

# Winter Newsletter

Brodetsky Primary School

## Welcome to the Winter Newsletter!

Unfortunately, this year we did not get to celebrate Chanukah itself with the children in school. We would usually enjoy our daily whole school Chanukah lighting assemblies and the endless supply of delicious oily foods at lunch and home time. As staff, however, we did take a small pause for a moment during the last week and were wowed by the individual light that each child at Brodetsky was emulating.

The unique power of the Chanukah lights is linked to the nature of the miracle they commemorate. The miracle of Chanukah took place in a time of darkness, when the Greeks, who had conquered the Land of Israel, sought to impose their culture upon its inhabitants. Despite the assimilatory influence of Jewish Hellenists, the Maccabees were able to instil in the Jewish people a spirit of self-sacrifice renewal. This inspired them to fight the Greeks, defeat them, and rededicate the Temple. Since the Jewish victory involved the transformation of darkness into light, the Chanukah lights which commemorate it also have this power.

They teach us that when confronted with darkness, we must not resign ourselves to it. Nor may we remain content with lighting up just our own homes. Instead, we must reach out and spread light as far as we possibly can, until the public domain too is illuminated.

Each child at Brodetsky this Term has shone brighter than ever through their dedication to supporting peers in the classroom and out in the playground, being welcoming to guests, giving charity to those in need and representing Brodetsky to the wider community through sporting, eco, commemorative and religious events. I couldn't be prouder.

Warmest wishes and a very Happy Chanukah,

*Sagi*

Mr. Y  
Deputy Headteacher

Happy Hanukkah

חג חנוכה שמח



## CRITTER COIN

The children have really taken to earning critter coins at school with the competition really *hotting* up now that team points are being added up live in conjunction with individual points. Some children have even raised enough coins to make trades for prizes on the rewards list. These can be claimed at any point and not just at the end of a half term as was in the old scheme.

Well done to Deborah Taylor who won the most House Points during the Autumn Term. However, it is important to note that it was not a landslide and there was only 123 points between first and fourth place, that's only the equivalent of 41 Mensch coins. Whilst individual points will remain as they are, house points will be reduced back to zero for the new term and the competition will begin again. Over the holidays we will not be releasing daily Reading Coins, however, this does not mean that your children should not still read.



## FAREWELL

At the end of this term we bade farewell to Mrs Skolnick and Mrs Niman, wishing them only the best for their future endeavours.



Mrs Skolnick has been heavily involved with Brodetsky over the last six years. She has taught many of our children and has brought the school alive with the sound of music and a splash of Israeli dancing! After 16 years of pure dedication and passion to

our Brodetsky Nursery, we are wishing Mrs Niman all the best as she moves onto pastures new. Her love and commitment have given all the children in her care a wonderful start to their Brodetsky journey in the early years. Both their talents and expertise have been hugely valued and will be extremely missed by staff, children and families alike.



We also have said goodbye for now to Miss Goldberg, who will be starting her maternity leave as of January 2023 in order to get ready for the arrival of her baby. We will for sure miss her over the next 9 to 12 months, however, cannot wait to hold and coo over the bundle of joy that she no doubt will bring in to share with us all. I am sure that the whole school community will join me in wishing her an easy birth and only 'nachas' from him.

## ANONYMOUS FAMILY SURVEY

We would like you to give us your opinion on our school. Please scan the barcode, or click here, to access the anonymous survey. The Survey will be open until Friday 6th January 2023. Please fill it out with as many details as you can. The more information that we have, the better equipped we are to make positive changes. This particular survey is anonymous, however, should you wish to share who you are with us, you can also do this.



## CHRISTMAS CARDS

All children in Year 1 to Year 6 used their incredible creative skills and made some superb cards that we will be distributing to our lovely neighbours wishing them a peaceful Winter Holiday and a Happy New Year. For a number of reasons, the relationship that we have with our neighbours is very important to us and so in order to build on this, we will be distributing boxes of chocolates to accompany these cards, courtesy of a sponsor, to our closest neighbours in proximity. I would implore you to support us in building a positive relationship with our neighbours in any way that you can. [Click here for more information on our Christmas Assembly.](#)



## HOUSE MUSIC

The atmosphere on Thursday morning in school was both intense and electrifying as children and staff alike were adorned in their house colours to fight for the winning title of House Music 2022. All the children performed brilliantly well, showcasing their individual and house musical talents. We were especially proud of all the soloists, both vocalists and instrumentalists, who performed in front of the whole school. This would have been daunting for many and the children showed great confidence in their performances. A huge well done to all children who learnt their lines and dance routines showing team spirit throughout the competition.

