



Al-Ashraf Primary School

Newsletter Term 1 – October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our Term 1 edition of the school newsletter. Alhamdulillah, we have had a very productive and exciting first term. We have all settled well into the new academic year with the new school model and hope that you have had a pleasant start too. In this newsletter, I will be updating you on a few school matters I.A.

As always, please feel free to speak to MI Abdullah or myself if you wish to discuss anything in person.

Many thanks,

Wsww
Mrs. Zainab Patel
Headteacher

Safeguarding

Our safeguarding policy has been updated and is available to view on our school website. We take Safeguarding extremely seriously at Al-Ashraf and all staff received training at the start of the year to ensure they are aware of current practices.

I am the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) is Mrs Khatija Panchbhaya.



Reading

We have placed a renewed emphasis on reading at Al-Ashraf this year. Some of the initiatives we have carried out in school are:

- Used book sale arranged by parents which raised £72 for our school library
- Arranged a whole school library, with cozy spaces where children can enjoy books
- Phonics and reading session for Willow and Elm Class parents arranged by Miss Timmins, Mrs. Dukandar and Mrs. Parveen
- Book club run by Miss Nanabawa on Tuesdays
- We are looking to create an outdoor free library with support from parents IA
- Usbourne Read-a-thon – sponsored reading challenge which raises money for us to buy books for our school!
- Introduction of the new home-school reading agreement to promote reading

School Values

Our school values have been coined from the Arabic word 'AKHLAQ'. Pupils are rewarded house points when they display these school values which are:

A Appreciation – I APPRECIATE all my blessings, big or small

K Kindness – Allah is Kind and loves Kindness, so I am KIND

H Honesty - I am always HONEST because Honesty leads me to be good

L Love – I LOVE everybody, Allah, my Prophet (saw), my parents, teachers & Classmates

A Ambition – I have high AMBITIONS; I aim high and try my best

Q Quality – Everything that I do has to be of the best QUALITY

The winning house of the term is: Uthmaan, Well done!

AbuBakr – 48

Uthaman – 81

Umar – 52

Ali – 42



Science at Al-Ashraf Primary School

This year at Al-Ashraf, we have embarked upon the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) journey! This is an exciting yearlong CPD programme that helps schools to achieve a quality mark to improve the provision of science in the school and enables science subject leaders to develop and articulate a clear intent and aspirational vision for science. The process of achieving a PSQM raises the profile and quality of science across the whole school.

The cost of this programme (approx. £800) has been sponsored by a generous parent. Allah SWT accept their donation, Ameen.



Randwick C of E School

This year, we have partnered with Randwick Primary School in Stroud who welcomed our teachers to their school to share best practice. As a small mixed-ages village school, their help and support has been invaluable during the school's transition.

To promote SMSC values within both schools, their year 5/6 children will be visiting our school next term and our Cedar Class will get the opportunity to visit theirs in term 4 InshAllah.

Children's Appointments

Please ensure that children's medical/ dental appointments are kept out of school time. If this is unavoidable, please ensure that the School Office is informed in advance.

Please ensure the appointment card is retained for the school's records.



Anti-Bullying Week

At Al-Ashraf Primary School, we take bullying very seriously and strict procedures are followed if bullying is identified. The week beginning **11th November** is Anti-Bullying week. During this week your child will be taking part in activities to support their understanding of the different types of bullying, their rights to be happy and safe, and their responsibilities towards bullying. They will be taking part in assemblies, role play, drama, discussions and creating posters to develop their understanding.

I am pleased to inform you that the school has appointed an Anti-Bullying Officer. **Mrs Rubyna Nanabawa** works closely with children in school providing pastoral care where needed. Working alongside her, **MI Abdullah Patel** also provides pastoral care to children.

Bullying can be a confusing issue to understand and young children often confuse falling out with a friend, with being bullied. If you have any concerns about anything your child may tell you, please speak with the Class teacher in the first instance.



