Dear Parents and Carers

As we are almost reaching the end of the first half of Summer Term, it has been lovely to be watch the children be able to spend more time learning outdoors as the weather starts to improve. The garden area in particular is coming along beautifully thanks to a collective effort from our green fingered staff and pupils, thank you to you all for your hard work!

Thank you to all families who were able to make last weeks parent therapy morning on Attachment and Resilience with Hannah and Chris - I hope that you are finding these sessions useful and enjoyable, and please do provide us with any feedback you have to help us continue to improve these sessions going forward. The children have also been fortunate enough to have access to the PJ Library in the hall this week and it has been so wonderful to see them reading and building on their knowledge of Judaism - thank you to Miss Marli for arranging that for us.

Challah Mummy attended school again this week, this time for a Cheesecake making workshop which again was fantastic fun as well as a great opportunity to work on the children's cooking, independence and life skills.

I would like to wish you all a happy and relaxing half term holiday as we approach the end of term next week!

Shabbat Shalom
Miss Colizza
Je
wish Studies

We have been very busy learning all about Shavuot the last two weeks and through role-play and art have explored the story of Moses at Mount Sinai and the giving of the Torah. The children have loved dressing up and re-enacting being at Mount Sinai and have also enjoyed taking the time to look at the 10 commandments, even having a go at writing their own rules. All the children have had the chance to bring in a special book and share their book with everyone. The children showed each other a lot of respect listening to each other and showing an interest in other people's books. They shared why their book was special to them and how we treat special books, which we then linked to the importance of the Torah. In getting ready to celebrate Shavuot we have also been singing some 'old favourites,' such as 'Ting a ling a ling' and 'Torah Torah Torah,' which I am sure the children would love to share with you if you ask!

Shabbat Shalom
Miss Danielle
**Dvash Class**

**Attendance since the start of term – 96.5%**

Absence – 3.5%

Lateness – 1.7%

I genuinely cannot believe this is the last Newsletter for Summer Term 1. The school year seems to just be flying by, and we are now peering into our final 7 weeks!

The past two weeks in Dvash 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, and 20! The students have really enjoyed building math sums and solving them – really highlighting their numeric knowledge.

Other students have been working on quantifying numbers 1 through 10. The children have been working diligently to allocate quantities to different groups of objects, and have shown great skill in counting and identifying quantities in images.

Our Literacy lessons shifted from looking at Carson Crosses Canada to working from our new story A Spider Goes to Italy. We have been looking at sequencing; learning how to sequence a story and identify which image comes next in a sequence of images. The children have really enjoyed this story, and often take part in the reading by using our toy Spider, our Globe, our Suitcase and our Pizza as props!
We had a very special visit on Wednesday from the Challah Mummy! She has visited us a couple times before, teaching us how to make challah and pizza. This week she visited Gesher and helped the children make Cheesecakes for Shavuot. The children had a wonderful time crushing the biscuits, mixing the cheese and decorating their final products! (Not to mention a couple licks from the bowl as well!)

I am really proud of how well the children handled the change this term, with me coming in as their new teacher. We have spent the past couple of weeks getting to know each other, and are really starting to build lovely relationships. Well done Dvash Class!

I hope everyone has a lovely extra- long weekend and makes the most of their Bank Holiday. Looking forward to next week as we wrap up our Summer Term 1!

Shabbat Shalom
Miss Marli
Seorah Class
Attendance since the start of term – 96.2%
Absence – 3.8%
Lateness – 4.8%

Another busy two weeks have come to an end and I can hardly believe we are about to start our final week of Summer 1. As well as our fantastic trip to the cinema over the course of the last fortnight we have also celebrated Mental Health Awareness Week, made some delicious cheesecake and welcomed an 8th member of Seorah Class.

In Maths we have continued with our work on counting by 2s and making groups. This has meant the students have been creating their own arrays and some have been had a go at making number sentences to explain them. The student’s especially enjoyed created their own ‘array cities’ which have gone up on display outside our classroom.

In Literacy and Topic lessons we have continued jet-setting with our journey around the world including a trip to Madagascar last week and Japan this week. It’s been fantastic to hear the student’s views about these different countries. I have been most impressed by the way they have engaged with new vocabulary that this theme of travel has brought.
Finally, with the weather starting to look more and more like summer, Seorah Class have been outside as much as possible. This has been especially important for our science lessons, as it gave us the chance to plant our own flowers and strawberries plants which the students have been attending to carefully while they are in the playground, making sure they are watered daily. As the weeks go on we’ll continue to track the growth of these as part of science lessons.

