



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Other Faith and Religion Judaism – YEAR 6

### \*Note to teachers/parents and carers.

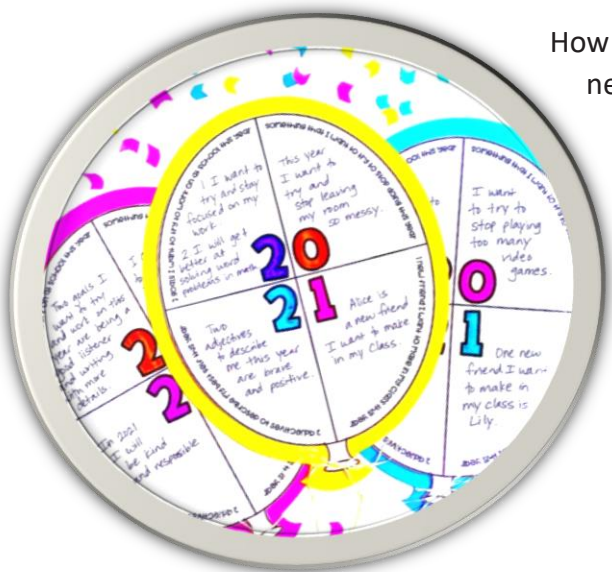
This work comes from the Come and See Religious Education programme which is taught in all Catholic primary schools in the Archdiocese of Liverpool. We have given a general guide to the learning opportunities that children may have come across under normal timetabling in school. We have suggested and selected a small amount of the programme. The activities aim to keep Religious Education practical and fun. They are in Year groups however, there is no harm in completing other year group work as this will help children to remember and strengthen their learning. It is important to teach Judaism since 'Christians and Jews have such a common spiritual heritage'.

The first part of learning is called – **LOOK** This shares an aspect of Judaism to help enrich children's knowledge of another Faith or Religion. The second part, called – **DISCOVER AND RESPECT**: is when children are given the opportunity to reflect on what they have learnt, appreciated and respected and what it means for the followers of that religion.

**It is important to note that this is not taught as a comparative to Christianity but as a separate Faith with its own rich and diverse heritage.**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Judaism YEAR 6 – Belonging and Values – Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

### LOOK – Making a new start



How often have you thought that you would make a new start? Lots of people talk about making a new start at the beginning of a New Year (a resolution). Perhaps you have done that too at the beginning of a New Year or when you were about to move up into a new class. It is good to look back and think it is possible to start again and try better.

- Q. Think about a time when you have decided to make a new start?
- Q. What helped you and how did you feel?
- Q. Did it work? If not, why not?
- Q. Did you do it by yourself or was it with others?

### DISCOVER – Rosh Hashanah

For Jewish people, Rosh Hashanah (beginning of the Year), marks the beginning of the new year of the Jewish calendar. It is a holiday and one of the most important times of the year. It takes place in September/October and lasts for ten days. It ends with the celebration of Yom Kippur (the Day of Atonement) on the tenth day. The Jewish people celebrate New Year at this time because their year is based on the phases of the moon and they celebrated it many thousands of years before Christians celebrated it in January.

## ROSH HASHANAH

For the Jewish people, Rosh Hashanah is a time to look back over the past year. They believe that God gave human beings free will to choose between good and evil and that God will forgive anyone who is really sorry. Saying 'sorry' in Hebrew means returning – that is, returning to God. The word 'sorry' in Hebrew is 'Teshuvah' which means 'returning'. It is a time to put right any wrong committed against other people and to express sorrow for sins. When people meet each other they say, *"May you be inscribed for a good year"*. The hope is that God will record all people's deeds with favour in the 'Book of Life'.

During this time, in the synagogue, the ark, the bimah (reading desk) and the scrolls are covered in a white cloth. No work is permitted on this day, much of which is spent in the synagogue.

In the Bible, Rosh Hashanah is also called the *Day of the Shofar*. The shofar is a ram's horn which is blown one hundred times on each of the two days of Rosh Hashanah to call the people to repentance – to think about all the things that they have done wrong and to say 'sorry' and atone for their actions. In other words to try and make it right again.



