

JuniOur Cong

www.synagogue.org.uk BSS's FAVOURITE YOUTH NEWSLETTER - Issue 3 Jan 2022 -

BSS on Mitzvah Day @ the Chanukah Market

The last time BSS held its famous Chanukah market was two years ago and nobody could have predicted what would happen in the world just a few months later. This year, the Chanukah Market Committee were determined that the Market would go ahead in some form and that it would be an opportunity for the BSS Community to get together to enjoy some food, drink, music and, of course, a bit of shopping too.

BSS Cheder spent the morning before the Market opened crafting to create beautiful picture frames, porcelain tiles to be used as coasters and giant dreidels too which were then sold at the Market. Then Mitzvah Day took over and the Hall was transformed into a biscuit factory - BSS Cheder decorated biscuits which were delivered to older members of the BSS community and the Beit Mitzvah cohort joined forces with the iGCSE class to bake doggy biscuits to donate to the National Animal Welfare Centre in Watford. Once the Market opened, our amazing Youth Choir did some Chanukah busking and everyone listened and enjoyed delicious food whilst popping donations into their box! It was great having the Chanukah Market back and doing mitzvot at the same time!

BSS Youth's annual weekend away 2022

11 - 13 March B2's Annual weekend away

JOIN US at Phasels Wood for a perfect weekend away packed full of Purim FUN!

For more information, contact
Caroline@synagogue.org.uk or
020 7794 3949

BSS's annual weekend away is BACK with a BANG in March 2022 and we are looking forward to welcoming children from Years 3 to 8 from 11 to 13 March for a weekend away! Join us at our new venue - Phasels Wood - for three days of activities including archery, orienteering, a campfire, wide games, baking and lots, lots more. Book your child's place NOW and make the most of the EARLYBIRD discount via the Synagogue's website!



Don't forget to see the back page for Cheder dates this half-term!

Brilliant B² (BSS Youth) events

BSS's Head of Cheder and Youth, Caroline Loison, has been very busy organising and holding youth events over the last few months. Lots of children have signed up for Ninja Warrior, d20 Games Café, LEGO workshop and Ice Skating at JW3 and there have been smiles all around at each event!

Ninja Warrior in Watford is a fairly new activity based on the TV show of the same name. There are two obstacle courses; a hard one and a bouncy one. Participants had great fun doing both and many of them managed to "Beat the Wall" too! After an hour of full-on physical activity, everyone headed nextdoor to Frankie and Benny's diner for a delicious dinner which was rounded off nicely with a dessert.

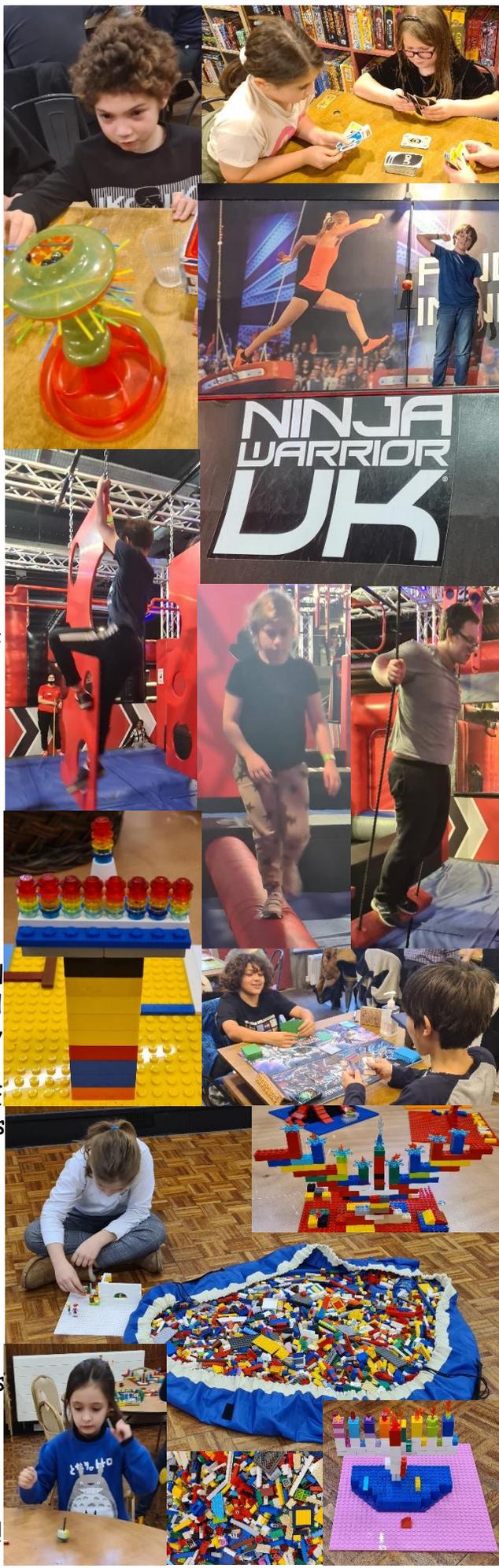
d20 is a Games café in Watford where you can sit and play games of all types - Board games, card games, logic games, trading games. You name it, they have it! Participants enjoyed three hours of games and a delicious buffet too. Luckily nobody was a sore loser and everyone had great fun and particularly appreciated the warm cookie on quite a cold November afternoon.

