

Al-Islamia Primary

Autumn Term Newsletter –December 2024
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Assalamu Alaykum

Welcome to Al-Islamia's first newsletter of this year. The year started off busy and eventful, with an all-new Year 1 cohort to settle in, an exciting new reading scheme to put in place and autumn events to plan and deliver. This newsletter is packed with details of the events and activities our children have been busy with this term.

Attendance

Most children have settled in amazingly well and attendance is at expected levels. Please continue to ensure that children attend school each day; minor ailments should not be a reason to miss a school day.

This is a reminder to keep the DfE's guidelines regarding absences in mind when considering holidays during term time. Schools are unable to authorise more than 5 days for absences relating to leisure; further absences will be unauthorised and Al-Islamia will be required to inform the local authority. Per the school policy, pupils may also be deregistered.

Unfortunately, punctuality is poorer than expected, with a significant number of children arriving at school after 8.25am, resulting in missed learning and widening gaps in knowledge. Arriving just 10 minutes late each day is the equivalent of a whole lesson missed over a week and a full day's lessons missed over a month.

Please consider issues such as traffic and parking to ensure that your children arrive at school before registration closes.

Lateness = lost learning (figures below are calculated over a school year)	
5 minutes late each day	3 days lost
10 minutes late each day	6.5 days lost
15 minutes late each day	10 days lost

Al-Islamia Staff

As we continue to grow and strengthen our school community, we are excited to introduce several new faces who have joined our team this year.

Aicha Apa is one of our new Teaching Assistant apprentices. She is currently working in Year 6 and Year 1. Similarly, we welcome Aaishah Apa an apprentice Teaching Assistant who is working in our Year 2 class. We are also delighted to inform you that Safeera Apa, previously a midday supervisor, has joined our Year 2 team as a full-time member of staff in the capacity of Learning Support Assistant. Many of you have already met our new administrator, Tasneem Apa, who is excited to support and contribute to the smooth running of our school. Zoya Apa, who provided voluntary support from January 2024 now joins us as a teacher for Year 4.

While we continue to recruit for teachers in Year 1 and Year 4, Amira Apa, Sumayya Apa and Aaliyah Apa provide their expertise in Year 1 and Rasheda Apa does so in Year 4.

We are thrilled to have them on board and look forward to a great year ahead!

Reading Challenge

All our children took place in the annual Autumn reading challenge during November. Every child was expected to complete at least 2 book reviews and compete to create the most reviews as a stream.

There were some amazing book pieces, with outstanding readers in Key Stage 2 producing over 20 book reviews! Every student who completed more than 2 book reviews achieved stickers for effort, and those with the most compelling reviews won 10 attainment stickers.

Every student put effort into supporting their stream, with similar totals across all streams of Jannah. However, there could only be one winning team and this year, the stream that produced the most book reviews was the stream Water of Jannah – well done!

Class teachers compiled a book of the reviews which will be displayed and available for reference in Al-Islamia's school library upon our move to Collegiate House.

Parents' Day

Parents' Day at our school was a wonderful event, bringing together parents, teachers and students. Parents had the chance to meet with teachers, learn about their child's progress and successes and discuss ways to support their learning. Events such as Parents' Day is essential in ensuring our children receive the support they need to thrive in their learning journeys. We want to thank all the parents for their involvement and our staff for creating a welcoming environment.

If you have any concerns or queries regarding your child/ren's learning, contact the school office to arrange a meeting with your child's class teacher, Rasheda Apa or Mehrun Apa.

Parents' Book Club

We held our first ever Parents' Book Club during the final week of the school term. Parents and staff discussed the themes, messages and responses to *The Stories Grandma Forgot (and How I Found Them)* by Nadine Aisha Jassat.

It was a lovely opportunity for parents and staff to spend time together as part of a school community and we look forward to growing our group in the coming clubs.

