



Primary News - Year 4

Message from the Trustees

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

There are two important announcements to make. Firstly, the sibling application deadline is **Friday 18th December**. Any applications received after this date may not get a place. Forms can be obtained from the school office. Secondly, there is a special parents meeting with the Trustees being held on **Sunday 10th January at 5pm**, insha'Allah. The Trustees strongly believe in the principals of Shoora as prescribed in the Holy Quran and the practice of our beloved Prophet Muhammed (SAAW). The purpose of this yearly meeting is to get your feedback and seek advice on the future developments of the school. Your attendance is very important to us and we humbly request you make every effort to attend as we need your advice on very important issues concerning the future of the school. Please remember to put this date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year, insha'Allah.

Zaynab Qazi
BIST Trustee



An artistic display of a rainforest by year 4.
We are learning about 'Life in the Rainforest'.

To create a realistic image of a rainforest in a monsoon climate we used a tearing technique. The rainforest has four important layers of trees; the emergent layer, the canopy layer, the understory layer and the forest floor.

Fact

Did you know that 6% of the world's surface is covered in rainforests, but it is being reduced because of climate change?



We have also been learning about the preferred habitat for mini-beasts; woodlice, snails, slugs and worms. In order to investigate the conditions we created a choice chamber with four different conditions. They are dark and damp, light and damp, dark and dry and light and dry. To find out more please ask us or we will be happy for you to come and look at the end of the school day!



LEARNING OUTSIDE SCHOOL



Did you know that 85 per cent of everything your child learns takes place outside of school?

Reading is probably the most important skill that your child will learn. IT opens up a whole new world of learning and imagination, and your help is ESSENTIAL. The more you help your child at home, the easier they will find it to develop the vital skill of reading. When you share a book with your child at home, you are showing them that you think reading matters. You are giving your child your full attention and that tells them that reading is a special activity that is worth time and trouble.

Setting aside time to support your child's reading is the single most important thing you can do to help them learn. Children who get help and encouragement at home learn to read much better than those who only read at school. So try to make time for reading.

When your child is under five, reading bedtime stories and enjoying books together is the best preparation for learning to read. As your child learns to read, usually between ages five and seven, you still have a very important role to play in helping them to enjoy books and develop a lifelong love of books and stories. Try telling your child a story that you've made up from your imagination, perhaps using people or animals they know or characters from other stories that they are familiar with and add your own twist to it.

Let your child choose the book you read together – don't worry about re-reading a favourite book night after night, add some funny voices and mannerisms and your child will look forward to it every night. Re-reading familiar books can actually increase your child's confidence in reading.

Support your child in learning to read by helping them with the reading book that they bring home from school, and remember to write it in their reading diary! Encourage a love of reading by pointing your child in the direction of books they might enjoy - choose books together in a bookshop or library.

Most importantly, let your child see YOU reading - dads in particular may want to encourage their sons to read by picking up a book, magazine or newspaper themselves. Above all, aim to make the reading experience fun, cosy and time together that you both enjoy and look forward to!

Staff Change

Unfortunately Mrs Ebadawy, the Reception Class teacher has left due to family commitments. We are pleased to say that we have found a replacement teacher for this class. Mrs Hanna will teach Reception on Wednesdays and Thursdays and as usual Mrs Hursthouse will continue teaching the rest of the days. As well as teaching in primary she is also qualified to teach in secondary. Mrs Hanna will also take over from Mrs Belhous in teaching ICT, as she is leaving to continue with her studies. Furthermore, Mrs Ali is returning to teach Islamic Studies but will remain the Islamic Affairs Advisor, as Mrs Kafainah is pursuing another role.

FRIENDS OF ANDALUSIA

For those of you who don't know, Friends of Andalusia is a parents association which was set up in October 2007. Its main aim is to organise ways to raise money for the school. In the past we have bought books, benches and cookers for the school as well as helping with extracurricular activities.

We have had a very busy term and would like to thank all the parents who donated food, making this terms lunchtime food sale a success. We raised just under £400!

