

# Newsletter

## New Year, New Open Centre!

We've had a busy Autumn term which has seen us working on new projects, restructuring our staffing, and renovating our offices and teaching space to deliver a better service in 2018.



### Our New Look

Thank you to our team of staff and volunteers who have worked hard to transform our display space!

### Open Centre Activity Update

In the Autumn term, we had 3430 visitors at the Centre and led 103 workshops at schools. We have worked with 61 different schools across the Midlands. Visitors have also included Guide groups and adults with a successful Open Heritage Faith Trail running in September.

### Staffing update

November saw the introduction of a new staff structure. Sam Mitchell remains the Manager while Eve Sacker was appointed as Deputy Manager. Eve has been our Jewish sessional worker for a number of years and is a Secondary level RE specialist by training. Nahida Begum is now our Sessional Workers Co-ordinator, ensuring that our visits run smoothly.

### Long Service Award

Congratulations to Nahida who has been with the Open Centre for 24 years! Nahida has seen the organisation grow and flourish over the years and has worked hard to make the Open Centre what it is today. She is regularly mentioned in feedback form schools for her accessible and informative introductions to Islam. Thank you Nahida!

Our staff have led CPD sessions through the DSTA and have supported staff and students at Derby College and the University of Derby. If you are interested in organising staff CPD, please call the office. We have covered diverse topics such as cultural awareness for teaching staff, handling artefacts, EAL needs as well as adding to knowledge of individual religious traditions.

### Look out for our Open Centre Bears!

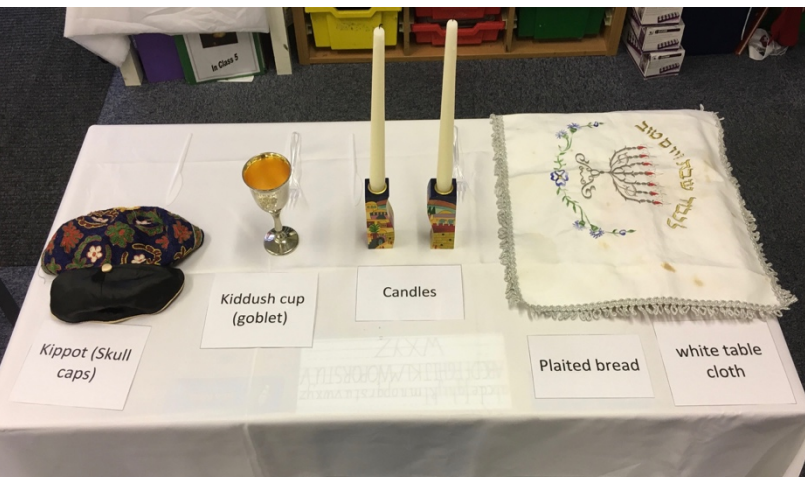
Peace and Harmony will be Accompanying our faith trails and workshops.

Here is Harmony learning about the Torah and clothes for prayer during a recent Synagogue Experience workshop.



## New workshops

We are continually updating our range of workshops that can be offered at our centre and in schools.



## Shabbat

Experiencing the rituals and artefacts of Shabbat. Find out why Jews celebrate Shabbat, help lay a Shabbat table, taste Challah bread and smell Havdalah spices!

## Synagogue Experience

An introduction to Jewish places of worship. Look at the layout of a synagogue, learn about what happens there, try on Tallit and Kippot, and taste Challah bread.



## Muslim Festivals

Eid and how it is practiced in Britain today. Learn how Eid is observed, try on traditional clothes and taste celebration foods.

## Derby Schools Linking Project

The Open Centre and our partners Global Education have been working together on a school linking project which is part of the Linking Network. the project aims to get children from diverse backgrounds to get together and make connections.

Last term, 16 classes from 12 schools met for their first face to face session at Pride Park having spent time getting to know each other through letter, email or Skype. During the Spring term, they will be visiting each other's schools and deepening their friendships.



## Federation of RE Centres

We are now members of the Federation of RE centres, more information available at [www.recentres.org.uk](http://www.recentres.org.uk).

## Coming up

Look out for new workshops including 'Welcoming a Baby'

We will be completing our 'Understanding Christianity' training and updating our Christianity provision.

**Secondary School survey** – Schools will be receiving a link to a research project we are undertaking. Please complete to help us to meet the unique needs of KS3 and exam students!



01332 360737



[contact@derbyopencentre.org](mailto:contact@derbyopencentre.org)



[www.derbyopencentre.org](http://www.derbyopencentre.org)

The Open Centre, 152 Peartree Road, Derby DE23 6QD

