



Al Ashraf Newsletter

Spring/Summer Term 2013 Newsletter

Assalaamu alaikum WW and welcome to our Spring and Summer term newsletter.

It has been very stimulating year and it is a shame that it's come to an end. Masha Allah, the kids have worked extremely hard and we have had a very busy and fun filled term.

Alhumduillah.

The pre-school children studied the following topics during the Summer term:

- Summer/At the Beach
- People who help us



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Dates for your Diary:

Summer Holidays Begin

17th July

Back to Nursery

3rd September

Summer



We discussed how Allah (SWT) created sunshine, learnt about the features of the summer season, the different weathers and how Allah has created the glorious rainbow. We looked at clothing connected to the summer season as well as looking at summer time at the beach. We had fun learning all about the seaside. We talked about our experi-

ences of the seaside and participated in role-play by simulating key features. This was a lovely experience for those of us that have never been to the beach.

We created our very own buckets, spades, sunglasses, origami boats and 3D ice creams. We also decorated sandals and beach balls.

We talked about different sea creatures such as jelly fish, sea horse, turtle etc. The children enjoyed watching monitored and approved videos for educational purposes, to learn more about different sea

creatures and their habits.



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People who help us

The "People who help us" topic contributed to our understanding about personal safety and encouraged us to take notice of the world around us.

Fireman

What a great experience! We had a visit from our local fire service. They discussed the importance of fire safety to help children develop better understanding of fire and the consequences of its misuse.

They showed us their fire engine, uniform and best of all, we were allowed to spray the water hose.

We also learnt a very important rhyme:

"Matches, lighters never touch,
They can hurt you very much"

We also looked at the various colours of a flame from deep red, orange to blue.

The children coloured a fireman, and learnt about high visibility and fire retardant clothing.

Police

We were graced with a visit from Barton Community Police. The children were particularly interested in how police help us. The Police discussed the different kind of services they provide and the importance of road safety.



The children displayed a vast understanding of the police uniform and equipment. They were very enthusiastic and asked many questions.

Dentist

We looked at a variety of foods that causes tooth decay. We had a 'show and tell' session where the children brought in their toothbrushes and toothpastes to show their peers.

We were very privileged to partake in a dental survey. The dentist prepared a makeshift area to check the childrens' teeth. This helped to dispel fears of a lot of children who are afraid of visiting the dentist.

Additionally, the children gained better understanding of the importance of keeping their teeth clean.

Postman

We discussed what a postman's job entails, how he collects letters from the post box and delivers them to the sorting office. We designed cards to post to our families. Thereafter, the children posted their letters and anticipated the delivery of their letters.

Our world

We explored how diverse people live in different parts of the world. We designed a world map and located various places on it. We talked about travelling and made personal British Passports. The children explored countries using books and computers.

We focused on a few specific places

and looked at them in depth.

We discussed the African culture and types of food they eat. The children tasted sweet potato and cous cous.

We also talked about the African safari parks and the animals indigenous to the areas.

The children chose the animals they

wanted to paint: lions, tigers, gorillas and chameleons were very popular choices.



Saudi Arabia- We explained about how the pilgrimage to Makkah is significant to Muslims all around the world. We talked about the shape and colours of the Ka'bah and made our own miniature versions using air dough. We discussed how Saudi Arabia is a mountainous terrain with deserts and sand dunes and we played in sand to feel the texture .

We also covered other interesting places from around the world: such as France, India and the Caribbean. We tried foods from these places and using our projector, we watched informative facts about various places.

Rising 3's — People who help us

During the Summer term, rising 3's have been very busy. We have looked at the following topics: "Under the sea", "Pirates", "Summer" and "People who help us."

Postman

We drew pictures for our families and enclosed them in envelopes. We then stamped the envelopes and took turns posting the letter in our classroom post box.

Our classroom also consisted of a small post office complete with stamps, cards and envelopes, weighing scales and a post box.

Police

The children helped paint a police car that we used for role play. We made and talked about police equipment such as police hats, badges, batons and handcuffs.

We also simulated a crime scene and searched for clues using a magnifying glass.

We wrote our very own police poem which we now sing at carpet time.

