

Andalusia Academy



Volume 2, Issue 2

APRIL 2009



Dear parents and carers, Assalaamu-Alaikum and welcome to our spring newsletter. Alhamdulillah we have had a busy few months and find ourselves at the end of Term 4. We hope you enjoy our newsletter covering the last few months. Have a lovely two week break and we look forward to seeing the children refreshed and ready to learn after the holidays.

Gaza Appeal

In January 2009 all muslims were appalled by the plight of the Palestinian people in Gaza. The staff, pupils and Friends of Andalusia decided to help the children of Palestine by raising money and sending it to them.

The fundraising events included a lunch for all the staff and pupils organised by the Friends of Andalusia with large amounts of food donated by the parents. Another event was a non-uniform day which was very popular with the pupils.

Apart from these we were overwhelmed by the generosity of some parents and pupils who donated money (including pocket money). Mash'Allah altogether we raised £2000 and the Chair of Trustees handed over the cheque for that amount to Islamic Relief during the special Gaza Appeal dinner held at Bristol Grammar School.

Jazakallah Khairn for everybody's contribution, may Allah reward you for your effort and generosity.

Those who give Sadaqa their wealth will increase not decrease insha'Allah.

There is also an Islamic Relief clothes bank situated in the playground which will be emptied on a regular basis.

Primary World Book Day

During World book week the primary children were able to partake in various activities. The children designed posters of scenes from stories they enjoy reading and the posters were judged on creativity.

On World book day itself the children and staff dressed up as their favourite book characters and costumes were judged on originality and creativeness. Everyone was encouraged and received book tokens.

Mrs Hashmi



The Winners! Anisah Rec (Little Red Riding Hood), Nour Yr2 (Esmerelda), Issa Yr3 (Willie Wonka) Sulayman Yr1 (Big Bad Wolf)

Pyjama Party

At 5 o'clock on Wednesday 11th March the children were invited to return to school wearing their pyjamas. Several members of staff wore their pyjamas too! In the hall the Year 8 girls provided an excellent puppet show with their own version of Goldilocks and the Three Bears. They worked very hard preparing their own script, making the puppets and scenery – aided by Mrs Malik. The children were enthralled by their performance. MA SHA'ALLAH! After a drink of milk and some biscuits, provided by the Friends of Andalusia, the children divided into groups for bed time stories. They all listened to three stories, including one in Urdu, and even most of the toddlers (and adults) enjoyed these.

The school received many positive comments from parents and it is hoped to arrange another in the autumn term. Thank you to the staff who helped me with the story telling and those looking after the children in the classes. JAZAKALLAHU KHAYRAN.

Mrs Lewis

Message from the Trustees

Assalaamu-Alaikum. Following the success of our recent Open Days I'm pleased to share that we have received a record number of applications for our September 2009 Reception Class, Alhamdulillah. Our Year 7 entry is also looking good but we still have a few more places left. It's worth mentioning that we are offering discounts to those families who introduce a child in Year 3 and between Years 8 and 10. For further information please ask at the school office. We would like to thank all those teachers who worked tirelessly in preparing for the Open Days and for their fantastic school displays. If you are interested in helping the school we are looking for volunteers to help with works over the coming holidays. This will generally include painting and clearing out the large shed in the playground. All help, however little would be gratefully appreciated. As the saying goes, many hands make light work.

Please leave your name and contact details at the school office and Brother Tahir Mahmood will contact you or alternatively ring him on 07970 394011.

Lastly, if anyone is interested in setting up a Tuck Shop for the Secondary school, please leave your details at the school office.

We hope you all enjoy the break, Insha'Allah.

