

# Kerem

at

60



This year has seen three notable anniversaries celebrated in Kerem School. Firstly, we played a large part in the Centenary celebrations of Hampstead Garden Suburb. Secondly, we have made Israel's 60th Anniversary a real focus of this year and now we are marking the diamond jubilee of Kerem Schools. The Kerem Schools, unique as being an integral part of the local orthodox community, stand as a lasting tribute to the wisdom and foresight of our founders. Kerem School has never been fuller, the support of the HGS families has never been stronger and our future has never looked brighter.

Mrs Rosalind Goulden  
Headteacher, Kerem School

Kerem House is having a truly wonderful sixtieth year. This academic year started with praise from Ofsted for the "outstanding" partnership that Kerem House has with parents. The inspector commented on the very good facilities for outdoor play which were improved during the summer holidays by the new wooden climbing equipment. The garden has very recently been enhanced by the addition of a new covered area which allows the children to play outdoors even in poor weather and also protects them from the sun.

Kerem House was selected to be entered into the London Borough of Barnet Directory of Good Practice Guide for the way it includes children with additional needs and the integration of the Jewish and Secular Curricula. We have been getting ready for the new statutory Early Years Foundation Stage which comes into effect in September and the regional advisor from the Department of Children and Families came to visit us to see how our preparations were progressing. It was her first opportunity to see a Jewish nursery and we were delighted to hear that she was "very impressed" with Kerem House.

Mrs Diana Rose  
Headteacher, Kerem House

On 17 June, Kerem Schools celebrated their 60th Anniversary in style with a dinner at the Park Lane Hotel. Three hundred guests were present, including parents and grandparents of children at the schools, current and former members of the teaching staff, school governors past and present, and many former pupils. Two former chairmen of governors, Peter Sheldon and Julian Taylor, were also present as were Rabbi and Rebbetzin Livingstone and Chazan Avromi Freilich with his wife, Rochelle. We were also delighted to welcome Mrs Sybil Frankfurt and many members of her family along with Zahava, Daniel and Helen Dover.

The guests of honour were the Chief Rabbi, Sir Jonathan Sacks, and Lady Elaine Sacks.

Chairman of Governors, Jonathan Goldstein, introducing the Chief Rabbi, said, "Kerem School has a rich history and it is wonderful to celebrate its 60th anniversary in the company of so many people who have a strong association with it. The school has played an important role within the Jewish community



Chazan Avromi and children entertain

since 1948 and it has a great future ahead of it."

At the dinner the Chief Rabbi, Sir Jonathan Sacks praised the founders and governors past and present for their vision. He spoke of the importance of a school to a community saying that it should even precede the building of a shul. He encouraged us to ensure that the school is always at the very centre of the community.

He told us of his first visit to Prague. He felt very uncomfortable – it upset him to be there. He returned two years later and felt that something had changed. When he asked what had changed he was told that a school had been founded. Now Prague not only had a Jewish past but also a Jewish future.

The Chief Rabbi felt that HGS should celebrate having such an excellent school. He told parents that the best investment they could make is to become

involved in their children's Jewish education. He explained that they should learn with their children and from their children. We should always aim for our children to achieve more than we have done. He added, "Should you ever have qualms about the Jewish future, then visit the school and witness a miracle: the world's oldest faith becoming young again in the minds, and on the faces, of our children"

The musical entertainment was provided by Shir, Year 6 who sang a few favourite Hebrew songs, a solo performance by Joshua Neerkin singing a Shlock Rock 'Shavuot version of "All Night Long" and a wonderful medley from Chazan Avromi, including three versions of *Adon Olam* in one song! Everyone joined in and the *ruach* was electric.

Richard Fox gave the vote of thanks at the end of what proved to be an outstanding evening. The energy and enthusiasm of the parent body was a clear demonstration of how a Jewish school can invigorate the local community and ensure its future continuity and success.

Photo John Rifkin



The Chief Rabbi and Lady Sacks with, left, Jonathan Goldstein, Chairman of Governors, and Julian Taylor, President



The Chief Rabbi, Sir Jonathan Sacks, Lady Elaine Sacks, Mrs Rosalind Goulden, Headteacher Kerem School and a group of happy children Photo John Rifkin

## Where it all began

Thanks to the vision and tenacity of Stanley Frankfurt, Kerem School was founded in 1948 as the 'Hampstead Garden Suburb Jewish Kindergarten'. The nursery school opened, with a small number of children between the ages of 3 and 5, in the old Hampstead Garden Suburb Synagogue Hall. Dayan Meyer Lew became the first Honorary Principal and it was he who suggested the name 'Kerem', explaining that Kerem means a vineyard and that the children should grow and flourish as grapes grow on the vine.

The nursery school became popular and soon had a long waiting list. New premises were acquired with the purchase, in 1950, of a purpose-built nursery school building in Kingsley Way. Shortly after this, the need for a primary school where the children could continue their Jewish education became



This photograph from 1978 shows Mrs Helen Taylor's Class 2. Amongst the children were John Carmeli, Susan Israel, Susie Cross, Sara Epstein, James Shaw, Claudia Davis, Michael Taub, Michael Hakimian, Nadine Gorman, Nomi Miller, Suzanne Lehrer, Jonathan Gelberg, Liv Fenner, Jonathan Sheldon and Alison Tarlow

apparent. Space was made available on the Synagogue premises for the new Kerem School which was officially opened in January 1955. In 1956, the school was extended to offer full primary education for children up to the age of 11.

During the past 60 years the school has educated thousands of pupils, many of whom have achieved great success both in their professional lives and also in the Jewish community. Today, the schools cater for almost 300 pupils who enjoy a broad, stimulating and intensive secular and Jewish education within a caring, structured and purposeful environment. Kerem aims to develop an understanding of, and positive commitment to Orthodox Judaism in each and every one of its pupils, together with a sharing sense of identity with Israel and the Jewish people.

One former pupil, Leora Greenberg (nee Harvard), who attended Kerem in the 1970's, said, "I had a fantastic time at Kerem and look back at the time I spent there with many happy memories. My daughter, Kate, is now a pupil in year 2. My other daughter, Emma, is in Kerem House and will be moving to reception in Kerem School this September. The school offers children an excellent education as well as a love of Judaism and Israel".

Helen Taylor