FOR THE NEW GENERATION





# WELCOME PACK





# FOR THE NEW GENERATION

**Welcome** to EL-Squared - our Cheder here at East London and Essex Liberal Synagogue for 5 to 13 year olds.

We believe in creating a fun, social, nurturing and supportive atmosphere within which your children can have an enriching Jewish educational experience!

Once you've had a look through the topics, including the curriculi, and provisional schedule of the year in the pack, please complete the registration form on the final page and send it back to secure your child's place. If you have a returning child, please just email cheder@elels.org.uk and confirm that their details remain the same.

You are also very much welcome for your child/children to try out the Cheder for up to 6 weeks, before making a decision.

Included in the pack are:

- Head Teacher's greeting
- Syllabus of the year and term dates
- Kabbalat Torah info
- Structure of the day
- Contribution and fees
- Security details
- Registration form



We're looking forward to welcoming you and your children in September!

# FOR THE NEW GENERATION



**Dear Parents,**

Over the last year we have continued to grow, finishing with 43 children on the register, which is the largest it's been since the millennium! As such, we've added another class, but with the greater numbers comes the challenge of accommodating everybody comfortably in the space provided. From September 2023, the youngest children to attend the Cheder must be 5 by the start of the year. Over the next few years, the synagogue is looking into ways of redeveloping the Marlborough Road site, with the considerations of our burgeoning Cheder very much being taken into account. Once completed we will be able welcome even more children and families to our Cheder and synagogue!

Fortunately, we continue to have a lovely crop of young assistants and teachers that have grown up through the Cheder. A number of them participated in the most recent Kabbalat Torah programme (post B'nei Mitzvah) including going on a trip to Amsterdam which really cemented their bonds to each other and to ELELS. I believe that trips like that, as well as the recent Jewish Museum and bowling trip for for the older members of the Cheder, work to make invaluable memories for the participants. This ultimately fosters a stronger sense of their Judaism and connection to the community.

My wife, Jennie, continues to support me and the teaching staff; and over the last term I was lucky to be able call upon a former ELELS Cheder Head teacher, Rachel Kamall, to cover me and lead an occasional class. We have a very strong New Generations Committee, led by parents, which has enabled some wonderful multi-generational events to take place.

We've had the Chanukah Party with its donuts, Maccabee training games, crafts and fun; the delightful Disneyfied Purim Spiel at Clore Tikva; and inspiring family services. We've collaborated with PJ Library and LJY Netzer to present sessions that are fun, informative and pertinent; and created artwork and projects that have been shared with the community.

Overall, it's been a joy to be back in the building for the full year, to see the children develop, form bonds, and enrich their Jewish experience, without any interruptions, and I very much hope that continues as we move forward!

Lastly, I would like to say that I am looking forward to the new term, and meeting everybody again at the now 'traditional' New Year fete that's being organised for Sunday September 3rd. I know I for one always enjoyed a bouncy castle and ice creams, as well as getting the opportunity to throw wet sponges at my teachers, so it should be a lovely event!

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me on cheder@elels.org.uk if you have any questions or ideas or to introduce yourself.

Best wishes,
Jonathan

# FOR THE NEW GENERATION

**What do lessons involve?**

Lessons are taught through art, craft, discussion, drama and games and include Jewish Studies, Hebrew and an end of year special project. Guest speakers and groups including *LJY-Netzer, KeshetUK,* and *Solutions Not Sides* are invited to lead sessions. We also have a very lovely participatory Saturday family service which takes place once a term, and an age appropriate inter-generational Friday night service, *Shishi Shituf* or *Sharing Friday,* which involves sharing work prepared the previous week and leading elements of the service four times a year.

**Term Dates:**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Stayv (Autumn):** | **9th September – 9th December**<br>**(Half term: 21st - 28th October)** |
| **Aviv (Spring):** | **6th January – 23rd March**<br>**(Half term: 17th – 24th February)** |
| **Kayitz (Summer):** | **20th April – 6th of July**<br>**(Half term: 25th May – 1st June)** |









# FOR THE NEW GENERATION

**Syllabus for children aged 5 - 10**

This is centred around three of the *middot,* Jewish virtues or values, as provided in *Pirkei Avot* for the two younger classes, **Bereishit (5 – 6 years), Shmot (7 – 8 years) and Vayikra (9-10).**

Middah Talmud (The study of Torah), Middah Lev Tov (Good Heart), Middah Ohev et HaBriyot (Loving All Creatures) provide the basis for a curriculum which explores Torah and post-Torah figures, Jewish ethics and what it means to be a 'good' person, as well as festivals, Israel and love for one another and the world.

