



FRS Y&Ed Newsletter



#5 October 2021

Hello, and welcome to our first half-termly Youth & Education newsletter of the 2021-22 academic year. After a busy summer and a crazy yet fabulous High Holy Day period – which saw us making calendars, enjoying silent discussions and making mini-shelters from foraged twigs and leaves (just a sample of the amazing offerings from our youth workers for our younger members this year!) – we are now settling in to our ‘routine’ – which continues to be hectic but rewarding! Do let us know (Karen.Bloom@frs.org.uk) if you have feedback on our programming, or if there is something you’d like to see added to these pages!

Thanks, the Youth & Education team

Pre-School



Kindergarten

We’ve had a busy start to the Autumn Term, launching straight into our teaching and learning around the chaggim whilst settling the children into their new classes and welcoming our new starters.

Highlights have included a visit from our local beekeepers, decorating the Succah at Rubens House and going on our Autumn Walk to Victoria Park. With our Diwali celebrations, Mitzvah Day focus and Chanukah celebrations just weeks away, it’s going to be a jam-packed term, filled with high quality learning, challenge and fun.

Please note: Kindergarten hours are now 8:15 – 16:45 Mondays to Thursday and 8:15 – 12:15 Fridays.

Contact Emma at kindergarten@frs.org.uk to arrange a tour, whether virtual or in-person, or visit our website pages at www.frs.org.uk/kindergarten.html



Exploring beehives together



Enjoying an autumn walk together

Kuddle-Up

We are very lucky to be welcoming **Elodie Saunders** to Kuddle-Up Shabbat for her Bat Mitzvah project. She is helping to co-lead the services and often finds herself facilitating

the attendance at Kuddle-Up of Tevye the Torahsaurus and our new friend Judah the Lion. We have also welcomed back **Gila Claydon** who is co-hosting our Kudde-Up online in addition to helping to lead the ones that are in person. Unlike other synagogue services, our Kuddle-Up Shabbat experience is being separated between the online and the in-person offering, and we are alternating weekly between the two ways of accessing this space. We hope to see you there soon!

<https://www.frs.org.uk/form/kuddleupshabbat>

Primary School

Kochavim

Our first half term of being fully back in person at Kochavim for all children every week has been brilliant! The programme is running slightly differently to pre-pandemic, but we are working to strengthen friendships whilst ensuring that the children get a broad cross-section of Jewish Studies activities each Sunday. They've been cooking, crafting, making music, being dramatic and enjoying games each week, and the units so far have covered the High Holy Days and Shabbat. Our teaching team is so committed and we are loving being back! We are also working with our friends at the Eighth Rung project, as we work towards Mitzvah Day. See below for more information!

Sunday Funday

For those of you who are missing our monthly club activity for primary school aged children, we are hoping very much to be able to bring this back in the new year, Covid permitting. Watch this space!



Eighth Rung Mitzvah Day Collection

We are delighted to have been working this half term at Kochavim with the Eighth Rung Group, to raise awareness of their project with the younger members of the community. Over Sukkot, our year 5 cohort learnt about the project, and then made enough tzedakah boxes that morning for all of our Kochavim attendees to take one home. They are being filled up, ready to bring back to Kochavim for **Mitzvah Day** in November. We are now expanding our collection to invite the whole community to take part! The following is a list of the items that HAB have requested for their clients.

- Disposable men's razors (desperate!)
- Men's shampoo
- New men's jeans, joggers, coats – all sizes
- New men's trainers – sizes 7-10
- Packet mash
- Individual bags of crisps
- Family packs of washing powder and laundry tabs
- Chocolate and biscuits for Christmas hampers
- Long-life durable plastic bags in which to send out food parcels

These items can be delivered to Ruben's House between 7th and 21st November. See FRS News for more details!

You can also donate to Eighth Rung to help fund a support worker by scanning this QR code or following the link:



<https://www.frs.org.uk/eightrung>

Pre-Bnei Mitzvah



Massuot

Our huge year 6 cohort have begun Massuot this term, with their first experiences of the Bnei Mitzvah programme. It is the biggest year we have had in FRS's history with 59 children in the year group, the majority of whom took part in a team building Away Day in September. We are working hard to ensure we make space for everyone to get to know each other and to enjoy the upcoming educational outings and chavurah suppers together.

Years 7 & 8 also started with Away Days, and Joel has since got the Community Life and Learning (CLL) sessions off to a wonderful start for these students. It's wonderful to be able to enjoy these sessions in person and to watch our B'nei Mitzvah students learning alongside their parents.



Year 7 team building activities



Year 8 team building activities

Friday group is also back and busy! We've welcomed back snacks, breaks and social time into our weekly schedule and it's so lovely to have the space filled with people learning and laughing together.

Mitzvah Projects

Our current Year 7 B'nei Mitzvah students have now been invited to take part in Mitzvah Project planning sessions in the second half of this term. This is where, in the run-up to their B'nei Mitzvah, our students will each run a social action project about an issue they care about. Our current year 8 projects have included climbing challenges, volunteering time for community groups, collections for refugees and supporting girls' education around the world (to name a few!). We're looking forward to hearing about other projects as they develop!

Nitzotzot

A big shout out to our current top nitzotzot earners! Well done to the following B'nei Mitzvah students for your brilliantly active involvement in community life!

Year 6: Ben B, Coby C, Tom H-L, Esther N, Bruno N, Freddie P

Year 7: Raffi A, Talia B, Ori C-R, Lydia J, Danny S, Rafi S-C

Year 8: Pippa B, Ilan C, Sophie E, Elinor J, Gabriel L, Elodie S

Post-Bnei Mitzvah

Helper Training

Our most recent Bnei Mitzvah students are working hard to complete their helper training programme, ready to become helpers at Friday Group themselves in the near future. They are currently combining weekly online training sessions with shadowing at Friday Group in person, and are looking set to become a strong cohort of helpers! (fridaygroup@frs.org.uk for more info)

Hadracha Training

Our next Hadracha (leadership) training course will begin in January for students currently in year 9. Watch out for publicity or contact Maya (maya.gottlieb@frs.org.uk) for more information.



Ruach

Hopefully you got to hear our fabulous teen band, Ruach, perform over the High Holy Days – we loved their version of “V'samachta b'chagecha”. We can't wait for their next project, and to hopefully hear them live and in person again soon! Do get in touch if you are post-B'nei Mitzvah and would like to be a part of Ruach! (karen.bloom@frs.org.uk for more info)

Youth Council

Our youth council will be reconvening on **14th November** for a **pizza evening**. We are always on the lookout for new and diverse voices from our community, and so if you are in year 9 or above and want to steer the direction of the youth activities at FRS, please get in touch! (maya.gottlieb@frs.org.uk)

Inclusivity at FRS

You will have read in recent correspondence about the growing awareness of mis-gendering our community members. If you are someone for whom this conversation feels particularly relevant, and you'd like to see us doing something specific to enhance inclusivity at FRS, do please reach out – we'd be so thrilled to hear from you (karen.bloom@frs.org.uk and/or maya.gottlieb@frs.org.uk)

Safeguarding

Our safeguarding documents can be viewed at:

<https://www.frs.org.uk/youth-ed-policies.html>

*Happy half term,
everyone!*