



SACKS
MORASHA
JEWISH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Reception Handbook 2022/23

Elul 5782 - Tammuz 5783

Have a great summer!



Mrs Broza
Class Teacher



Mrs Melzack
Teaching assistant



Mrs Hasani
Teaching assistant



Mrs Greenberg
Kodesh Teacher



We can't wait for September

On behalf of the Governors, staff and children of Sacks Morasha, we extend a warm welcome to our school.

This is an exciting time for you and your child, as they begin their school life at Sacks Morasha.

As our school continues to grow, we are proud to remain a vibrant, modern-orthodox Jewish primary school that celebrates our culture and traditions, and takes great pride in our Torah studies and appreciation of Israel. We are dedicated to providing a fully integrated environment of both Chol and Kodesh studies. We are a nurturing school that helps and encourages all of our pupils to achieve their full potential, while developing their social abilities and securing great friendships.

We all hope that your son or daughter will be very happy and enjoy many achievements while they are here. We really look forward to an exciting academic year and the opportunity to help your children learn, grow and reach their potential.

Welcome to Sacks Morasha!

Our ethos

The ethos of our school reflects our enthusiasm and commitment to providing the best education possible for your children. We aim to work in partnership with you to provide the highest quality education for all of our children. We welcome your involvement and encourage you to take an active role in your child's education.

We provide a broad and balanced curriculum that aims to develop each child's progress and we strive to achieve the highest possible academic standards. We are guided by the National Curriculum and it forms the basis of our learning, which is further enhanced through relevant and integrated links to Kodesh.

We not only respond to the needs of the whole child – spiritual, emotional, physical, social and intellectual – but our school creates great awareness in children of their responsibilities to one another, their teachers and the wider community.

For more on our ethos, please visit www.sacksmorasha.org.uk/about/sacks-morasha-ethos

Information

We hope this information pack will equip you with all the information you need to prepare your child for school. There is a comprehensive uniform list, term dates, Shabbat early-closing times, information about lunches and voluntary contributions.

If, after reading the pack, you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to get in contact with the School Office on office.administrator@morashajps.org.uk.

We hope you have a lovely summer and look forward to seeing you in September!

Mrs Rachel Barbanel
Head Teacher

SCHOOL DAY

The school day begins at **8:40 am and ends at 3:40 pm**. The school gates are open from 8.15am for 'kiss and drop' (whereby parents drop their child at the school gates, before driving away).

Children access the Reception classroom by walking around the building, before entering the classroom via the back white (fire) door. They are collected at the end of the day via the same back door.

For the first week (Monday 5th – Friday 9th September 2022) the start times for the children will be staggered. Please can all current Morasha families please come to school between 8.15 – 8.45; any new families please arrive between 9 – 9.15am.

Parents are welcome to walk their children into the school gates and see them in to the classroom. We encourage parents to let their children come into school independently as soon as they are ready. The regular school day for our Reception pupils starts between 8.15 and 8.45.

MORNING DROP-OFF

Drivers using the Kiss and Drop service should not get out of the car. Instead, the parent who is on duty will open the car door to ensure that the children get out safely. Please ensure your child has all their belongings to hand and is ready to leave the car. This enables the system to keep moving, without the build-up of traffic.

PARKING

The nearest car parks to the school for public use are the two car parks at the top of Stanhope Road, by the High Road. Parents need to pay for parking if these car parks are used. (The car park directly next to the school, Stanhope Lower car park, is unavailable for regular parking. The parking bays along Stanhope Road are for residents only.)

Please avoid blocking our neighbours' driveways, and turn your car engines off if waiting outside the school for any reason. Any cars left on yellow lines in the area will be left at the driver's own risk. Unfortunately, we do get regular emails from our neighbours highlighting the poor driving (such as performing 3-point turns in the middle of the road), parking and attitude of a small number of parents, so we ask everyone to support the relationship with our neighbours.

SECURITY

In the interests of security, we have been advised by the Community Security Trust (CST) that parents should participate in a security rota to provide vital assistance to our two full-time security guards. At present, two parents are needed every morning: one for assisting the security guard and another to help children out of cars safely, and one parent is required to do security in the afternoons. This is constantly under review and may be subject to any change after consultation with the CST.

An email from Rota Central will be sent to you before September 2022.

If you are unable to do your given security slot, please try to swap with another parent and let the School Office know your new arrangements. If you are unable to arrange any substitute, please inform the School Office as soon as possible, so alternative cover can be arranged. If a family member **fails** to undertake their security slot for any reason, a £15 fine will be issued.

For the safety of all the children and staff, and to ensure the smooth running of the school, it is extremely important that all parents arrive for their security duty **promptly at 8:10 am/3:15 pm**.

