



	Thu 29	Fri 30	שבת 31 פסח 1	Sun 1 פסח 2 Omer 1	Mon 2 פסח 3 Omer 2	Tue 3 פסח 4 Omer 3	Wed 4 פסח 5 Omer 4	Thu 5 פסח 6 Omer 5	Fri 6 פסח 7 Omer 6	שבת 7 פסח 8 Omer 7	Sun 8 Omer 8
Bedikat Chametz from	8:15pm										
Fast for Firstborns from		4:58am									
Chametz eaten until		10:57am									
Chametz burnt by		12:00pm									
Shacharit			9:30am	9:30am	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am	8:00am	9:15am	9:15am	8:20am
Yizkor									>10.30am		
Eruv Tavshilin								<b>Yes</b>			
Earliest Candle Lighting		6:10pm							6:18pm		
Mincha			7:20pm	7:22pm						7:32pm	
Shiur (see below for speakers)		7:15pm	(*1)	(*2)	TBC	TBC	TBC	7:15pm	7:15pm	(*3)	
Maariv			8:20pm	8:22pm						8:32pm	
Latest Candle Lighting		7:16pm						7:26pm	7:28pm		
Nightfall		8:12pm	8:20pm								
Chatzot (Midnight)		1:04am	1:04am								

### Mazal Tov!

Mazal Tov to Rachelle and Danny Shintag on the recent birth of their son. Bris details will be circulated by email.

Mazal Tov to Merle and Norman Gutkin on the birth of a granddaughter, a daughter to Ilan and Claire Gutkin in Israel.

### Pesach Sameyach

Magen Avot wish all their members and visitors a Pesach Sameyach and look forward to welcoming all who attend over this period. If you are without a meal over Chag please speak to Yoni Weisz or Esther Maurer.

### Chametz Sale

Magen Avot is extremely grateful to Rabbi Ginsbury for offering our members an opportunity to sell their Chametz for the duration of Pesach.

### Note to parents of children at MA

To ensure our safety and the safety of our children please make sure the following are adhered to:-

- You must know where your children are at all times
- Everyone must respect the premises of the Nancy Reuben Primary School and Od Yosef Hai
- Ball games are strictly prohibited including bringing balls to Shul
- Children can attend Minis or Maxis or be in Shul

### Pre-Yom Tov Thanks

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who are leining over chag. We would also like to thank all those who will lead and join us for services. Your support is very much appreciated.

### Additional Details from timetable

Our Baalei Kriah over Yomtov will be Shimon Levy, Raffi Maurer, Natan Maurer and Dovi Friedmann.

Our speakers over Yomtov will be (\*1) Ian Gamse, (\*2) Julian Gilbey, (\*3) Daniel Greenberg (Neilat HaChag Seuda).

Eruv Tavshilin to be made before last Yom Tov commences to allow Shabbat preparations on the second day of Yom Tov.

### Payments

Payments can be made to Magen Avot by Bank Transfer to our NatWest Account: Magen Avot, SC: 60-80-07, AN: 60217278. Mark the reference with your last name, initials and the reason e.g.: "Smith AJ Kiddush".

## The Chief Rabbi's Pesach Message 5778

We have a fascinating family custom: at the Pesach Seder our family sings the words of the passage known as 'Chasal Siddur Pesach' to the tune of Chanukah's Maoz Tzur.

This has prompted me to consider what the festivals of Pesach and Chanukah have in common. Of course, both celebrate the miraculous intervention of the Almighty to save our people and both are eight days long in the Diaspora. Interestingly, if necessary, Jewish law requires one to sell one's clothing or receive tzedakah in order to purchase candles for the Chanukiah. This is strikingly similar to Pesach, when one is required to sell one's clothing or receive tzedakah in order to buy wine for the required four cups. There was also a fascinating and beautiful custom among the Jews of Izmir in Turkey to use their leftover oil from the previous Chanukah to light a small oil lamp, which they used for Bedikat Chametz, the search for chametz, on the night before Pesach.

Yet, the most substantive, thematic connection between Chanukah and Pesach is the centrality of education as a Jewish value. Both festivals lead us to appreciate the crucial importance of learning in our tradition; a lesson encapsulated by our Sages, who declared, Vetalmud Torah Keneged Kulam – the study of Torah supersedes all (Mishnah Pe'ah 1).

The Hebrew word Chanukah (dedication) comes from the same root as chinuch (education). Indeed, dedication to education is a key feature of the Chanukah narrative. The survival of our spiritual legacy, despite the intentions of the Hellenists, was rooted in our commitment to teaching Torah and its values.

The primary purpose of the Pesach seder is education - "And you shall relate to your child on that day saying, "It is because of this that the Almighty performed these miracles for me when I left Egypt" (Shemot 13:8). But, more than that, the Pesach seder itself sets out the ideal framework for the most impactful education – an audio-visual, experiential encounter which utilises storytelling, questioning and a veritable assault on our senses to ensure that the experience is an unforgettable treat. It is no accident that of all our traditions, the seder night remains the most widely observed, even in families who would otherwise consider themselves entirely secular. Research has shown that more Jews attend a Pesach seder every year than those who fast on Yom Kippur. Pesach teaches us what the best teachers already know – that the most effective education must be experiential.

This lesson is of particular relevance to us today. British Jewry is blessed to have truly outstanding schools which, year on year, are heralded as being amongst the finest in the country. I am always personally moved by the dedication shown by trustees, governors and staff at our wonderful schools and they would be the first to say that there is nothing more impactful or foundational to a Jewish child's identity, than a powerful Jewish experience.

Whatever the setting; formal or informal, at school or at home, may this Pesach present an opportunity for us to refocus on a truism of Jewish life – the greatest key to a successful Jewish future is quality Jewish education.

Valerie and I wish you a chag kasher ve sameach.



Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis  
March 2018 • Nisan 5778

