

The Ark Synagogue Cheder 2023/24

YEAR 5 & 6

HANDBOOK FOR PARENTS



Introduction

Our objective for cheder education in Years 5 & 6 is to build on the students' knowledge of Judaism, providing them with a better understanding of the values, festivals and stories that shape our Jewish identity. 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 4th 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.



Autumn Term

23 Sept	Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur: Dan l'chaf Zechut
30 Sept	Sukkot: Kehillah
7 Oct	Living by the Book: How has Torah inspired the Jewish people?
14 Oct	Living by the Book: What is contained in the Tanakh, or Jewish Bible?
4 Nov	Torah: At the Heart of Jewish Life: How is the Torah considered a blueprint for Jewish life?
11 Nov	Torah: At the Heart of Jewish Life: How does the Torah continue to influence us today?
18 Nov	Tanakh: Prophets, Judges, and Kings: What was the role of prophets and how did they prophesy?
25 Nov	Tanakh: Prophets, Judges, and Kings: What can we learn from the words and stories contained in K'tuvim (Writings)?
2 Dec	Reading Sacred Texts: A Year of Jewish Books: What are some characteristics of the Torah service?
9 Dec	Reading Sacred Texts: A Year of Jewish Books: Why are different Bible texts connected to different holidays?

Spring Term

13 Jan	The Rest Is Commentary: What is commentary?
20 Jan	The Rest Is Commentary: How have new texts and new technologies helped Judaism remain relevant for each new generation?
27 Jan	The Siddur: Words from the Heart: What is a siddur and what does it contain?
3 Feb	The Siddur: Words from the Heart: How do we make fixed prayer relevant for us today?
10 Feb	The Siddur: Words from the Heart: What does it mean to pray with kavanah (intention)?
2 March	Pass It On: Being People of the Book: What is our role in the chain of

	transmission of Jewish thought?
9 March	Welcome to Your World: How does understanding the evolution of Jewish history help us to understand ourselves?
16 March	Biblical Times: Becoming Am Yisrael: What is the difference between Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael and M'dinat Yisrael?
23 March	Biblical Times: Becoming Am Yisrael: How does understanding our biblical history affect Judaism today?

Summer Term

20 April	Biblical Times: Becoming Am Yisrael: What characterized Am Yisrael's evolution from a family into a nation?
27 April	Jewish Life with or without the Temple: What was life like during the Second Temple period?
11 May	Jewish Life with or without the Temple: How did the destruction of the Second Temple and our subsequent exile affect the Jewish people?
18 May	Creating Jewish Community: From East to West: How did living in the Diaspora affect Judaism during medieval times, and how do we know?
8 June	Creating Jewish Community: From East to West: How did the rise of other faiths affect Jews during the medieval period?
15 June	Crossing Continents, Starting Over: What was the influence of the Spanish Inquisition on the Jews of Spain?
22 June	Crossing Continents, Starting Over: How did varying levels of freedom affect Jewish life under different rulers?
29 June	Winds of Change: New Opportunities and Responses: How did Jews navigate their newfound freedoms in western Europe?

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.