

PURIM



ALMA
PRIMARY

PURIM: WHAT'S THE STORY?

The four Mitzvot (commandments) of Purim

Hearing the story: Every year Jewish people around the world listen to the story of Esther read from the Megillah (scroll). Tune into zoom on Thursday at 5pm to listen to an abridged version with Alma families

Mishloach Manot- Giving gifts of sweet food to friends and neighbours. This is something you can do at home.

Matanot Laevionim- Gifts to the poor. There is a list of local foodbanks on the reverse side. You can make a donation this week to help our neighbours who are struggling.

Purim Seudah- Purim Feast-
This is a great opportunity to turn a normal lunch or dinner into a feast for your family. Children can make table decorations from the Purim story or posters to decorate the room where you eat. It is a custom to tell funny stories at the feast called a Purim Spiel.

The holiday of Purim is celebrated on the 14th of the Jewish month of Adar or Adar Sheni in a leap year. The story takes place over 2,700 years ago in Shushan, Persia where the Persian king who ruled over 127 provinces lived.

The word Purim means 'lots' and refers to lots that were drawn to determine the date that the Jewish community in the Persian Empire would be destroyed by the evil minister in Haman. His plans are foiled thanks to intervention of the Jewish queen Esther and her cousin, Mordechai. Ever since then, Jewish communities around the world celebrate this event with a carnival type atmosphere.

The story itself is written in *Megillat Esther*, the book of Esther that is read on the erev Purim, the evening before Purim and on the day of Purim. It is a *mitzvah* (religious commandment) to hear the *Megillah* being read. The story is a celebration of survival which encourages friendship, helping the poor, rejoicing with food and drink. We also eat *hamantaschen* or 'oznei Haman', biscuits in the shape of Haman's ears or hat!

It is a tale of political manoeuvring, personal activism, and bravery against an Anti-Semitic plot. It teaches us the importance of standing up for what is right and taking risks.

This year Purim falls on the evening of Monday 6th and the day of Tuesday the 7th of March.

On Tuesday we will be celebrating Purim at school: This year we are supporting Kisharon, a charity that provides education and support to children and young adults with special needs. They will be making *Mishoah Manot* (gifts) for our children and we will be making a donation to their organisation. The highest form of charity is enabling people to earn a living and that is what we are doing by supporting this. **Please send a minimum of £1.50 per child – we would be grateful for additional donations.**

We are also collecting food for Food Bank Aid - you received a list of requested items in the Newsmail.

You can learn more about Purim, as well as some songs that we have been learning at school by clicking on the links below:

[What is Purim? - Purim 101](#)

[Maccabeats Purim Song](#) – [Fountainheads Purim song](#)

[Mishe nichnas Adar](#)

PURIM CELEBRATIONS IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY



Gifts to the Poor

Please send in tins of food for Food Bank Aid. We will be collecting all week!

GIFT

A Jewish charity collecting non-perishable food for Jewish families:

www.jgift.org

There are also opportunities to help communities in Israel:

Leket

Leket is a charity that collects food that would go to waste and takes it to Israelis in need:

gift.leket.org



Purim at New North London Synagogue

Monday 6th March:

4:30-5:30 – Purim celebration with abridged megillah reading for children and families up to and including year 4.
7:30 Megillah reading

8:45 pm Purim celebration with Speil
<http://www.nnls-masorti.org.uk/>

Purim at Woodside Park United:

Sunday 5th March

3-5pm Purim celebration for families with children in primary and younger.

Monday 6th March

6:30 Megillah reading
7:15 Carnival

<https://www.woodsideparksynagogue.org.uk/purim>

Finchley Reform Synagogue

Sunday 5th March

10:30-12:00 Purim Carnival

Monday 6th March

6:30pm Megillah reading and Spiel, Esther the Musical - Ages 11-111

<https://www.frs.org.uk/event/erev-purim--megillah-spiel-and-quiz-night.html>

Finchley Chabad

Sunday 5th March

10:30 am Hamantashan bake

Tuesday 7th March

4:30pm Purim party at Clown Town.

<https://www.chabadfinchley.com/purim>

Shaare Tzedek

Sunday 5th March

9:30 Children Extravaganza

Monday 6th March

6pm Megillah and Purim Speil

<https://www.shaarei-tzedek.org.uk/purim/>

Finchley Progressive

Sunday 5th March

4pm- Musical Purim: Klezmer, dancing, story telling, Megillah

<https://www.fps.org/eventlist/2023/3/5/purim-2023>

Purim song: Megila Megila

(to the tune of 'Obladi Oblada')

Achashverosh is the King in Shushan town
Haman his advisor is so mean
Mordechai's a Jewish guy who won't bow down
And then there's Vashti, now it's Esther as the Queen

Me-gi-la, Me-gi-la, Me-gi-la la –
it's all in the Me-gi-la

Esther was selected to be Persia's Queen
Didn't tell the king she's a Jew
Mordechai said she must be the go-between
And tell the truth or else the Jews will all be through (chorus)

Mordechai is riding on the king's white horse
Haman has to lead him so he's mad
Esther tells the king and saves the Jews of course
And Haman's history so everybody's glad! (chorus)

