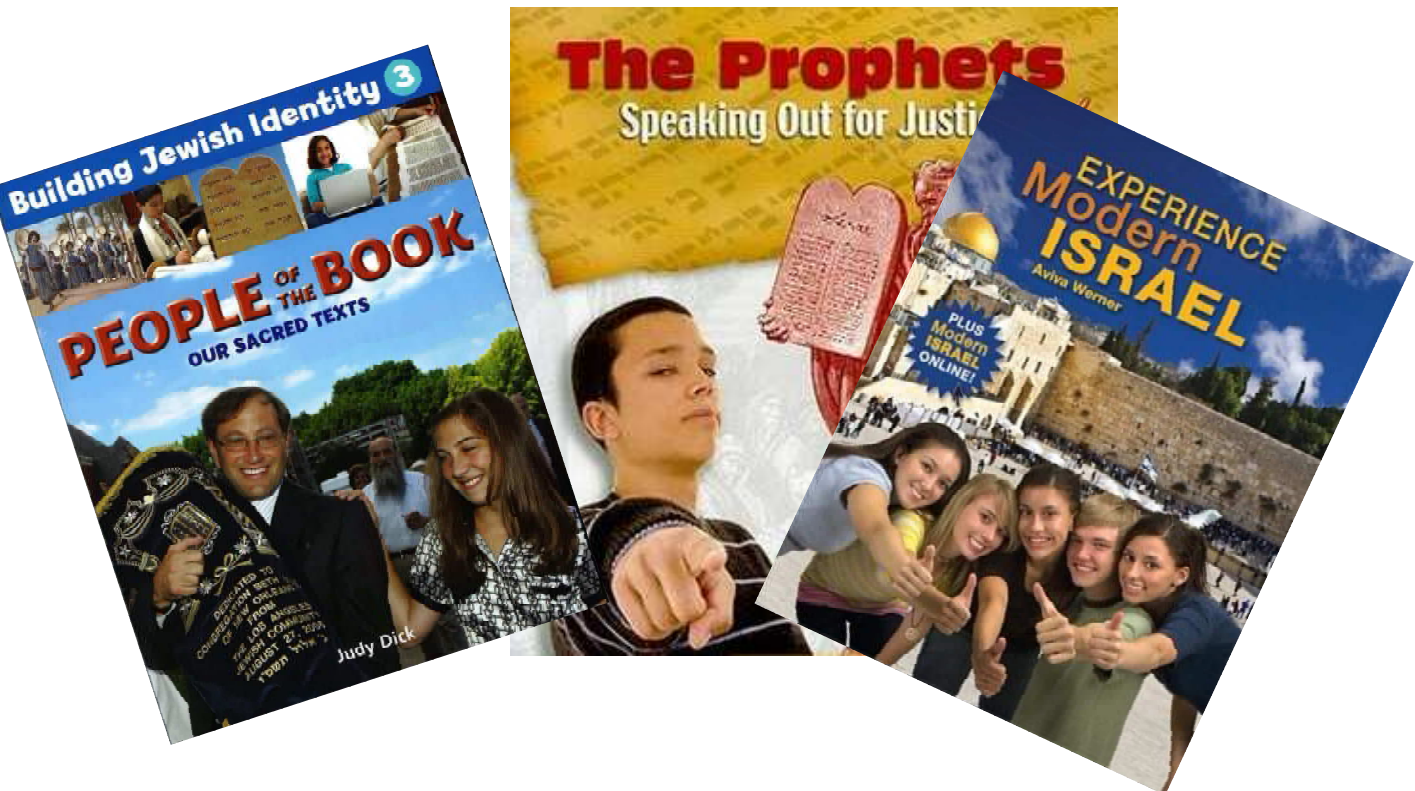


The Ark Synagogue Cheder 2024/25

# BM 1 & 2

## HANDBOOK FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

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### Introduction

Full details of our Bar/ Bat Mitzvah programme can be found in this year's course booklet. In this handbook, we want to provide a more detailed overview over the curriculum for students and parents. In the first term of this year, the class will learn about what it means to be the People of the Book. In the second term, the class will learn about modern day Israel with the final term focused on some of the important biblical prophets to explore how their words are relevant to us today.