The shofar



On Rosh Hashanah, apples dipped in honey are eaten with a prayer that God will make the New Year a good and sweet one. A blessing is said over the fruit:

*Blessed are You, Lord our God, king of the universe,  
who creates the fruit of the tree.*

*Amen*

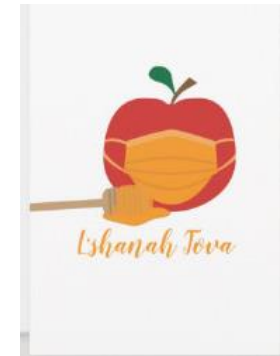


During Rosh Hashanah Jewish people send and receive greeting cards. In Hebrew the word 'shana' means year and 'tovah' means good. So, the greeting L'Shanah Tova' literally means have a good year.

The ten days from Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur are called ten days of returning ('Yom Kippur' means 'day of atonement'). During this time, people try to mend broken relationships by apologising and saying 'sorry' to people that they feel they have wronged. It is also a time when they too accept apologies and are forgiven. Everyone gets a chance to put things right with other people before asking God's forgiveness. It is a time when

Jews can make up for the wrongs of the past year and make a firm commitment not to do the same things again.

Rosh Hashanah also celebrates God creating the world and humankind, so it is a kind of birthday of humanity. Being made in God's image is celebrated by being truly human, through forgiveness and kindness. The word '*mitzvah*', means 'a good deed', a growing number of Jewish communities hold a *Mitzvah Day*, around this time, when they spend time helping in some way in the community. It might be for homeless people, or work on a city farm, collecting recycling or visiting a sick or disabled person. This idea is spreading to other communities as well as Jewish ones. It is about caring for everyone.



Have a look at this clip of some of the Mitzvah Day 'good deeds' carried out in 2020.

<https://youtu.be/QAkwoZnMzo0>

Now that you have discovered some information about Rosh Hashanah click on the link below and watch the video clip from BBC Bitesize to see what happens at one Jewish synagogue in Manchester at the start of their New Year.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/religious-studies-ks2-celebrating-rosh-hashanah/zdqc8xs>

**Q.** Why do you think this feast is the beginning of the holiest time of the year for Jewish people?

- Q. How would you feel if someone asked to be forgiven for something they had done to you?
- Q. What do you think are the signs of a really human person, one made in God's image?
- Q. Why do you think this time is called *returning*?

## DISCOVER AND RESPECT – Yom Kippur and the value of atonement.

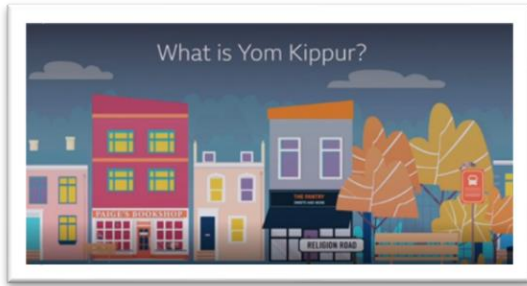


On the eve of the last day before Yom Kippur, many families give money to the poor. Then, a meal is eaten, and after that, a fast begins for 25 hours.

Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the Jewish year. It is a day on which no work is allowed. It is a very solemn day for Jews. On Yom Kippur, people express sorrow for their sins (Teshuvah) and receive God's forgiveness. People stay in the synagogue throughout this day and there are 5 different services of prayer and readings from the Torah. There is a special Yom Kippur prayer which includes a long confession of sins.

In the afternoon the book of Jonah is read, which is about forgiveness. One blow on the shofar finally announces that the fast is over. Afterwards, everyone goes home to break their fast and share a meal together. After Yom Kippur, Jewish people begin preparing for the next holiday, Sukkot, the festival of shelters, which begins five days later.





Click on the link below to watch a video from BBC Bitesize about Yom Kippur:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/znwhfg8/articles/z4vvjhw>.

Q. What do you think are the signs that people are really sorry?

Q. How do you think Jewish people feel on this day, especially as they receive God's forgiveness?

Choose an activity:

- Design and make a Rosh Hashanah card for a Jewish friend and include in it a blessing for the New Year.
- Think of a good deed that you could do to support 'Mitzvah Day' this year and design a poster advertising it.
- Create a fact file about Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur including pictures for someone who is unfamiliar with the Jewish custom.

