

# Year 1 Swans



## Summer 2

### Does celebrating Chanukah make Jewish children feel closer to God?

#### The festival of Chanukah

Chanukah is the Jewish eight-day festival of lights. The word Chanukah means 'dedication' in Hebrew. It celebrates a miracle that happened in Jerusalem over 2000 years ago. It is celebrated in November or December every year. Families come together to play games, give gifts and share a special meal.



#### The miracle of Chanukah

The Greek emperor, Antiochus banned the Jews from worshiping God. The Jews refused to obey him. A small group of Jews called the Maccabees fought back against the Emperor's army. They won the war and recaptured Jerusalem, however the Greeks had destroyed their temple. They repaired it and rededicated it to God by lighting the lamp, a symbol of God's presence. The small jar of oil was only enough for one day but miraculously the lamp stayed alight for eight days.

Key Vocabulary	Definition
<b>celebration</b>	An act, process or time of celebrating.
<b>Chanukah</b>	Jewish eight-day, wintertime 'festival of lights'.
<b>dreidel</b>	A four-sided toy that Jewish children play with during Chanukah.
<b>Hebrew</b>	A language spoken by Hebrews or Jewish people
<b>Jew</b>	Someone who follows the religion of Judaism
<b>Judaism</b>	The world's oldest Abrahamic monotheistic religion.
<b>Maccabee</b>	A priestly family who led a Jewish revolt and took control of Judea.
<b>menorah</b>	Hebrew for 'lamp' and refers to a seven or eight branched golden candelabra.
<b>latkes</b>	A pancake made of grated potato, traditionally served on Chanukah.
<b>synagogue</b>	A building or place of meeting for worship in the Jewish faith.

#### What do Jewish people believe?

Jews believe there is one God that created the world. They believe God made a special promise (a covenant) with their ancestor Abraham, and that He still cares for them today. Jewish people try to follow the rules that God gave them, which are in the Torah, the first 5 books of the Hebrew Bible.



#### What is Shabbat?

Shabbat is the Hebrew word for Sabbath, which comes from the Hebrew word for rest. Shabbat happens each week from sunset on Friday to sunset on Saturday. The idea of a day of rest comes from the Bible story of the Creation: God rested from creating the universe on the seventh day of that first week, so Jews rest from work on the Sabbath.

#### Dreidel

Jewish children play with the dreidel at Chanukah with a four-sided spinning top. Each person spins the dreidel and follows the rule, written in Hebrew on the side.



#### Menorah

This is a multi-branched candelabra which has been used in the religious rituals of Judaism for centuries.

