



05 August 2016

Dear Parents,

End of Year Letter – 2015/2016

It seems like yesterday that I was writing my last End of Year Letter – how time flies! It has been an incredibly busy year with lots of exciting things happening here at Noam and we have achieved some real successes. I am extremely grateful to my wonderful staff who, as always, go above and beyond what is expected of them.

SATS Results

Despite the dire predictions of the Government about falling standards our children performed brilliantly. Nationally the Y6 results showed that 66% passed Reading, 72% Spelling and Grammar and 70% Maths. Our results were 95% passed Reading, 100% Spelling and Grammar and 100% Maths. There are no national results for KS1 at present but our results were 95% passed Reading, 70% Spelling and Grammar and 85% Maths.

Whereas in the past children were assessed at the level they achieved, as of this year, the government has introduced Assessment without Levels. That means exactly what it says; there are no levels anymore and you are merely assessed on whether pupils achieve the expected pass result. As you can see, we were well above the national average.

Our Early Years (Nursery and Reception) do not have SATS but they were moderated by Brent earlier this term and we came out with a glowing report. Thank you Miss Webb.

A huge thank you to all the teachers for their fantastic input, and to the children I can only say how incredibly proud I am of you all!

Before turning to other topics, I just wanted to highlight one aspect of why I think we did so well.

Intervention Groups are something we have put more emphasis on this year. Where we believe a child may not be achieving their full potential in class we will use intervention groups to give them some extra support. This focussed attention can make a real difference to their results. Intervention groups require more resources and, as we all know, schools do not have an unlimited budget, so there is a balance to be struck. But we believe Intervention Groups have played a big part in our success this year and we will be carrying on with them next year.

British Values

The political situation in Great Britain has helped shape a lot of our assemblies this year. The **EU Referendum** opened up many opportunities for us both in assembly and during lessons to debate the pros and cons of staying in the EU. As a result of this we were selected by the newspaper for children, First News to participate in the EU Children's Referendum Debate at Speakers House. What an opportunity for our school! Even more exciting was that Rafi Weston was selected to be one of the panellists and what an incredible job he did! We certainly raised the profile of Noam with all the press coverage – the Daily Telegraph, the JC, Jewish Tribune, Hamodia, Brent and Kilburn Times all carried reports of the debate. And not to forget our own radio star, Shira Rees who achieved fame on LBC!

Other assemblies were devoted to the Queen as the longest reigning monarch, a power point presentation on 'What it means to be British', 75 years since the Battle of Britain, a round-up of Black History month, Guy Fawkes, Remembrance Day, Streetwise on Anti Bullying, Alice in Wonderland, Friendships, Sir Nicholas Winton, the Chinese New Year, Libraries and the Queens 90th birthday.

Additionally we joined in a live Cosmic Classroom question and answer session with **Tim Peake** and we also had an **E-Safety Day** where Jewish Interactive came to raise awareness with the children about staying safe when using the computer.

Themed Weeks

We devoted extended periods of time this year to look in depth at a variety of topics. **Black History Month** allowed each class to look at different black personalities and events from history including Rosa Parks, Mary Seacole, Mathew Henson and Martin Luther King as well as understanding apartheid and the slave trade. We ended with a fantastic drumming session which the children thoroughly enjoyed. We had a great deal of fun with our **Alice in Wonderland** week ending in our Mad Hatters Chanukah Party. **Shakespeare Week** allowed classes to look in depth at some of William Shakespeare's famous plays notably Midsummer Night's Dream, Macbeth and Richard III. Special thanks to Mr Boxer for his workshops to years 5 and 6. The children particularly enjoyed work on witches spells – I wonder why!

Mrs Ezekiel introduced **Scholastic Book Week** into the school on two occasions this year which were highly successful and with the money we received we opened a school library which the Y6 run under the guidance of Mrs Ezekiel.

Inter-Faith

We once again took part in the Three Faiths Forum (3FF) and this year our Y5's were teamed up with a local Muslim school – Harrow Primary School. In the autumn term they went to the Wembley Learning Zone together where they had a 'Getting to know you' session, gaining an understanding of each other's religions through various activities. In the spring term they went to the Museum of Immigration and Diversity together. This term Harrow Primary came to our school where they worked on a jigsaw puzzle together entitled 'Where

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do we come from' and finding out that many of them originated from the same countries. Then our Y5 children visited Harrow Primary School where they did an activity together. Both schools enjoyed themselves immensely.