Jazakum Allah Kheiran
Zaynab Qazi

Ten things you can do to help your child learn outside (and at) school

1. Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement.
 - As a parent, you have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence - and confidence is vital to learning.
 - Specific praise focusing on a particular aspect of their work ("I like the way you have...") is more effective than bland, blanket praise.
 - Some people argue that to really do well, children - perhaps all of us - need ten-times as much praise as criticism!
2. Read to, and with, your child as much as possible. As part of the National Year of Reading the Government is encouraging parents and carers to read to children, hear them read, or encourage them to read to themselves, for at least 20 minutes a day.
3. Encourage children to observe and talk about their surroundings. Even young children can be helped to read notices and signs, for example, and understand what they mean.
4. Make use of your local library. Look out for special events and services for children.
5. Visit museums and places you think your child might find interesting. Children now have free admission to major national museums and art galleries.
6. If your children like watching television, watch it with them sometimes and encourage them to talk about what they have seen. They will get more out of the experience.
7. Try to set time aside to do "homework" activities with young children. Schools won't mind if other members of the family join in too!
8. Wherever possible, try to provide a reasonably quiet place for children to do homework (or help them to get to other places where homework can be done).
9. Encourage your child to discuss homework with you, including feedback from teachers. Practise helping without taking over!
10. Try to help your child to see the enjoyable aspects of homework!

FRIENDS OF ANDALUSIA

Friends of Andalusia Academy Bristol are a group of parents who run fund raising activities to help raise money for the school. In recent months we have held the second ladies night, which took place in mid December. This was a fantastic event with much support from parents, staff, students and the local community. This was a very well attended occasion and raised over fifteen hundred pounds.

Twelve hundred of this has been given to the school to pay for three cookers for the kitchen. These have already been purchased and are being utilised in the kitchen for various cooking activities by both primary and secondary students.

Also some of you may have noticed the new benches in the school hall, these were also bought for the school in order to enhance the children's P.E lessons. These came at a cost of £409. So a big thank you to all those people who help and participate in our fund raising activities because the money raised makes a big difference to the children and their learning.

We also continue to do our regular cake sales, the last one we did raised £110, alhumdulillah.

As a small treat for the children, the school and F.A.A.B got together to arrange pyjama party/story evening. This was also a great success in which the children enjoyed a puppet show, put together for them especially by the secondary girls. Who by the way did an excellent job at such short notice too! The primary children and parents went on to enjoy and share some fantastic stories told by some great story tellers!

Most recently F.A.A.B held a food sale for students and staff at the school. This took place on Thursday 26th March and it raised £388, alhumdulillah. Once again a huge thank you to all those who helped, cooked, donated, sold food on the day. F.A.A.B appreciate all the help they get from parents, students, staff and anyone else who gets involved. Without this help we could not continue to do the work we do.

Sister Tahira

Mad Science

On Friday 20th March 2009, the Primary children were treated to a marvellous insight into science through fun, engaging and exciting experiments. The mad scientist investigated many intriguing concepts with the children for example, 'How do planes stay in the air?' The children were fascinated by science and how it relates to real life! The Mad scientist was successful in sparking imaginative learning. This opportunity has brought science to the forefront of our childrens' learning.

Mrs Chowdhury and Miss Razzak

Food Technology Room

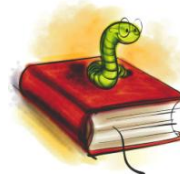
As you may already be aware we are currently in the process of refurbishing the kitchen/food technology room. We will need a large quantity of kitchen items in order for it to be a proper working kitchen. For the school this will mean that they can now offer GCSE food technology as part of DT. Below is a list of items we need for the kitchen and we would really appreciate it if anyone could donate good quality kitchen items. We will inshaAllah have a large box placed outside under the shelter area after the 2 week break to collect these items.

Jazakallah khair in advance for your generosity.

