



Rimon 2023-2024



וְשַׁנְתָּם לְבַנִּיךָ



Religion School רמון

The Religion School of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue

28 St John's Wood Road, London NW8 7HA

Rimon Head Teacher: Susannah Alexander

Rimon Rabbi: Elana Dellal

Principal: Rabbi Alexandra Wright

Chair of Education: Scott Dinwiddie

Welcome to Rimon

Bruchim Habaim, welcome to Rimon, the religion school of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue. We are so glad to have your family as part of our learning community.

The mission of Rimon is to provide a framework of learning within the community which offers a broad and stimulating foundation in Jewish education, to foster Liberal Jewish identity, and to be a place of value, support, meaning and warmth for a child to grow and learn.

This brochure lays out some general information about Rimon. For further information, or if you have any questions, please contact one of us. We look forward to seeing you at the Synagogue throughout the year.

Susannah Alexander and Rabbi Elana Dellal

To help us run an enjoyable, stimulating and efficient Religion School, please..

- Bring your child on time - Tefillah starts at 9:30 am - and collect at 12:30 pm from their classroom when classes finish.
- Ensure your child attends regularly.
- Support your child's learning at home as much as possible.
- Read the Rimon Newsletter sent weekly by email, and look at our TV screens on Shabbat. These will tell you what is happening that day as well as other important information.
- Let us know about any illness or planned absences. e-mail education@ljs.org



'Shabbat' by Brooke Behr

School Overview

Rimon begins at 9:30 am and ends at 12:30 pm.

The children are expected to be in the building by 9:30am.

9.15-9.40 Breakfast snack in the Montefiore Hall sponsored by Rimon parents

9.40-9.55 Tefillah (worship, story telling and announcements - see page 11)

10.00-10.45 Teaching session 1

10.45-11.00 Break time, please send your child with a vegetarian nut-free snack

11.00-11.40 Creative activities

11.45-12.30 Teaching session 2

During the teaching sessions Rimon students participate in Hebrew classes and Jewish knowledge classes. In the Creative Activities sessions, children will be able to choose from activities such as arts and crafts, cooking, debates, films, attending part of a Shabbat service, music, Hebrew games, etc. We want to give them a good chance to socialise, whilst learning informally.

Holding our Rimon classes on *Shabbat* gives our children a great opportunity to be involved in *Shabbat* worship in a practical way. Classes are encouraged to attend services for short periods during the morning to familiarise themselves with the liturgy and music.

Dates for 2023—2024

Rimon & Tiny Tots

Stav (Autumn) Term 9 Sept – 9 Dec Half term 21 & 28 Oct
Aviv (Spring) Term 6 Jan – 23 Mar Half term 11 & 17 Feb
Kayitz (Summer) Term 20 April – 6 July Half term 25 May & 1 June

Jewish Festivals

Rosh Hashanah	Saturday 16 September
Yom Kippur	Monday 25 September
Sukkot	Saturday 30 September
Simchat Torah	Saturday 7 October
Chanukah	Fri 8—Thurs 7 December
Tu Bishvat	Thursday 25 January
Purim	Sunday 24 March
Pesach	Mon 22—Tues 30 April
Yom Hashoah	Monday 6 May
Yom Ha'atzmaut	Tuesday 14 May
Lag B'Omer	Sunday 26 May
Shavuot	Wednesday 12 June

Tiny Tots



Tiny Tots' sessions take place every Shabbat during Rimon term times, and are open to all children aged 0-4 years, with parents, grandparents or other family members. Sessions are run by Liora Lach Stein and Rabbi Elana Dellal. There is no need to book in advance; just turn up if you like.

Sessions start at 11:10 am, and include singing, stories, creative arts and *Kiddush*. This is a chance to introduce your under-fours to the LJS, to learn some Jewish songs and to meet other families. Tiny Tots finishes at 12:10 pm, although you are welcome to stay for longer with your child if you wish; we have lots of children's toys and an outdoor play area. At 12:30 pm you and your children can join the *Kiddush* in the Montefiore Hall, after the main service. Once a term, we hold a L'Dor va-Dor (intergenerational) service, in which Rimon children and parents take part; you are welcome and encouraged to bring your whole family to these services.

