

# JuniOur Cong

www.synagogue.org.uk BSS's FAVOURITE YOUTH NEWSLETTER - Issue 4 March 2022 -

## Happy new year @ BSS Cheder

2022 promises to be an exciting year ahead for BSS Cheder and we hope it will be happier and healthier for all our readers and your families.

The new Pesach/Spring term at BSS Cheder has got off to a fabulous start with us marking Tu b'Shevat and Holocaust Memorial Day as well as starting our new Class projects - The Torah, Mitzvot and Rabbonim.

On Sunday, 23 January, the iGCSE and BM classes were particularly privileged to welcome Peter and Marianne Summerfield BEMs who shared their and their families' amazing stories and experiences during the Holocaust and World War II. Pupils listened respectfully and there is no doubting why the Summerfields were recently honoured by the Queen with British Empire Medals for services to Holocaust education. Their sessions really were incredible. Thanks to them for joining us and we hope to welcome them back again soon.



After the half-term break, we will be marking Purim as well as Pesach and finishing off our Class projects.

I am excited to share the news that we will be having our famous **Mock-a-Choc-a-Seder** on Sunday, 27 March and all BSS children are welcome to join us (regardless of whether you attend Cheder or not), so prepare yourselves for a deliciously sweet morning as we navigate this special Seder. For more information, please contact [Caroline@synagogue.org.uk](mailto:Caroline@synagogue.org.uk)

## BSS Youth's annual weekend away 2022



Open to children in School Years 3 to 8 inclusive

Join Caroline and her team of Madrichim for a weekend of Purim fun

Book your place via the Synagogue's website: <https://synagogue.org.uk/payment-step1/?paymenttype=4233>

BSS's annual weekend away is BACK with a BANG in March 2022. We are looking forward to children from Years 3 to 8 from 11 to 13 March for a weekend away! There is still time for you to join us at Phasels Wood for three days of activities including archery, orienteering, a campfire, wide games, baking and lots, lots more. Ask your Parents/Carers to book you a place via the Synagogue's website **NOW** or contact Caroline for more information!

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

# Passover - From slavery to freedom

A short-ish version of the Passover story courtesy of the PJ Library website (<https://pjlibrary.org/home>) - Please visit the website to sign up for free books!!!

The first Passover happened long ago in the far-away country of Egypt. A mean and powerful king, called Pharaoh, ruled Egypt. Worried that the Jewish people would one day fight against him, Pharaoh decided that these people must become his slaves. As slaves, the Jewish people worked very hard. Every day, from morning until night, they hammered, dug, and carried heavy bricks. They built palaces and cities and worked without rest. The Jewish people hated being slaves. They cried and asked G\_d for help. G\_d chose a man named Moses to lead the Jewish people.

Moses went to Pharaoh and said, "G\_d is not happy with the way you treat the Jewish people. He wants you to let the Jewish people leave Egypt and go into the desert, where they will be free." But Pharaoh stamped his foot and shouted, "No, I will never let the Jewish people go!" Moses warned, "If you do not listen to G\_d, many terrible things, called plagues, will come to your land." But Pharaoh would not listen, and so the plagues arrived. First, the water turned to blood. Next, frogs and, later, wild animals ran in and out of homes. Balls of hail fell from the sky and bugs, called locusts, ate all of the Egyptians' food. Each time a new plague began, Pharaoh would cry, "Moses, I'll let the Jewish people go. Just stop this horrible plague!" Yet no sooner would G\_d take away the plague than Pharaoh would shout: "No, I've changed my mind. The Jews must stay!" So G\_d sent more plagues. Finally, as the tenth plague arrived, Pharaoh ordered the Jews to leave Egypt.

Fearful that Pharaoh might again change his mind, the Jewish people packed quickly. They had no time to prepare food and no time to allow their dough to rise into puffy bread. They had only enough time to make a flat, cracker-like bread called matzah. They hastily tied the matzah to their backs and ran from their homes.

The people had not travelled far before Pharaoh commanded his army to chase after them and bring them back to Egypt. The Jews dashed forward but stopped when they reached a large sea. The sea was too big to swim across. Frightened that Pharaoh's men would soon reach them, the people prayed to G\_d, and a miracle occurred - The sea opened up. Two walls of water stood in front of them and a dry, sandy path stretched between the walls. The Jews ran across. Just as they reached the other side, the walls of water fell and the path disappeared. The sea now separated the Jews from the land of Egypt. They were free! Each year at Passover, we eat special foods, sing songs, tell stories, and participate in a Seder - a special meal designed to help us remember this miraculous journey from slavery to freedom.

## Party on Purim

Purim begins on Wednesday, 16 March and BSS will be putting on a BIG Purim Party for you and your families. Get your parents/carers to save the date and come along to BSS in your best fancy dress at 5pm for a falafel feast, build-your-own-waffle bar, fancy dress parade (with prizes for the best/most creative costumes), Purim activities, songs/dancing and an amazing, interactive Purim Spiel that everyone will be able to join in with.

And, if you want to hear the Megillah, then we will be having a full reading of it in the Shul from 7pm which anyone and everyone is welcome to stay for!

## Purim at the Square

Wednesday, 16th March 2022  
Purim Party @ 5pm for families  
Watch the Purim spiel, sing some songs, eat a falafel feast and play some games! Fancy dress welcome - Prizes for the best costumes!