Liora Peri from "Bricks" brought millions of normal and Technic LEGO bricks to BSS in December and everyone enjoyed a yummy pizza lunch followed by Chanukah-themed LEGO building for two hours. Some participants created the most INCREDIBLE Chanukiot and they will definitely be our engineers of the future!

It wouldn't be this time of year without outdoor skating rinks and Years 7+ went Ice Skating at JW3 followed by a light dinner. Although some participants were a little "wobbly on their feet", everyone enjoyed themselves and that amazing gliding feeling that they got as they crossed the ice, even if they came down with a bump at various points too!

Please enjoy the photos of some of our recent events opposite →

And why not join us for one of our events in 2022!



Purim - A Jewish heroine called Esther

The Purim Story for Young Children Adapted by Sylvia Rouss

A long, long time ago in a town called Shushan there lived a king named Achashverosh. King Achashverosh liked to have parties. He would invite all his friends to the palace. At the end of every party, the king would ask his wife, Vashti to dance for his friends. He would call, "Vashti, Vashti, come and dance."

"I don't feel like dancing! I have a headache!" cried Vashti.

King Achashverosh was very angry. He was the King and no one ever said no to him. "If you don't dance, you will have to leave Shushan!" he shouted.

"I don't care!" cried Vashti. "My head hurts!"

"You must leave Shushan now! You are no longer the queen," the king told her.

Now that Vashti was gone, King Achashverosh missed her. He was very lonely. He decided to have a beauty contest. "I will choose the most beautiful girl in Shushan to be my new wife and the new queen," he announced.

Mordechai, a Jew living in Shushan, was the king's friend. He had a beautiful niece named Esther. Mordechai told Esther, "Go to the beauty contest. I'm sure the king will choose you to be his new queen."

Esther said, "I'm not sure the king will like me, but I will go."

The king took one look at Esther and said, "You are the most beautiful girl in Shushan. Will you marry me?"

Esther nodded, yes.

The king married Esther and was happy. Esther was happy. Mordechai was happy. Everyone in Shushan was happy except for one man. His name was Haman and he worked for the king. Haman did not like Mordechai or the Jewish people because they would not bow down to him. Haman went to see King Achashverosh. He told the king, "I think all the Jews should leave Shushan. They are different from us. They have their own God and their own laws. They refuse to bow down to me."

The king listened to Haman and agreed, "Yes, the Jews will have to leave Shushan."

The Jewish people were sad. They did not want to leave Shushan. Mordechai went to see his niece, Esther. He told her, "Haman wants the Jews to leave Shushan. You must help us. Tell the king that you are Jewish."

Esther was afraid that the king might get angry, but she knew she had to help the Jewish people. She went to see the king and she told him, "If Haman makes all the Jews of Shushan leave then I shall have to leave too because I am Jewish."