**Becoming B'nei Mitzvah**

Historically, in Judaism, a child became an adult on the day of their thirteenth birthday. Over time a religious ceremony developed to mark the occasion, during which a child read from the Torah for the first time. The Bar/Bat Mitzvah service is a special occasion, both for the person becoming Bar/Bat Mitzvah and their family, but in keeping with the original purpose of the occasion we see it as the culmination of a period of study and development. So along with learning their portion and blessings, writing their D'var Torah and Haftarah introductions, and completing a tzedakah project, students should be regularly attending Cheder.

Hence, **Bemidbar (11 +)**, acts as a *Judaism Aleph – Tav*. This has a two year cycle, which imparts a rounded view of Judaism including Jewish ethics, history, festivals, figures and the lifecycle. They also gain an understanding of Saturday morning and Friday night service traditions and prayers through attendance once a term as part of Cheder. This makes sure students have explored the Jewish experience, understood what it means to become B'nei Mitzvah, and connected with their peers to become a Jewish adult within a community that they know and who knows them. For this reason, if your child is planning on becoming Bar or Bat Mitzvah and is turning 11 (entering year 6 at school), now is the time to enrol!




There is a separate 'Becoming B'nei Mitzvah' Document which can be found on the ELELS website.

# FOR THE NEW GENERATION



**Post B'nei Mitzvah:**

**Kabbalat Torah**

At ELELS Bar/Bat Mitzvah is only the beginning. The next step is Kabbalat Torah, a programme for teens that grows and develops their Jewish education, identity and connection to the community

Kabbalat Torah is a programme usually for students in years 9 and 10 at school. It's designed to enable teenagers to have their Jewishness and Judaism 'grow up' with them in their formative early teenage years, so that it can help them to better grapple with the challenges of young adult life in the 2020s. It is also a chance to bring our teens together so that they can build friendships with other young people in our synagogue and the broader Liberal Jewish community while learning from the Rabbi and other experienced educators.

Our KT course has in the past included such elements as a European residential trip (the photo shows a group in a café in Budapest) and the chance to give back to the community through volunteering opportunities.

The most recent KT group completed their course with a Kabbalat Torah service in March 2022 and had a much talked about and loved trip to Amsterdam in September 2022.

The new course will begin in September 2023 and run through to a completion at Chanukkah 2024. This is, after all, a festival of re-dedication!

Within each half-term, we will hold one session for parents, either separately from or with your children, so that you are updated about the programme and can meet up with each other.

For more information, please contact Rabbi Richard Jacobi through the office at rabbi@elels.org.uk

# EL2 FOR THE NEW GENERATION

**The following is the provisional curriculum for the Bereishit, Shmot and Vayikra for the year, and is subject to change:**

