



# Al-Ashraf Newsletter

## Autumn/Winter Term Newsletter 2016

### Preschool

This term has been very enjoyable; our children have settled well. It has been a fun packed term with special themed days, and much more. The children introduced members of their family to their key person and friends. The children created family mobiles and also enjoyed cooking gingerbread men. In one of our activities we became familiar with the main external parts of our bodies and with the aid of mirrors we made facial features such as mouth, eyes and nose out of play dough .

During the autumn period we enjoyed exploring the different textures of autumn leaves, conkers and pine cones. The children enhanced their vocabulary and language skills by discussing how the animals hibernate in winter. Following on from this season, the children discussed the seasonal change and how Allah has created the season

The children enthusiastically engaged in ice play, gloop, shaving foam and artificial snow to experience the winter atmosphere. They also created their very own snowmen and used sponge printing over paper doilies to create a snowflake.



### Learning book (e-learning journal)

From September 2016 we have introduced E-learning journals within our nursery, using interactive tablets.

Our E-Learning Journals allow parents to see their child's progress and keep up to date with activities at the nursery. The new Learning Journal system will allow our staff to upload observations and pictures to the portal. All of these observations are linked to what each child has learnt from their experiences. This allows parents to track their children's development.

Parents will be given login details to track their child's progress (using the email address provided on their admission forms).

The key benefits to parents of using E-Learning journals:

- You will be able to have a more active role in your child's learning, with online access to your child's learning journal giving you the ability to add comments, view progress and learning experiences regularly.
- Each parent will have their own login details and a guide which will help show some of the main features as well as tell you how to get access to your child's Learning Journal. The site complies with the Data Protection Act and is secure.



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### **Dates for your Diary:**

**Last day of Nursery:**

Friday 16th December

**Inset day:**

Tuesday 3rd January

**Nursery reopens:**

Wednesday 4th January

**Parent consultation:**

January 2017 TBC

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### Rising 3's

A very successful theme this year has been "winter". With the weather constantly changing, the children have had the opportunity to enjoy the rain and frost. To extend on this, nursery have been conducting activities using ice, cotton wool, water play and gloop. This will help improve the children's fine motor skills as well as contributing to their understanding of senses.

In addition to this, the children had a keen interest in winter animals such as penguins and polar bears. We talked about their habitats and read books to foster language development, expand vocabulary and imagination.



### Staff

This year we have extended our Nursery Assistant team to now include Aisha Apa Patel, Hajera Apa Nanabawa and Sakina Apa Pandor who joined our team in September. They have all worked really hard in the first term and the children have settled well with their key persons. They bring a wealth of experience from their previous roles in various settings.

### Charity Week

Al-Ashraf Nursery took part in Charity Week starting from 7th November. We manage to raise a total of £255.31 for Islamic Relief's project of helping orphans and needy children.

The children and staff also made poppies which raised a total of £30 that was donated to The Royal British Legions.

### Islamiat

As part of our Islamiat interlinks with EYFS we had a session called 'time for reflection.' This session helped to promote the development of thinking and reasoning in our young children.

This session involved open-ended questions to see what answers pupils responded with.

Some of the questions our children answered were:

- Let us think about what things are wonderful in our lives.
- When did we last stop and think about things we are grateful for?
- How can we praise and thank Our Creator who blessed us



### October 15th was Global Hand washing Day

'Global Hand washing Day' perfectly linked with the Islamic teachings of hygiene and cleanliness.

### Harvest

Our children enjoyed listening to the story of Yusuf (A.S) through story mapping. Children recognised the pictures and were able to relate to the story.

### Spring term snack money

The spring term snack fee of £25 is now due. We would therefore appreciate if you could pay the snack fee by

Friday 13th January.

**WHY NOT TRY THIS AT HOME - (PHONICS PRACTICE PART 1)**

Phonics skills of your child will help develop reading comprehension as well as increasing their understanding of words and expanding vocabulary. Children are taught the corresponding similarities between phonemes (sounds) and letters. (\*To extend learning, please refer to early years phonics tutorial online).