Measuring jugs (3)
Baking trays
Plastic mixing bowls
Set of saucepans (3)
Vegetable peelers (6)
Wooden spoons (1 pack of 5)
Whisk (6)
Rolling pins (6)
Graters (6)
Tin openers (3)
Scales
Chopping boards
Set of knives
Dish clothes
Tea towels
Oven gloves (3)

WORLD BOOK DAY

Secondary School



On Thursday 5th March the school opened its doors to a variety of interesting and creative characters as pupils dressed up to participate in World Book day. Aisha Simpson (Yr 8) dressed in a fabulous Queen of Hearts outfit, won the overall prize for the best dressed pupil. The house winners were Sahfiya Mahmood (The Fairy Godmother), Masuma Jahen (Esme Squalor) and Afshah Akhtar (Little Red Riding Hood).

The event was a great way of encouraging pupils to share their thoughts about their favourite books and was enjoyed by all who took part.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 5

MONDAY 20TH APRIL – FRIDAY 22ND MAY

Yr2 SAT'S

BEGIN 'S ON TUESDAY 5TH MAY

EDEN PROJECT

1ST MAY

BANK HOLIDAY

4TH MAY & 25TH MAY

STUDY LEAVE – Yr11

MONDAY 18TH MAY

TERM 6

MONDAY 1ST JUNE - FRIDAY 17TH JULY

NEW RECEPTION CLASS INFORMATION EVENING

TUESDAY 9TH JUNE

NEW Yr7 INFORMATION EVENING

TUESDAY 23RD JUNE

VISIT BY DAWUD WHARNSBY

MONDAY 29TH JUNE

Yr 10 WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK

29TH JUNE – FRIDAY 3RD JULY

INDUCTION FOR NEW RECEPTION CLASS

WEDNESDAY 1ST JULY

SECONDARY PARENTS EVENING – YEAR 7 & 10

TUESDAY 7TH JULY

SECONDARY PARENTS EVENING – YEAR 8 & 9

WEDNESDAY 8TH JULY

SECONDARY END OF YEAR REPORTS

YEAR 7 & 10 - 7TH JULY

YEAR 8 & 9 – 8TH JULY

FRENCH TRIP

THURSDAY 9TH JULY

PRIMARY END OF YEAR REPORTS

MONDAY 13TH JULY

SECONDARY SPORTS DAY

FRIDAY 10TH JULY

PRIMARY SPORTS DAY

WEDNESDAY 15TH JULY

AWARDS CEREMONY & LAST DAY OF TERM 6

FRIDAY 17TH JULY

Islamic Corner

Thought of the week:

Every week as a whole school we have a thought of the week that we encourage the pupils to think about throughout the week. This is to encourage good morals and behaviour.

This week's thought is **humility** based on the verse; "*Successful indeed are the believers, those who humble themselves in their prayers..*". (Al-Muminoon 23:1-2)

We ask all parents to mention these to the children in the coming weeks Insha-Allah.

20.04.09 - Forgiveness

"Those who spend in prosperity and in adversity, who repress anger and who pardon men; verily, Allah loves the good-doers." (Surah 'Ali-Imraan 3:134)

27.04.09 - Haya - Bashfulness

"Haya is a branch of Iman." (Bukhari, Muslim)

Words of advice: Islamic Parenting

Our children, our future.

Children are an amazing and blessed gift and trust from Allah. They can bring warmth to our hearts, coolness to our eyes and are a source of continuous joy & pleasure. Every hardship and difficulty that they come with is replaced by so much more.

As Muslims it is important that we give importance to the upbringing of all our children. As parents we are ultimately responsible for our children's education. The Prophet Muhammad (Sallallahu 'alayhi wassalam) said: "Everyone of you (people) is a shepherd. And every one is responsible for whatever falls under his responsibility. A man is like a shepherd of his own family, and he is responsible for them." (Bukhari & Muslim)

Alhumdulillah, our children come to an Islamic school but the teaching should not stop and start when they enter and leave the school! Ultimately parents have the duty for the moral, ethical and religious teachings of their children.

If parents fulfill this responsibility the children will become better Muslims, citizens and a pleasure to their parents in this life, and in the hereafter.

"And those who pray, "Our Lord! Grant unto us wives and offspring who will be the comfort of our eyes, and give us (the grace) to lead the righteous." [Qur'an 25:74]

