



September 2017

Dear Parents,

TO PARENTS OF Kindergarten – Information 2018-2019

In the Kindergarten we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage otherwise known as EYFS. This framework combines previous guidance for the Foundation Stage, the non-statutory Birth to Three Matters Framework and the regulatory frameworks in the National Standards for Under 8s Day Care and Child minding.

For more information about the EYFS Framework and Early Years Outcomes, please visit the DfE website. You may find the following document of interest to help give you a greater understanding of how your child has been developing since birth and the types of activities that can be done at home to enhance your child's learning in all seven areas.

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2015/03/what-to-expect-when-a-parentsguide/>

The EYFS framework helps us to provide a broad curriculum of both Secular and Jewish studies, whilst ensuring we are continuously helping all children to gain new skills and experiences. One of the fundamental aims of the Kindergarten is to encourage the children's social skills. We aim to provide activities and play opportunities which encompass the seven areas of learning set out by the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Development and learning are holistic. None of the seven areas can be delivered in isolation from others. They are equally important and depend on one and other. One activity or experience can help to develop skills and understanding across several areas of learning and development.

There are three areas that are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas, the **prime** areas, are: Communication and Language; Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development. Below are all the seven areas of learning:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development - this includes showing the children how to function in a group outside the family unit as well as having consideration for others, sharing and caring and showing a certain amount of independence, interacting with peers and teachers, talking about and sharing their news. Games and playing encourages turn taking and sharing. We also visit JOY to develop your child to understand differing generations.

Physical Development - their fine motor skills and hand eye coordination are encouraged with colouring, threading, cutting and pouring. Our P.E. teacher helps the children's large motor skills along. We use a wide range of equipment to help enhance the children's hand-eye co-ordination, ball control skills, gymnastics skills and balance. Tricycles, cars, and the outside climbing frames are used periodically throughout the day. The children have music and movement with a specialist music teacher with the accordion with action songs. The children are taught to experience and respond to the musical elements of rhyme, melody, dynamics, tempo and form through singing songs, movement activities and the use of percussion instruments. We will also be having weekly Yoga sessions to teach breathing control and relaxation techniques to the children, to help them manage their behaviour.

Communication and Language - when we interact with the children whilst they are playing, we are continuously extending their vocabulary by talking to them about their activity. This promotes language skills, as does circle time-which provides an opportunity for group discussions, developing skills to express themselves and developing confidence. Morning snack and lunchtimes allow the children to socialise when they sit at the table and tell each other their news.

Literacy- the children in the Nursery are emergent readers. They are aware of the written words through stories, labelling on wall displays and by learning their alphabet; they learn to differentiate shapes and patterns for letter and sound recognition. This is followed by art and craft activities to enhance this knowledge. There will be a letter of the week table where children are encouraged to bring objects from home for this table.

Mathematics - the children will encounter numeracy skills in many different ways. A child who is building a tower using Duplo is not merely 'playing.' They are beginning to understand the concept of size, shape and space; counting the bricks; comparing the size of a tower with that of another child; they are sorting out which bricks are needed and building with them in sequence. These and many other construction activities serve an important purpose with regard to mathematics and language development. Counting songs and stories are particularly helpful, as are counting games. To help the children recognise numbers, colouring sheets are used together with arts and crafts and computer programmes. A very popular activity is cooking. Is there any child or adult who does not like eating? To make a successful cake the children learn to measure/count the ingredients.

Expressive Arts and Design - the children have access to many creative opportunities using sand, clay, play dough, corn flour, shaving foam, paint, chalk, textured materials, and of course crayons and pencils. The children can use these materials to express their inner thoughts and feelings. Children can also be creative through music and movement, musical instruments, junk modelling, dancing and imaginative role-play.

Understanding the World- children create models based on their experiences and observations of the world around them. The children explore the wonderful world of science. How does food alter after it has been cooked? How does a seed grow? Where does the wind come from to make a boat sail across the water? We will also make use of our class computer and the children will learn what a computer is and how it works.

The children learn about their culture, customs and Jewish laws through daily prayers, topic work and activities. They also learn about similarities and differences between London and other countries around the world. We will be covering the following topics throughout the year: Shabbat, Chaggim, Brachot and Kashrut. The children are provided with a rich Jewish Studies curriculum, which is integrated into our day by Morah Yaron and the Nursery Practitioners. Through stories, songs, drama, games and arts and crafts the children are taken into a colourful expedition of the Torah and all the Chaggim. Each day begins with Tefillah and Brachot, which are recited before eating and Birchat Hamazon at the end of lunch. The children are encouraged to bring money for tzedaka. Each Friday



we have a Kabbalat Shabbat party. Each child has the opportunity to be Shabbat Ima or Abba, parents are invited on a rota basis to join us in the second term.

This year we will be covering the following main topics to enrich the children's knowledge of the world;

Autumn Term: The Chaggim, Parasha-creation of the world and Noah's Ark, autumn. In connection to Parashat Lech Lecha, we will be visiting the RAF Museum.

Spring Term: Spring, Growing, Tu B'shvat, Purim and Pesach. People that help us.

Summer Term: Yom Ha'atzmaout, People and food from around the world, Lag B'omer and Shavuot, farm animals (including a visit to Aldenham Country Park at the end of term).

We welcome parents to share suggestions and ideas on a particular topic. Periodically parents are invited to come and see the children perform and join in with activities. These include Parasha Chaya Sarah, Chanukah, Pesach and the End of Year Graduation.

Yours sincerely
Morah Yarona