



# Al Ashraf Newsletter

## Autumn/Winter Term 2013 Newsletter

Assalamu alaikum WW

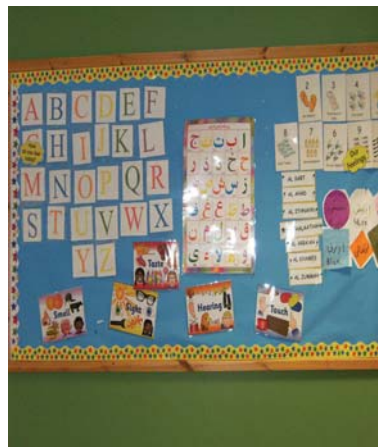
We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our returning children and new entrants who have settled well into nursery life.

Masha-Allah we have had a very comfortable and easy settling in period in September. During this term we initially settle the chil-

dren into nursery routine however we covered many different topics to stimulate the children's understanding and interest.

The pre-school children studied the following topics:

- Healthy eating
- Transport
- Dinosaurs
- Autumn



Volume 4, Issue 1

December 2013

### Dates for your Diary:

- Last day of term -  
Thursday 19th December
- Nursery reopens -  
Monday 6th January 14

## Healthy Eating



We discussed what healthy and unhealthy food is and learnt what constitutes a healthy and unhealthy diet.

The children thoroughly enjoyed our healthy eating topic as they creatively drew and painted giant vegetables! We also created a healthy food collage. As an extension to this, the children independently

prepared their own healthy snack, a fruit salad, which was enjoyed by all.

The children were very proud of their achievement; preparing their own snack and this is something we will continue to implement in our daily routine as it helps children improve on their hand-eye co-ordination as well as their fine motor skills. We spoke about how all the different foods are bounties from Allah (SWT) and we should be grateful for what we receive.



### Inside this issue:

Themes & Topics	1
Themes & Topics	2
Islamiyat Learning	3
Rising 3's	3
Fun with reading	4
Other news	4



## Autumn

We talked about the mercy of Allah (SWT) and how He created different seasons for us, how weather helps growth and how grateful we all must be. We discussed how through the power of Allah (SWT) the colour changes of the leaves and how they fall off the tree naturally.

We talked about and explored all the colours of falling leaves by creating leaf prints using autumn colours. One of the activities involved the children drawing the outline of a leaf which demonstrated their fine motor skills. The children were also shown the different coloured leaves and conkers.

## Transport

We have been learning about different modes of transport such as planes, cars, trains etc. and what they are used for. We created our very own bus out of a cardboard box and the children engaged in an imaginative role play of travelling to different places with their peers.

In addition to this the children learnt the "wheels on the bus go round and round" nursery rhyme. The children learnt about the traffic lights system and how it works. One of the activities the children took part in was sponge painting using different transport shapes.



## Different senses

We discussed about all the senses which include hearing, touching, sight, different smells and emotions. We used different materials to create a "feely book" so that the children could describe the different textures they can feel under their fingers. The children were asked open ended questions about the different senses we use on a daily basis such as hearing, seeing etc.

We also discovered shapes such as pentagon, octagon, hexagon, triangle and rectangle.



## Dinosaurs

Based on the children's interest we learnt about the dinosaurs. Together we looked at books which had information on different types of dinosaurs. We also enjoyed learning long tongue twisting names. The children were very curious about learning dinosaurs and this was evident in the question they asked. In addition to this the children created our very own dinosaurs out of salt dough, which they baked and painted.

## Winter

We learnt about winter and discussed the type of clothes we wear during the cold weather. The children took part in a scientific experiment of different composition of hot and cold. They poured their own ice cubes in water and watched it melt. The children described what they were seeing to their Apa's. We also enjoyed ourselves creating our very own snowmen.



## Islamiaat

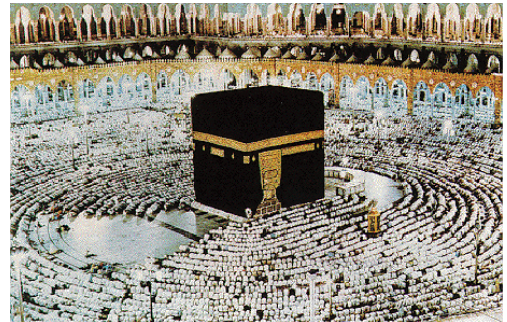
Our hope at the Islamic Nursery is to make Islam the basis of all themes. Based on this, our children had the opportunity of exploring and visualising Hajj through activities during Hajj week. The children imagined they were travelling in the plane, wearing their Ihraam and praying the talbiyah. They learnt about what was involved in Hajj and what the virtue of Hajj was.

