



15 April 2016

Dear Parents

End of Term letter - Spring 2016

As I reflect on what we have accomplished this term I am extremely grateful to the staff for all the hard work and effort they have put into making it so successful.

For example, the annual Kodesh conference gives the Chol staff an opportunity to do something completely different with the children. We had a fabulous art day where the children learnt about and tried out the techniques of some famous artists including Chagall, Mondrian, Matisse, Goldsworthy, Picasso and Lichtenstein.

Rosh Chodesh

This year we introduced team activities on ראש חודש which the children have really enjoyed. On ראש חודש אדר א they made purses out of felt and on ראש חודש אדר ב each team had to dress a child up as Queen Esther, King Achashverosh, Mordechai and Haman and to make up a riddle about each of these personalities.

Awards

In the first ever PaJeS Jewish Schools awards Noam did extremely well, four teachers were nominated for awards – Miss Webb for Innovation in Early Years, Rabbi Klein for Innovation in Kodesh, Mrs Aremband for Innovation in Secular Studies and myself for Outstanding and Inspirational Leadership. Miss Webb was shortlisted for her category and although not the outright winner she did win £1000 to spend in Early Years. We look forward to next year's event!

Tracking Data

We are delighted that, 'Alice', our new tracking program is up and running for some of the data we need to generate. In particular we have targeted absence this term and are beginning to see positive results in as much as parents are making informed choices. Our target is 95% attendance across the year for every child - please help us to meet our target!

Library

Following on from our fantastic Scholastic Book Week last term, Mrs Ezekiel has used the money we made to start our very own school library. Each week every class has the opportunity to come to the mobile library and choose a book to enjoy at home. Mrs Ezekiel is ably assisted by her team of Y6 librarians who are really enjoying their new role. Please continue to donate books on your children's birthdays so that we can continue to enlarge our library.

The Noam Primary School Ltd

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Professional Development

I personally have attended various professional development sessions which provided me with the opportunity of hearing some excellent speakers and the all-important networking. I attended the Association of Jewish Headteachers Conference, CST briefing for Headteachers, a Heads Discussion group session and I am now part of a mental health and wellbeing focus group for Jewish Schools.

The annual Kodesh Conference allowed the Kodesh staff to take part in a variety of excellent workshops and to hear and be inspired by the Chief Rabbi's keynote speech.

Many other staff members have been on courses ranging from SATs, EU referendum, Literacy as well as PREVENT – extremism and radicalisation. We have had whole staff CST training and a number of members of staff went on diabetes training.

British Values Assemblies

We have had a number of interesting assemblies – to mark Holocaust Day we had a PowerPoint presentation on Sir Nicholas Winton, we took part in a cosmic classroom when we watched a live link up with Tim Peake, we had an assembly on friendships using dominoes to show how one's actions can have a domino effect, an assembly by the School Council on our new School library to link in with World Book Day, an assembly on the Chinese New Year and a series of EU and referendum related assemblies.

Clubs

We have been lucky enough to have a variety of clubs this term. I am grateful to Mr Harari for organising the Karate Club which the boys are really enjoying, Mr Jacobs for his chess club which is extremely popular – there are definitely some future champions in the making, Mrs Levene for her fabulous sewing club. Miss Soriano for her Ivrit club and of course Mrs Berti for multi-sports. If any other parent or grandparent would like to run a club weekly or fortnightly they are warmly encouraged to be in touch with me.

Outings

There have been many opportunities for outings this term with Y3 having a fantastic time at Kidzania and the fire brigade coming in to school on two occasions so far, to give fire safety talks and to show their fire engine to the KS1 and KS2 classes.

The School Council attended the February Council Meeting at Barnet Town Hall where they witnessed the elections of the next Mayor of Barnet. The Mayor and Mayoress were so impressed with our children that they invited a class to have tea with them in their chambers. Y4 went yesterday and were treated to a tour of the Town Hall where they learnt about the role of the Mayor, the history of the regalia and interesting facts about the Borough of Barnet. Five children had the opportunity to take part in the robing ceremony and had the honour of sitting on the Mayoral seat they were then treated to drinks and snacks. What a fabulous opportunity

Y5&6 girls visited the elderly residents of Edinburgh House on ט"ו בשבט taking with fruit baskets that they had made in school.

Y1 had an amazing Art Day at the Learning Zone where they made badges, football photo frames and clay medals as well as having a tour of the stadium. They also enjoyed lunchtime in the park last week.

We once again performed at the Inter Boys and Girls Choir Festivals where we acquitted ourselves very well indeed.

As part of our Three Faiths Forum (3FF) partnership with Harrow Primary School the Y5 classes from both schools went to the Museum of Immigration and Diversity where they had a workshop together.

Caught Being Good (CBG)

The CBG shop continues to be very popular and we were lucky enough to have two sessions this term.

Visitors

As well as Open Mornings we have had a variety of visitors to the school. Rabbi Simcha Scheinberg came to talk to the children in a special assembly. Rabbi Dwek, guest speaker at the School Dinner spent a considerable amount of time in the school going round each of the classes.

School Dinner

Once again the Noam School Dinner was a huge success. Changing the evening to a Motzei Shabbos was an inspired move allowing people to attend in a more relaxed frame of mind. The speakers and entertainment were all varied and excellent – we are already looking forward to next year's event!

Wishing you all a כשר פסח and a good יום טוב

Yours sincerely

Sarah Simmonds

Mrs Simmonds
Headteacher