

**PLEASE NOTE DATES IN YOUR DIARY AS THESE MAY NOT BE PUBLISHED AGAIN.**

Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome all the new children and their parents who are starting at Shofar shortly; we hope that they and their parents will be very happy here with us.

We will send around class lists at regular intervals with a list of telephone numbers and e-mail addresses where we have permission to share these of all the children in your children's class. This is to enable you to arrange social gatherings amongst yourselves and also to communicate with each other.

If you haven't already supplied us with a copy of your child's birth certificate or passport please do so as I can be asked by the officers from Barnet council for proof of your child's age at any time when I apply for funding for your child.

Please park with consideration to our neighbours and other parents; we try to maintain a good relationship with them. Please avoid parking or stopping on the yellow lines outside the site during the Akiva stop and drop times, which start at 8.30 a.m. and finish at 8.50 a.m. In addition please do NOT park on yellow lines or over any driveways at any time as this may prevent an emergency vehicle gaining access.

If your child is unwell, please keep them at home and telephone or e-mail me to let us know please. They are not happy at Shofar when they are under the weather, and this often causes much more illness amongst the children than necessary. If they have been sick or have had an upset stomach they must have a clear 48 hours without sickness before they can return to us. Unfortunately sickness and diarrhoea are very contagious and whatever the reason, even if you think this is due to something they have eaten I cannot negotiate on this necessary exclusion. Our exclusion and sickness policy can be found on the parent's board. Please do also let us know if your child has nits or threadworm so that we can warn the parents in your child's class to check so that we can eradicate these as soon as possible, please make sure to treat the whole family.

Please make sure that your child has a named shoe bag with a full set of (named) spare clothes on their peg at all times. Uniform is compulsory at Shofar in our Tamar and Rimon classes and optional in our Gefen class. This should be worn over other clothes where necessary and I would ask that you ensure all clothing, coats, bags and shoes are clearly named. We also need to have a warm hat and gloves, all named please for all of the children and preferably a warm snow suit for our Te'edah and Gefen class.

For children in Rimon and Tamar classes please try to send in a small amount of charity money each week on either a Friday or a Monday and help your child to place this in the tzedakah box which will be by the room entrance as you come in so that we can try to instil this wonderful Jewish tradition from a very early age. Our Rimon class will choose the charity each term to make this even more meaningful.

In Pre-school we will also send your child home every 14 weeks or so with a special Shabbat Box experience, when using these special things at home, please capture these moments and add to Tapestry so that your teachers can share these special moments with you. Please also do take care of these items as they were very costly and please return them promptly as we need them for other children each week.

We have special book library folders in our pre-school classes that will be given out weekly with your child's chosen book which they can keep at home for a week. Please ensure that these are returned each Wednesday (or nearest day to Wednesday that your child attends Shofar). We have also introduced a special book review for our Rimon class which they can do if they wish complete at home and then they will be chosen every few weeks to share this review with the class. I hope that this will encourage them to be avid readers in the future and to choose a variety of books to read.

When your child has a birthday you may if you wish send in some cupcakes for the class. I do feel that this is not really necessary and as an alternative I would like to suggest that you purchase a book for Shofar in which you can write a special message on the inside cover for the class. I have a stock of new books or alternatively you can buy a favourite book of your child. You can of course do both, send in cupcakes and buy a book if you prefer.

Below is a list of our topics and some suggested activities to do at home with your children if you wish to. This will enable you to ask the appropriate questions and to allow us to work as partners in your child's education.

For more information please read the weekly timetable, which will be sent to you by e-mail each week. We will be having a weekly topic interest table and any items that you may have to support this please send in at the appropriate week. (Please label these with your child's name.)

Thank you for all your support

*Sharon Lee*

Sharon

### **Shofar calendar with closure dates**

Shofar Daycare Nursery operates 51 weeks per year, excluding Jewish holidays and bank holidays. Our normal opening hours are Mon-Thursday 7.45 a.m.-6.15 p.m. and Friday 7.45 a.m.-6.00 p.m.

We are closing in July for one week to allow us time to redecorate and deep clean our nursery. (July bills will be revised to allow for a reduction on a child's normal days during this week)

The dates below show the holiday dates and some early closures pre-Jewish festival.

#### Closures

Monday 1st January- Closed New Year's Bank Holiday

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March- Closed Bank Holiday

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – closed Bank Holiday and Pesach

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Pesach -Closed Staff Training- First Aid and child protection

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> May- Closed Bank Holiday

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May- Closed Bank Holiday

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> July-Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July-closed summer refurbishments. (See above)

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> August - Closed Bank Holiday

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> Sep & Tues 11<sup>th</sup> Sep – Closed Rosh Hashanah

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> Sep – early closure for Kol Nidre – Shofar closes at 1.45 p.m.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> Sep- Closed Yom Kippur

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October – closed Sukkot

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October – closed Simchat Torah


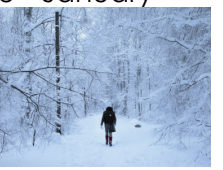
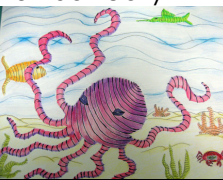



Monday 24<sup>th</sup> December – early site closure Christmas Eve Shofar closes at 1430



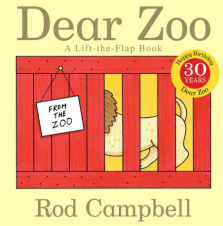

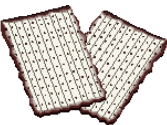
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> December – closed Bank Holiday- Christmas Day

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> December – closed Bank Holiday - Boxing Day

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Dec- Monday 31<sup>st</sup> Dec- Shofar closed.