Tiny Tots celebrate all Jewish festivals as they occur, including a party for Chanukah and a Tots' Seder at Pesach. We welcome both LJS members and non-members.

Contact Education for more details, or to join the mailing list and be sent term dates and information about Tiny Tots' events: education@ljs.org

Classes and children's ages:

Class	Hebrew	Age	Year
Tiny Tots		0-4	
<i>Gan</i>	גן	3½-5	Nursery & Reception
<i>Alef</i>	א	5-6	1
<i>Bet</i>	ב	6-7	2
<i>Gimmel</i>	ג	7-8	3
<i>Dalet</i>	ד	8-9	4
<i>Heh</i>	ה	9-10	5
<i>Vav</i>	ו	10-11	6
<i>Zayin</i>	ז	11-12	7
<i>Chet</i>	ח	12-13	8
KT 1		13-14	9
KT 2		14-15	10

Hebrew and Jewish studies at Rimon

Gan, Alef & Bet: Hebrew and Jewish studies programme

In **Gan** (3½-4 yrs) Children learn through a variety of methods including arts and crafts, stories, songs, movement, music, drama and interactive sessions. Gan focuses on Shabbat, Havdalah, Torah stories, prayers and the synagogue. Children will learn Hebrew words that are relevant to their weekly activities.

In **Alef** (5-6 yrs) the children are introduced to the Hebrew words for numbers, family members, colours, animals and body parts. Children learn about the synagogue, Jewish symbols, Torah stories, festivals and begin to explore Tikkun Olam (Repair of the world) and Tzedakah (Charity).

In **Bet** (6-7 yrs) children will learn to recognise and write the Hebrew alphabet in block letters. Students will be able to write their name, count to ten in Hebrew, and know up to 20 Hebrew words that they met in Alef. Students will begin to learn blessings associated with the Festivals.

All children take part in a weekly Kiddush ceremony in class.



'Light' by Rosa Wolchover

Gimmel, Dalet & Heh: Hebrew and Jewish studies programme:

In *Gimmel, Dalet & Heh* children will continue to learn about the Festivals and the Jewish lifecycle, they will be given an introduction to Jewish history and Jewish ethics/values, and will delve deeper into Torah study.

Students will build on their Hebrew reading skills, practising reading prayers and passages from the *Siddur*, increasing their confidence and becoming more fluent.

Gimmel (7-8 yrs): In Gimmel the class will touch on: Jewish life cycle, God & prayer, my Jewish world, heroes in the Bible, Jewish ethics: valuing difference and creating a peaceful world.

Dalet (8-9 yrs): In Dalet students will focus on: Leading a Jewish life in the 21st century, 'My Community and Me', Jews around the world, the 10 commandments, Bible stories, Jewish ethics, aspects of modern Israel.

Heh (9-10 yrs) : In addition to furthering their basic Jewish knowledge, students will learn about: History of British Jews; prophets and kings; 'What Makes Me Jewish?'; Jewish ethics of justice, truth and peace.

All children take part in a weekly Kiddush ceremony in class.



Channukah card by Roxy Lang

Vav, Zayin & Chet: Hebrew and Jewish Studies programme

Vav, Zayin and Chet: During these years the students are engaged in deep exploration and discussion of historical, ethical and Torah related topics.

The students will deepen their knowledge and mastery of liturgical and biblical Hebrew.

Vav (10-11 yrs): The students will focus on topics such as Liberal Judaism, the structure of the *Torah*, our relationship with God, loving your neighbour, the Kindertransport, The Land of Israel, *Tzedakah* and respect for others.

