

Dear Parents and Carers,

Ofsted News

Thank you for all your support and encouragement this week through our Ofsted Inspection. As a School we are very pleased with the outcome. The report should be officially completed and available for all parents in 3 to 4 weeks time.

Rosh Hashanah - 29th September 2011

Didsbury has had a Jewish Community for a very long time. The Jewish Community has had a significant effect on Manchester and Manchester's history. We wish to join all our Jewish Families here at Beaver Road in the celebration of Rosh Hashanah next week.

Rosh Hashanah, the New Year, and Yom Kippur, the day of atonement, are two very important holidays in the Jewish calendar. On Rosh Hashanah, Jews all over the world gather in synagogues to celebrate the day Hashem created Adam and Khavah (Eve), the first humans.

We celebrate Rosh Hashanah with sweet foods, like apples dipped in honey and honey cake, as a wish for a sweet year. Some families also celebrate with symbolic foods like the head of a fish, pomegranates, and carrots.



Traditions

The head of a fish is so that we can be "like the head and not like the tail." This is a symbol of having a year in which we are on top and not the bottom. Pomegranates are symbolic of plenty. Have you ever tried to count how many seeds there are in a pomegranate? Far too many to count. We want plenty of health and happiness for the New Year, just as many good things as there are seed in a pomegranate.

We also eat carrots, and it isn't just to see better in the dark. For Ashkenazi Jews, carrots symbolize the Yiddish word "merren" which also means more. We want more of all the good things in life. More health, more happiness, more success. For Sephardic Jews, carrots are symbolic of the phrase "Yikaretu oyveychem" which means may your enemies be cut down. We ask that those who wish bad for us not get their wish, that they don't succeed.

And of course, we have round Challot made with honey and raisins. These are another symbol of a sweet and happy year. We put decorations on the Challot, such as birds (symbolizing doves of peace).

Rosh Hashanah starts on the first day of Tishrei and lasts two days. Rosh Hashanah is the beginning of the Yamim Noraim, the ten days of atonement.

On Rosh Hashanah, all mankind is judged. HaShem writes the judgment for each of us in the Book of Life. This judgment is based on our lives of the year before, and is the decision of what will happen to us in the coming year.

But the judgment is not final. The days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur give us a time to change the judgment for good. We are given the chance to improve our coming year through Teshuvah (asking forgiveness), Tefillah (prayer), and Tzedakah (charity).

On Rosh Hashanah we wish each other "L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevuh" may you be written in for a good year. But Rosh HaShanah is not the end of the judgment, it is only on Yom Kippur that our judgment is made final.

Why don't you try baking a Rosh Hashanah Honey Cake (Parve)?



Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 20 minutes

Total Time: 30 minutes

Makes: 12-16 servings

Ingredients:

- 2 Tbsp. instant coffee dissolved into 3/4 cup hot water
- 3 Tbsp. oil
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup apple sauce
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 3/4 cup honey
- 2 1/4 cups flour
- 3/4 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 2 tsp. cinnamon



Preparation:

1. Spray a 9x13 baking pan with non-stick cooking spray. Preheat oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit (160 degrees Celsius).
- 2 Dissolve coffee into water. Set aside to cool.
3. Using an electric mixer, mix oil, eggs, applesauce, brown sugar and honey.
4. In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda and cinnamon.
5. Alternating, add flour mixture and coffee to the egg mixture in the bowl. Mix lightly until just smooth.
6. Bake, uncovered, for 20-25 minutes, or until a toothpick or knife inserted in the middle of the cake comes out clean.



A quick reminder to all of our parents, not to miss the fun as DAF 2011 gets off to a lively start! Expect the unexpected when this year's Didsbury Arts Festival bursts onto local streets on Saturday 24 September! Music, street theatre and hilarious giant puppets will get things off to a lively start at 11.30 am outside Didsbury Library.

Come and experience the amazing Wolfenden Fountain Machine, say 'hello!' to Big Sid, the giant walkabout puppet, and listen to music from Northern Brass and the Courage To Sing Choir. Local MP John Leech will be there to declare DAF 2011 open and a mystery guest will spring a surprise during the proceedings!

Later in the day (1.30 pm onwards), a community festival stage in Didsbury's beautiful Parsonage Gardens will feature a diverse line-up, including live music, dance, Punch & Judy and performance poetry.