TIMETABLE

<p><u>Date</u> 2<sup>nd</sup> January</p> <p><i>We're Going on a Bear Hunt</i> Michael Rosen Helen Oxenbury</p> 	<p><u>Topic</u> We're Going on a Bear Hunt</p> <p>Nursery closed 1<sup>st</sup> January bank holiday</p>	<p>We will be <u>learning the following songs/rhymes:</u> The bear went over the Mountain</p>	<p><u>Suggested activities to do at home</u> Read the story together. Watch the film on iPlayer.</p>
<p><u>Date</u> 8<sup>th</sup> January</p> 	<p><u>Topic</u> Winter</p>	<p>We will be <u>learning the following songs/rhymes:</u> Snowflakes 5 little snowman</p>	<p><u>Suggested activities to do at home</u> Discuss Winter, what clothes do we need to keep us warm etc</p>
<p><u>Date</u> 15<sup>th</sup> January</p> 	<p><u>Topic</u> Under the Sea</p>	<p>We will be <u>learning the following songs/rhymes:</u> 1,2,3,4,5</p>	<p><u>Suggested activities to do at home</u> Look on the internet at fish in the sea.</p>
<p><u>Date</u> 22<sup>nd</sup> January</p> 	<p><u>Topic</u> Messy play week</p>	<p>We will be <u>learning the following songs/rhymes:</u> I can sing a rainbow.</p>	<p><u>Suggested activities to do at home</u> Encourage your child to take part in messy activities at home e.g. help to bake a cake, painting, play doh.</p>
<p><u>Date</u> 29<sup>th</sup> January</p> 	<p><u>Topic</u> Tu b'Shevat We will have a Tu b'Shevat party on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January and a Tu b'Shevat Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb</p>	<p>We will be <u>learning the following songs/rhymes:</u> Trees are blowing in the wind. I had a little nut tree.</p>	<p><u>Suggested activities to do at home</u> Look at different kinds of trees. Talk about the different things that we get from trees.</p>
<p><u>Date</u> 5<sup>th</sup> February</p> 	<p><u>Topic</u> Goldilocks and the Three Bears</p>	<p>We will be <u>learning the following Songs/rhymes</u> When Goldilocks went to the house of the bears.</p>	<p><u>Suggested activities that you might like to do at home with your child</u> Eat porridge. Talk about small, medium and large things</p>

<p><u>Date</u> 12<sup>th</sup> February</p> 	<p><u>Topic</u> Chinese New Year Year of the dog is Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February</p>	<p>We will be <u>learning the following</u> <u>Songs/rhymes</u> Here comes the new year. Lion dance song Chinese Dragon</p>	<p><u>Suggested activities that you might like to do at home with your child</u> Visit China Town and post photographs on Tapestry. Eat Chinese food. Talk about how you celebrate our New Year.</p>
<p><u>Date</u> 19<sup>th</sup> February-1<sup>st</sup> March</p> 	<p><u>Topic</u> Purim Purim party Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February- Children may wear fancy dress to nursery that day.</p>	<p>We will be <u>learning the following</u> <u>Songs/rhymes</u> If you're happy and you know it</p>	<p><u>Suggested activities that you might like to do at home with your child</u> Talk about parties and fancy dress costumes. Visit the synagogue on Purim for Purim celebrations.</p>
<p><u>Date</u> 5<sup>th</sup> March</p> 	<p><u>Topic</u> Dear Zoo</p>	<p>We will be <u>learning the following</u> <u>Songs/rhymes</u> Down in the jungle. How much is that Doggy in the window?</p>	<p><u>Suggested activities that you might like to do at home with your child</u> Read the book together. Visit the Zoo/ pet shop.</p>
<p><u>Date:</u> 12<sup>th</sup> March</p> 	<p><u>Topic</u> Spring We will be walking in our woods to find evidence of spring.</p>	<p>We will be <u>learning the following</u> <u>songs/rhymes;</u> 5 Little ducks Baa baa black sheep.</p>	<p><u>Suggested activities to do at home</u> Go to the park and look for signs of spring. Look for bulbs and perhaps visit a farm to see the baby animals.</p>
<p><u>Date</u> Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March- Closed Bank Holiday Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – closed Bank Holiday and Pesach Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Pesach -Closed Staff Training- child protection, Fire safety etc.</p>	<p><u>Topic</u> Pesach</p> 	<p>We will be <u>learning the following</u> <u>songs/rhymes;</u> Bang, Bang, Bang Oh Listen  One Morning</p>	<p><u>Suggested activities to do at home</u> Talk about how you celebrate your Seder at home. Let them help you set the table and make up the Seder plate.</p>