



Newsletter January 2020

Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome all the new children and their parents who have recently joined us, together with those who are starting at Shofar shortly; we hope that you will all be very happy here with us.

Dates for your diary

Monday 20th January 2020- We start learning about the Chinese New Year (25th Jan)

Monday 3rd February 202- We start learning about Tu b'Shevat (10th Feb)

Monday 24th Feb- closed staff training

Tuesday 25th Feb 2020 – We start learning about Purim (10th March)

Monday 9th March at 1715-Rimon Purim songs for parents

Tuesday 10th March at 0915-Tamar Purim songs for parents

Tuesday 10th March, please send your child in fancy dress

23rd March 2020- We start learning about Pesach

8th April 2020 –Erev Pesach- Shofar closes early at 4.00 p.m.

Closed Thursday 9th April-Wednesday 15th April

Below are some reminders for your assistance.

- Akiva stop and drop and parking

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.

- Birthdays

When your child has a birthday, if you wish, you may send in some cupcakes or a healthy snack alternative 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 snacks / cupcakes and buy a book if you prefer. Please note that any food sent in to Shofar for birthdays needs to be completely nut free and we will need a full list of ingredients, so that we can ensure that our children with allergies are protected and catered for.

- Car Park

Please be aware that once you enter the site, you are entering a car park and as with all car parks, you need to hold onto your child at all times. *Approaching Shofar down the Akiva pathway by the buggy shed and entering in from the side gate will make your approach even safer*

Please do not allow your most precious thing in the world to be hurt by risking anything other than 'safety first'!

- Clothing

Please ensure that all is named. Children must have a full set of spare (named) clothing that fits them on their pegs at all times. If your child is in the potty training process, they will need many more than one set.

If your child grows out of uniform or useful clothing, such as, trousers and underwear, then we may need to replenish our stocks so please offer these to one of the teachers.

If for any reason you need to borrow spare clothing from Shofar please wash and return at the earliest opportunity as our stocks run out quickly.

- Funding for three year olds

When your child reaches three, they may be eligible for up to 30 hours free childcare over 38 weeks in the year. Please register for this a few months before your child's third birthday at: <https://childcare-support.tax.service.gov.uk/par/app/applynow>.

New users must complete a parent declaration form, which they can obtain from our administrators. It is up to parents to notify us of any changes after completing the declaration.

Parents who are not eligible will still receive 15 hours free funding.

Once registered for 30 hour funding, parents must log in to their account and reconfirm termly. You should get an e-mail reminder but sometimes this goes to your junk box so it is a good idea to set yourself reminders. Shofar cannot be responsible for parents not reconfirming and therefore not getting the funding.

- Grandparent and parent help

If parents and grandparents wish to come in and help at Shofar please let your class teacher know when you are available. If this is a regular slot then we will apply for a DBS criminal records check for you.

Parents can also arrange to come in and read a story to the children or help out with activities so if you have time please do let us know, as we would love to have you.

- Heathy Early Years London

Shofar has registered for this initiative. We will let you have more information when we have it.

- Immunisations

At Shofar, we expect that children are vaccinated in accordance with the Government's health policy and their age. We ask that parents inform us if their children are not vaccinated so that we can manage any risks to their own child or other children/staff/parents in the best way possible. We will try to inform parents when we know there is a particular illness going around, except for the usual coughs and colds.

Parents should be aware that some children in the nursery might not vaccinated, due to their age, medical reasons or parental choice.

- Library books in Pre-school

We have special book library folders in our pre-school classes that we will give out weekly with your child's chosen book, which they can keep at home for a week. Please ensure that you return these each Wednesday (or nearest day to Wednesday that your child attends Shofar). We also have a special book review for our Rimon class, which they can if they wish complete at home and

then we will choose a few children each week 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.

- Medication

We will give your child any prescribed medication, providing you complete our medication form. Please do not ask us to give any non-prescribed medication, as we are concerned about overdosing and keeping sick children at nursery, when in reality they should be at home to avoid illnesses spreading.

The Headteacher has an emergency supply of Calpol, and Nurofen, which she would be able to administer, in an emergency, with parental permission, if collection is not immediate. In an emergency permission can be given over the phone, but must be followed up in writing. The child must still be collected as a matter of urgency.

- Planning

We are trialling a new way of planning at Shofar, as we want our weekly planning to be more relevant and meaningful for the children.

When there is not a Jewish holiday, or a multi-cultural festival, which we feel is important for the children to learn about, we shall be using the children's current interests to inform our planning.

We will therefore let you know the topic we are learning about, each week when we send home the planning sheet for your information. This will enable you to ask the appropriate questions to extend your child's learning and to allow us to work as partners in your child's education.

- Potty Training

We are happy to help parents to potty train their child when they are ready; however, we are not able to start this process nor willing to do this alone. You must have had your child totally out of nappies (except at sleep time) for a minimum of 4 days before sending them in to Shofar without a nappy.