Attendance & Punctuality

- The class with the best attendance this term is: **Year 6** - who achieved 99%, MashaAllah!
- Our whole school attendance this term is: **97.3%**
- This term we had a total number of **30** lates which equates to 2 hours and 30 minutes of learning lost. Please ensure children arrive to school on time.

Children in Need



This year on Friday 15th November, we will be raising funds for the Children in Need Appeal.

The money we raise will make a big difference to children here in the UK. Our support will help fund projects covering a wide variety of disadvantages such as:

- ◆ Teaching pre-school children how to read
- ◆ Treating sick children with meningitis
- ◆ Help children who are at risk of becoming homeless
- ◆ Aid physically disabled children
- ◆ Pay for nurses to provide care for babies with life threatening illnesses.
- ◆ Supporting children with sensory impairments
- ◆ Provide respite to carers of traumatised children

We, as Muslims, should make use of every opportunity to help the disadvantaged. It is hoped that participation in this fundraising event will increase the children's awareness of less fortunate children and the importance and great reward of helping them. Pupils are being asked to donate £1 for the privilege of wearing a polka dotted garment and/or a Pudsey style bandana. We will also be arranging a bake sale to support this cause inshaAllah, more details will follow in the new term.

Cold Weather

As the cold weather is setting in, we urge all parents to ensure that children come in to school with the correct outdoor clothing. Please ensure hats and gloves are also provided so that they can keep warm during break and lunch time.

New website

Our new website has now launched which includes up to date information about the school. Please refer to the website for important updates and to view children's work.



Always Club

To reward good behaviour, we have introduced the 'Always Club'.

This is an incentive to reward and celebrate children who 'Always' do what their teachers expect of them. As a treat, the always club children enjoyed a pizza and hot chocolate lunch with the Head teacher on the last day of the term.

The always club children this term were:

- R - Aishah
- 1 - Yusra
- 2 - Maryam
- 3 - Nafishah
- 4 - Aiman
- 5 - Ruqayyah
- 6 - Abdullah

Poppy Appeal

The British Legion helps war veterans, their families and dependents all year-round. Each year the nation expresses its unequivocal support for The Royal British Legion's work through the Poppy Appeal, coinciding with remembrance events during the second week in November.

As in previous years, the school is again supporting the British Legion's annual **Poppy Appeal** in aid of the war veterans and their families.

Poppies are available to purchase from the school office. The poppies and wristbands are priced at 50p each.

Parents Evening

Parents' Evening will be held on **Thursday 21st November 2019** from 1.30 pm onwards. Parents will be able to book appointments using the Parentmail app.

Please note, children will need to be picked up at 12.30pm on this day.





E-Safety #1

Parental Controls

Parents often ask about practical advice that they can employ to protect themselves and their loved ones online.

Parental controls can be used to block upsetting or harmful content, control in-app purchases or manage how long your child spends online. And the good news is parental controls are really easy to set up.

Innocent searches sometimes reveal not so innocent results. So if you're worried about what your child is searching for online, who they're talking to or what they're seeing, we can help.

It's simple to get started. And, along with talking to your child regularly, using parental controls is one of the best ways to help keep children safe online.

What are parental controls?

Parental controls are software and tools which you can install on phones or tablets, games consoles or laptops – and even your home broadband. You can also use them to help you block or filter the content your child sees when searching online. And family-friendly public Wi-Fi can help when you're out and about.

Parental controls are also available to help you to:

1. Plan what time of day your child can go online and how long for
2. Stop them from downloading apps they're too young for
3. Manage the content different members of the family can see.

So whatever your child is doing online, there's a way that you can help keep them safe.



Upcoming Events

Friday 25th October: School closes at 3.30 pm for half-term holidays

Monday 4th November: School Re-opens for Term 2

Friday 15th November: Children in Need

Monday 11th November: Remembrance Day

Monday Nov 11th –

Friday 15th November: Anti-Bullying Week

Thursday 21st November: Parents' Evening



Finally, jazakallah and thank you to all our children, parents and staff for donating food items for the local foodbank 'GOUCESTER FEED THE HOMELESS'.