

The Ark Synagogue Cheder 2025/26

YEARS 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. This will be followed by an optional 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	Spring Term	Summer Term
Sat 13 Sep '25	Sat 10 Jan '26	Sat 18 Apr '26
Sat 20 Sep '25	Sat 17 Jan '26	Sat 25 Apr '26
Sat 27 Sep '25	Sat 24 Jan '26	Sat 02 May '26
Sat 04 Oct '25	Sat 31 Jan '26	Sat 09 May '26
Sat 11 Oct '25	Sat 07 Feb '26	Sat 16 May '26
Sat 08 Nov '25	Sat 28 Feb '26	Sat 06 Jun '26
Sat 15 Nov '25	Sat 07 Mar '26	Sat 13 Jun '26
Sat 22 Nov '25	Sat 14 Mar '26	Sat 20 Jun '26
Sat 29 Nov '25	Sat 21 Mar '26	Sat 27 Jun '26
Sat 06 Dec '25		Sat 04 Jul '26
Sat 13 Dec '25		

Jewish Studies Curriculum

We supply our teachers with a detailed curriculum for each lesson - parents are welcome to contact Rabbi Lea 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

Sat 13 Sep '25	Welcome to Cheder
Sat 20 Sep '25	High Holy Days (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur)
Sat 27 Sep '25	High Holy Days (Sukkot)
Sat 04 Oct '25	Hebrew: How does praying in Hebrew help create Jewish community?
Sat 11 Oct '25	Hebrew: How does using Hebrew help us form our Jewish identity?
Sat 08 Nov '25	The First Steps in a Jewish Life: What paths are there in a Jewish Life?
Sat 15 Nov '25	Preparing to be a Jewish Adult: How do we prepare to become a Jewish adult?
Sat 22 Nov '25	Preparing to be a Jewish Adult: How can I prepare to be a Jewish adult?
Sat 29 Nov '25	Establishing a Jewish Home: How do we begin to build a Jewish home?
Sat 06 Dec '25	Establishing a Jewish Home: What makes a home Jewish?
Sat 13 Dec '25	This Jewish Life: What defines a Jewish Life?

Spring Term

Sat 10 Jan '26	The Birth of the World: For what was God preparing the world?
Sat 17 Jan '26	The Birth of the World: What does it mean to be created b'tzelem Elohim, in the image of God?
Sat 24 Jan '26	My Brother's Keeper: What does it mean to be our "brothers' keepers?"
Sat 31 Jan '26	The Man who Walked with God: How can we remain true to Jewish values and ideas despite the behaviour of those around us?
Sat 07 Feb '26	Abraham Finds His Way: Why did God choose Abraham?
Sat 28 Feb '26	Abraham Finds His Way: Why is God's promise to give the Land of Israel to Abraham's descendants important?
Sat 07 Mar '26	Abraham Speaks Up: Should not the Judge of all the earth act justly?
Sat 14 Mar '26	Abraham Speaks up: How should we, like Abraham and Lot, speak up for justice?
Sat 21 Mar '26	The Sacrifice: Why does God give Abraham such a difficult test?

Summer Term

Sat 18 Apr '26	Let's Discover Mitzvot: Tzedakah
Sat 25 Apr '26	Let's Discover Mitzvot: Visit the Sick
Sat 02 May '26	Let's Discover Mitzvot: Feed the Hungry
Sat 09 May '26	Let's Discover Mitzvot: Save the Earth
Sat 16 May '26	Shavuot celebration
Sat 06 Jun '26	Let's Discover Israel: An Introduction
Sat 13 Jun '26	Let's Discover Israel: The country
Sat 20 Jun '26	Let's Discover Israel: The people
Sat 27 Jun '26	Let's Discover Mitzvot: Tzedakah
Sat 04 Jul '26	Fun Day