The next Book Club will be held on Tuesday 4th (Sisters) and Thursday 6th (Brothers) February 2025. The title for the next gathering is *How to Be More Hedgehog*, by Anne-Marie Conway, which can be found in local libraries.

Reading literature that is available to children is key to ensuring that we can talk to children about current issues, suggest literature that will interest them and remain a key part of their literary journey through the formative years of their lives.

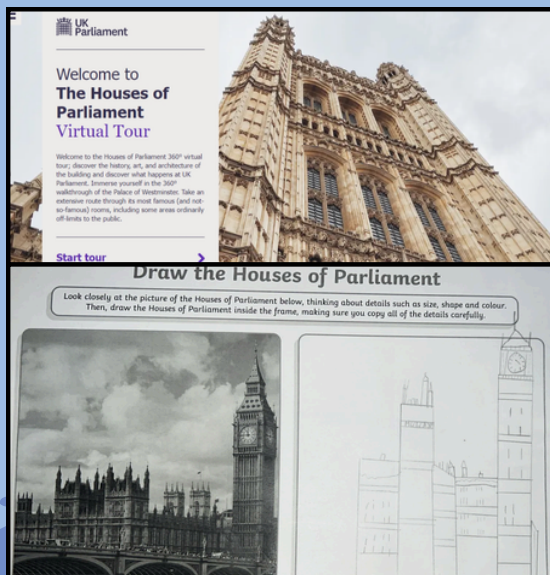
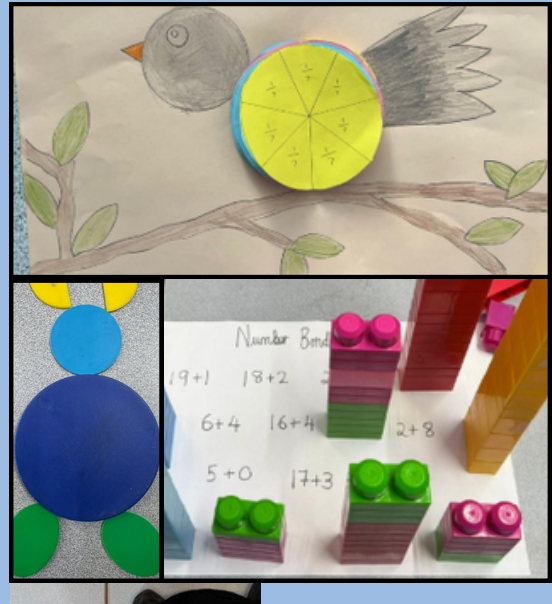
Parent Workshops

We have had a number of workshops this Autumn to involve and encourage parents with their children's learning. Following teacher introduction workshops in early September, we have had a workshop for Year 1 parents focusing on early maths and phonics; a maths fluency workshop to outline maths facts that we consolidate each day; a workshop to explain the purpose and process of multiplication fluency in KS2; an introduction to the school's Reading for Pleasure initiatives – including a Parent Book Club initiative – and finally, an eSafety workshop introducing the challenges and dangers social media poses to young children.

Workshops will continue to be delivered throughout Spring and Summer and we urge parents to attend. Many are delivered online to provide ease of access and all workshops are designed to support our children's learning journeys

Maths Week England

In early November, we explored mathematical concepts in real-world situations as part of Maths Week England. Each class spent a day considering how maths applies to everyday life, played maths games – including an online maths escape room – and learned mathematical concepts in creative ways. The gallery showcases some of the learning that took place.



Parliament Week

During Parliament Week this year, children at Al-Islamia learned about parliamentary processes, including how laws are made, what a democratic election means and why it is important to debate key issues. Our Student Council, led by Mehrun Apa, will consider how these concepts apply at Al-Islamia.

Anti-Bullying Week

This term, our students took part in important lessons about anti-bullying, learning how to recognize, prevent, and stand up against bullying in all its forms. Through engaging activities, discussions, and role-playing, the children gained a deeper understanding of how bullying affects individuals and the importance of kindness and respect. Children created posters and displayed them around the school to raise awareness of the signs of bullying and how to take a stand against it. They also learned the value of supporting their peers and speaking out when they see bullying happening.

