



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Other Faith and Religion Judaism – YEAR 4

*Note to teachers/parents and carers.

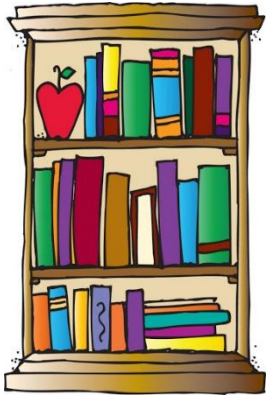
This work comes from the Come and See Religious Education programme which is taught in all Catholic primary schools in the Archdiocese of Liverpool. We have given a general guide to the learning opportunities that children may have come across under normal timetabling in school. We have suggested and 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.

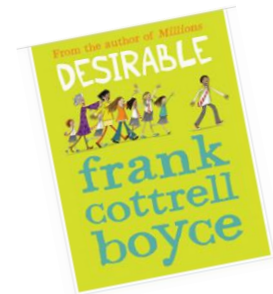
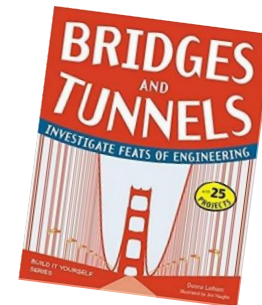
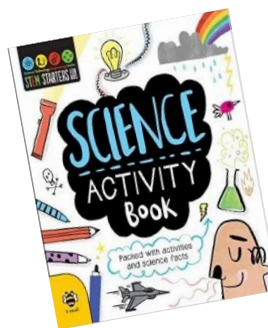
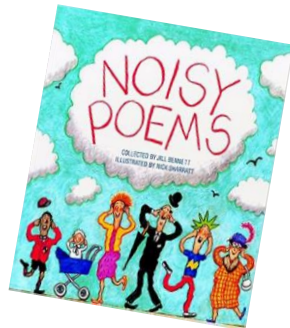
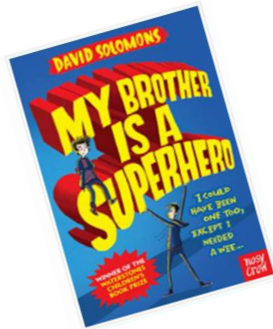
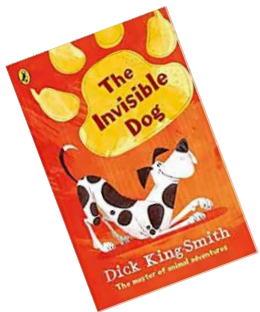
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Judaism YEAR 4 – Holy Books and the Torah

LOOK – Books are important



Take a moment to think about books. There are all kinds of books and they are very important to us. There are fiction books – stories which are made up by the people who write them and then there are non-fiction books. These books contain factual information and come in lots of different types and are used in lots of different ways. We all need books to help us to learn, that is why reading is a skill which is so important to us. Lots of people read for pleasure because they really enjoy it.

- Q. Which is your favourite book? Why?
- Q. Why do you think it is important to look after books?
- Q. Where do you keep your books?



DISCOVER – The Torah

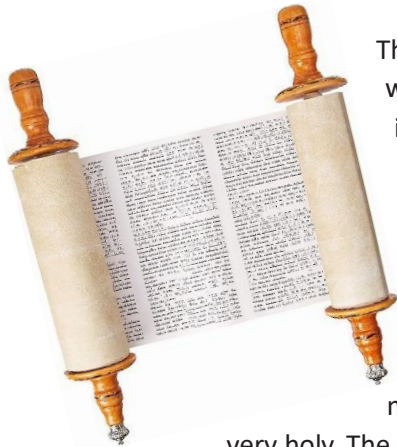


The *Tenakh* is the Hebrew Bible containing 39 books. It has three parts, the Torah, the Prophets and the Writings. The Writings include the psalms. The Torah is a collection of laws, commandments, rules and stories contained in five books:

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

The Torah is very special for Jewish people and they consider it to be the greatest gift God has given them. The Sefer Torah is the scroll on which the Torah is written.





