Providing children with the tools, skills and confidence to go out into the world as responsible members of society.

בס'ד

December 2016

Dear Parents,

## End of term update - Autumn 2016

I cannot believe that we are already at the end of the autumn term; there is so much that we have already done but so much that we still want to achieve.

Feedback from our recent Parents Evening was extremely positive and we continue to try our very best to give each child what they need in order that they should grow and flourish at the same time as becoming independent thinkers in both Kodesh and Chol.

#### **Kodesh**

Kisharon was our chosen צדקה for this term and in order to help the children understand the wonderful work that they do a representative of Kisharon came in to speak in assembly.

We had a special assembly to mark the yahrzeit of the Chofetz Chaim where Rabbi Cohen showed us the now famous clip of the Chofetz Chaim attending an Agudah convention in 1923. As well as telling us a little of the life of Chofetz Chaim he also told us about the seforim he had written and brought in a set of Mishna Brurah to show the children.

Dayan Abraham came to talk the children before ראש השנה and as always inspired them with his words.

Once again Y3-6 joined in the Hatzolah Tehillim Event.

Many classes have made a סיום for finishing various פרקים in however, the highlight was Y5's מלוה מלכה for finishing the whole of ספר בראשית, hosted by family Levene with guest speaker Rabbi Yair Sanders.

#### Shabbat UK

We were keen to once again join in the Shabbat UK activities. Each class took a different aspect of Shabbos to focus on and made beautiful crafts to take home. Instead of a Challoh bake we decided to do a Kuchen bake this year. Everyone from Nursery to Y6 joined in the fun, making delicious cake for Shabbos. A big thank you to Parkway for donating the dough to us.





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## **Citizenship, British Values and Assemblies**

We continue to devote our assemblies to British Values and enrich the children's education through informative presentations which the children love. This term we have had assemblies on The Great Fire of London, The Paralympics, Guy Fawkes, Remembrance Day, Anti- Bullying, Planet Earth and Healthy Eating & Exercise.

Themed weeks have become a firm favourite with the children and allows us to look in depth at the different topics covered in assembly. For example The Paralympics provided a fantastic forum to discuss disability, with the children researching and contributing in an extremely mature fashion. Anti-bullying week provided a wonderful opportunity for the children to focus on ואהבת לרעך הכמוך which is fundamental to what we believe. We were also lucky enough to have Streetwise come in to do some anti-bullying workshops with some of the classes.

## **Black History Month**

Once again we embraced Black History Month with each class learning about a black personality from history - Nursery and Reception learnt about African Culture, Y1 Rosa Parks, Y2 Mary Seacole, Y3 Mathew Henson, Y4 Nelson Mandela, Y5 Henry 'Box' James, Y6 Louis Armstrong. Do look at our fantastic display going up the stairs to the school office.

### **Other Religions**

After our very successful 3FF last year we are once again linked with Harrow Primary School. Rabbi Cohen and Mrs Shlovsky took Y5 to Harrow Primary where they had a 'getting to know you' session which involved teaching each other how to write their names in Hebrew and Arabic.

### **Continued Professional Development**

It is important that staff are continually developing professionally and, this term, our staff have had the opportunity to attend many interesting courses. Noam was represented at various forums including Heads, Senco, Limmudei Kodesh, Administration and Bursar. Additionally, I attended the Heads Residential and Mrs Hool and I completed Advanced Safeguarding Training; Rabbi Schuurder and Miss Weiss attended diabetes training; Mrs Ezekiel went on SATs training and Mrs Vecht has been on Science courses; Morah Perel completed her NVQ L3, Rabbi Cohen is in the final year of his Masters and Mrs Shlovsky is working on her PhD.

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We had an excellent Inset in November with the Deputy Head of Torah Temimah taking us through their recent Ofsted inspection and giving us tips on how to prepare for our own expected inspection. We then had an Educational Consultant from the Tavistock Clinic giving us an excellent workshop on how to deal with challenging behaviour.

#### **School Council**

The School Council has been re-vamped and is now under the direction of Mrs Silver. Elections took place at the beginning of the year and we have a very active and passionate group of children this year. They have conducted a survey on school meals, were active during Anti-Bullying week and have a number of other initiatives ready to be implemented.

## **Healthy Eating**

Our biggest accomplishment this term has been the introduction of a new Healthy Eating Policy with handy guidelines to accompany it. Thank you for taking this seriously and helping us to educate your children to make healthy choices. Following on from the success of this initiative we will be holding a sponsored skipping day in January with half the proceeds going to the British Heart Foundation and half going to Noam. Apart from the obvious health benefits the proceeds will be going to very worthy causes.

#### **Scholastic Book Week**

Mrs Ezekiel arranged another Scholastic Book Week where we sold several hundred pounds worth of books and will be able to use 20% of that towards books for the school.

#### **Parent sessions**

We held a number of evenings for parents including Curriculum Evenings, Parents Evenings and a RWI session which were all well attended. We had a coffee morning in school for a group of mums and a Nursery get to know you evening for Nursery parents.

### **School Show**

Having used the same format for the school show for a number of years we felt it was time for something different. We commissioned Mrs Shlovsky to write one of her wonderful scripts based on a story given to her from the Kodesh department about respect. Together with Mrs Shuck they produced and directed a play which involved every class from Nursery to Y6. The result was amazing and I am already looking forward to next year's show!

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#### **Shloinie Gertner**

What a way to end the term! Shloimie Gertner came into school with his keyboard player and spent 45 minutes singing with the children. It was just fantastic and the children had a marvellous time.

## **CBG (Caught Being Good)**

A big thank you to Mr Feldman for donating a wonderful variety of Channukah prizes for our CBG shop – the children were really spoilt for choice.

## **Forthcoming attractions**

We are very much looking forward to taking part in the Inter school choirs next term. Whilst the Kodesh staff are attending the Kodesh Conference in January we will be holding a music day in school for the children. Undoubtedly the highlight of next term for the children will be Shushan Purim and for the parents the School Dinner – looking forward to seeing you there!

Enjoy the winter break!

Kind regards

Sarah Simmonds

Mrs S Simmonds