We hope our students will remember these messages of kindness wherever they go and create a safe and happier environment and community.

Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual event that takes place throughout the month of November. The purpose is to recognise and bring to the fore previously hidden or buried information about Black lives.

At Al-Islamia, we use the medium of literature to explore the works, lives, cultures and achievements of both historical and contemporary Black figures, from the pivotal role played by Black women in the US race to reach the moon to the awe of a young girl as she watches her older sister wear the hijab.

Through shared reading and discussion, children explored the concepts of discrimination, racism and segregation, and consider the role we have to play in ensuring that we learn from the behaviours of the past instead of repeating them.

Ice Skating Trip

At the beginning of December, Al-Islamia students and their mothers and sisters had the opportunity to lace up their skates and glide across the ice during our annual ice-skating trip at Jubilee square. The rink was booked exclusively for the Al-Islamia community and was a wonderful opportunity for us all.

It was the first time on the ice for our Year 1 cohort, but despite a few wobbly moments, they embraced the challenge using penguins and seals to aid them.

The more experienced skaters helped their classmates find their balance, creating a wonderful sense of community.

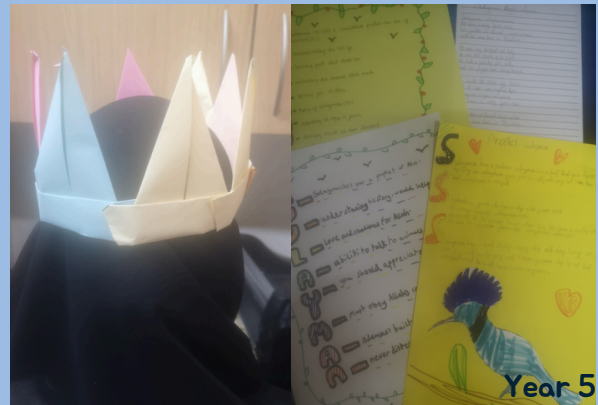
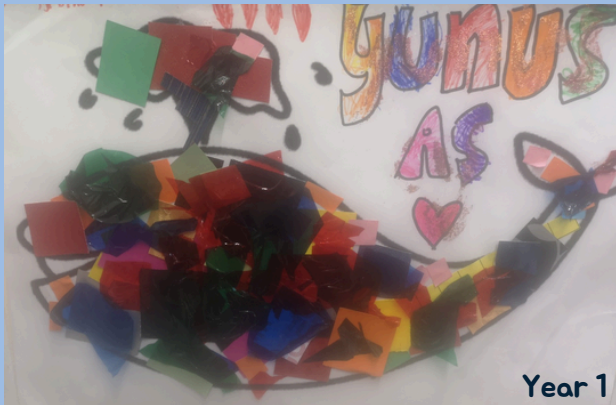
A big thank you to our parents and staff for helping out and making this memorable outing possible – we can't wait for the next adventure in December 2025!



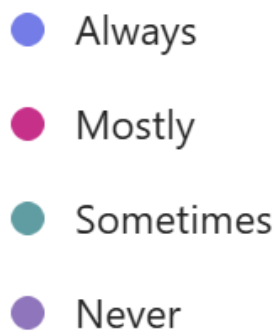
December Theme Day

To conclude our term, we hosted a theme day in which all the children spent the day learning about and exploring the lives of our role models – the prophets of the Almighty.

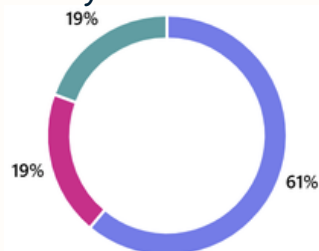
Throughout the day, children listened to the inspirational stories of the prophets and took part in arts and crafts activities to consolidate their learning. Year 1 learned about Prophet Nuh, Year 2 about Prophet Musa, Year 3 about Prophet Yusuf, Year 4 about Prophet Ibrahim, Year 5 about Prophet Sulaiman and Year 6 about Prophet Isa, may peace be upon them all.