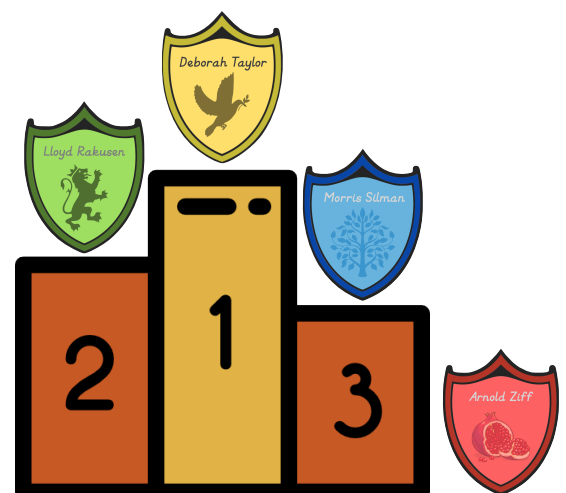
An extra special mention must go to our Reception children who took to the stage like ducks to water singing 'We Will Rock You'. Their vocals were on point, their synchronised movements were adorable and well thought out, their passion, enthusiasm and confidence oozed off the stage and their facial expressions as they kept in time to the music was magic to watch. The judge's straight 10s were definitely deserved.

An enormous thank you to our 3 superbly talented judges: Mrs. Hare (School Business Manager), Mrs. Seaton (back for a visit from retirement) and the exceptionally talented, Priscilla King, who whilst the scores were being tallied up wowed the audience with a harmonious duet of 'A Million Dreams' with her son, Oscar.

After fierce competition, we are delighted to announce that Deborah Taylor won this year's competition.

## LEAVING THE ARNOLD ZIFF HOUSE

There has been lots of talk amongst the children (and staff believe it or not) as to whether during assemblies I have favoured given additional points or leniencies to Arnold Ziff in house competitions due to me officially being a part of the Arnold Ziff House. Let me set the record straight, this is simply not true. However, due to these rumours and whispers of suspected cheating by allowing extra rehearsal time to Arnold Ziff (which is also not true), I have come to the very difficult decision that whilst I have served, with great honours, as an 'Arnold Ziffian' member of staff for the last 11 years, it is now time to step away in order not to show any allegiance to any one particular house. I look forward to seeing the House competitions at Brodetsky sore to great heights led by the elected House Captains.



## SCHOOL LIBRARIES

As part of our ongoing commitment to always be improving everything that we do at Brodetsky, with thanks to the sponsorship of a kind donor, we will be investing in a new, purpose built whole school non-fiction library as well as buying furniture for the individual classroom age-appropriate libraries. Work will be starting on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December and we hope to have it functional by the time the children are back on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.

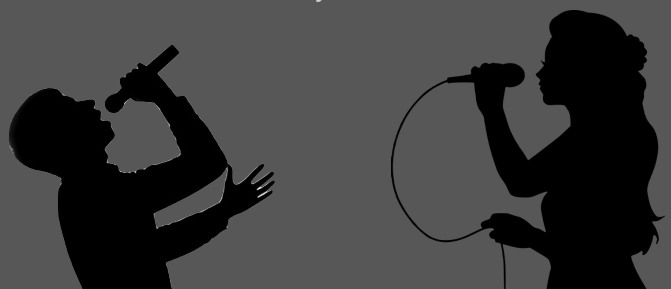
We are eternally grateful to all those families and individuals who support us financially or with time, both equally as important. Thank you to those who have supported the Link's Chanukah Book Campaign, in support of our individual age-appropriate classroom libraries. There are still plenty of books that need buying from the list. Please give what you can by clicking here.

As a school team we have so many fantastic ideas and plans for how we want to enhance the provision already provided here at Brodetsky and simply cannot do it without the support of time of monetary donations. If you would like to find out more about how you can support us provide more for the children, please do get in touch with me.



## WEEKLY BRODETSKY CHOIR

Choir is now meeting regularly on a Friday afternoon at 12:00 in the Year 2 classroom. Choir is for children in years 4, 5 & 6.



## END OF TERM ASSESSMENTS

By now, I am hoping that families of children in Year 1 to Year 6 have seen that we have sent home an analysis of your child's end of term assessment. The analysis highlights the areas that your child had the most gaps in from their assessment or could benefit from some further stretch and challenge. The learning sheets that we have sent home to support in bridging these gaps or providing further stretch and challenge, should only be done if your child would like to do them. Of course, if you have the time, you can take the content of the sheets and bring the learning to life in ways you feel would most connect with your child. Most of these packs have been sent home in plastic wallets. If you could please look after these and return them to school in January we would hate for them to go to waste creating unnecessary landfill and costing the school money when we need more plastic wallets.