King Achashverosh was sad. He loved Esther and he didn't want her to leave. He said, "Esther, I will protect you and all the Jewish people. You will stay but Haman must leave."

Esther had saved the Jews of Shushan. Now that Haman was gone, King Achashverosh was happy, Queen Esther was happy, Mordechai was happy and all the people in Shushan were happy. And, because everyone was so happy, they decided to have a PARTY!

The Menschkins

by Harvey Racklin



Coming in the next edition of **JuniOur Cong ...**
The story of Pesach and a Jewish hero called Moses

BSS Cheder bits and bobs

There has been a real buzz around Cheder since we started back and our Head of Cheder and Youth, Caroline Loison, has loved seeing and hearing all about the exciting, creative and interesting things that pupils have been up to over the last few weeks.



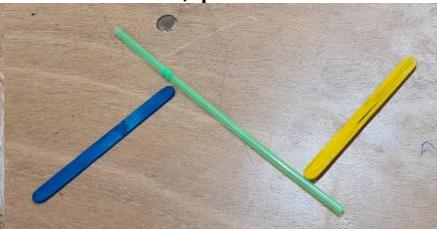
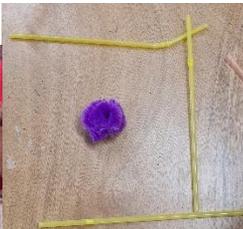
Years 1 & 2 have continued learning all about the story of Creation and they had lots of fun on J-POD morning lighting the Chanukah candles and learning how to play the dreidel game!

Years 3 & 4 have continued learning all about Jewish Identity and what this means for them. They found learning about Israel and it being the Jewish people's Homeland particularly interesting and it really got them thinking about whether they might like to make Aliyah one day themselves and live in Eretz Yisrael.

Years 5 & 6 have continued learning all about various Biblical characters and they particularly enjoyed learning the stories behind the names of our forefathers and foremothers. Hopefully, they will remember these when they are at BSS and hear the names Abraham, Isaac and Jacob or Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel and Leah in our services!

There have also been some great Pre-Assembly activities including making Jacob's ladder out of string (see photos above/below!) when it was Parasha "Vayetzeh" and making Hebrew letters out of lollipop sticks, pipe cleaners, straws and pom poms. For more information about BSS Cheder, please contact caroline@synagogue.org.uk ☺ or

call her on 020 7794 3949



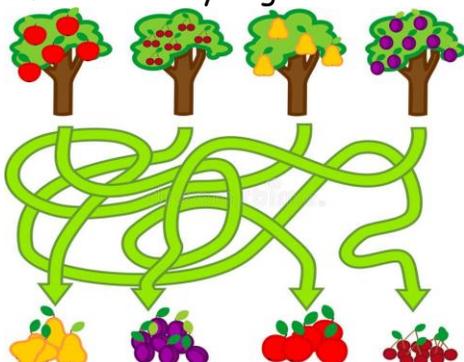
Happy birthday dear Tree-ees!

Tu b'Shevat is often called the "Birthday of the trees" and celebrates these special plants.

This year, Tu b'Shevat is on 16 - 17 January.

Trees are so important to us; they provide us with oxygen, wood, shade, fruit and medicines to name just a few things. Happy birthday to the trees and thank you for all that you give us!

Can you follow the lines from each tree to its fruit to reunite the tree with its flower once again?



BSS Cheder Pesach/Spring 1 dates

Join us, every Sunday morning:
9:45am to 12pm for BSS Cheder - Jewish Studies, Aleph Champ reading and Ivrit Club for children in Years 1 to 6 OR 10am to 12pm for our new and inspirational Beit Mitzvah program for Years 7 & 8 OR our amazing iGCSE in Religious Studies for Years 9 & 10. For more information contact

caroline@synagogue.org.uk
Sunday 9 January 2022 - **INSET** - No Cheder for pupils

Sunday 16 January 2022 - **Tu b'Shevat theme**

Sunday 23 January 2022 - **HMD theme**

Sunday 30 January 2022 - **Projects**

Sunday 6 February 2022 - **Projects**