Zayin (11-12 yrs): Students will learn about the *Shabbat* morning service – topics may include the geography of the *Siddur*, service structure, the meaning of prayers and their relevance to us, the weekly *Torah* portion; God and prayer, the history behind *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*, Jewish personalities in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Chet (12-13 yrs): most students in Chet will celebrate their Bar or Bat Mitzvah this year. The programme for Jewish Studies will focus on a deep exploration of Torah texts and their relevancy to our modern day. Class Chet will focus on Jewish ethics and will look at contemporary issues with a Jewish framework. There will be much focus on Hebrew proficiency during Kitah Chet to help with Bar and Bat Mitzvah readiness.

All children take part in a weekly Kiddush ceremony in class.



Freya Lefebvre Sell baking challah during Rimon Online

Bar/Bat Mitzvah

We ask that all students celebrating their *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* at LJS:

- Attend a minimum of two years at Rimon, before becoming *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* (*Kittah Zayin & Kittah Chet*)
- Attend a minimum of 6 Friday evening services with a parent or relative prior to *Bar/Bat Mitzvah*
- Attend weekly individual tuition lessons with an approved tutor
- Attend the *B'nei Mitzvah* Seminar with parent(s)
- Continue their Jewish learning to *Kabbalat Torah*

We ask that all parents:

- Attend the BM seminar with the Rimon Head Teacher and Rabbis.

The LJS attracts a wide variety of families with different needs and wishes and to this end we try to accommodate each individual circumstance. Please speak to one of the Rabbis about how this can be a meaningful lifecycle event for your young adult. For more information about *Bar/Bat Mitzvah* and *Kabbalat Torah* please ask the office for a copy of 'Your Teenager at the LJS'.



'Israel' by Alan Lach Stein

Kabbalat Torah at the LJS

Our teenagers are encouraged and expected to continue their involvement in the community and their learning by joining the Kabbalat Torah course in the academic year following their Bat or Bar Mitzvah and to take part in a Kabbalat Torah service when they graduate. Kabbalat Torah deepens a teenager's commitment to Judaism and reflects the more profound knowledge and understanding they have of Judaism as a faith and culture.

The Syllabus for *Kabbalat Torah*

The Kabbalat Torah syllabus provides students with the opportunity to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding of Judaism by exploring the significance and impact of beliefs, teachings, sources, practices and ways of life. Students are encouraged to express their personal responses and informed insights on fundamental questions and issues about identity, belonging, meaning, purpose, truth, values and commitments.

The *Kabbalat Torah* Service

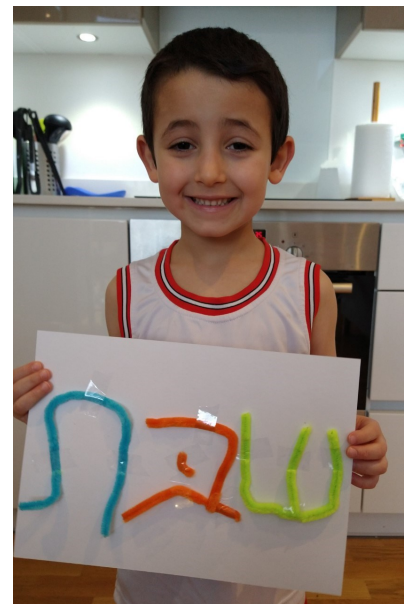
An important part of the process of preparation is putting the service together. This is a creative venture led by the rabbis. The class works with the liturgy, adding their own words and creative prayers and readings, to create a service in which they all participate. The group leads the entire service, including the *Torah* reading.

Following the service, each individual becomes a member of the synagogue in their own right and takes their place in the adult community. They are also eligible to become teaching assistants in Rimon and many continue to help in class, undergo training and become more involved in Liberal Judaism's youth programmes.

The KT class takes part in many aspects of community life, such as Mitzvah Day, the Keep In Touch tea party for the elderly and the Asylum Drop-In centre. These activities help to form their Jewish identity and develop their leadership skills.

