

The Ark Synagogue Cheder 2023/24

RECEPTION - YEAR 2

HANDBOOK FOR PARENTS



Introduction

Our objective for cheder education for our youngest years is to introduce students to the basics of Jewish life - learning about the Jewish Festivals, exploring Jewish home and synagogue practices, engaging with popular biblical stories and picking up some Hebrew terminology. The children will enjoy age-appropriate children's books and express their creativity through arts and crafts.





Term Overview

Classes will be held on Saturday mornings 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. Unless older siblings are also enrolled in the cheder, we ask that parents stay in or around the synagogue during class time until we can confirm that the children have fully settled in.

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 (based on the lesson plans developed by Behrman House, www.behrmanhouse.com). 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	Let's Discover Fall Holidays: Yom Kippur
30 Sept	Let's Discover Fall Holidays: Sukkot
7 Oct	Let's Discover Fall Holidays: Simchat Torah
14 Oct	Let's Discover Fall Holidays: The Story of Shabbat
4 Nov	Let's Discover Kindness: Kindness
11 Nov	Let's Discover Kindness: Empathy
18 Nov	Let's Discover Kindness: Kindness to Yourself
25 Nov	Let's Discover Kindness: Gratitude
2 Dec	Let's Discover Fall Holidays: The Story of Hanukkah
9 Dec	Let's Discover Fall Holidays: Celebrating Hanukkah

Spring Term

13 Jan	Let's Discover Spring Holidays: Celebrating Shabbat
20 Jan	Let's Discover Spring Holidays: Tu BiShevat
27 Jan	Let's Discover Fall Holidays: The Jewish Holidays
3 Feb	Let's Discover Shabbat: Welcoming Shabbat
10 Feb	Let's Discover Shabbat: A Holy Day
2 March	Let's Discover Shabbat: Saying Thank You
9 March	Let's Discover Shabbat: Saying Good-bye
16 March	Let's Discover Spring Holidays: The Story of Purim
23 March	Let's Discover Spring Holidays: Celebrating Purim



Summer Term

20 April	Let's Discover Spring Holidays: The Story of Passover
27 April	Let's Discover Spring Holidays: Celebrating Passover
11 May	Let's Discover Spring Holidays: Yom Ha'atzma'ut
18 May	Let's Discover Kindness: Respect
8 June	Let's Discover Kindness: Acceptance
15 June	Let's Discover Kindness: Forgiveness
22 June	Let's Discover Kindness: A Kinder World
29 June	Let's Discover Spring Holidays: Shavuot

Hebrew Option

We are offering an optional session each week to introduce the kids to Hebrew. The children joining this option will begin to familiarise themselves with the Hebrew alphabet through arts & crafts, song as well as our extremely popular alef-bet yoga. In addition, children will be introduced to basic Hebrew vocabulary.