



Al-Ashraf Newsletter

Autumn Newsletter 2015

Assalamu alaikum ww.

Welcome to our first newsletter for this academic year. The children were given the opportunity to become familiar with the staff, other children and the learning environment at the beginning of the academic year. We learnt our daily routine our playroom. The children have very quickly learnt to recognise and locate their own coat pegs. All in all the children have settled in very well, and got used to routines and their learning environment.

Phonics

The children as a group were introduced to phonics. We learnt a letter a week, by recognising its shape and sound. Also to help retain our understanding of each letter we received an activity sheet pertaining to the letter of the week as homework. At the beginning of the new year, Khatija Apa will be running a new program called "Read, Write Inc" which consists of : Teaching sounds, teaching letter formations, introducing blending and building vocabulary.



Wake and Shake

The movements in the routine have been specially developed by the staff to ensure each child gains the most out of "Wake and Shake." The activity also invites children to laugh and relax, encouraging them to explore their environment and resulting in improving their confidence.

Extensive research has shown that our brain works best when supplied with oxygen and endorphins, both of which are produced through exercise. After the 'Wake and Shake' session, children feel re-energised and ready to learn whilst adopting a positive approach to the day.

Harvest

The children over two weeks brought in food items to donate to "Gloucester Helping Hands" scheme which provide food parcels to the underprivileged within our community. This scheme is organised by Imam Hassan.

"Gloucester Helping Hands would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the parents, children and staff at Al-Ashraf Nursery. We appreciate all the donations that we received. Many people less fortunate than ourselves in our local community were able to benefit from this act of kindness and generosity. May the Almighty reward one and all and grant us the ability to continue with charitable acts."- Imam Hassan.



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December 2015

Dates for your diary:

- Last day of nursery:
Thurs 17th December
(Rising 3's)
Fri 18th December
(Preschool)

- Nursery reopens -
Mon 4th January 2016

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Transport and road safety

The Children discussed the different types of transport and which vehicle they have travelled in. We differentiated between the ones on land, in the air and sea. We went outdoors to see which transport vehicles we could spot or hear. We also painted our favourite transport vehicles.

We learnt about the rules of STOP, LOOK and LISTEN. We did a local outing to observe the traffic lights changing so to understand how to use them responsibly. A certificate was issued to all children who participated in this activity.



Winter

We explored the changes in the season. We investigated how quickly ice would melt in water.

The children improved their fine motor skills by using scissors to cut out snowflakes. The children enhanced their vocabulary and language skills by asking how the animals hibernate in winter.



Islamiat

In this term our pupils had the opportunity of exploring and visualising Hajj through our 'Hajj week'. In a role-play we travelled in an imaginary plane, wearing Ihraam and praying the talbiyah.

We also learnt and practiced.....

1. Remembrance of the Almighty through recitation of Subhanallah, Alhamdulillah, Allahu-akbar and kalimah tayyibah.
2. Who is Al-khaliq? The creator of mankind and everything. It is He who sends down rain whereby the crops grow and become a means of sustenance for us.
3. How to be helpful: We learnt that the Almighty loves those who help others. We talked about and came up with suggestions of how we could be helpful to others.
4. Virtues of Friday: Friday is a very blessed day for Muslims, and it is a day when we should ask from the bounties of the Almighty. Amongst our Islamiat learning, pupils are encouraged to recite Salawat (sending salutations to the prophet). Pupils were taught the sunnats of Friday.
5. Familiarising ourselves with the Arabic Alphabets through a variety of methods and using various resources we have at the nursery.

Rising 3's

Our topic for the Autumn term this year has been about 'Ourselves', 'Jungle animals', Farm animals and Leaves. The exploratory learning opportunities within these topics are limitless; however, we have highlighted some key learning opportunities available to the children for the duration. Some aspects of activities available to the children during their independent learning time included a home corner role play complete with kitchen appliances and food setup for learning. Our creative area is equipped for children to practice their cutting skills while our writing area includes drawing and painting both wild and domestic animals.



We have been using our hands to create different images of animals. For investigation, we used mirrors so that the children could explore their own facial features; a sensory box to encourage exploration through touch and other sensory materials to focus upon scent, hearing, sight & taste.

Focus tasks: Some of our adult-led tasks for this topic included; exploring stories using information books which linked to our bodies, animals and leaves. During art, we used paint and other resources to create paper plate faces on animals, farmers, and scarecrows. The children had an interest in baking and decorating biscuits and pizza making. We learnt new nursery rhymes in relation to the relevant topics, such as "Old Mc Donald", "5 little ducks", "5 Little Monkeys". For hygiene; the children have been practising the etiquette of eating and also learning duas.

Messy Learners



Taking part in creative and messy play activities has numerous benefits for children's learning and development. Children are active learners and they learn through play. Play allows them to make sense of the world around them. Through play, children also learn to make choices, solve problems, and make plans. Learning processes grow and concepts develop. Play makes learning exciting and interesting whilst ensuring that children remember what they learn.