**s** Weave hand in an s shape, like a snake, and say *ssssss*.



**a** Wiggle fingers above elbow as if ants crawling on you, saying *a, a, a*.



**t** Turn head from side to side as if watching tennis and say *t, t, t*.



**i** Pretend to be a mouse by wriggling fingers at end of nose and squeak *i, i, i*.



**p** Pretend to puff out candles and say *p, p, p*.



**n** Hold arms out at side, as if a plane, and say *nnnnnnnnnn*.



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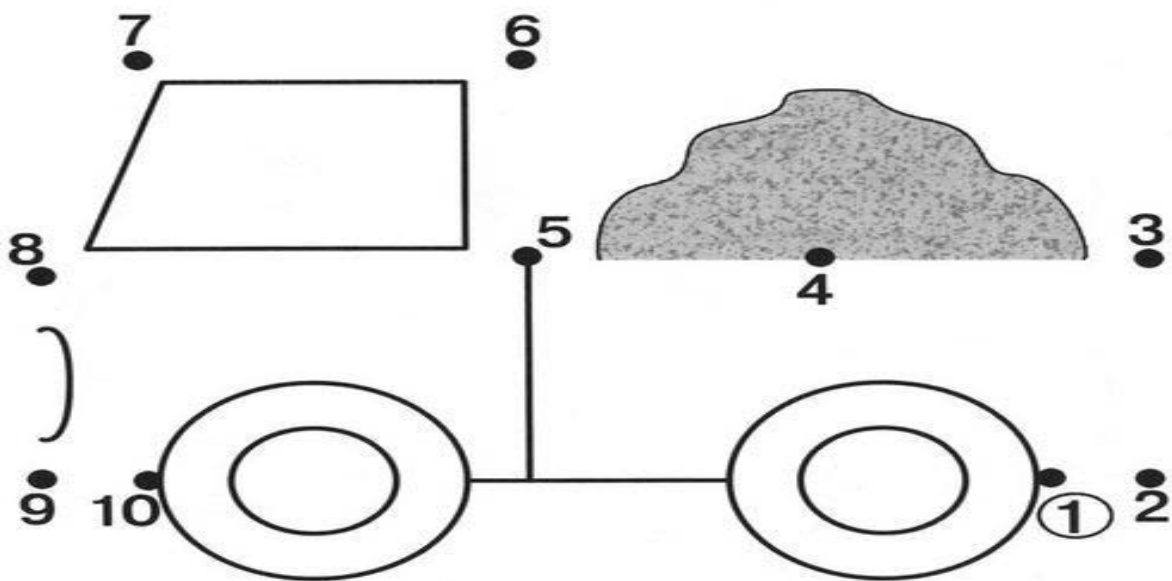
Why messy play is integral to your child's learning



	Develops hand-eye co-ordination	<b>Physical Development</b>	Builds fine-motor skills	
Teaches about sequencing and patterns		Improves body control, poise, balance and co-ordination		Explores colour, shape and texture in two and three dimensions
<b>Mathematical Development</b>	Offers opportunities for counting, measuring and sorting		Use of different media and material fosters imagination	<b>Creative Development</b>
Develops the concepts of size and shape	<b>The Many Benefits of Messy Play</b>			Focus on process over product enables individual interpretations
Encourages representational play and story-telling				Informal context encourages confidence in communicating
<b>Knowledge and Understanding of The World</b>	Enables risk-taking and experimenting in a safe environment		Provides exposure to a rich and varied vocabulary	<b>Communication, Language and Literacy</b>
Teaches cause and effect		Fosters children's natural curiosities		Provides opportunities for mark-making
	Encourages a positive attitude to new experiences	<b>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</b>	Builds independence through choice	

# Children's Corner

Join the dots and what do you see?



WE ARE GRADED  
OUTSTANDING  
IN ALL AREAS

**Ofsted**  
OUTSTANDING  
2015



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

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