Doctors

The children engaged in role-play acting as doctors and nurses. We took this opportunity to teach the children about the treatments used by doctors such as injections, stethoscopes, bandages and medicines.



Under the Sea/Summer/Pirates

We have been busy creating lots of sea creatures such as jelly fish, star fish and turtles like 'Mr Turtle' (our nursery pet — see him on page 5) They were made using a variety of techniques such as cutting, scrunching up tissue paper, creating collages, painting, beading and colouring. We also used mini paint rollers to paint our own submarine with coloured translucent plastic port-holes.

We incorporated Islamiaat with this topic and read the story of Yunus AS and the whale to the children. "Allah has created all the sea creatures"

To extend our 'underwater' topic, we introduced basic science and learnt about the different states of water, such as ice, melting ice and liquids: warm and cold. We supported this by allowing children to make and play with fish ice cubes, warm water play and gloop play (corn starch and water).

Summer

As the weather began to change and Summer drew near, it was the perfect time to talk about the beach. The children engaged in role-play pertaining to the beach and park. A beach corner was created: complete with a beach hut, wall display with beach buckets, spades and ice-creams. The children also enjoyed talking about their favourite ice-creams and chocolate was very popular flavour. "Yummy!"

The children partook in outdoor play, where they were able to ride bikes, scooters and play with balls, hoops and they enjoyed playing with buckets and spades in the sandpit.



Pirates

Our 'Pirate' topic was especially a favourite with the boys and a popular phrase with them was "Ahoy matey". We read pirate stories to the children and we adapted the indoor play structure to make a pirate ship, complete with sails and telescopes. They also made pirate hats, eye patches and loved roleplaying 'Captain Hook'.

Rising 3's

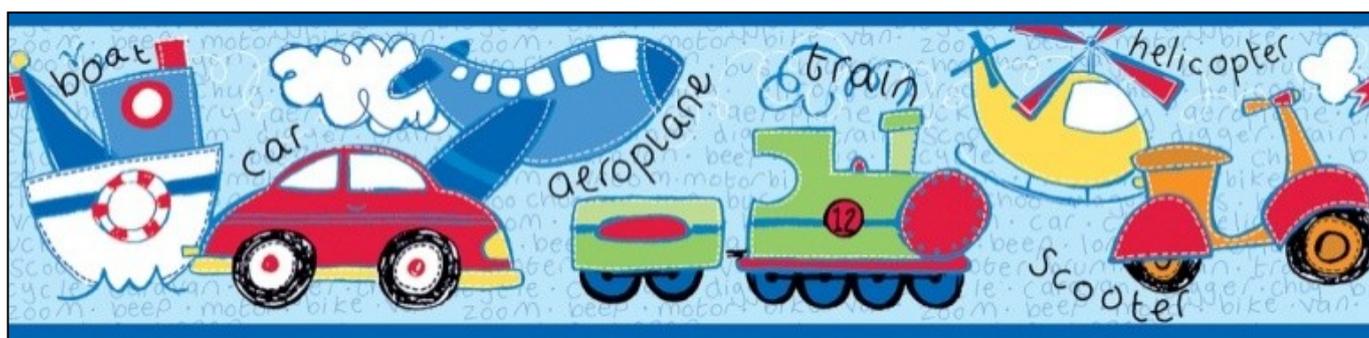
During the Spring term we have been learning about the following topics: Spring, Transport and Dinosaurs.

Transport

The children learnt about the different types of transport such as cars, buses, aeroplanes and trains. We discussed their different sizes and the sounds that they make.

We engaged in imaginative role play and travelled to different places, mimicking various forms of transportation.

We explained how Allah s.w.t has created various form of transport to ease our travel from one place to another. We also spoke about transport during the time of the Prophet (SAW) and how he travelled on horse-back.