On Sunday 25 September, following more music and mayhem outside Didsbury Library, a Parade of Artists (1 pm) will make its way from the Library to Fletcher Moss Park for an exciting programme of music, dance, street theatre and art.

With more than 170 events, exhibitions and workshops taking place at venues across Didsbury, this year's annual showcase of local talent promises a packed programme to rival last year's event which drew audiences of more than 10,000.

The week-long celebration will feature daily music performances, including classical music, jazz and rock. Comedy, drama, dance, film and street theatre will also provide an exciting and eclectic mix, ensuring something for all ages and tastes.

Festival Director Maria Stripling said: 'DAF continues to go from strength to strength. This year we have a packed and diverse programme and we are delighted to welcome many new artists and events, including, for instance, DAF's first ever short film competition.

'DAF could not happen without the support of the many volunteers, community groups, businesses, sponsors and, of course, the artists involved, many of whom give their time free of charge to make events free and accessible. I'd like to say a big 'thank you' to all of those who have helped in any way. We look forward to a hugely successful and enjoyable DAF 2011.'

We have been working with DAF and have managed to secure an afternoon puppet show and puppet workshop for our Year 1 children. It is called 'Snapper's 5 a Day'. We are all looking forward to this free show and thank the company in advance.

Full details of the DAF 2011 programme are available at: www.didsburyartsfestival.org

Didsbury Arts Festival starts this Saturday. There is lots of information on the following website <http://www.didsburyartsfestival.org/>

News from your Parent-Teacher Association

We would like to send a warm welcome to all the children and their families to Beaver Road School. The first term of the 2011/12 school year is now underway and we hope that everyone is settling in nicely.



We'd like to take this opportunity to invite the parents and carers to come and meet your PTA at The Sanctuary, 653 Wilmslow Road, on Wednesday the 28th of September, 8.00 - 9.00pm. It will be an informal but none-the-less structured meeting where we will be discussing the role of the PTA within the school, upcoming fundraising events, in particular our upcoming Spooky Party, and how parents can get involved. Meanwhile if you have any queries or would like to raise a particular issue at the meeting please get in touch with us via email.

Contacting the Committee:

Marie-Noel Brassset: mnbrasset@yahoo.co.uk

Amanda Shropshire: ashroppy@hotmail.com

Joely Jones: joely.jones@btopenworld.com

Our information board: we have a board which is attached to the outside wall of the nursery. Please have a look from time to time for regular updates

Year Representatives: every year group has at least one representative, who are kept informed of PTA business. They are a great source of information and are happy to listen to your suggestions as well. Names and contact details will be made available shortly.

Facebook Page: if you are part of Facebook, come join our page - Beaver Road Fundraisers (BR) PTA <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=135413603139432>

All the best, Marie-Noel

Another reminder about parking outside School

Unfortunately, even after our polite request in the last e-news, parents have continued to park illegally on the clearly marked zig zags and yellow lines on Beaver Road. These restrictions are there for the safety of everyone using our School. We will continue to alert the authorities to the problem and they will respond by prosecuting offenders.



The Senior Staff in School have to be within the School grounds from 8.50-3.40 as they are responsible for your children between these times. We thank the parents who have been supportive and worked together to try and stop this parking continuing.

Finally, a thank you to the parent who sent in the following email to raise their continuing concerns about the selfish parking. We are sure that this is how many of our parents feel.

... Would you please re-iterate to parents about not parking/dropping off immediately outside the school?

I have spent yet another morning asking and sometimes telling parents that their actions are endangering children's lives.

Some admit their guilt immediately, others look at me as though I am asking them to run naked up the road and a couple have been rude.

I am trying to give my Y6 son the independence of crossing Beaver Road by himself. I trust him to do this however a minority of ignorant, self-centred and obviously lazy adults are making this a dangerous procedure.

I have printed a number of posters and will continue to humiliate these selfish individuals in the meantime.

Thanks in anticipation...

What's happening?

The School website is the place to find all the latest information about what's happening at School - www.beaverroad.org.uk. - dates for diaries, copies of letters, school trip dates and costs, holiday dates, what your child is learning, school policies, staff lists, curriculum developments, governor reports, downloadable forms and much much more

Coming up soon

Mon 3 October and Wed 5 October Parent consultations - more information on its way to you by pupil post.

Have a great weekend and see you all again safe and well on Monday,

From all of us at Beaver Road