| Date | Festival | |
|---|---|---|
| **STAYV** | | |
| | | **MIDDAH TALMUD** |
| 09/09/2023 | | **Welcome back - introductory lessons** |
| 16/09/2023 | **Rosh Hashannah 16th Sept** | **ROSH HASHANNAH SERVICE** |
| 23/09/2023 | **Yom Kippur 25th Sept** | Yom Kippur |
| 30/09/2023 | **Sukkot 30th Sept** | Sukkot Activities alongside the Sukkot service |
| 07/10/2023 | **Simchat Torah 7th Oct** | Simchat Torah |
| 14/10/2023 | | Noah's Ark |
| 21/10/2023 | | **HALF TERM** |
| 28/10/2023 | | |
| 04/11/2023 | | Isaac and Rebecca / Maimonides 2 |
| 11/11/2023 | | Jacob |
| 18/11/2023 | **Mitzvah Day 19th Nov** | Mitzvah Day |
| 25/11/2023 | | Abraham and Sarah |
| 02/12/2023 | **FAMILY SERVICE** | **FAMILY SERVICE** |
| 09/12/2023 | **Chanukah 7th - 15th with the Chanukah Party on the 10th** | Chanukah Traditions and fun |
| 16/12/2023 | | **END OF STAYV TERM** |
| 23/12/2023 | | |
| 30/12/2023 | | |
| **AVIV** | | |
| | | **MIDDAH LEV TOV** |
| 06/01/2024 | | King David - what makes a good person? |
| 13/01/2024 | | Moses as a baby / King David and the Ark of the Covenant |
| 20/01/2024 | **Tu B'Shevat 23rd to24th** | **TU B'SHEVAT FAMILY SERVICE SEDER** |
| 27/01/2024 | | Moses in Egypt/ Whose Money is it anyway? |
| 03/02/2024 | | Moses and the Ten Plagues / Youth Movements |
| 10/02/2024 | | Moses and the Red Sea / Family |
| 17/02/2024 | **HALF TERM** | **HALF TERM** |
| 24/02/2024 | | |
| 02/03/2024 | | Moses and the Ten Commandments |
| 09/03/2024 | | Moses and the golden calf / Kabbalat Torah |
| 16/03/2024 | | Purim Prep |
| 23/03/2024 | **Purim 24th PURIM SPIEL** | Purim Traditions |
| 30/04/2024 | | **END OF AVIV TERM** |
| 06/04/2024 | | |
| 13/04/2024 | | |
| **KAYITZ** | | |
| | | **MIDDAH OHEV ET HABRIYOT** |
| 20/04/2024 | **Pesach 22nd to 29th Communal Seder 23rd** | Pesach |
| 27/04/2024 | | Tikkun Olam - Repairing the World |
| 04/05/2024 | | Israel |
| 11/05/2024 | **Shabbat Atzma'ut (Yom Ha-Atzma'ut 14/5)** | **FAMILY SERVICE** |
| 18/05/2024 | | Prayer |
| 25/05/2024 | **HALF TERM** | **HALF TERM** |
| 01/06/2024 | | |
| 08/06/2024 | **Shavuot 11th to 12th** | Shavuot and Ruth |
| 15/06/2024 | | End of year projects |
| 22/06/2024 | | End of year projects |
| 29/06/2024 | | End of year Challenge round up |
| 06/07/2024 | | **FAMILY SERVICE AND PRESENTATIONS** |
| **END OF YEAR** | | **END OF YEAR** |

# FOR THE NEW GENERATION

**The following is a provisional schedule for the Bemidbar(11 +) class, please refer to the 1st column Bemidbar Y1 23-24 for the syllabus from this September.**

| Date | Festival | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| STAYV | | | |
| | | JUDAISM ALEPH-TAV: BEMIDBAR Y1 23 - 24 | JUDAISM ALEPH-TAV: BEMIDBAR Y2 24-25 |
| 09/09/2023 | | Welcome back - Becoming BM | Welcome back - Becoming BM introductory lesson |
| 16/09/2023 | Rosh Hashannah 16th Sept | ROSH HASHANNAH SERVICE | High Holy Days |
| 23/09/2023 | Yom Kippur 25th Sept | High Holy Days, ethicals implications | Chesed and Tzedek |
| 30/09/2023 | Sukkot 30th Sept | Sukkot Activities slongside the Sukkot service | Torah Portions/D'var Torah |
| 07/10/2023 | Simchat Torah 7th Oct | Simchat Torah / attending the service | Privilege |
| 14/10/2023 | | Jewish Identity | FAMILY SERVICE |
| 21/10/2023<br>28/10/2023 | | HALF TERM | HALF TERM |
| 04/11/2023 | | How to be a Jewish leader | Halachah & Kashrut |
| 11/11/2023 | | Jewish Ethics 1: Tzedakah/Tikkun Olam | Holy books and scripture |
| 18/11/2023 | Mitzvah Day 19th Nov | Mitzvah Day | Mitzvah Day |
| 25/11/2023 | | Jewish Movements | FAMILY SERVICE |
| 02/12/2023 | FAMILY SERVICE | FAMILY SERVICE | Attend the service |
| 09/12/2023 | Chanukah 7th - 15th with the Chanukah Party on the 10th | The orgins of Chanukah | Chanukah |
| 16/12/2023<br>23/12/2023<br>30/12/2023 | | END OF STAYV TERM | END OF STAYV TERM |
| AVIV | | | |
| | | | |
| 06/01/2024 | | Love thy neighbour as yourself | Jewish Ethics 2: Equality |
| 13/01/2024 | | Holocaust | Jewish ethics 3: Pikuach Hanefesh |
| 20/01/2024 | Tu B'Shevat 23rd to24th | TU B'SHEVAT FAMILY SERVICE SEDER | Death and Mourning |
| 27/01/2024 | | Marriage | FAMILY SERVICE |
| 03/02/2024 | | Torah Portions/D'var Torah | Telling a lie |
| 10/02/2024 | | Attending the service | Attend the service |
| 17/02/2024<br>24/02/2024 | HALF TERM | HALF TERM | HALF TERM |
| 02/03/2024 | | Wrestling with God | Birth |
| 09/03/2024 | | Holy books and scripture | Purim Prep |
| 16/03/2024 | | Purim Prep | Purim |
| 23/03/2024 | Purim 24th PURIM SPIEL | Purim Traditions | Kabbalat Torah |
| 30/04/2024<br>06/04/2024<br>13/04/2024 | | END OF AVIV TERM | END OF AVIV TERM |
| KAYITZ | | | |
| | | | |
| 20/04/2024 | Pesach 22nd to 29th Communal Seder 23rd | Pesach Exodus, slavery and its ramifications | Important Jewish figures- A biblical, a diasporist, and Israeli, modern... |
| 27/04/2024 | | Attending the service | Types of Zionism |
| 04/05/2024 | | A brief history of Israel | FAMILY SERVICE |
| 11/05/2024 | Shabbat Atzma'ut (Yom Ha-Atzma'ut 14/5) | FAMILY SERVICE | Immigration and the East End |
| 18/05/2024 | | Prayer | Attend the service |
| 25/05/2024<br>01/06/2024 | HALF TERM | HALF TERM | HALF TERM |
| 08/06/2024 | Shavuot 11th to 12th | Shavuot and Ruth | Solutions Not Sides |
| 15/06/2024 | | End of year projects | END OF YEAR PROJECT |
| 22/06/2024 | | End of year projects | END OF YEAR PROJECT |
| 29/06/2024 | | End of year Challenge round up | End of year Challenge round up |
| 06/07/2024 | | FAMILY SERVICE AND PRESENTATIONS | FAMILY SERVICE AND PRESENTATIONS |
| END OF YEAR | | END OF YEAR | END OF YEAR |