Spring/Dinosaur

In spring, the topic of our focus was mini beasts. The children enjoyed listening to the story of "The very hungry Caterpillar". The children learnt about the life cycle of a cocoon and its transformation into a beautiful butterfly. We had lots of fun creating caterpillars, butterflies, bees, spiders and we learnt a new nursery rhyme "Insy winsy spider"

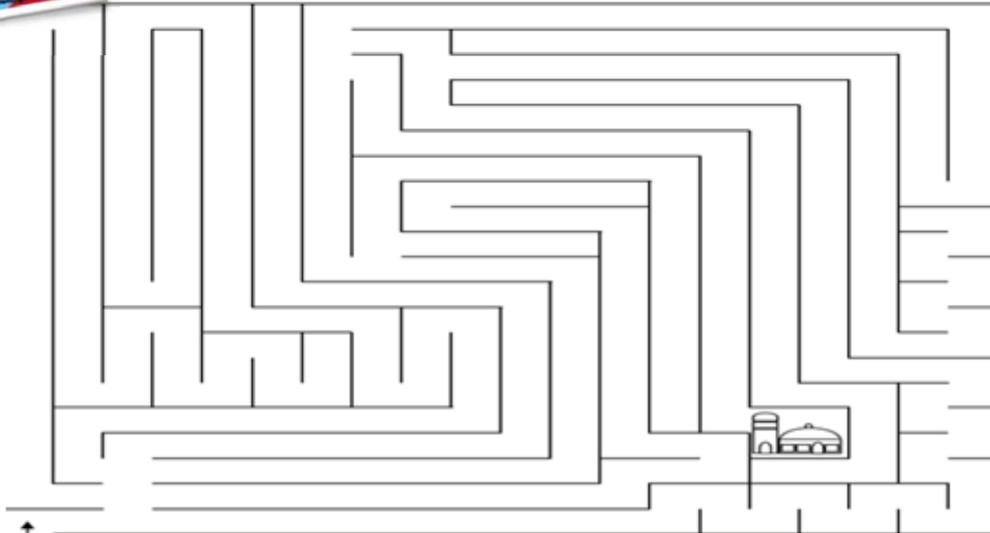


"Allah has created lots of different creatures in beautiful colours"

Dinosaurs

The children were very interested in dinosaurs, after reading one of their favourite books "Dinosaur at the cafe". We discussed different types of dinosaurs, their sizes and how they lived a loooong looong time ago.

Can you help Amina get to School?



Help Amina get to school before her 'show n tell' starts.

JUMBLE SALE !

My Biggest word is

I D E E B O E C N

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Undersea Poem



Pet Corner



We currently have a 15 year old pet turtle in our Rising 3's class room

Islamiaat Learning — Spring

During our morning Islamiaat time in the Spring term, the kids progressed extremely well. Masha-allah most of our children have perfected their first and second Kalimah and we swiftly moved on to learning the third Kalimah. They continued learning their duas, the new duas for the term were: Dua when leaving the home, Dua before eating, Dua for when you forget to read the dua before eating, Dua for waking up & Dua for going to sleep.

Arabic - to expand our Arabic knowledge, we learnt the names of different primary colours. We also learnt Arabic numbers from 1-11 along with the days of the month. Our Arabic Alphabet progressed well and most children have learnt from the letter ح (Haa) onwards.

We incorporated our Islamiaat teaching into our 'everyday world' topic by explaining to the children the story of Nuh A.S. The children engaged in role play and placed the toy animals in the wooden ark to replicate and help understand the story better. During this topic we talked about the miracles of the different creations Allah has created such as humans, land animals and under-water creations.

We now have a dedicated Islamiaat Session for our Pre School Children which the children really enjoy

Islamiaat Learning — Summer

This term the stories of Ibrahim (A.S.) and Muhammad (S.A.W) were introduced to the children. and how their purpose of coming into this world was to spread the message of Allah and preach about Islam.

We have learnt that Allah is One and is Al-Khaaliq (the Creator) and Ar-Razzaq (the Provider). We also discussed health and well being and how Allah has created us, and how we should always be grateful.

We learnt about adopting Sunnats in our lives which will gain the love of Allah and gain close proximity to Him through His messenger. We dis-

cussed and learnt the Sunnats of sleeping, awakening, drinking and method of sitting whilst eating. We also learnt that we should recite Durood Sharif daily especially on Friday.

