developing their understanding of equivalent fractions and comparing the size of different fractions. Gefen pupils have been learning about forces in Science and were able to sort a range of objects into 3 groups depending if you could push, pull or twist the object.



We have been trying to meditate almost every day in Gefen class this week. Pupils participate by listening to the meditation and trying to focus their minds. Some pupils report feeling happy and relaxed after our meditation sessions.

Gefen pupils have enjoyed the immersive experience of Purim this week

where all lessons have been focussed around the story and celebrations. We had a fantastic morning celebrating Purim on Thursday and I'm very proud of the hard work and effort that was shown in the drama video from all of our pupils, as well as the effort and creativity that pupils demonstrated creating many of the decorations for the hall. I hope that family members that came to join us for Purim had as much fun as us singing, dancing, eating and exchanging Mishloach Manot.



Shabbat Shalom
Miss Nicola

Rimon Class

Attendance since the start of term – 89.4%

Absence – 10.6%

Lateness – 4.5%

We have had the best week celebrating Purim. All week, we have been preparing for Purim by learning all about the Book of Esther through cross-curricular learning, ending with a Purim party on Thursday morning. It was lovely to see the children in all their amazing costumes. We had superheroes, firemen, pharaohs, rainbow men and mad scientists topped up with adults as pirates, zebras, Thor and of course a queen!



It was lovely to do activities as a whole school on Thursday morning, working together and playing together, including sharing Mishloach Manot with all our friends.

In Literacy, we retold the story of Purim through drama and continued to focus on the journey Esther went on in Topic. Later on in the week, we enjoyed writing character descriptions and biography.



Jake and James spent time exploring themselves celebrating a Purim party, focusing on action words like dancing, playing, eating and riding a horse like Queen Esther. They also really enjoyed acting out the words.

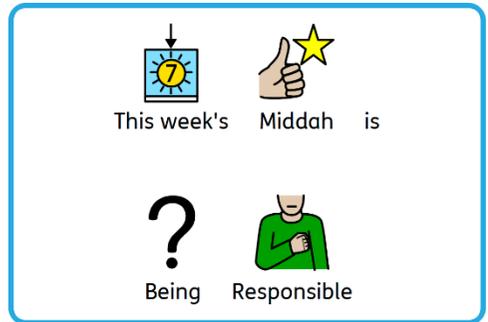


Maths saw us solve Moredachi's and the King Achverosh's problems with multiplication and division. We also spent some time looking at shapes and making patterns for crowns. Such great learning! Art saw us make wonderful crowns ready for the party as well as decorations to decorate the hall! We ended the week with some Science lessons, investigating how far a car can travel on different surfaces.

Chag Purim Sameach
Miss Rowan

This Week – 22.03.19

Tzav, this week's Parsha - which translates literally to command - begins with Hashem telling Moses to command Aaron and the High Priests on how to do their job in the Mishkan. Hashem was very explicit and particular with the instructions given to maintain order within the Mishkan. Sacrifices were to be made at specific times of the day, and a strict schedule was to be followed when doing so. The High Priests were given specific obligations that only they could carry out, and hierarchal order was implemented to ensure that the Mishkan operated effectively and with divine purpose.



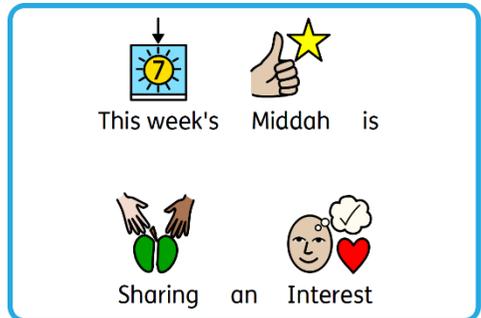
Our Middah focus this week at Gesher was Being Responsible. Moses, Aaron and the High Priests were all trusted by Hashem to act responsibly; ensuring that the dictated laws were implemented appropriately. Through this lens we learned that our job as brothers, sisters, friends, sons and daughters, students and teachers is to be responsible. We have spent the week discussing that being responsible means being dependable, keeping our promises and honouring our commitments. It is also accepting the consequences for what we say and do. The students have used this lesson from the Torah to make active strides in acting responsibly at school this week – well done Gesher!

