

# Kerem School

## Jewish Literacy Programme

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to our **Kerem School Jewish Literacy Programme**.

The J.L.P. is being implemented throughout Key Stage 2 (the Junior classes -Years 3-6) and forms the core of our Limmudei Kodesh studies, outside Ivrit, Parasha and seasonal work on chagim and so on. The strong and rigorous textual emphasis is largely Chumash-centered but also supports and complements the Ivrit studies. The scheme provides your children with broad foundations in Jewish knowledge and thought through the study of General Knowledge, Halacha (Jewish Law), Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers) and Jewish History.

Chumash is studied in class, pasuk by pasuk, but is one of three strands that reinforce each other and help your children to build their skills in a thorough and systematic way. These three strands of study are the following:

1. **Chumash - textual study**
2. **Vocabulary - common Chumash words**
3. **Hebrew Grammar - 'The Dikduk Difference' workbook**

Each week there is a vocabulary test on six Chumash words and four, sometimes five, general knowledge words / terms based on our own General Knowledge syllabus. The latter forms the basis of our General Knowledge studies, enabling us to cover new ground quite quickly but ensuring that the minimum gained is a familiarity with and simple understanding of key Hebrew terms relating to a wide variety of topics. This is basic Jewish Literacy.

We use an excellent workbook, 'The Dikduk Difference,' to study Hebrew grammar. This was introduced in Years 3 and 4 last year. The current Year 3 class is beginning this workbook and Years 4 and 5 are continuing from where they left off. Year 6 learn to apply principles of Hebrew grammar as they study Chumash but begin to spend more time on **Rashi script and the study of Rashi's commentary**.

The children are provided with specially designed study sheets. These are studied both in class and at home and contain the following sections:

1. **Chumash and General Knowledge vocabulary lists**, to be studied for regular tests,
2. **'Halacha of the week,'**
3. **'Pirkei Avot of the Week.'** (Yr.3 - Yr.5)
4. **'History Snippet of the Week.'** (Year 6)

The Halachot and extracts from Pirkei Avot are short, weekly units that build over time into comprehensive courses of study, covering a very large area of Jewish Law and the entire tractate of Pirkei Avot (less some particularly difficult passages). Pirkei Avot is succeeded in Year 6 by an introductory history programme. Also in Year 6, the boys have a weekly **Mishna** class while the girls learn '**Nach**' - beginning with the Book of Joshua.

When the J.L.P. folders come home please reinforce what we are learning in school by looking over and discussing the material with your children. Shabbat will be an excellent time for this.

Finally, your children will soon be receiving their new '5 Minutes a Day Hebrew Reading Practice' cards. Please help us to help your children by hearing them read regularly and completing the cards.

Wishing us all, but particularly our children, an enjoyable and successful year,

J. Richards  
Head of Limmudei Kodesh  
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