Residential trip

The KT course includes an important weekend away, usually to Amsterdam, where students are introduced to the history of the Dutch Jewish community and visit the Liberal Jewish synagogue. The group visit places significant to the Jewish community in Amsterdam, and enjoy some good bonding time with their peers and teachers.



'Shabbat' in Hebrew
by Eric Lach Stein,
future KT student

Snack Time

Children are welcome to bring in their own snack for break time (10.45-11.00). Please make sure that snacks are vegetarian, and do not send crisps or nuts/seeds (we are a nut & seed free zone).

Please also supply a water bottle for your child, as we are no longer using disposable plastic cups.



Tefilah

Each Shabbat we begin our morning with a Rimon prayer service (9.40-9.55am), with the goal of familiarising students with important elements of the Shabbat morning liturgy. We include some Torah learning, prayers and songs. As their confidence grows, students will take on the learning of specific prayers which they will then be able to lead in the sanctuary during one of our termly Shabbat morning family services.

Class Representatives

There has been an active Class Representative scheme for many years at Rimon, which facilitates communication between families within each class, as well as between families and Rimon. The class reps provide a friendly connection to enable parents to get to know each other, to support their children's events and activities effectively and give parents an opportunity to become more actively involved in the LJS community. If you would like to know more about becoming a class rep, please contact Susannah

Rimon Book Fees

No tuition fees are charged to synagogue members for their children's religious education. An annual fee, of £250 per child per year, is charged to parents for books, stationery, arts and craft equipment and other resources.

A request for this fee will be sent out at the end of August and we ask that you pay before the beginning of term. We would be delighted to receive donations in excess of the fees, which would help us to enhance our educational activities, and to subsidise those families who cannot pay the full amount. We would not want any child to be prevented from experiencing Rimon due to lack of funds, so if this is difficult for you please contact Elana or Susannah in confidence.



Breakfasts

Rimon parents have traditionally paid to provide a buffet breakfast on a Shabbat morning during term time, for Rimon children and parents (9.15 – 9.40 am). The breakfast can be supplied by you, or just paid for by you (£40) and we'll do the shopping. Please contact Education if you would like to sponsor a Rimon breakfast.



Tzedakah (Charity)

Every year a special *Tzedakah* project is chosen by Rimon children. The Head Teacher is always happy to be approached with suggestions of new ideas for LJS *Tzedakah* projects. Children bring *Tzedakah* weekly and parents are asked to encourage pupils to participate in this *mitzvah*.

Communication

We try to keep families informed of all events. Please make sure we have up-to-date email addresses and mobile phone numbers for your family.

We email a weekly Rimon newsletter to all parents to keep them informed of events; we welcome any input from parents. Please read the Newsletter, otherwise you may not be aware of events that affect your child.

We use Whatsapp to reach every family directly, for instant communication, such as reminders, requests for resources for children, individual class news. We use Whatsapp rather than emails nowadays as we find it to be more effective. We do request that all parents join the Whatsapp groups (one per class, and one whole school group) so they can be kept up to date.



Please notify us of any relevant changes to home circumstances that may affect your child.

Each Spring term we hold a Parents' morning during Rimon, when all parents are invited to come and meet their children's teachers. We will let you know the date shortly.

At the end of the year, parents will have another chance to meet their child's teacher for a progress report; the date of this will be announced nearer the time.

Useful Contacts at the LJS

Head Teacher	Susannah Alexander rimon@ljs.org 020 7432 1284 (Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday)
Rimon Rabbi	Rabbi Elana Dellal e.dellal@ljs.org (Tuesday & Saturday)
Education Coordinator:	education@ljs.org
Principal:	Rabbi Alexandra Wright a.wright@ljs.org - 020 7432 1283
Chair of Education:	Scott Dinwiddie educationchair@ljs.org
Finance Controller:	Ergun Arican ergun@ljs.org 020 7432 1290
LJS Main desk:	020 7286 5181



Lola Pollak and her matza cover



Map of Israel by Charles and Edward Boizzard

The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

Judaism for Today and Tomorrow

A constituent of Liberal Judaism

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