# FOR THE NEW GENERATION



**Cheder at the Synagogue**

**Drop off & Pick Up**

We ask that parents drop off and pick up children, rather than coming into the building unless attending the service. This will avoid over crowding in the main entrance. Also, where possible wait in your cars rather than congregate.

**Ventilation**

We will ensure good ventilation in all rooms where people gather. Hepa filters have been installed in the sanctuary and for upstairs, the windows will be opened but balanced against the need to ensure a comfortable temperature for the children.

**Security**

As in previous years a rota will be drawn up for parents to assist with security once or twice per term. This will be drawn up via a doodle poll in September. If you can't do a particular Saturday, feel free to swap with another parent that can. There is a security training video available online as well as a document that is sent to those who are on duty.

**SCHEDULE :**

| | |
|---|---|
| **10: 15** | **Drop Off** |
| **10:20** | **Cheder Starts** |
| **10:35** | **Jewish Studies** |
| **11:35** | **Break** |
| **11:45** | **Hebrew** |
| **12:25** | **Sharing** |
| **12:30** | **End of Cheder** |



# FOR THE NEW GENERATION



**Contributions**

The Synagogue is happy to substantially subsidise the costs of educating our children. As such, the Cheder contribution, required from each family, for the academic year 2023 - 24 is £120 per child, which covers resources.

**We do ask that if you are able to add a supplementary amount to this, to provide extra support to the Cheder, that would be very generous and extremely helpful.**

The payment can be paid to the synagogue via BACS using the below details:

Account Name: East London & Essex Liberal Synagogue
Sort Code: 30-94-51
Account Number: 52734368
Reference: EL2 Contribution

Whatever your financial circumstances, we want you and your child/ren to be able to enjoy EL-Squared and participate with the community. If there is any reason you find the aforementioned contribution restrictive, please do not hesitate to contact our Head Teacher, Jonathan, by emailing cheder@elels.org.uk or contact the office either by telephoning 020 8989 7619 or by email on administrator@elels.org.uk with "EL2 Contribution" as the subject line.

All calls will, of course, remain completely confidential.

**Non-members**

If you or your partner are non-members, your child/children can also attend for up to 6 weeks, at which point in order to continue at the Cheder, your family or at least one parent must join the ELELS community as a member.

