

Andalusia Academy

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NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011

Message from the Trustees

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

The Trustees of BIST would like to congratulate the staff on the fantastic award ceremony that took place last month. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all of us. We would like to inform you all of some exciting news regarding the secondary boys school. Alhamdulillah we are a step closer towards setting this up. If you would like to enrol your child into Yr 7 for 2012 or know someone who may, please help us and spread the word. There will be a special consultation meeting on **Wednesday 14 December 2011 at 6.30pm** in the main hall of Andalusia Academy. Alhamdulillah it is a blessing to see that from such humble beginnings how much we have grown. We also have some interesting news about a separate initiative being project managed by BIST regarding a summer exchange programme. Again details will be made available shortly.

Zaynab Qazi
Bist Trustee

Reception News

The Reception class children have settled in very well this year- after a few changes to play times to ensure that they have space and relative quiet to enjoy themselves.

They are an extremely creative class and regularly choose role play to express themselves and consolidate their learning, so it wasn't a surprise to find a group playing 'libraries' after our first visit to Trinity Road Library. This tied in very well with a donation of 100 ex- library books and now we have our very own Library role play area which is very well attended.

And, to show how committed the children are to their faith, after they had learnt about the steps of Wudu and Salah very many children chose to practise by themselves, remembering that the girls pray behind the boys. We will definitely be ready to join the rest of the primary school for Salah one or two days a week very soon.



Year 3 News

For the past two terms, our Year 3 topic has been 'All About Me'. We looked at the different parts that make up our body, as well as how to keep our bodies healthy. We looked at the importance of the different food groups and how they contribute to maintaining healthy development. We even made our own yoghurt flavours and designed attractive packaging for our yoghurts! More recently, we looked at the different communities we belong to, in and out of school. As a part of this, we did a quick study of our local area and the services we have access to, including Stapleton Road, St Matthias Park and just opposite Cabot Circus. The final part of our topic was to look further, and get a general sense of where we are in the UK and compare city life with country living and coastal life. All of our hard work has been turned into an information text, for us to share with our friends and family, and reflect on our learning! Next term, we will be looking at a section of Britain's history - the Saxons, the Vikings and the Romans. In sha Allah, we hope to keep you all updated on our learning journey!

Mrs Chowdhury and Miss Pike.

Bristol Aquarium

Year 2 and 5 recently visited Bristol Aquarium. We were very lucky and had a guide to help us spot all of the different animals swimming around the aquarium. They even let us feed some of the animals! Year 5 got to hear a talk about coral reefs and Year 2 learnt about sea creatures. We were very interested to find out how long the biggest sharks in the ocean are. If you ask us we will tell you how many of us were the same length as just 1 of the biggest shark of all (it's more than 10 of us!).

We really enjoyed our trip and learnt lots of new facts. Year 2 followed up their trip by writing a letter to thank everyone at the aquarium. I wonder if you will see our letters on your next visit?



We fed the tortoises.



We compared ourselves to the biggest sharks.

Parking Update

One issue that affects us all is parking when we come to dropping off and picking up our children. On the 30th of November Councillor Jon Rogers met with brothers Tahir Mahmood and Abdul Malik to discuss the parking problems around our school. Whilst changing the double yellow markings will not be possible, Councillor Jon said that there maybe a possibility to have the stretch of single yellow lines on Redcross Street loading/unloading times extended to cover the school drop off and pick up times. Also, we asked if the trees could be trimmed back to help reduce the amount of wet leaves that fall in our playground.

We are expecting a site visit from the council officer in charge of tree maintenance soon in sha Allah. We'll keep you posted on future developments. In the meantime we ask all parents to be careful when parking and if possible to park elsewhere and walk a little distance.



Year 4 have been exploring emotions and how to deal with the different feelings they experience at different times of the day.

Year 11 Mock Examinations:

Our current year 11's have their mock examinations w/b 9th January 2012 and they are working very hard in preparation for these. Many teachers are running booster classes at lunchtimes or after school to assist pupils with revision. We make dua that Allah gives them success in their exams.

Eco-council update



In sha Allah, we plan to resume our Eco Council activities next term. The first order of business will be to continue to work towards our Silver Award; we are already half way there! We are working on how to best use our compost bin, which was kindly donated by the Friends of Andalusia. The current problem we need to address is the lack of green area on school premises. We have a cunning plan, however, which we will reveal soon via our website, in sha Allah! So watch this space! We will also have a new section on the website with links on how you can help make your community or household be more eco-friendly! If you have any ideas or projects you think may be suitable for our school, even if it is for individual classes, then feel free to let us know. Just send a message with your child, who can give it to their class representative or the teacher. I look forward to receiving your ideas!

Rebecca Chowdhury

Visit from Lord Rosser, House of Lords

As part of an initiative called 'Peers in Schools' on Friday 25th November, Lord Rosser visited the school and met with year 9, 10 and 11 pupils. He spoke to the girls about the role of The House of Lords and House of Commons. He also took questions from the pupils which he was very impressed with as with their conduct. In sha Allah we may follow up his visit with our pupils visiting The House of Lords.



Cake challenge

On Thursday 1st December 2011 Year 8 participated in a cake challenge. The girls brought in cakes from home and then decorated them using various materials. After they made the cakes, the girls judged them based on their appearance.