We also came into school before the Eid break running a card making workshop for all the primary children. The children enjoyed this immensely not to mention the fun we had in trying to get the glitter off the floor! Every child also received an Eid gift.

We are currently trying to produce a list of parents that can help with cooking and donating food etc. If you are interested in joining our group or simply want to help by cooking, please let us know. Any other ideas would be greatly appreciated.

If you don't know who we are please ask your class teacher who will direct you to one of us. Jazak Allah

Useful Websites

<http://tanzil.info/>

This site is excellent for improving Quran recitation and memorization.

www.teachingtables.co.uk

This is for evaluation only, but the Games still work. There are many games/activities to help with learning time tables.

<http://www.funbrain.com/scramble/>

Help with spelling. Choose a level and theme and unscramble the words.

<http://www.funbrain.com/spelt/index.html>

Check the words are spelt correctly, correct them if necessary.

www.magickeys.com/books/index.html#books

Reading website. Many children's storybooks online.

www.enchantedlearning.com

Huge amount of non-fiction material

www.naturegrid.org.uk/infant/

Sebastian the Sean; Infant Explorer. Material for KS1 and Foundation.



Qiraat Competition

In November Andalusia Academy held its first Qiraat Competition. This event was very popular with approximately 80 children entering from the ages of 5 to 14. It was amazing to hear the children recite so beautifully and confidently. Bristol has a lot of hidden talent which was unveiled that day. Every child was a winner but the children who achieved 1st place were Waleed Mahmood (5 yr), Iqra Khan (7yr), Idrees Mahmood (11yr) and Mohammed Rashid (14yr).

Islamic Parenting

Mummy, daddy can we talk?

Alhumdulillah we all live such busy, hectic lives and often our days and weeks merge into one so much without us even realising. Can you believe 2009 is coming to an end? SubhanAllah!

In such times we often find ourselves 'squeezing-in' certain responsibilities and most of us have not had time to properly speak to our family. But it's really important that we take some time to talk to one another and let the conversation flow even with our children.

You may be asking your child about what they did today and what they learned or what homework they got and so on, but come on that's not really conversation! Now I know what you're thinking, how are we to have a 'decent conversation' with our children? Well of course you can't get into anything complicated and as any psychologist will tell you, listening is just as important as talking. Often children (and adults!) need someone to just **listen** to their stories and thoughts.

And so while we may have 'huge' issues to think or worry about, to our children someone not playing with them at play time and so on is just as important and it's crucial that they feel validated and supported by their parents.

If this culture of talking and sharing thoughts with parents is established, Insha'Allah as they get older it will only increase. I think we can all agree that we would like our children to always come to us with worries and concerns especially as they get older, but how can that be if they cannot come to us for the 'trivial' things? If you think about the people you confide your deepest thoughts to, they're most likely someone who you can talk to easily and often.

We need only remember our noble Prophet Muhammad (Salallahu 'alayhi wassalam) to see the best example of parent-child relationship. Whenever he (Salallahu 'alayhi wassalam) went on a journey the last person he saw and the first person on his return was his daughter Fatima (RadiaAllahu 'anha). When they met they would exchange warm embraces and they visited each other often and spent a lot of time talking.

So instead of telling them to be quiet all the time, let's take some time and talk to our children. Happy chatting!

Zahrah Ali.

Dates for your Diary

END OF TERM 2 - Friday 18 December

TERM 3 – Monday 4 January to Friday 12 February 2010

- INSET DAY Monday 4 January 2010
- Parents meeting with Trustees Sunday 10 January 5pm

TERM 4 – Monday 22 February to Thursday 1 April 2010

- INSET DAY Thursday 1 April

TERM 5 – Monday 19 April to Friday 28 May 2010

- INSET DAY Friday 28 May

TERM 6 – Monday 7 June to Tuesday 20 July 2010

- INSET DAYS 19 & 20 July

*Return to school
on Tuesday 5th
January 2010*