Ma'ariv followed by a full Megillah reading @ 7pm by members of the BSS Community

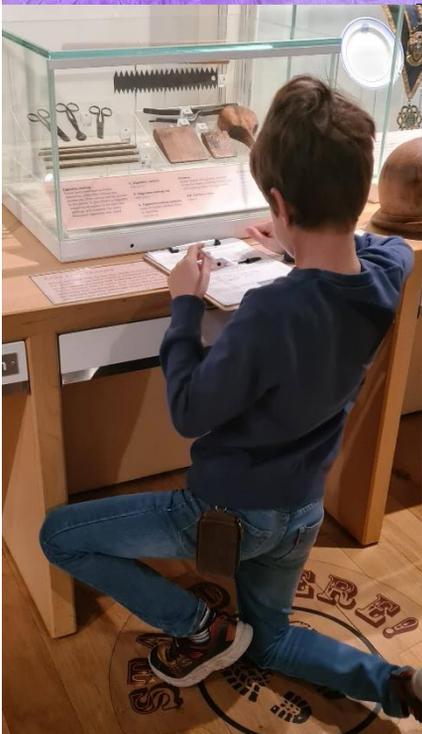


# Photo gallery

Since the last issue of JuniOur Cong, there have been lots of Cheder sessions and B<sup>2</sup> events. Have a look at the selection of photos of some of these below and ENJOY 😊



↑ Years 1 & 2 Belmont Farm Cheder trip  
← ↓ B<sup>2</sup> Ice skating @ JW3



↑ Years 5 & 6 Jewish Museum Cheder trip

↑ Years 5 & 6 Jewish Museum Cheder trip

↓ BSS Chanukah @ BSS →



B<sup>2</sup> Circus skills workshop ↓→

# Beit Mitzvah @ BSS - An update

Our new Beit Mitzvah (BM) programme is now up and running and working well for pupils, staff and parents. Read on for an update and more information ...

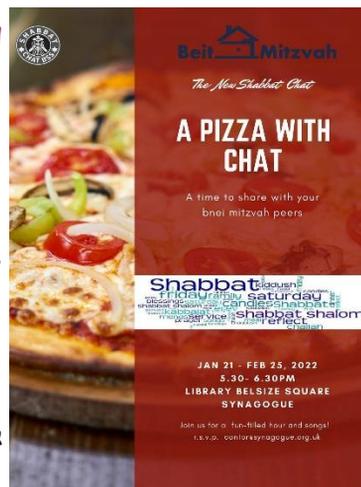
Having a Bar or Bat Mitzvah at BSS is no longer just about private BM lessons and coming to Cheder on a Sunday morning. Yes, having lessons and coming to BSS on a Sunday morning is still an important part of the programme but, today, pupils are taught about the "5 Ts" (Torah, Tefilah, Tarbut, Tzoniut and Tzedakah) by Rabbi Botnick and Cantor Heller as well as Marion Godfrey and the BM cohort is no longer part of Cheder; it stands alone in its own right.

Every month, Cantor Heller & Joe Hacker hold Shabbat Chat & Joe & the Jews sessions, which offer an opportunity for our BM group to meet socially, usually with some nosh provided too! Discussions about the parsha of the week or a Jewish theme/topic or just learning how to recite a specific prayer such as Kiddush might be on the agenda, but the main idea is for our BM pupils to get together and get to know each other so they are able to share their BM experience with each other!

Our Bar or Bat Mitzvah pupils are now expected to undertake a project of some sort to mark this special milestone in their Jewish life and this is coordinated by Jeannie Cohen. Examples of projects include interviewing members of the BSS Community, supporting family or friends in some way or raising money for a worthy cause in the UK or Israel.

A new initiative for the BM programme has been the introduction of a Shabbaton. This was a big success in November with a group of children sleeping over at the Synagogue. We also held a Pot-luck Friday night dinner and hope to repeat this again soon.

Cantor Heller and Deborah Cohen are in the process of sorting out a new peering programme and, of course, attendance at Services is still a key part of the BM programme, with monthly attendances an ideal way to learn the format of services and prepare for what promises to be an amazing occasion.



## A sweet Hamantaschen treat to eat at a Purim feast 😊

### INGREDIENTS (Makes 36ish)

- 5½ to 6 cups of plain flour
- 3 teaspoons of baking powder
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup of oil
- 1¼ cups of sugar
- 2 teaspoons of vanilla extract
- 1-2 small jars of fillings (apricot, prune or cherry preserves, poppy seed filling, etc.)



### DIRECTIONS

Preheat your oven to 350°F/175°C. Mix together the eggs, oil, sugar and vanilla extract. Add the baking powder and flour and knead until smooth. Roll out on a floured board as thinly as possible (3mm if you can). Use a glass to cut out circles and put a dollop of your chosen filling in the center of each circle. Fold in three sides over the filling sticking with some water to form a triangle with some filling showing in the center. Bake on a greased baking sheet for 15 minutes until golden.

## BSS Cheder Pesach/Spring 2 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](mailto:caroline@synagogue.org.uk)  
 Sunday 27 February 2022 - **Projects**  
 Sunday 6 March 2022 - **J-POD**  
 Sunday 13 March 2022 - **Purim theme**  
 Sunday 20 March 2022 - **Projects**  
 Sunday 27 March 2022 - **Pesach theme including our famous**

☺☺☺ **Mock-a-Choc-a-Seder** ☺☺☺