Wishing you a lovely weekend!

Shabbot Shalom
Sam Dexter
This fortnight began with a nature visit to our local park, where we went on a mini beast hunt as part of our Science/Geography lesson. We used iPads to take pictures and record the mini beasts that we found and used a visual check list to identify and discover more mini beasts. After exploring around the grass and plants, pupils enjoyed some time in the play park; playing with friends, facing fears and challenging themselves to climb up and down the equipment; and just enjoying being around nature. As we’ve learnt during our Mental Health Awareness Week, these are all great ways to support our mental wellbeing.

Also as part of Mental Health Awareness Week, we thought about things that we are good at. Some of the things that we’re good at in Gefen class are dancing, drawing, arts and crafts and being kind. We discussed when we feel proud, our special talents and how we know we’re a good friend. We each set ourselves a challenge by choosing a jigsaw puzzle; we worked on giving it a go ourselves before asking for help, trying not to get frustrated when it got tricky and trying not to give up. There was a huge sense of pride when we completed the puzzles!

This week we were pleased to welcome the Challah Mummy back to Gesher school.
This week we made cheesecake for the upcoming festival of Shavuot. We bashed biscuits for the base and mixed cream and soft cheese for the topping.

On Thursday, we enjoyed a special story time with Mr. Chris. He brought us some new books and they are hilarious! Our new favourite book is ‘Do not open this book!’

Wishing you a lovely long weekend and see you on Tuesday for our final week of Summer 1 Term!

Shabbat Shalom
Miss Nicola
Rimon Class
Attendance since the start of term – 90.9%
Absence – 9.1%
Lateness – 3.7%

Rimon class have had a busy and hot last two weeks! The sun has been shining and we have enjoyed a variety of different activities. Last week, in keeping with our topic ‘minibeasts’ we went on a minibeast hunt. We used iPads to document our findings, which included caterpillars basking in the sun staying cool on metal benches! Carrying on with this learning, we then learnt how to classify minibeasts into groups, such as those with wings and those with legs. Today, we investigated their habitats and where they live!

In Literacy, we have been creating our own fact files on minibeasts including a glossary of tricky scientific words such as herbivore and carnivore. This week some of us have been looking at rhyming poetry, creating our own little bug poems! The other Literacy group has been focusing on sequencing stories and songs: The Hungry Caterpillar and Herman the Worm. Great job everyone.

Maths has seen us working on number: ordering numbers 1-10, those with decimal places and learning how we exchange ones for tens!

On Wednesday, we had a special visit from the Challah Mummy, where we made cheesecake, in preparation for Shauvot. It was delicious and Rimon loved learning each of the steps.
In PSHE, we have been thinking about dangerous scenarios and how we can keep ourselves safe on the roads. This will be supported by a special visit from a policeman next week! Rimon are already thinking of questions to ask! Last week was also mental health awareness week and we looked at the importance of keeping our minds healthy as well as our bodies. We practised mindfulness, drew and wrote positive things about ourselves and enjoyed physical activity. We are hoping to continue to do this every week!

What a brilliant two weeks we have had in the sunshine. Rimon class are looking forward to their final week of Summer 1 and the last half term of the year!

Shabbat Shalom
Miss Rowan
Our Parsha this week, Behar, is paramount, as it details Moses’ ascent up Mount Sinai where he was spoken to by Hashem. On Mount Sinai, it is said that Hashem gave Moses a list of commandments to follow once the Jewish People enter the Land of Israel. Just as the nation was instructed to keep a day of rest on the 7th day, so too would the land. “Six years you may sow your field and prune your vineyard and gather the crops. But in the seventh year the land shall have a Sabbath of complete rest”. Additionally, the 50th year “it shall be a jubilee year”, where the land shall not be sown or reaped. The parsha moves on to explain why we are instructed to abstain from working the land; in order for the land to yield its fruits to an appropriate amount suitable to the nation’s needs.