Year 11 Work Experience

The year 11 girls really enjoyed their experience in a working environment. The employers ranged from Nurseries, Bristol City Council, BMCS and even the BRI. We are very grateful to these employers for accommodating our girls and we are very proud of the way in which they represented the school. If any parents have any links with any employers who may be interested in providing some valuable work experience for our girls then we would like to hear from you.

Awards Ceremony

In the previous years we usually had the annual awards ceremony at the end of the academic year in July. Last year we decided that we would have the awards ceremony in November to combine it with the GCSE certification awards.

This was held on Friday 18th November in The Council House. We had performances from years 5,6,8 and a comedy sketch from a couple of pupils in year 10. After that certificates of achievement were awarded to all pupils from primary and secondary and the ex-year 11's received their GCSE certificates.

We would like to thank all the parents who attended the awards ceremony and making it such a special time for the whole school. We would also like to congratulate every single pupil who received an award for last year. May Allah increase us all in success.

Year 10 trip to Royal Bath & West Show Ground

I am sure that many parents remember when the cow came to school last year. The gentleman responsible was so impressed with the behaviour of our students that he invited some of our year 10 girls to the South West Dairy Event where they spent the day and had to complete a dairy farm project. This involved them being given a fictitious amount of money to setup their own dairy farm. This was a good experience for the girls to understand the challenges people face in setting up a new business.

Season's greetings?

“And peace be upon him the day he was born and the day he dies and the day he is raised alive.” (Surah Maryam:15)

What does Islam say about the birth of Jesus? What should Muslims do in Christmas? Are we allowed to celebrate it?

As we near the Christmas season, these are all important questions that we face living in England, and questions that our children will be asking. How should we respond?

First of all, we must remember that both Maryam and Jesus (AS) have a great place in Islam. Maryam (AS) is named in the hadith as one of the greatest women in Paradise whose moral character and righteousness are attested to. She even has a whole chapter in the Quran named after her, where her story and the birth of Jesus have been mentioned in the most inspirational and venerated way. Allah teaches us that the birth of Prophet Isa is a miraculous one and his creation is compared to the creation of the first human and father of humanity, Adam (AS).

As Muslims we accept everyone's right to celebrate their religion and follow their beliefs whilst remembering that we have been given only two main religious celebrations in the year, the two Eids.

Most scholars agree that we are not permitted to celebrate and take part in religious celebrations, especially those that contradict Islamic principles. That is why Christmas can be very problematic for us.

We know that Allah is One and has no associates and it is Islamic heresy to say that Allah has partners, or even children. Allah says in the Quran the statement that God has a son, is enough to break the mountains into dust. Associating partners with Allah, Shirk, is a grave sin and the only one that Allah will not forgive. For these reasons, Islam forbids Muslims to celebrate Christmas in any way.

Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyah (may Allah have mercy on him) said: *'If someone gives a gift to the Muslims on these festivals and that is contrary to his habit at all other times apart from this festival, then his gift is not to be accepted, especially if the gift is something that is used to imitate them, such as giving candles and the like at Christmas, or giving eggs, milk and lambs on Maundy Thursday, which comes at the end of their fast (Lent).'*

This means that we can give gifts and take gifts from other religions as long as it is not part of their religious celebrations. Over these holidays let's take the time to reflect on the story of Maryam and Isa as mentioned in the Quran. It is truly an amazing and beautiful story.

A summary of Islamic beliefs about Isa & Maryam:

1. Maryam (AS) is a righteous woman who gave birth to Isa miraculously.
2. Isa (AS) was born without a father.
3. Isa (AS) spoke to defend & comfort his mother whilst he was a baby.
4. Isa (AS) is a prophet of Allah and not the son of God.
5. Isa (AS) was given miracles such as healing people and he was given the Injeel (Bible).
6. Isa (AS) did not get crucified on the cross but he was taken up to Allah.
7. Isa (AS) will return near the Day of Judgement and his return is one of the 10 major signs of The Hour.

Mrs. Z Ali.

Term Dates For 2011/2012

Friday 16th December - END OF TERM 2

Tuesday 3rd January - INSET DAY

Wednesday 4th January - TERM 3 begins

Monday 9th January - Year 11 Mock Examinations

Monday 16th January - Year 11 Mock Examinations

Friday 27th January - HALF DAY

Saturday 28th January - OPEN DAY 1pm- 5pm

Monday 6th February - Year 10 Parents Evening

Friday 10th February - END OF TERM 3

Introducing the Holiday Reading Challenge

While the break is all about having fun, it is also important that your child keeps up with his or her reading during the holidays. We know that most children love to play games on the computer so why not get them to do their holiday reading in just the same way by taking part in the Reading Challenge? Here's how:

Visit:

www.pearsonschools.co.uk/XmasBug

Here you'll find a selection of **engaging interactive eBooks** with **fun activities** that have been especially **aligned to match your child's reading level**. To complete the Reading Challenge, simply follow these steps:

- Listen to your child read the books allocated to them and enjoy the activities.
- List the titles they have read in their reading record. Ask your children to give them a mark out of 10!

Happy reading and a very happy holiday!