THE ARK  
SYNAGOGUE



## 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 14 Sep '24 | Sat 18 Jan '25 | Sat 26 Apr '25 |
| Sat 21 Sep '24 | Sat 25 Jan '25 | Sat 3 May '25  |
| Sat 28 Sep '24 | Sat 1 Feb '25  | Sat 10 May '25 |
| Sat 05 Oct '24 | Sat 8 Feb '25  | Sat 17 May '25 |
| Sat 19 Oct '24 | Sat 1 Mar '25  | Sat 7 Jun '25  |
| Sat 9 Nov '24  | Sat 8 Mar '25  | Sat 14 Jun '25 |
| Sat 16 Nov '24 | Sat 15 Mar '25 | Sat 21 Jun '25 |
| Sat 23 Nov '24 | Sat 22 Mar '25 | Sat 28 Jun '25 |
| Sat 30 Nov '24 | Sat 29 Mar '25 | Sat 5 Jul '25  |
| Sat 7 Dec '24  |                |                |

## 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 students and parents to explore together what they are learning about.

## Autumn Term

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Sat 14 Sep '24 | Living by the Book - How has Torah inspired the Jewish people?   |
| Sat 21 Sep '24 | Living by the Book - What is contained in the Tanakh, or Jewish Bible?   |
| Sat 28 Sep '24 | <b>Family Study Session I</b>  |
| Sat 05 Oct '24 | Torah: At the Heart of Jewish Life: How is the Torah considered a blueprint for Jewish life?                       |
| Sat 19 Oct '24 | Torah: At the Heart of Jewish Life: How does the Torah continue to influence us today?                             |
| Sat 9 Nov '24  | Tanakh: Prophets, Judges, and Kings: What was the role of prophets and how did they prophesy?                      |
| Sat 16 Nov '24 | <b>Family Study Session II</b>   |
| Sat 23 Nov '24 | Tanakh: Prophets, Judges, and Kings: What can we learn from the words and stories contained in K'tuvim (Writings)? |
| Sat 30 Nov '24 | The Talmud: Texts of the Sages: What is the Talmud and why does it contain multiple opinions?                      |
| Sat 7 Dec '24  | The Talmud: Texts of the Sages - What is midrash and how does it expand on Torah?                                  |

## Spring Term

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Sat 18 Jan '25 | Modern Israel - an Introduction   |
| Sat 25 Jan '25 | Where did Israel's name come from, and what is the difference between Am Yisrael, Eretz Yisrael and M'dinat Yisrael?    |
| Sat 1 Feb '25  | What is aliyah to Israel and how does the Law of Return enable Jews from all over the world to become Israeli citizens? |
| Sat 8 Feb '25  | <b>Family Study Session III</b>   |
| Sat 1 Mar '25  | What faiths other than Judaism call Israel home, and why? How do Israelis from different religions get along?           |
| Sat 8 Mar '25  | What events led to Israel's establishment in 1948?  |
| Sat 15 Mar '25 | What wars has Israel fought throughout its history?   |
| Sat 22 Mar '25 | How did the events in Israel's history contribute to the current conflict between Israelis and Palestinians?            |
| Sat 29 Mar '25 | <b>Family Study Session IV</b>  |

## Summer Term

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Sat 26 Apr '25 | Jonah: Runaway Messenger of Mercy<br>Part I - How do we derive personally meaningful lessons from an ancient account?                           |
| Sat 3 May '25  | <b>Family Study V</b>   |
| Sat 10 May '25 | Jonah: Runaway Messenger of Mercy<br>Part II - Why is repentance an important Jewish value?   |
| Sat 17 May '25 | Jonah: Runaway Messenger of Mercy<br>Part III - Why is being merciful an important Jewish value?  |
| Sat 7 Jun '25  | Elijah: Zealous Critic of the King<br>Part I - How do both historical events and traditional stories direct our moral compass?                  |
| Sat 14 Jun '25 | Elijah: Zealous Critic of the King<br>Part II - Why does it take courage to live according to our beliefs?                                      |
| Sat 21 Jun '25 | <b>Family Study VI</b>  |
| Sat 28 Jun '25 | Amos: Faithful Friend of the Covenant<br>Part I - What gives us the courage to speak up for social justice, even when our opinion is unpopular? |