**Hebrew Books**

You may be asked to pay for a Z'man Likro Hebrew book for your child/ren, which is currently at a cost of £13 per book.

**Volunteering**

The synagogue relies heavily on volunteers to run services, programs, and day to day operations. Please consider how you might wish to support our community. Email the office, as above, to find out more.

FOR THE NEW GENERATION

**SECURITY AND SAFEGUARDING**

The security and safeguarding of your children is our top priority at EL-Squared.

Our teachers and teaching assistants are all trained in safeguarding and the Head Teacher, Jonathan is one of the designated safeguarding leaders for the synagogue. Classes are led by the teachers, with Jonathan monitoring classrooms to make sure everything runs smoothly.

**At the synagogue** we organise a parents' security rota each week, to ensure that we can provide a safe environment for the children to learn and be comfortable in, and guarantee a friendly and welcoming face on the door.

We would ask all parents of children at EL-Squared to contribute a small amount of time to do a security shift during the year. This involves the following:

- Arriving at synagogue **no later than 10.05am** to greet families and visitors
- Connecting to the CST radio - instructions for which are on display at the synagogue.
- Keeping an eye on the monitor and being vigilant by the front door - **if you are unsure of anyone arriving do not let them in.**
- Welcoming late comers and ensuring that they are comfortable
- At the end of Cheder, ensuring that no children leave the building without a parent
- Finally, to remain on security until at least 12.40pm, or when all the children are safely with their parents.

This is organised digitally by a Doodle poll, which will be sent out to all parents once we are due to be back at the synagogue .

If you are unable to do any of the dates that have been put by your name, please either contact another parent to make a swap or contact me asap to ensure this can be amended accordingly.

FOR THE NEW GENERATION

# East London and Essex Liberal Synagogue is committed to the safeguarding and well-being of all of our members

In our welcoming and inclusive ELELS community, we wish to create an environment where everyone feels comfortable, supported and safe. However, if you are concerned about a member or if a child or adult discloses information to you that makes you feel concerned about their safety or welfare, or the safety or welfare of another, please inform one of the named Safeguarding Team below by phoning the office on 020 8989 7619 and leaving a message for them to call you or emailing safeguarding@elels.org.uk.

Alternatively you can call Redbridge Social Services directly:

Children's Social Services: 020 8708 3885 (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm) or 020 8708 5897 outside of these hours

Adult Social Services: 020 8708 7333 (Monday to Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm) or 0208 553 5825 outside of these hours

Remember that it is never wrong to feel concerned and it is better to inform one of the Safeguarding Team than do nothing at all. Please visit our website for our safeguarding policy and further information.

In an emergency dial 999



**Josh Newham**
**Designated Safeguarding Lead**



**Jonathan Young**



**Di Kamall**



**Sonia Muscovitch**

EL2 FOR THE NEW GENERATION

| CHILD'S DETAILS | |
|---|---|
| First Name: | Surname: |
| DOB: | Age: |
| Address: | |
| School: | School year: |
| Best contact number: | Best contact email: |

| PARENT/CARERS' DETAILS | |
|---|---|
| 1. Full Name: | Contact Number |
| Relationship to Child | |
| 2. Full Name | Contact Number |
| Relationship to Child | |

**CONSENT FOR PHOTOGRAPHY**

I hereby give consent for photography and video footage to be taken by EL-Squared and used for the following (please tick):

a) Within the synagogue ☐
b) For marketing materials including by not exclusive to flyers, posters and leaflets ☐
c) For marketing activity including but not exclusive to media relations, social media, website ☐
d) Promotion within the Liberal Jewish community (e.g. Bimah, LJ Today, ELELS publications) ☐
e) For social media marketing activity including but not exclusive to Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
Private ELELS Groups: ☐
Public ELELS Groups: ☐

**CONSENT FOR FIRST AID**

I hereby give consent for basic first aid to be administered to my child, if necessary during lessons.

| | |
|---|---|
| Does your child have any allergies we should be aware of? | |
| Is there anything else the we should be made aware of such as additional learning needs or illnesses so that we can support your child's learning and wellbeing? | |
| A weekly Cheder update email is sent to the email address provided, but often the quickest way to get in contact with parents is via the Whatsapp Group. Would you like to be added? | |

Print name: Signature: Date:

If you would like to discuss anything on the form, please don't hesitate to contact Jonathan on cheder@elels.org.uk