

RE Term 2 Knowledge Organiser – How do festivals and family life show what matters to Jews?



Key questions we will explore:

- What do Jewish people believe about God, sin and forgiveness?
- How and why do Jewish people celebrate Rosh Hashana, Yom Kipper and Passover?
- Why are these festivals important to Jewish people?
- What is the significance of the Exodus story?
- Why is forgiveness an important aspect of Judaism?
- Why are the Ten Commandments important to Jews?

Key Knowledge:

- Like Christianity, Judaism teaches that there is only one God and that God created the world. God expressed what he expects of people in the Ten Commandments and other laws.
- Judaism teaches that because humans have been given free will, they are responsible for their own actions. If they do something which is wrong, then they must seek forgiveness.
- The story of **Exodus** means 'going out' in Latin. It is about how the Hebrew people were led out of Egypt by God. Moses, their leader, hears God's words and then tells the Israelites.
- **Passover** is a celebration of the story of **Exodus**.
- During Passover, Jews remember how their ancestors left slavery behind them when they were led out of Egypt by Moses. Passover is celebrated with a series of rituals. Each ritual symbolises a different part of the story.
- On the evening before Passover starts, Jews have a special service called a **Seder** (Order). This takes place over a meal with family and friends at home.
- **Rosh Hashana** is a time for people to reflect on the past year and to ask for forgiveness for anything wrong they feel they have done.
- All synagogues have a large cupboard facing Jerusalem called the **Aron hakodesh**, which symbolises the Ark of the Covenant that held the tablets of stone with the **Ten Commandments** received by Moses. It is the centrepiece of the synagogue and holds the Torah scrolls. It is thought of as the holiest part of the synagogue.

Vocabulary

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Shabbat	The day that God rested from creating the world.
Sabbath	A day of religious observance and abstinence from work.
Passover	A Jewish holiday that celebrates the Biblical story of the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt.
Rosh Hashana	The Jewish New Year festival.
Atonement	The action of making amends for a wrongdoing.
Torah	The law of God as revealed to Moses and recorded in the first five books of the Hebrew scriptures.
Siddur	Jewish Prayer Book.
Modeh Ani	A morning Prayer.