



Dear Parents,

Hebrew Reading at Rosh Pinah

We believe Hebrew reading is at the core of Jewish Studies. The children need to read to be able to access the siddur, chumash and many other texts we use to teach, both in Jewish Studies and Ivrit. Whilst we devote time in lessons for Hebrew reading, we know a strong partnership with parents is crucial. The more the children practise, the more they will succeed.

Reception

From after the chagim (festivals) your children will be taught three letter or vowel sounds each week. Just like in English phonics we will be teaching the children to blend short words very early on. Children will bring home a short reading homework activity each week. There will be a mixture of colouring and reading. The reading homework will be sent home on a Thursday and should be returned by Tuesday at the latest.

Year 1 and 2

In Year 1 and Year 2 we build on the strong foundations the children have from Reception. We focus heavily on blending longer Hebrew words together as well as reviewing some tricky letters and vowels. Our aim is for children to be able to read short Ivrit stories by the time they leave Year 2. In school every child is heard every week. Each week Year 1 and 2 children will bring home a short reading homework. This will be sent home on a Wednesday and should be returned to school on a Monday. We encourage the children to read at home on three separate occasions for just five minutes each time (that is only fifteen minutes per week).

Years 3 – 6

The feedback we received from some parents was that Hebrew reading at home was quite a tedious exercise seeing as though the children (and many parents) did not understand the text they were being expected to read. Therefore, we will be providing beautifully illustrated and translated books with explanations for parents to use with their children. Whilst the only requirement is that the children practise the Hebrew reading, if the parents feel understanding the text will add to the experience, this is now possible.

The children will keep these books at home and not need to bring them backwards and forwards. At the front of the books, there is a sheet in a plastic wallet. Each week this sheet needs to be brought into school on a Friday signed by the parents that they have read with their children. The teacher will then sign the sheet as well.

We would like the children to read for at least 10 minutes twice a week.

It doesn't matter where your child gets up to each week as each child will be reading at their own pace and the books may take a number of months to finish.

Year 3 will be reading the Megillat Ruth. There are 4 chapters for the children to read and they will enjoy the story and explanations of the great heroine Ruth.

Year 4 will be reading Megillat Esther. The children should enjoy the Purim story coming to life and not only will they enjoy the reading but when Purim comes around, their appreciation of the events should have been greatly enhanced.

Year 5 will be reading Pirkei Avot. Aside from the 6 Chapters of Hebrew reading, this Mishna has a wealth of issues for parents and children to discuss together and enjoy. Pirkei Avot is normally translated as Ethics of the Fathers and it contains advice from sages from different generations as to how to conduct our lives.

Year 6 have been given a far more challenging text – the wonderful Tehillim written by King David. Tehillim is a much harder text than the others; both the Hebrew and the English translation and explanation. However, we're sure Year 6 will rise to the challenge and enjoy tackling Psalms.



Support in School

We regularly assess all the children in school. Every term your child is given a new reading target that we share with you on their termly reports. Our assessments will highlight any children struggling with reading and we will ensure they receive extra support in school.

We also run a Hebrew reading club at lunch time where Year 5 and 6 children mentor Year 1 and 2 children with their reading.

Parental Support in School

If any parents are competent Hebrew readers, have some spare time and are willing to come in to school to assist, please let us know, we'd love to have you!

Supporting Parents

If any parents find it difficult to support their children with their Hebrew reading we are more than happy to help any parents with their reading. However, please feel free to use grandparents and older siblings as well.

If you would like to be in touch to discuss any of the above, please e-mail Deborah Mitchell deborah.mitchell@rpps.org.uk

Many thanks for your anticipated support,

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Deborah Mitchell
Hebrew Reading coordinator