Last Week – 15.03.19

The Parsha last week was Vayikra details the instructions given to Moses related to preparing sacrifices and offerings to Hashem in the *Mishkan*. The Parsah begins with the Hebrew word 'Vayikra' which translates to 'And He Called'. From this we learn that Hashem called to Moses from

the Tent of Meaning to communicate the laws of worship and sacrifice with the *Mishkan*. Hashem calls to Moses, asking him to explain to the Jewish Nation the ways of bringing offerings, and the different kind if offerings expected: animal offerings, grains and fruit. Hashem explained that the difference sacrifices would atone for guilt and sins, and would distinguish between inadvertent and purposeful sinning. In all instances however, sacrifices were a way in which the Jewish Nation could gain forgiveness from Hashem.

The Middah, Sharing an Interest, was taken from the ideology that the Jewish Nation all shared in their strong belief in Hashem, highlighted by their willingness to follow Hashem's guidance and rules, especially in relation to the *Mishkan*. The students spent the week sharing their interests with one another – working together on Math questions and puzzles, playing Lego together in free play, and teaching one another how to play chess on the playground. It was so lovely to see the children sharing with one another and paying attention to each others likes and interests.





'Learning for Life'

In our PSHE assembly, we focussed on 'friendship'. We discussed things that a good friend does, including helping someone up if they are hurt, playing with someone if they look lonely or helping someone if they are stuck with their work. Pupils identified someone that they consider to be a good friend and said why they think they are a good friend.

This week our Middah has been 'being responsible' - at Gesher, pupils are encouraged to make responsible choices in relation to their behaviour, their well-being and their learning. Children are able to make their own choices in a range of situations throughout the school day, including in the playground, soft play and assemblies. We've seen lots of great examples of pupils being responsible this week. Keep up the good work!

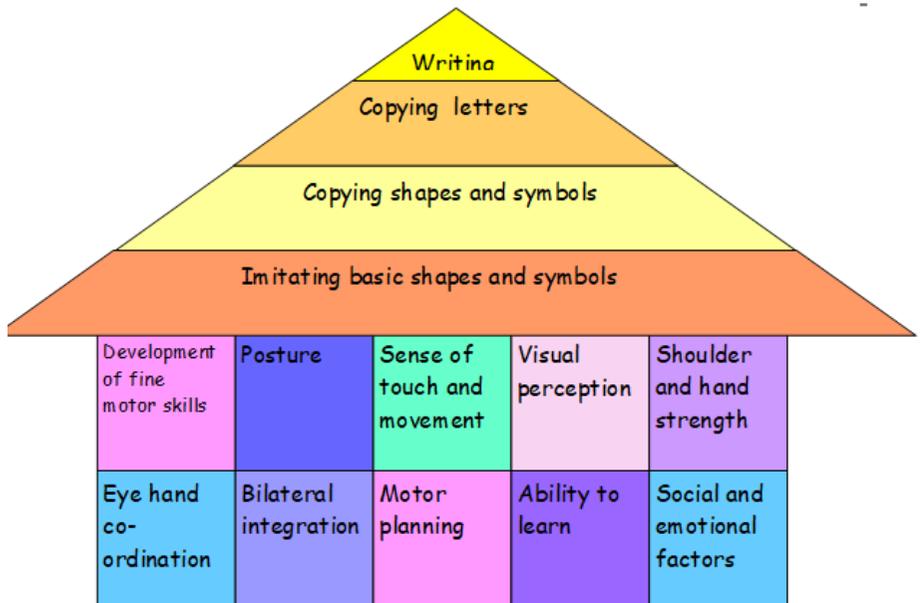
Therapy Corner

Welcome to therapy corner – each newsletter, the therapy team will take it in turns to share some key updates from their work with the children, and to follow up on any key points that will help support them in their development.

This week, it is the turn of Claire Bayfield, our Occupational Therapist:

1) You would have all received the laminated 'steps of eating' chart that was sent home. This is a useful tool for parents and carers of selective eaters. There was also a survey sent out with questions related to this topic - it would be very much appreciated if the forms could be returned by the end of term so that we can put a plan in place for those children that need it. Please let me know if you have any queries related to this, and thank you to those who have returned this already

2) I am often asked in my role on how to support with handwriting, and I find that the diagram below is a great reminder of what a complex task it is. It outlines the underlying skills required for us to be able to write, and so I'm sure you all agree with how fantastically well our children are doing so far in developing these abilities.



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

Parent Coffee morning – this has been rearranged for Friday 5th April from 9am-10am. Please RSVP to the office to confirm your attendance

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 29th March.

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.