The Torah is written by hand in Hebrew by very specially trained scribes, who prepare themselves by praying before they write. It is written on parchment from a kosher animal, (that is an animal considered fit to be used for this purpose – or, indeed, fit/allowed to be eaten) usually a goat, bull/cow, or deer. It is carefully prepared for writing. The scribe makes his own quills for writing, usually from such kosher birds as a goose or turkey. The scribe also has to make his own ink. He only makes a little at a time as the ink must be fresh. The scroll cannot be used if there are any mistakes or even smudges. Once the sheets of parchment are completed, the scribe checks each of them three times.

When the writing is complete, the scribe sews the individual pieces of parchment together. Each scroll is about 100 metres long. Then the scroll is sewn onto wooden rollers. The Sefer Torah is then dressed with a beautiful cover because it is very holy. The tops of the wooden rollers are often decorated with either silver or gold crowns which cover both rollers, because God is king. The Sefer Torah is kept in the Ark or cupboard in the synagogue.

A section of the Torah is read each week in the synagogue. When someone reads from the Sefer Torah they may not touch the parchment so they use a *yad*, the Hebrew word for *hand*, which is a silver pointer. Hebrew words are read from right to left.



Studying and learning the Torah and what it means is very important for the Jewish people. There are Hebrew classes for the children. Jewish people have great reverence and respect for the Torah because they know it is God's message to them and shows God's care for them.

Q. Why do you think that the scribe takes so much care and preparation over the writing?

Q. How long do you think the scribe takes to write a scroll?



DISCOVER AND RESPECT – Bar/bat Mitzvah. The importance of the Torah for the Jewish people.

When a Jewish boy is 13, or Jewish girl is 12, he/she undergoes a special ceremony during which they become full members of the Jewish community. This is called the Bar Mitzvah, that is son of the commandment or Bat Mitzvah, daughter of the commandment.

Children who do not go to a Jewish school will attend lessons at the synagogue, where they study Hebrew with the rabbi. This is not an easy language. It has its own letters and does not have any vowels when it is written

down. It is written and read from right to left. When the great day comes the boy or girl is dressed in their best clothes and goes to the synagogue with their family and friends. Usually, only the boys will wear a prayer shawl. During the ceremony he/she stands on the bimah in front of everyone and reads or sings a section of the Torah in Hebrew, translates it into English and often says what it means. There is a special blessing from the rabbi. Bar or Bat Mitzvah is a joyous time, marking the beginning of a new stage in their life. A party is usually held and gifts and cards are received. From now on the Jewish girl or boy is considered to be responsible for his or her own actions and for keeping the commandments.

Click on the link below to watch the video of a Bar Mitzvah from BBC Bitesize:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zm7tfg8>



Choose an activity:

- Describe how a scribe produces a scroll and copy some Hebrew writing (see below).
- Using materials you have at home try making a scroll with some Hebrew script on.
- Design and make your own Bar or Bat Mitzvah card using the images below.

blessing the children
בְּרִכַּת הַבָּנִים
birkât ha'banim

Shabbat
שַׁבָּת
shabât

braided egg bread
חֲלוֹת
chalôt

Cholent
חֲמִין
chamin

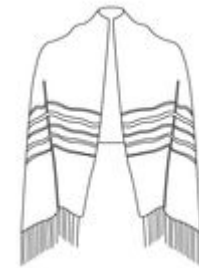
fish
דָּג
dag

lighting Shabbat candles
הַדְּלָקַת נֵרוֹת שַׁבָּת
ha'delakât nerôt shabât

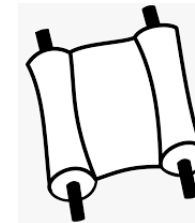
This is an example of Hebrew writing. The card below is an example of one which is sent to boys making their Bar Mitzvah. It shows an image of tallit (prayer shawl) and the Hebrew script underneath says the words 'Bar Mitzvah'. The words Mazel Tov means good luck or congratulations!



Tallit – prayer shawl



Star of David



scroll