TOILETING

Your child must be able to manage the toilet without help. Please ensure that your child has a spare pair of labelled clothes in their bag, in case of any accidents. If children soil themselves, we will contact parents and ask them to come and either collect the child, or clean and change the child in school where possible.

UNIFORM AND DRESS CODE

Our uniform shows that we are part of a school community and Sacks Morasha pupils must wear their uniform with pride. We have a strict uniform policy and have the highest expectations from our pupils with regards to school uniform and appearance. We strongly believe that our high standards promote positive behaviour, support effective teaching and learning, and contribute to the ethos of the school.

Please therefore help us to ensure that all the children wear the correct uniform, as listed below.

We also encourage all our children to wear their uniform smartly. Uniform must be kept in good repair, must be clean and not have any stains, rips or tears. Uniform must be checked on a regular basis by the pupil's parents/carers to ensure it is suitable for wear and in a good state of repair.

As you will see from the list below, the Sacks Morasha logo appears on the sweatshirt, cardigan, cap, book bag/rucksack and PE bag. These items can **only** be purchased from Uniform4Kids at 1103-1107 Finchley Road, Temple Fortune, London NW11 0QB or from www.uniform4kids.com. In order to keep costs down, the school logo does not appear on other key items (e.g. pinafore dress, polo shirts, PE T-shirt and summer dress) although we do specify a required style, as supplied by Uniform4Kids. Non-logo items can also be purchased elsewhere, but we ask that you take care to ensure that our style guide is met.

It is essential to label ALL items of clothing with your child's name. Please place the name label in an accessible place and regularly check that it is still legible.

We want the children to be as independent as possible, so please be sure that your child is dressed in clothes that allow him or her to be independent, both indoors and outdoors. Think carefully about buckles, buttons and laces.

Parents of students who do not wear the correct uniform will be contacted and requested to bring in a change of clothes for their child. Persistent and defiant non-compliance with the policy will result in an appropriate sanction, which may include reflection or exclusion.

PARENTS' AND VISITORS' DRESS CODE

All Jewish men and boys should dress appropriately when dropping off and collecting children from school, and should cover their heads at all times while on school premises (including when on security duty), while attending any school or PTA events and when dropping off and collecting children.

All women should similarly dress appropriately when dropping off and collecting children from school, when on security duty and at PTA or school events which are not during the school day. Trousers are permitted, but please ensure that your shoulders and upper arms are covered, and that clothes are of knee length or longer.

When volunteering during the school day (e.g. school trips or in school) **or when attending any school event** women should please ensure that they wear skirts or dresses of knee length or longer, and that their shoulders and upper arms are covered. We ask that all family members attending school events, and family/au pairs/nannies picking up or dropping off children from school, also respect our dress code policy. Thank you for your cooperation.

RECEPTION AND KEY STAGE 1 UNIFORM LIST

Girls' Winter Uniform

- Light blue polo shirt.

Whilst we do not have a preferred supplier, we ask that the polo shirt has a straight collar (no frills) and three buttons in the front.

- Grey school pinafore dress.
- Sacks Morasha cardigan/jumper
- School cap – to be kept in school.
- Black or grey socks or tights.
- Sensible, closed black school shoes.
- Dark blue or black hair bands.

Girls' Summer Uniform (may be worn in the Summer Term)

- Light blue and white gingham summer dress.
- White socks.
- Sensible, closed black school shoes (open-toe sandals are not permitted)

Boys' Uniform

- Light blue polo shirt.

While we do not have a preferred supplier, we ask that the polo shirt has a straight collar (no frills) and three buttons in the front. If a long sleeved polo shirt is worn, the school sweatshirt/cardigan must still be worn as this is part of the uniform and not an extra.

- Grey school trousers (grey school shorts may be worn in the Summer term).
- Sacks Morasha jumper
- Grey or black socks.
- School cap – to be kept in school.
- Sacks Morasha kippah (with plenty of clips and several spares, including at least one in their school bag).
- Tzitzit.
- Sensible, closed black school shoes (not trainers).

Unisex PE Uniform

We require that our pupils change for PE activities. They need an appropriately labelled unisex PE kit as follows:

- Royal blue Sacks Morasha hooded top.
- White plain t-shirt.
- Royal blue jogging bottoms.
- Unisex PE 'Core shorts', to be purchased from Sports Direct:

<https://www.sportsdirect.com/sondico-core-shorts-infants-462013#colcode=46201321>

- Royal blue Sacks Morasha PE bag (Havasak).
- Black or blue plain plimsolls and trainers.

If a child does not have their correct PE kit, they will miss PE lessons and a letter will be sent home.

Outside clothing

The outside area is an essential extension of the indoor classroom and will be accessed on a daily basis by the children in **all weathers**.

Jewellery

- If girls have pierced ears, ONE pair of discreet studs may be worn.
- No other jewellery is permitted to be worn or brought into school.