We are fully aware that formal assessments are not the best form of measure for every child and that all pupils make progress at different rates with some requiring a little longer, or a different teaching style in order to progress. Whilst some children may learn best listening to the teacher from the front of the classroom, others will learn better through practically completing challenges using concrete objects. The three learning styles: visual, auditory and kinaesthetic, are apparent in all individuals, but some gravitate towards one style more than the rest. Teachers at Brodetsky ensure to include a variety of these styles of teaching in each of their lessons to ensure engagement and progress of all children.





## ATTENDANCE

Regular school attendance is an important part of giving children the best possible start in life. The aim should be to attend 100% of the time. Children who miss school frequently can fall behind with their learning and miss opportunities to reach their potential. Below is a table showing how children's percentage attendance equates to the amount of school time missed.

Attendance during one school year	Equivalent Days	Equivalent Sessions	Equivalent Weeks	Equivalent Lessons Missed
95%	9	18	2	54
90%	19	38	4	114
85%	29	58	6	174
80%	38	72	8	228
75%	48	96	10	288
70%	57	114	11.5	342
65%	67	134	13.5	402

*To put it into perspective: 120 guided learning hours is the same as studying one full-time GCSE course, normally taken over two years.*

It is also important to arrive at school on time. If a child arrives late to school every day, their learning begins to suffer. Below is a graph showing how being late to school every day over a school year adds up to lost learning time over one academic year.



Only children with a 95% attendance record (taking only unauthorised into account) will be permitted to attend out of school events during the school day.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January:

Dog's Trust visit to school (no real dog will be present)

### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January:

Chinese New Year Celebrations

### Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January:

SEND Coffee and Catch-Up

### Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January:

Holocaust Memorial Day

### Shabbat 28<sup>th</sup> January:

Year 1 Shabbat

### Shabbat 4<sup>th</sup> January:

Year 4 Shabbat

### Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February:

Children's Mental Health Week

### Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February:

Tu B'Shevat Celebrations

### Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February:

E-Safety Day

### Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February:

Staff Training Day (no children)



## PARENTS' EVENING CHANGES

In response to feedback from families, we have decided that our next Parents' Evening in March will be split so that one of the days will be held on Zoom whilst the second will be in person in school. Of course, if you have any concerns before the March Parents' Evening you are more than welcome to share these with the teachers at any time.



**zoom**



## SCHOOL COUNCIL SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The School Council conducted a 3-week research mission to find out what their peers wanted and how school leaders could implement these changes. After weeks of talks and finally managing to get the right people around the table, the School Council cannot wait to share their exciting news with you. Look out for the special announcement coming out in January 2023.



## SCHOOL AND NURSERY PLACES

Should any of our Nursery families wish to extend their nursery hours, please contact Mrs Levy in our school office. Applications for Brodetsky Reception are due in to the Council by Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. Supplementary Information Forms (SIF) are to be handed or emailed to our school office by the same date too.

## TZEDAKAH COMMITTEE

With thanks to the work of the Tzedakah Committee, giving charity at least each Friday morning remains high on everyone's list of priorities. This half term, children in Year 5 collected the highest number of coins in the Tzedakah box and so were presented with the special celebratory poster that has already been proudly attached to their classroom door.

Overall, as a whole school this half term, we managed to collect **£82.49**. This is going to be divided between the two charities that the Tzedakah Committee had chosen with the help of the rest of the school, Harrogate Hospital and to a charity who supports those struggling due to the war in Ukraine.

The Tzedakah Committee went once again arranged a vote for the next charities that we will be supporting. Next half term Brodetsky's weekly Tzedakah will be donated to Great Ormond Street Hospital and Leeds Jewish Welfare Board (LJWB). Please remember to send your children with a coin each week on a Friday.

SINCE 1878  
**LJWB**  
POSITIVELY CHANGING LIVES



**GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL CHARITY**



## BREAKFAST AND AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

### Breakfast Club

for children from Nursery up to Year 6

Monday - Friday: 7.30am - 8.30am

Sessions cost £5 (including toast, cereal, fresh fruit and a drink)

### After School Club

for children from Nursery to Year 4

Monday - Thursday: 3.30 - 6.00pm

Session costs £10 (including milky dinner, varied each day)

Both Breakfast Club and After School Club take place in the Deborah Taylor Building and must be pre-booked and prepaid for via the ScoPay app.

