



## Headteacher's Autumn Term letter 2018

Dear Parents,

It is incredible that a term has flown by so quickly! It has rapidly become evident that Noam lives up to its strong reputation as a caring, happy school with very high standards of Kodesh and Chol and that all stakeholders are deeply invested in supporting Noam in so many ways.

It was very considerate of Ofsted to welcome me by visiting us four weeks after the beginning of my tenure! The staff, children, governors and parents demonstrated their commitment to the school and we were able to maintain our 'good' rating which we all appreciate is no easy feat in the current educational climate. We must thank Mrs Simmonds for all her amazing work during her years at Noam. This was recognised by Ofsted and acknowledged in the report.

Even a very good school like Noam must constantly strive to improve further. We have focussed on three main areas for further development:

- **Curriculum**- We have looked at expanding the curriculum to ensure broad and balanced coverage. Our World Week gave the children a chance to enhance their Geography skills and our 'Design and Technology' Day allowed for creativity. We have introduced a scheme called 'Power of Reading' that allows for a topic based curriculum thus giving children a chance to contextualise learning in a meaningful way.  
We have also introduced a range of clubs to further enhance opportunities for the children. We have run: Italian, German, Zemiros, Art, Reading, Chess, Games, multi-sports and typing clubs this term.  
We now have a wonderful team of Middle Leaders who are each heading Faculties which will further enhance the opportunities we are able to offer the children.  
Our next steps in developing the curriculum will be to introduce Music, Art and Computing lessons during the Summer Term and to develop topic based teaching further.  
Reading remains high on the agenda with the development of the new Reading Scheme and library slots for every class on a Friday.  
Assemblies have offered us the opportunity to learn about a host of subjects such as: what a psychologist does, interesting inventions, how to keep healthy, interacting with the elderly, people around the world, democracy, אָדֶר אַז אַז אַז אַז אַז אַז and others.

Shoes were collected for the poor around the world and tzedoko money raised for  .

- **Assessment**  
It has been wonderful to be able to track the progress of all children over the past term thanks to the introduction of Target Tracker; software that allows us to ensure every child reaches their full potential. Staff have been amazing in embracing this software. It must be mentioned that Mrs Aremband previously did this all without the software so a retrospective thank you! We will be introducing this into Early Years in the next academic year. Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring the cost of this investment.



- **Behaviour**

We introduced a new behaviour system that allows us to celebrate the 'outstanding' behaviour at Noam. Nothing makes me happier than a knock on my door and a child announcing, 'I reached the sun!'

I am grateful to parents who have taken the time to express their opinions regarding the system. We are constantly monitoring the system for effectiveness and will review this before the next academic year.

Attendance has a big impact on children's performance at school and we apologise for absences we are unable to authorise once attendance drops below 96%.

Mental health and wellbeing is an area we aim to develop next term. We aim to begin by having Mrs Sarit Sharman, a qualified child counsellor available during a lunch break to discuss any concerns or anxieties children may be experiencing. We will be looking at increasing this provision and introducing further initiatives to promote good mental health and wellbeing. We welcome input and ideas from parents. Year Three have been doing the 'Heads-Up' programme which promoted positivity and helps children understand their emotions.

Mrs Rosenthal will be running two lunchtime groups to support the development of positive friendships and social skills.

As a staff, we have undoubtedly achieved a lot this term. Mrs Chody, Rabbi Cohen and Mrs Aremband have supported me tremendously as we built on the strengths of the school embedded by Mrs Simmonds. I must mention Mrs Gerson without whom nothing would happen. Her dedication, organisation and foresight leave me gasping in awe! Every member of staff at Noam plays a part in ensuring that the children thrive academically, emotionally and socially and I thank them all profusely for all they do.

If you are still reading, I am sure you will agree with my conclusion that the staff, children and governors at Noam are a wonderful combination! My hope is that we continue to work together to further grow and develop.

Thank you so much for all your support.

Wishing you all a wonderful Pesach and continued נחת from your wonderful children.

*Chaya*

Best wishes,  
Mrs Chaya Posen