Please make sure that they are able to pull up and down their own underwear (which must be worn) and their own track suit bottoms or tights, and make sure they have ample spare clothing in the bag. After three accidents we will put a pull up (which parents must supply) on the child as we are not able to cope with more accidents.

- Proof of identity

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

- Shabbat Celebrations and Shabbat Boxes in Pre-School

As you know, we celebrate Kabbalat Shabbat every Friday morning at Shofar for our Pre-School classes and Gefen class. We also have a mini Shabbat celebration with our youngest children.

To ensure that all children in our Pre-school classes have a sense of Shabbat and share this special time, even if they don't attend Shofar on a Friday; we will also send your child home every 14 weeks or so, with a special Shabbat Box

This contains candlesticks, candles, Kiddush cup, Challah cloth and two freshly baked Challot, which the children have made. 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 ensure that you return all items in good conditions, except for the Challot, on the first day back to nursery after the weekend.

- Sickness

If your child is unwell, please keep them at home and telephone or e-mail admin@shofardaycarenursery.org.uk to let us know please. We are likely to contact you if your child isn't here on a day that we are expecting them, so please do let us know as early as possible to save us the worry.

Children 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, we will **not** negotiate on this necessary exclusion.

Our exclusion and sickness policy is on the parent's board and on our web site.

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.

- Tax Free Child Care

Parents can apply for tax free child care. This replaces the old childcare voucher system and instead the government tops up your money for childcare by 20%. To check if you are eligible please visit <https://www.gov.uk/get-tax-free-childcare>

- Tzedakah

For children in our Rimon and Tamar classes, please try to send them in with a small amount of charity money each week on either a Friday or a Monday. Please 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.

- Uniform

Uniform is compulsory at Shofar in our Tamar and Rimon classes and optional in our Gefen class. Our t-shirts and jumpers come in green, purple and turquoise. The t-shirts cost £8.50 and jumpers cost £10.

All children need a Kippah in Gefen, Tamar and Rimon for celebrating Shabbat and festivals. If your child does not already have their own one, please ask one of the teachers. These cost £3.50.

Uniform tops must be worn over other clothes where necessary (no hoodies or cardigans on the outside please) so that the Shofar Logo can be clearly seen and all clothing, coats, bags and shoes must be clearly named.

- WhatsApp class groups.

Our parents have a WhatsApp group for each individual class so they can communicate with each other about children's birthdays, social arrangements and as a general help and guidance forum.

If you are not already part of these groups, we invite you to join them to become part of the Shofar family; below are details of the group administrator for each class. Please contact the administrator from your child's class to ask them to add you to the class group if you wish to be part of this.

Please remember to remove yourself from any group once your child moves classes or leaves Shofar.

Te'edah Group administrator Raisa Shabtay 07961 277297

Gefen Group administrator Tanya Miller 07429 338790

Tamar Group administrator is Gali Reznik 07734 943806

Rimon Group administrator Carly Klier 07946 618373

I hope all of the above is helpful. If you need any further information, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you for all your support

Sharon



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, repair 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.

Shofar Calendar Jan 2020 - Dec 2020

Wednesday 1st January 2020 - Closed New Year's Bank Holiday
Monday 24th February- Closed Jewish Nursery staff training
Wednesday 8th April –Early closure for Erev Pesach – Shofar closes at 4.00 p.m.
Thursday 9th April – Closed 1st day Pesach
Friday 10th April – Closed Bank Holiday
Monday 13th April - Closed Bank Holiday
Tuesday 14th - Closed Pesach/Staff Training
Wednesday 15th April 2020- Closed 7th day Pesach
Friday 8th May Closed Bank Holiday
Monday 25th May- Closed Bank Holiday
Thursday 28th May- Erev Shavuot- Shofar closes at 5.00 p.m.
Friday 29th May – closed Shavuot
Monday 27th – 31st July closure for summer refurbishments. (See above)
Monday 31st August - Closed Bank Holiday
Friday 18th September - Shofar closes at 1:45pm - early closure Erev Rosh Hashanah
Monday 28th September - Closed Yom Kippur
Friday 2nd October- Erev Sukkot- Shofar closes at 3.45 p.m.
Friday 9th October – Erev Simchat Torah- Shofar closes at 3.45 p.m.
Thursday 24th December – Early site closure Christmas Eve Shofar closes at 2:30pm
Friday 25th December – Closed Bank Holiday- Christmas Day
Monday 28th December – Closed Bank Holiday
Tuesday 29th December to Friday 1st January 2021- Shofar closed.

Shofar Daycare Nursery Sternberg Centre, East End Road, N3

Call us: 020 8346 3453 admin@shofardaycarenursery.org.uk www.shofardaycarenursery.org.uk

Registered office as above. Shofar Daycare Nursery is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales no: 9395603 and registered as a charity in England and Wales no. 1160802