Hairstyles

- Pupils with long hair must tie their hair back.
- Shaved heads, tramlines, patterns and sculpting are not permitted.

The following are NOT allowed in school:

- Hoodies, sportswear or sweatshirts.
- Make up and nail varnish.
- Trainers, other than for use in PE lessons and clubs.
- Any kind of boots (wellingtons are allowed in wet weather/snow, but must be changed when inside the school buildings).

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Although Sacks Morasha is part of a multi-academy trust ('MAT'), the funding that it receives directly from central government falls far short of its financial needs and so Finchley Jewish Primary School Trust (the registered charity that supports the school) must continue to fundraise from the parent body (through voluntary contributions) in order to enable the school to balance its budget and to provide the excellent extended curriculum which all the pupils enjoy.

These donations help to pay staff salaries, cover a range of costs incurred by the school that are not met by the government grant as well as many activities that the school runs. Each year, Sacks Morasha requests close to £1 million of voluntary income in order to break even and without your generous voluntary contributions, the school simply could not meet its financial obligations.

Voluntary contributions therefore represent essential funding for the school and we rely heavily on these donations from the parents of pupils at Sacks Morasha to ensure that the school is able to meet the needs of each and every child and to ensure that the school can continue to provide the excellent level of provision that it does.

Your donations can be made to Finchley Jewish Primary School Trust in a number of ways:

A donation from your personal bank account of £1,200 per term together with a signed Gift Aid form. You may wish to make donations as a single amount each year, each term or by monthly standing order.

If you wish to donate by cheque, please send cheques made payable to "Finchley Jewish Primary School Trust" to the school office. If you wish to donate directly by bank transfer or by standing order, our bank account details are:

Finchley Jewish Primary School Trust
Lloyds Bank
Account Number: 03157134
Sort code: 30-94-47

Or:

A donation from a business bank account, charitable trust or a charity voucher of £1,500 per child per term. Again, this can be given as a single donation each year, term or by a monthly standing order. If you wish to donate by cheque, please make them payable to "Finchley Jewish Primary School Trust" and send them to the school office. If you wish to donate directly or by standing order, our bank account details are as above.

Please note that we are not able to claim Gift Aid on donations from business bank accounts, charitable trusts or charity vouchers.

If you prefer, donations to the charity can also be made by credit or debit card online through the school's website: <https://sacksmorasha.org.uk/about/donations/>

The trustees hope that you and your families remain safe and well and we give you our heartfelt thanks in anticipation of your support.

FOOD AT SCHOOL

Lunch

The Children and Families Act 2014 places a legal duty on all state-funded schools to offer free school lunches to pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 – this is called Universal Free School Meals. We provide our pupils with a hot, meaty kosher lunch. The cost of these lunches is slightly more than the state funding and therefore we ask you to supplement £20 per year towards this (*price is subject to change*).

Snacks

Children may bring in fresh fruit, vegetables or plain crackers (which must be Kosher according to the KLBD Kashrut list and be nut free) for snacks, to eat during first break or afternoon play.

On Rosh Chodesh, to make an exciting difference to the children and to recognise it is a special day, we allow the children to bring in a bag of Walkers' ready-salted crisps in their pre-packaged bag. We specify this brand in order to avoid embarrassment should a child inadvertently bring a bag of crisps not listed on the KLBD list, and also to avoid issues with allergies.

BIRTHDAYS

We celebrate every child's birthday joyously. In order to ensure that everyone is treated the same, we ask parents to pay a sum of £3 and we will purchase (allergy free) biscuits to celebrate your child's birthday with their class. Please give this donation to the School Office one week before the birthday, in an envelope marked with your child's name.

Parents may also wish to mark their child's birthday by buying a book for the class library. Books are priced at £6, £7 and £8. If you would like to purchase a book, please speak with the School Office, who will arrange this for you.

Following an initiative by our Student Council, children can also come to school on their birthday wearing their own clothes and we all make an extra special fuss of them!

ABSENCE

The Education Act 1944 states that "all pupils should attend school regularly and punctually". Section 444 of the 1996 Education Act states that "If a child of compulsory school age, who is a registered pupil at a school, fails to attend regularly at the school, his/her parents are guilty of an offence".

Sickness

If your child is absent, please contact the School Office on 020 3115 1900 or office.manager@morashajps.org.uk as the School Office needs to record the reason for each pupil absence. On a child's return to school, please give a note to the class teacher with details of the absence.

Appointments

Routine appointments must be made outside of school hours. Where this is not possible, please email the School Office about the appointment, including the estimated time your child will arrive at/leave school and provide a letter confirming the appointment. This means that we can record your child's absence accurately.

When picking up a child early or bringing them to school late, you will need to sign them in/out of school. The book can be found outside the School Office.

