

THE AL-ASHRAF TIMES

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Opportunities to excel!

Maulana Abdullah AS Patel

We hope and pray you and your family members are well. Alhamdulillah, through the grace of Allah SWT, we have reached another Ramadan, bringing with it fresh opportunities to take a step back and introspect, recognising that we are so fortunate to have a tight-knit school family and community, in which every individual plays such a vital role. This is honestly such a great opportunity to show gratitude that Allah chose us to serve his Deen.

Over the past 12 months or so, we have seen great improvements within the school, with every person responsible for bringing our ambitious plans to fruition. Through the grace and help of Allah, we have completely renovated and redesigned our library, which now just requires felling! Our staff helped us reach a final decision after many months of deliberation and discussion, remaining patient throughout the entire process! Ramadan brings another fantastic opportunity to share, be it through our sincere du'as, a small financial donation, and even sharing iftar with our neighbours. So far this year, our parents, staff and children have donated generously to every cause we have fundraised for this year, comfortably totalling nearly £5000 across our school family alhamdulillah. Ramadan is a time where Allah allows us to see our fullest potential, to motivate us for the remaining 11 months of the year. May Allah allow us to value this time, to bring the wonderful characteristics of Nabi *alayhis salam* into our lives, and allow us to always have faith in Allah, whatever condition we may be in. Ameen . Ws.

LOVE

The value of this term was LOVE. Our children have learnt about loving one another, loving the world around us, the importance of love of Allah and the Prophet Muhammad *sall-Allahu alayhi wa-sallam*, and loving for others what we love for ourselves. **Our children generously donated dozens of Eid toys to Asylum Seeking families which we passed on through GARAS, a local charity.** Allah reward you

RAMADAN – A TIME OF GIVING

We hope to maximise the rewards of Ramadan by inviting people to become part of our little school family, through du'as and generous donations: https://www.launchgood.com/campaign/support_the_only_islamic_primary_school_in_southwest_england#!

“And the believers’ love for Allah is far greater!”

Holy Qur’an [2:165]

“Love Allah for what He nourishes you with of His Blessings, love me due to the love of Allah, and love the people of my house due to love of me” - Prophet Muhammad alayhis-salam



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 21 March – Eid al-Fitr
Mon 24 April – School restarts
Mon 1 May – Bank holiday
Mon 8 May – Bank holiday (again)
Th 25 May – Willow class assembly

TURKEY AND SYRIA APPEAL

We received an updated total for our Syria and Turkey earthquake appeal, over **£2500**, alhamdulillah! What a huge effort, showing our love for those less fortunate.

CULTURE DAY AT AL-ASHRAF

Willow Class

Willow class had a wonderful time celebrating culture day. We dressed up in cultural clothing and discussed special foods and languages related to the countries we originate from. We were surprised to learn, that in our small class family, we have children from 8 different countries that speak 5 languages other than English!

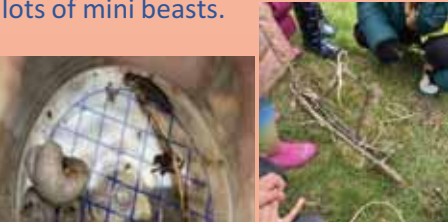
Our class focus was on Morocco. We enjoyed looking at videos that showed the streets, houses, and beaches of Morocco. We noticed how different the houses looked to the ones we live in. We learnt that a *Riad*, is a traditional Moroccan house with an indoor garden and courtyard. Some of them can have more than 10 bedrooms.

Rhyan, Jannah and Yanis shared photos from their country and talked about the foods they like to eat. We made Moroccan flags, couscous and tagine inspired artwork.



TRIP TO SLADE FARM
Elm Class

Elm class visited Slade farm in Stroud. We had a brilliant time exploring the great outdoors. We made rafts and floated them down the stream, we made predictions on which ones would float and how fast they would go. We went mini beast hunting and found lots of mini beasts.



We had our lunch under a tent to protect us from the rain. We then drew the landscape and the nature that we could see. Everyone had great fun!



CULTURE DAY IN Cedar Class

This term we had the opportunity to celebrate Culture Day. As a school filled with diverse children it is important to share, respect and celebrate each other. We loved dressing up in clothes that represented our culture and looking at each other's outfits. From Nigeria to Malaysia, Egypt to Pakistan, we understood that Muslims can be from anywhere. There was also a chance to speak to a parent (jzKA to them) and find out more about the Egyptian Culture. It was great to learn about the realities of growing up in another country and eye-opening for the children to compare it to the UK. The children were especially amazed at the fact that in Egypt , children can learn up to 4 different languages at school!



ALWAYS CLUB
The 'Always Club', celebrated every big term, rewards and celebrates children who are always on task, and always do whatever is expected of them, MashaAllah.

Class	Name
Willow	Hafsa Bocus
Elm	Ammara Ferdous
	Mariam Elgendy
Cedar	Haneef Adeyinka
	Saleha Khuram
Oak	Ayna Alif
	Haroon Nadeem

ISLAMIC STUDIES AWARDS
Our Islamic Studies staff also select pupils who have been consistently excellent throughout the term.

Class	Name
Willow	Hammaad Patel
Elm	Sulaiman Patel
	Zaafir Ghazafi
Cedar	Aisha S Meah
Oak	Amirah Meah

House	Points
Abu Bakr	70
Umar	73 - WOOHOO
Uthman	64
Ali	70

NURSERY UPDATE
During Science Week, we presented exciting Science activities which encouraged exploration, problem solving, observing, predicting, thinking and talking about our world. In Islamic studies, we pondered on the wonders of Allah, how Allah shows mercy, and how we can do the same. Ramadan theme: Practically modelled actions of salaah, explored mathematical concepts linked to the numbers 10 (ashara) and 30 (total days of Ramadan) and Islamic story time.

TRIP TO GLOUCESTER MUSEUM
Oak Class

This term, Oak class visited the Museum of Gloucester. The session was arranged around the BBC show 'Wild Isles' featuring David Attenborough. We started off by looking at different creatures in the local area and completing a food cycle activity.



We also learned about taxidermy and saw some animals that had gone through that process. We ended by getting creative and completing art related activities around the theme of animals in our local area. You may be able to view some of our work in the future in Gloucester Museum's gallery. Overall, it was great fun!

ISLAMIC STUIDES BY Hafiz Aasim
This term, Oak Class have been studying the life of Nabi *alayhis-salam*, focusing on his character, and lessons that we can learn from how he acted in the various battles he engaged in. The Battle of Badr taught us to have complete faith in Allah, even if the odds seem to be completely against us, just like Nabi SAW did. From Uhud, we learnt the importance of unity and being firm in adversity, like Nabi SAW and many of the Sahaba were. The Treaty of Hdaybiah taught us to always have full faith in Allah, even if times are hard. The Conquest of Makkah illustrated why we never lose faith in Allah, as he will always reward our patience, with Nabi SAW conquering the land he was once exiled from. We also saw his forgiving and wonderful character, by not taking revenge on the people who had caused him so much difficulty. With each event, the children were asked to think in the perspective of the Muslims and how they would act. Are we able to endure such difficulties with patience? How far do we trust Allah to take care of all matters? May Allah bless us all with the special traits of our beloved SAW.