Each child will benefit in their own way and messy play helps children to develop concepts - these concepts are the basis for later learning. As children roll and mould play dough, they learn about cause and effect - what happens when they squish it or roll it in their hands. They may practice counting, sorting, and grouping with the things they make with the dough. As they fill and empty containers and choose objects to use in the water table, they experiment with math and science concepts, like more and less, full and empty, float and sink. As they pour sand from cups, build sand castles, and add water to sand, they learn about physical concepts like the pull of gravity and the behaviour of liquids and solids.

Messy play activities support problem solving and prediction. As children talk with each other and with adults while they participate in messy play, their language skills and vocabulary grow. In addition, messy play helps children develop large and small motor skills and eye-hand coordination as they dig into the sand, pounding and squishing dough & clay and painting with brushes and fingers.

Practitioners also have an important role in messy play. They support children as they learn from play experiences. There are several ways this is done. First, in addition to basic materials such as sand, water, clay and paint, practitioners provide props to enhance play. In addition, our practitioners ask questions and make comments to help children think about and discuss what they are doing. "What will happen if...?" or "Do you think...?" can encourage a child to take the next step toward learning. This will also sustain shared thinking and further encourage the child's learning experiences.

One of the best ways in which parents can help their child to enjoy and learn from this type of play is by dressing them appropriately. While staff work very hard to put aprons on children, it is inevitable that they may get marks on their clothes or have wet sleeves. As most settings use natural materials such as sand, water and even mud, you should find that marks can be brushed off or washed out quite easily.

1 min Play Dough recipe

You will need:

- 1/2 cup of salt
- 1 cup of flour
- 1 tablespoon of cream of tartar
- 1 tablespoon of oil
- 1 cup of boiling water from the kettle, mixed with some food colouring



What to do:

Put all the dry ingredients in a bowl and then mix vigorously with hot water

Soft Play

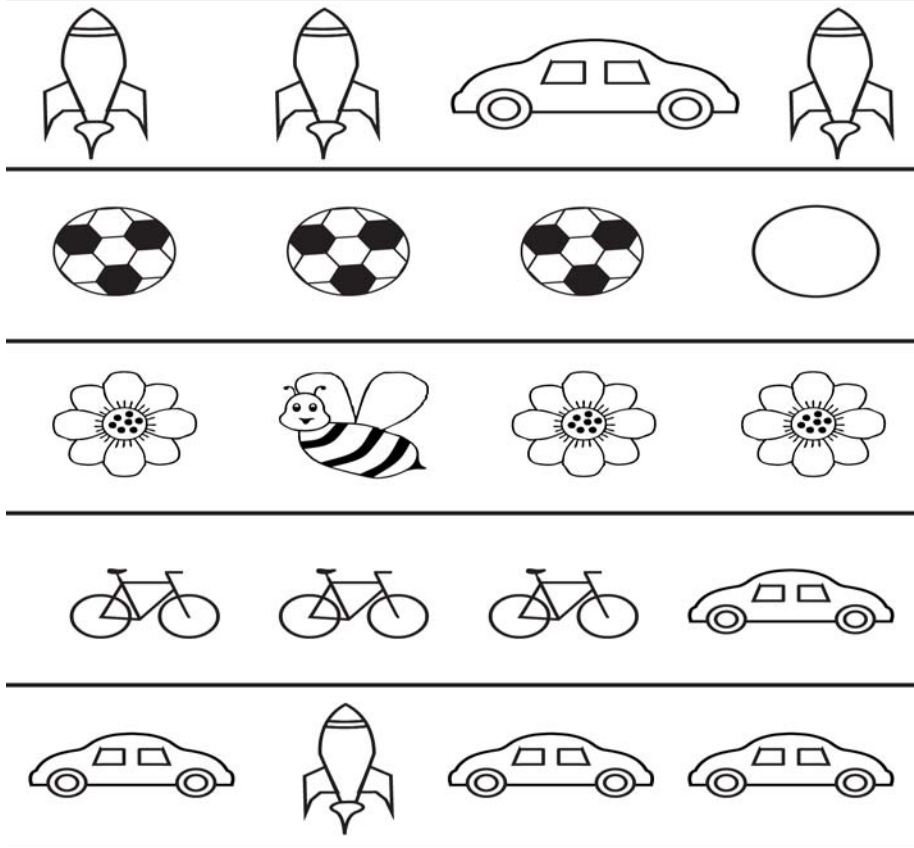
We have recently created a soft play area in Madinah room for our pupils. This was partially funded by the money raised in the cake sale held earlier this year in May.

Active and exploratory soft play helps children learn new motor skills in a fun and stimulating environment. It helps develop physical activity and encourages children to enjoy exercising, however as it's essentially play, it feels fun and exciting for them.



Children's Corner

Circle the picture that is different.



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

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