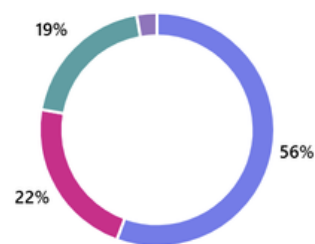
Pupil voice- Autumn 2024



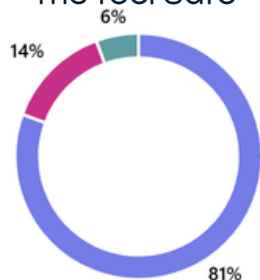
I know how to learn from my mistakes



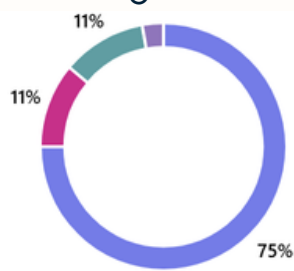
I get the chance to learn independently



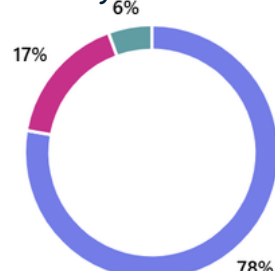
My teachers make me feel safe



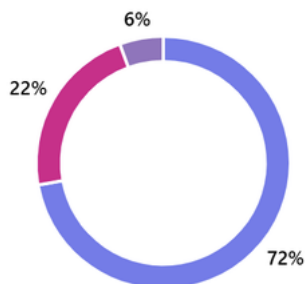
My school has taught me about caring friendships



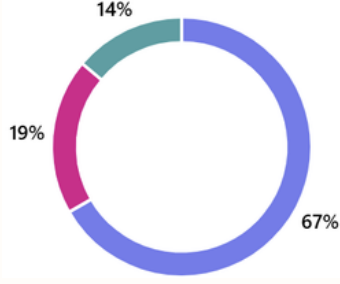
Children behave well in my school



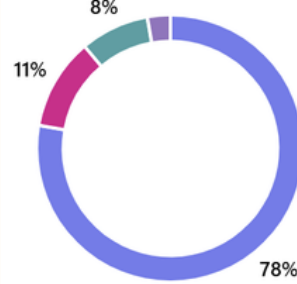
I learn how to be healthy



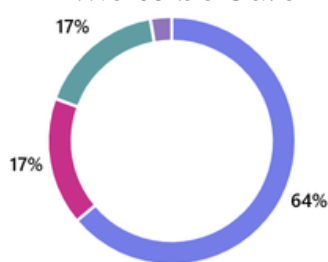
I feel safe in school



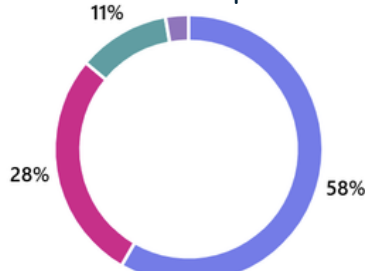
I know the school rules



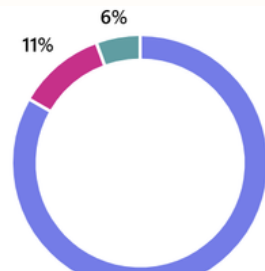
My school has taught me to be safe



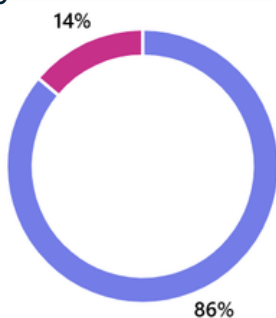
I know who to speak to if I am upset



I know how to behave well in school



My teachers care for me



The teachers in school are fair I am happy at school