### We learnt.....

- How to make zikr of Allah (Remembrance of Allah): Daily, all children are encouraged to recite some azkaar, e.g. Subhanallah, Alhamdulillah and Allahu-akbar, as well as Kalimah Tayyibah, so that the greatness of Allah is instilled in their hearts and they learn that Allah is the greatest. May Allah grant our children this sublime quality. Ameen
- Pupils learnt about Allah being Al-Khaliq, the creator of mankind, the creator of the sun and moon and it is He who sends down rain whereby the crops grow and become a means of sustenance for us.
- Be helpful and beneficial to people around you: the children learnt that Allah loves those who help others. We talked about becoming a caring person towards the creation of Allah. The children came up with many suggestions of how they could be helpful to others, Masha'Allah.
- Virtues of Friday: The children learnt that Friday is a very blessed day for Muslims, and it is a day when we should ask from the bounties of Allah. Among learning duas and kalimas on Friday, the children are encouraged to send salutation upon the prophet (saw), recite Durood Shareef. The children were taught the Sunnats of Friday. Familiarising the children with the Arabic Alphabet using the Alphabet nasheed, Alphabet book and Alphabet white boards. Alongside this the children learnt the recognition of letters by tracing them.

### What we plan to do....

- Learn the correct pronunciation of ta'awwuz and tasmiyah
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kalimah
- Encourage children's mannerism, habits and conduct according to Deen



## Rising 3's

We continued similar topics for our rising 3 children and we did lots of learning through play. For the autumn theme we created a collage of trees and leaves. The children were also explained about fireworks, what sound they create and the colours they come in.

We have also been learning about "my body" and "our family." We talked about the different parts of the body. We had fun whilst creating our handprints. The children have also enjoyed learning the "head, shoulders, knees and toes" nursery rhyme which enabled them to remember the body parts through fun and play.



Recently we have been learning about healthy eating. We have discussed what healthy eating is and how unhealthy food can harm our body. The children were asked about their favourite fruit and in turn they created a fruit collage.



This term we have learnt the following duas:

- Dua before eating
- Dua when drinking milk
- Dua to increase your knowledge
- Dua before going to the toilet

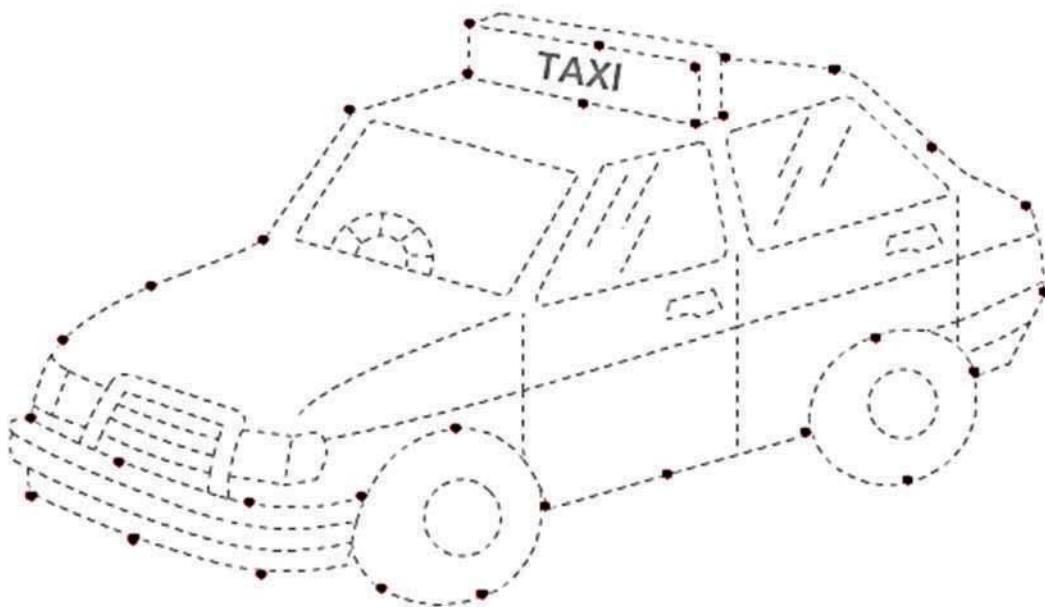
## Fun with Reading

It is highly recommended by our nursery for parents to read to their child. Not only does it increase the child's aptitude for learning, it also develops their expression and communication skills. These are essential in all aspects of education. In addition to this it has been proved that reading enhances concentration, memory retention and discipline.

Even picture books and language in simple children's book enhance children's learning and vocabulary because of the conversations between parent and child which takes place around books and stories.



## Children's Corner Transport



Join the dots. What am I?

## Other Important Info

### Updated information

Please ensure all data pertaining to your child is updated such as changes in your child's medical condition, Also it is very important for us to be able contact you especially in case of an emergency and when the need arises.

If you have a question about the nursery, you can contact:

Manager: Mrs Khatija Panchbhaya (kpanchbhaya@al-ashraf.gloucs.sch.uk) 01452 503533

Working Committee: Mufti Abdullah Patel and Maulana Abdullah Patel (nwc@al-ashraf.gloucs.sch.uk )

---

---