We had an assembly on the Chinese New Year and Reception learnt about Diwali.

Outings

We tried something new for **Lag B'omer** this year which was a resounding success. The children all enjoyed the **Lego workshop** and so many of them told me that they preferred it to an outing! The mini-sports day and **Uncle Doovy** certainly helped to make it memorable.

Y6 have once again had a packed **post-SATS programme** – the Bell Boat Regatta, Cycling course, Wembley Learning Zone, TFL, Streetwise, Chessington, Clay Café, bird-watching and kayaking, Downing Street and of course their graduation play!

All classes from Y1-Y6 went on outings this year. Y3 had an amazing time at Kidzania, whilst the rest of the classes went to the Learning Zone where they had workshops on Art, Geography, the Anglo Saxons and the Olympics. The Wembley Learning Zone is a fantastic resource right on our doorstep and we try to make use of it every year.

Additionally Y5 visited the Houses of Parliament where they had a workshop on law making. 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 were the lucky ones and they 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.

We once again joined in with the **Inter-School Girls and Boys choirs** where our Y5 and Y6 children acquitted themselves brilliantly.

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

Special Events

Those of you who were not at the **Y6 Graduation** really missed something special. Mrs Shlovsky's play based on the works of Shakespeare was fantastic and the Y6 gave a most amazing performance. The evening was enhanced by the presence of Dayan Abraham who spoke beautifully to the children as well as giving tribute to the incredible work of the Governors led by Shelley Kelaty.

The **Y1 Siddur and Chumash Party** was absolutely beautiful and the children really excelled under the guidance of their teacher Miss Eder.

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The **Nursery Graduation** was quite remarkable with the children performing very professionally and confidentially. We look forward to being entertained by them on many more occasions.

The **Boys Mishnayos Siyum** is always inspiring and it is fantastic to see the boys so proud of the mishnayos they have learnt during the course of the year.

Finally the **Girls Nach Siyum** is an opportunity to celebrate the incredible knowledge they have gained in Nach over the years.

Clubs

We have had a variety of clubs on offer this year both during lunch time and after school. My thanks to Mr Jacobs for his highly popular **chess club** – definitely some chess masters in the making! Thank you also to Mr Harari for organising the after-school **karate club**, Mrs Levene for her **sewing club**, Mrs Berti for lunch time sports and **multi-sports** after school and Miss Soriano for her **Ivrit club**. These will all be continuing next year with the addition of a couple more interesting clubs, most notably a **coding club** run by Mrs Chakimi. If anyone is interested in starting a club in school please do be in contact with me.

Parent Events

We have held a number of sessions for parents over the course of the year. Apart from **Parents Evening** and **Curriculum evenings** there was an informative **RWI** (Read, Write, Inc) evening for Reception parents and an **E-Safety session** for all parents. We also held two **Open Mornings** for prospective parents who want to come and visit the school.

Awards

The start of the year saw us collecting our **Gold Club Award** in recognition of being a 'school of excellence' by the then Mayor of London, Boris Johnson. We are proudly using the Gold Club logo on our website and headed paper!

The Partnership for Jewish Schools (PaJeS), which operates under the auspices of the Jewish Leadership Council, and works to support Jewish schools, introduced **Awards for Teachers** this year. Teachers could be nominated for different categories and four of us were nominated for awards - Rabbi Klein for Innovation in Kodesh, Mrs Aremband for Innovation in Chol, Miss Webb for Innovation in Early Years and myself for Outstanding and Inspirational Leadership. Just to be nominated gave us all a big chizuk but Miss Webb went on to be shortlisted as well. Although she did not win the award it is always nice to be recognised and appreciated for the job that you do.

Our Y5 excelled at the **Etgar General Knowledge** competition coming top and receiving a trophy and a cheque which will be used for Kodesh books in our school library.

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Simchos

As well as the achievements of the school it is also wonderful to celebrate the individual simchas of our staff. A huge mazal tov to each of the following:

Engagements – Miss Cramer, Miss Hus, Miss Moses

Chasanehs, Miss Zwiebel, Miss Cohen (in the holidays)

Bar Mitzvahs – Rabbi Cohen (in the holiday), Mrs Freedman (in the holiday)

Births – Rabbi Cohen

Looking forward to a new year

As you can see it has been a very busy year for all the children, so I hope you all enjoy and make the most of your break. We look forward to seeing you all at the start of the new academic year!

Yours sincerely

Sarah Simmonds

Mrs S Simmonds

Headteacher

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