We request that you continue to practice the duas we've learnt:

- Duaas we learnt this term are:
- Dua if one forgets to read Bismillah before eating
- Dua after eating
- Dua when leaving someone
- Dua if we see something

amazing

Sabak:

- Introduced and learnt the Arabic alphabet through the use of flash cards and projector
- Correct pronunciation of Arabic alphabet, mostly letters ثtha, طtwa and ذDhwa
- Advanced group - Completed worksheets on joining half letters with corresponding whole letters and recognising start, middle and end letters.

Food Awareness Week

Our children were fortunate to have taken part in 'Food awareness week', which took place from Monday 17th - Fri 21st June. 'Food awareness week' was designed to promote foods mentioned in the Quraan, as well as the Sunnat foods in a very simplistic, motivating and informative way. This subject attracted the children's attention of how specific foods are good for human health. Children had a "bring and share day" where they had the opportunity of tasting foods from around the world. They looked at the amazing colours, names of fruits and pondered on the marvel of Allah, alongside this, they learnt about their senses and that Allah is the creator of everything. J.K to all parents/ guardians who made this event a success, by donating your contributions of delicious foods. Without your support, generosity and efforts, 'food awareness week' couldn't have been eventful for our children.



Picture Gallery



Saudi Arabia



Under Sea Pirates



Rising 3's Police Display

Cattle country

For our end of year trip, we visited Cattle Country. The children had the opportunity to feed the baby lambs which they enjoyed immensely. We went on a train ride that took us around the farm which enabled us to catch a glimpse of all the animals.

The children had a wonderful day at Cattle Country! They particularly enjoyed climbing, sliding and jumping in the indoor soft-ball area. After a hot day, we had an ice cream. The children were exceptionally well behaved throughout the day, Masha Allah.



Reception Teacher

For those of you joining Al Ashraf primary school's Reception class, Mrs Rushe and Mrs Mulla will be your child's teachers this September. Mrs Rushe has worked at Al-Ashraf Primary School before as a year 1 and reception teacher, and will be returning from maternity leave. Both teachers have taken their time to come into nursery and have made their acquaintance with the Pre-School children, attending Reception this September.

Bake Sale

The nursery held a bake sale in June, a lot of mums from the nursery and school supported the event by bringing and buying delicious sweet/ savoury foods. Masha Allah, this year's bake sale generated over **£600**. Jazakallah for all your support and generosity.



And Finally... (Leavers)

As you maybe aware, Hajra Apa Bham will be leaving the nursery. She has worked in the nursery for two years and will be leaving us as she is getting married. We also say Al-Vidah to Aysha Apa who has worked in the nursery for the last 12 months. May Allah make them successful in all their endeavours. Ameen.

We wish you all very blessed Ramadhan and a happy holiday. We look forward to seeing you all in the future. Please remember us in your humble duaas.

Know your Key Worker: Rahima Apa

What is your post at Al-Ashraf nursery?

I am a Nursery practitioner

How long have you been working at Al-Ashraf Nursery?

Alhamdulillah, I have now been working here for 7 years.

Why did you decide to become a childcare nursery practitioner at Al-Ashraf?

From a young age I knew I wanted to work with children, without compromising my religious values. So, when the opportunity arose to work at Al-Ashraf Nursery, I grabbed it with both hands and I've never looked back.

What are your favourite children' books, which you would recommend to Parents?

'You do!' by Kes Gray and Nick Sharrat

'Right-way round and upside down' by Stephen Michael King

What activity do you most enjoy doing with the kids and why?

I enjoy messy play. Gloop is one of my favourite activities with the children as it not only develops their scientific and experimental skills but shows the children of Allah's creativity. It also gives me the opportunity to spend time in developing their Islamic knowledge and character. This can be beneficial and rewarding.

How do you like to spend your time away from work?

At the moment if I do have some spare time off, I find myself busy studying for my Aalimah course.

What do you like best about your job?

Each day offers new and different opportunities but the real enjoyment for me is the chance to see each child develop their character and blossom.

What is your favourite time of the day?

The end of each day brings me most joy, as it allows me to participate in the excitement of children seeing their parents and I get the opportunity to share their success from that day.

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 to 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)
