

The Ark Synagogue Cheder 2023/24

YEAR 3 & 4

HANDBOOK FOR PARENTS



Introduction

Our objective for cheder education in Years 3 & 4 is to build on the students' knowledge of Judaism, providing them with a better understanding of the Jewish Festivals, Jewish home and synagogue practices and key biblical stories. The curriculum is based on age-appropriate books, short videos and will give the children an opportunity to express their creativity.





Term Overview

Classes will be held on Saturday morning during term time. In general, the morning will start with a short cheder assembly at 10am in the Osorio Hall - parents are warmly invited to attend alongside their children. The Jewish Studies lesson will run from 10:15 - 11am. If there is sufficient interest, we will also offer an introduction to Hebrew class from 11:15 - noon.

Term Dates

Autumn Term: 23 Sept. - 14 Oct. and 4 Nov. - 9 Dec.

Spring Term: 13 Jan. - 10 Feb. and 2 March - 23 March

Summer Term: 20 April - 18 May (no Cheder on 4 May) and 8 June - 29 June

Useful Contacts

Cheder Headteacher: Abi Purkis, abi@arksynagogue.org

Cheder Admin Support: Mandy Blackstein, mandy@arksynagogue.org

Jewish Studies Curriculum

We supply our teachers with a detailed curriculum for each lesson - parents are welcome to contact Abi to receive a copy of the lesson plans. In this handbook, we are just sharing the topic of each lesson to allow parents to engage with their children about what they have learnt. You will also see what books the children will be using in class.



Autumn Term

23 Sept	High Holy Days (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur)
30 Sept	High Holy Days (Sukkot)
7 Oct	Hebrew: How does praying in Hebrew help create Jewish community?
14 Oct	Hebrew: How does using Hebrew help us form our Jewish identity?
4 Nov	The First Steps in a Jewish Life: What paths are there in a Jewish Life?
11 Nov	Preparing to be a Jewish Adult: How do we prepare to become a Jewish adult?
18 Nov	Preparing to be a Jewish Adult: How can I prepare to be a Jewish adult?
25 Nov	Establishing a Jewish Home: How do we begin to build a Jewish home?
2 Dec	Establishing a Jewish Home: What makes a home Jewish?
9 Dec	This Jewish Life: What defines a Jewish Life?

Spring Term

13 Jan	The Birth of the World: For what was God preparing the world?
20 Jan	The Birth of the World: What does it mean to be created b'tzelem Elohim, in the image of God?
27 Jan	My Brother's Keeper: What does it mean to be our "brothers' keepers?"
3 Feb	The Man who Walked with God: How can we remain true to Jewish values and ideas despite the behaviour of those around us?
10 Feb	Abraham Finds His Way: Why did God choose Abraham?
2 March	Abraham Finds His Way: Why is God's promise to give the Land of Israel to Abraham's descendants important?



9 March	Abraham Speaks Up: Should not the Judge of all the earth act justly?
16 March	Abraham Speaks up: How should we, like Abraham and Lot, speak up for justice?
23 March	The Sacrifice: Why does God give Abraham such a difficult test?

Summer Term

20 April	Let's Discover Mitzvot: Tzedakah
27 April	Let's Discover Mitzvot: Visit the Sick
11 May	Let's Discover Mitzvot: Feed the Hungry
18 May	Let's Discover Mitzvot: Save the Earth
8 June	Let's Discover Israel: An Introduction
15 June	Let's Discover Israel: The country
22 June	Let's Discover Israel: The people
29 June	Let's Discover Israel: Food

Hebrew Option

We are offering an optional session each week for children to learn to read Hebrew. The children joining this option will be working in small groups according to their prior knowledge.