



22 December 2015

Dear Parents

End of Term Update - Autumn 2015

It has been an incredibly busy and exciting term at Noam, with plenty to report. I have discussed in previous letters how we are continuously working to make the core Chol and Kodesh curriculum as good as it can be, including work on improving the tracking of performance and assessing pupils. But I thought, in this letter, I would highlight some of the other things we have done this term. School is about teaching the core curriculum but it is also about providing children with a rounded and interesting experience that makes them want to learn. We can also often link these additional initiatives into the children's learning for the curriculum:

Awards

Having been identified as a 'School of Excellence' by Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, we were invited to City Hall to receive our Gold Club Award in September. Next term we will be presenting a workshop to other schools in London to share good practice; our workshop will be on Early Years Phonics.

This year the Partnership for Jewish Schools (PaJeS), which is run under the auspices of the Jewish Leadership Council, introduced awards for outstanding teachers. I am very pleased to say that Miss Webb was nominated and shortlisted for an award in the category of Innovation in 'Secular Studies - Primary School'. We are very excited for her and look forward to the awards ceremony at the end of January.

Alice in Wonderland

To celebrate 150 years since Lewis Carroll wrote Alice in Wonderland we had a most wonderful week of letting our imagination take over, with classes producing some outstanding work. We ended with a Mad Hatters Chanukah Party which was fabulous.

Kodesh Initiatives

Shabbat UK

Every class from Nursery through to Y6 participated in the Noam Challah Bake. We held two shifts in the hall and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and really felt part of the Shabbat UK experience. It was definitely one of the highlights of the term.

Y4-6 also participated in the Kabbalat Shabbat Experience at Brent Cross and came back on a high from it.

Chanukah

It is always nice when Chanukah falls during term time and this year was no exception. We all enjoyed the hat competition at the Mad Hatters Chanukah Party, Y6 organised a wonderful carnival, Slice and Global Kosher brought in chips for the children, everyone loved the CBG shop, jamming doughnuts was once again a hit and to end the festivities Ten Acre gave out popcorn to all the children!

Citizenship and British Values

British Values continues to play an important role at Noam. Most of our assemblies are dedicated to this topic and this year there were power point presentations on the Queen as the longest reigning monarch, Guy Fawkes, Remembrance Day, 75 Years since the Battle of Britain, what it means to be British, Anti-Bullying and Alice in Wonderland.

Black History Month

October was Black History month at Noam. Each class learnt about a different black personality and showcased their work in assembly. Reception showed us their African artwork, Y1 acted out the story of Rosa Parks on a bus, Y2 told us about Mary Seacole, Y3 showed us pictures of their fantastic edible igloos based on Mathew Henson's trek to the Antarctic, Y4 explained how their teacher separated all the blond children in their class giving them privileges and how the rest of the class felt, Y5 talked about the history of slave trade and Y6 read out some of their amazing poems based on Martin Luther King's famous speech 'I have a dream'. To complete the topic each class had a drumming session led by an African gentleman who taught the children the rudiments of drumming.

Other Religions

Nursery and Reception learnt about Diwali and had a lovely time watching the teachers light sparklers.

Y5 attended their first 3FF session when they teamed up with a local Muslim school at the Wembley Learning Zone. The children enjoyed the 'getting to know you' session and gained an understanding of each other's religion through various activities which took place throughout the day. Next term they will be going to the Museum of Immigration and Diversity where they will participate in workshops exploring their roots and culture.

Pupil Behaviour

Building positive behaviour is an important part of developing our children and you have told us that this is something you want us to focus on.

Caught Being Good (CBG)

This initiative has proved to be extremely popular with the children. It did take us a little time to refine but we think that we now have the magic formula! Children receive CBG coins for doing something above and beyond just being good. They save these up and are then able to spend them in our shop. We held our first CBG shop on Chanukah and the children really enjoyed being able to choose their prizes. This has already had a positive impact on behaviour in the school with the children looking forward to spending their next lot of coins around Tu B'shvat. I would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to sponsor prizes.

Anti-Bullying Week

Our theme for Anti-Bullying week was 'make a noise about bullying'. Every class made a musical instrument and then had a variety of lessons on anti-bullying. To round the week off Streetwise came in to deliver an assembly on the topic.

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E-Safety Awareness Day

Jewish Interactive ran an excellent E-Safety Awareness Day in October, giving back to back sessions to parents, children and staff. The key message to the children was how to stay safe when using the computer and to adults the conversations they should be having with their children to ensure their safety. All those who attended gained a tremendous amount and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

School Show

Our theme this year was 'Around the World' with classes choosing different countries to showcase their incredible talent. We hope that you enjoyed the occasion and shepped lots of nachas!

Outings

We have had some amazing outings this term. Y5 went on a tour of the Houses of Parliament and had a fantastic workshop on law making.

Y4 had an incredible workshop at the Wembley Learning Zone on the Anglo Saxons, combining both the history and geography of the subject whilst Y6 had an amazing Maths Day there learning about angles and scale.

Evening sessions for parents

This term we have held Curriculum Evenings, Parents Evenings, a RWI evening and an E-Safety evening.

Scholastic Book Week

Mrs Ezekiel organised a fantastic Scholastic Book Week where parents were able to come and buy books for their children. We sold £1200 worth of books and will be able to use 20% of that towards books for the school.

Forthcoming Attractions

We are in the middle of organising activities for next term, so far we have arranged an **Art Day** when the Kodesh teachers go to their conference in January; another two classes will be going to the **Learning Zone** in Wembley and the boys and girls of Y5&6 will be participating in the **Inter Schools choirs**. Although **Shushan Purim** falls over the Easter weekend we will have some Purim fun on a different day so that the children do not miss out. We have other initiatives under discussion and I will keep you informed of them as the term progresses.

Have a wonderful winter break!

Kind regards

Sarah Simmonds

Mrs S Simmonds
Head Teacher