Authorised and unauthorised absences

Sacks Morasha is obliged by law to differentiate between authorised and unauthorised absences. Parents must make an application to the Head teacher, in writing, requesting permission to take your child/ren out of school, giving a valid

reason why they wish to do so. Please note that authorising leave of absence is at the discretion of the head teacher. Please speak to the School Office to pick up an Absence Request Form.

COMMUNICATIONS

All newsletters and information, for example regarding outings, parent evenings and clubs, will be communicated via ParentMail. At the beginning of September, you will receive an email with details about how to log in to ParentMail.

The school will send regular updates about your child's progress and you will be **invited to 2 parents' evenings** held throughout the academic year.

From September, should you need to speak to the Reception teacher, you are more than welcome to make an appointment with them via email, in the first instance, on reception@morashajps.org.uk

Teachers aim to respond within 24 hours or on the next working day. Please note that emails to this email address currently go to the Chol and Kodesh teachers only, but may also be seen by other staff who work with the class.

Alternatively, you can call the School Office on **020 3115 1900** and leave a message for the class teacher to return your call. Again, teachers should return your call within 24 hours. If you have not had a response, please email a reminder to office.administrator@morashajps.org.uk.

If you have a query about after-school clubs or general issues that are not class-related, please call the School Office. Non-urgent queries may be emailed to office.administrator@morashajps.org.uk

School contact details

Sacks Morasha Jewish Primary School, 31 Stanhope Road, London, N12 9DX

School Office, for general enquiries: office.administrator@morashajps.org.uk

Office phone number: 020 3115 1900

Our office hours are 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Our **SCHOOL TERM DATES** can be found at <https://sacksmorasha.org.uk/parents/>

SHABBAT AND YOM TOV CLOSING TIMES 2022/23

Date	School closes
Friday 9 September 2022	3:20pm/3:30 pm
Friday 16 September 2022	3:20pm/3:30 pm
Friday 23 September 2022 <i>(Erev Rosh HaShanah – Sunday 25 September 2022)</i>	1:50pm/2:00 pm
Friday 30 September 2022	1:50pm/2:00 pm
Tuesday 4 October 2022 <i>(Kol Nidrei/Erev Yom Kippur)</i>	1:50pm/2:00 pm
Friday 7 October 2022	1:50pm/2:00 pm
SUCCOT (HALF TERM)	
Friday 21 October 2022	1:50pm/2:00 pm
Friday 28 October 2022	1:50pm/2:00 pm
Friday 4 November 2022 <i>Lunch provided for Rec/KS1</i>	12:20pm/12:30 pm
Friday 11 November 2022 <i>Lunch provided for Rec/KS1</i>	12:20pm/12:30 pm
Friday 18 November 2022 <i>Lunch provided for Rec/KS1</i>	12:20pm/12:30 pm
Friday 25 November 2022 <i>Lunch provided for Rec/KS1</i>	12:20pm/12:30 pm
Friday 2 December 2022 <i>Lunch provided for Rec/KS1</i>	12:20pm/12:30 pm

Friday 9 December 2022 <i>Lunch provided for Rec/KS1</i>	12:20pm/12:30 pm
Friday 16 December 2022 <i>Lunch provided for Rec/KS1</i>	12:20pm/12:30 pm
Wednesday 21 December 2022	12 noon
WINTER HOLIDAY	
Friday 6 Jan 2023 <i>Lunch provided for Rec/KS1</i>	12:20pm/12:30 pm
Friday 13 Jan 2023 <i>Lunch provided for Rec/KS1</i>	12:20pm/12:30 pm
Friday 20 Jan 2023 <i>Lunch provided for Rec/KS1</i>	12:20pm/12:30 pm
Friday 27 Jan 2023 <i>Lunch provided for Rec/KS1</i>	12:20pm/12:30 pm
Friday 3 Feb 2023 <i>Lunch provided for Rec/KS1</i>	12:20pm/12:30 pm
Friday 10 Feb 2023 <i>Lunch provided for Rec/KS1</i>	12:20pm/12:30 pm
HALF TERM	
Friday 24 Feb 2023	1:50pm/2:00 pm
Friday 3 March 2023	1:50pm/2:00 pm
Wednesday 7 March 2023 PURIM	12 noon
Friday 10 March 2023	1:50pm/2:00 pm
Friday 17 March 2023	1:50pm/2:00 pm

Friday 24 March 2023	1:50pm/2:00 pm
Friday 31 March 2023	12 noon
PESACH	
Long Fridays for the Summer Term	Reception and Key Stage 1 3:20 pm Key Stage 2 3:30 pm
Thursday 25 May 2023 (Erev Shavuot) <i>Lunch provided for Rec/KS1</i>	12:50pm/1:00 pm
Friday 21 July 2023	12 noon