Our Middah this week, Giving Charity, is taken from the idea that just as the land supports us with its bountiful sustenance, so too are we obliged to support others as charitably as we can. The students have been practicing being charitable predominantly through their actions; by sharing with their peers, by helping one another and by supporting their friends inside and out of the classroom. Children have also been bringing in books and toys to donate to the school as a form of charity, which has been wonderful to see, as Tzedaka (Charity) is an obligation impressed upon the Jewish People to aid those in need. And most recently, in honour of Yom Ha'atzmaut, the students at Gesher participated in the Ohel Sarah UK 1-Mile Walk to raise money, which has enabled Ohel Sarah to purchase a swing set and adapted bikes for children with special needs in Ohel Sarah schools in Israel. Kol Ha’Kavod Gesher!
It’s become obvious as the week’s progress that there is a theme continuously running through the Parashot lately. The parashot of late have been mostly detailed instructions given by Hashem pertaining to all aspects of life: laws of Kashrut, laws of modesty, laws surrounding sacrificial offerings, repentance, family life and prayer. The first half of week’s Parsha, Emor, discusses laws pertaining specifically to the Kohanim (Priests) and the Kohen Gadol (High Priest) in regards to their services in the Mishkan. It highlights the guidelines surrounding how the Kohanim can practice and what rituals they can and cannot perform. The second half of the parsha outlines the festivals of the Jewish calendar; specifically: the weekly Shabbat, the holiday of Passover, counting of the Omer, the holiday of Shavuot, Rosh Hashanah and the importance of blowing the shofar, Yom Kippur and its highlighted solitude and the 8-day festival of Sukkot. As you can see, our Middah this week, Following Instructions, is taken directly from the parsha; just as the Jewish People were expected to follow a list of instructions passed down to them from Hashem, we too are obligated to follow instructions given to us from those who care for us. We spent the week discussing the importance of following instructions; how they are often put in place to help keep us healthy, happy and safe, and how they are implemented to help us learn and grow. The students at Gesher were incredible with following instructions all week long – both inside and out of the classroom!
Emotional wellbeing is a priority at Gesher, for pupils, their families and staff. Pupils regularly engage in activities to support emotional wellbeing at school, including meditation and mindfulness, relaxation in the sensory room, and physical exercise in the playground and soft play. Last week, we participated in Mental Health Awareness Week, learning the importance of keeping good mental health as well as physical health, how we can keep mentally healthy and spreading the message around family and friends.

We kick started our mental health focus with a trip to the cinema to see Inside Out; a story about 5 basic emotions and how these manifest in our behaviour. Throughout the week, we engaged in meditation, positive thinking and problem solving activities. We also revealed our ‘warm and fuzzy board’ – a display for pupils to look in the mirror and write positive messages about themselves.

On Friday, we had a whole school Mental Health Afternoon. Pupils participated in 3 activities. These included designing a bookmark finishing the sentence “I am…” with positive attributes about ourselves; building a Gesher bridge to practise problem solving, resilience and perseverance; and yoga. Why not give some of these activities a go at home and help everyone to look after their mental health.
Notices/Diary Dates

Bank Holiday – Monday 27th May – School closed
School finishes for half term – Friday 31st May
Half Term – Monday 3rd June to Friday 7th June
Shavuot – Monday 10th June – School closed
Children return to school – Tuesday 11th June
Non-uniform day – takes place on the last Friday of the month.
The next one will take place on Friday 31st May.

Health and Safety
Sunscreen and Summer Uniform
As the weather is getting warmer you may now wish to start applying sunscreen to your child’s skin. Please ensure that sunscreen is applied at home in the morning, and if you wish for this to be reapplied during the day please request a consent form from the office, or download one from the ‘Forms and Letters’ section of the school website. Please complete this and send into school along with your child’s sunscreen with their name clearly labelled on it to be kept at school. This will be reapplied in the afternoon after lunch.

Safeguarding
Pick up Time
Please ensure that any changes in your child’s usual pick up routine are clarified in writing via email in adequate time before the school day finishes. We would like to avoid last minute
changes towards the end of the day so the children can be prepared properly before home time.

**Communicating any changes in routine**

Please communicate any changes to your child’s usual routine, sleep pattern, diet, or just generally anything that you feel would be useful for school to know so the team can be prepared for this at school, and plan how best to support the children during their day. Now that school has gone paperless and the Seesaw program has replaced communication books, please do send any updates messages via this method.