Andalusia Academy

Volume 4, Issue 4 NEWSLETTER JULY 2010

Reception class news

We've had a very busy and exciting two terms since the last newsletter, with a trip to St Werburghs City Farm in May, visits to the library, the local park, to Castle park and as I write they should be returning from a trip to Bristol Zoo which included a hands on mini beast workshop - I can't wait to find out all about it from the children!

We have also benefitted from a grant towards equipment to improve our ICT facilities and have been able to buy new computer software, cameras for the children to use, remote control toys, and a wonderful new listening centre so children can listen to stories and rhymes independently.

Oh yes, and over the Easter break we rearranged the classroom to allow the children to access all the resources more easily and their confidence and independence has developed so much, and they have been able to really consolidate all the skills that they've been learning so far this year.

And of course we have all been thinking about next term when this year's reception class will be grown up Year 1's. We have had visits from Mrs Brierly and Mrs MaClean who will be their teachers next term as well as an afternoon spent actually in their new classroom. And the children who will be the new Reception class have been visiting us too and have been looked after by some very kind, thoughtful and mature Reception Class children. MashaAllah to all of them!

Dorothy Hursthouse
Reception Teacher

Message from the Trustees

Alhamdulillah we have ended another successful and extremely busy year. September will see the beginning of many new and exciting changes to the school. The school is growing at a steady rate and to reflect these changes a new management structure has been put into place. Please ensure that you follow the new procedure by talking to your class/form tutor first, then the respective secondary or primary assistant Head Teachers and lastly Mr Younis who is the Acting Head. We make dua that the transition is smooth, insha'Allah. We are also pleased to confirm that we have been allocated a grant to help pay for some of the building work for the new Reception Class which will move to where the outside shed is in the playground. We also welcome Mrs Wahid as the new job share teacher for Yr 4 releasing Miss Razzak to carry out her Primary Assistant Head teacher role alongside Mrs Lewis. Lastly we would like to announce that we are planning to open a ***Secondary Boys School*** in Sept 2012 starting with Yr 7. This new project is in its infancy stage but we welcome parents to register their child at the school office. We hope that you have an enjoyable summer and Ramadhan.
Zaynab Qazi
BIST Trustee

Summer Fair

On Sunday 11th July we held our long awaited Summer Fair. It was a lovely day enjoyed by all. The star attraction of day was the Reptile Room where children and adults alike, enjoyed holding and touching snakes and other reptiles. Not to forget the old favourite Bouncy Castle and Bar- B -Q, we managed to raise approx £1500.

Professional Actor Works with Year 8 Pupils

Last term in English lessons Year 8 pupils studied the play 'The Tempest' by William Shakespeare and were joined by professional actor, Adam Elms, who led two Shakespeare workshops. The pupils commented that they enjoyed the workshops and they consequently achieved some very high levels in their end of term assessments.

Keri Bingham
English Teacher

ELLI……..

In Year 4 we have used the *ELLI* story to help children understand their learning and how to learn. This uses different animals to symbolise different learning skills. Look at the descriptions below to find out more.

The *ELLI* story is about an Elephant called *ELLI* who is on a long journey and comes across lots of problems. Animal friends join *ELLI* and use their special learning skills to help.

My Trip to London

Miss Razzak, Mrs Ali, Mrs Sharif, Year4, Year7 and Year 8 went to London Museum and Regents Park Masjid because it was a school trip.

First we got to school very early, in fact 7am! The coach was big. We went past my house! We went on the M32 then on the M4. The journey took two and a half hours.

Then we finally arrived! We came out of the coach. The first thing we saw was a clay Indian elephant, half was covered in jewels the other half you could see its bones.

Next we went inside the museum to see the exhibition. We had to listen through telephones! We watched a history film and went to the shop.

Finally we had lunch at Regents Park Masjid. We saw a big massive chandelier in the prayer hall and went to the gift shop. We went home! I ate jelly beans on the bus!

We all thought that it was a good experience for us.
Iqra Din
Year 4

This is what the children think of ELLI.....

Yamina "I think I am good at being the ***bee*** because when I am at school I work with others and enjoy working alone. I listen to other people's ideas and I use them in my work."

Eylya "I am best at being the ***unicorn*** because I use my imagination and creativity to help me solve a problem."

Iqra "I'm good at being the ***curious cat*** because I like asking questions with how, why and if to help me learn more. I also think I am clever at being the unicorn because I can look at things in different ways."

Increasing the Benefits of Ramadan

Ramadan is not just a time of fasting by itself. It is not a diet plan, nor just a test of willpower. It is a time to worship, purify, and glorify the One and Only God.

While the Qur'an gives the basic framework for fasting in Ramadan in Surat Al-Baqara, Ayahs 183-187, there are still many things that one can do to heighten their spiritual awareness and bring one closer to Allah. These acts are found in the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him, via the Hadiths.

Suggested Acts

There are many acts that receive a higher reward during Ramadan than at any other time. Among them are:

- Increasing one's charity ("sadaqa") to others, Muslims and Non-Muslims alike, as long as they are in need
- Providing food for someone to break fast with
- Feeding the poor, in general
- Curbing one's anger
- Glorifying God (Allah) by frequent remembrance (Dhikr)
- Reading Qur'an and pondering on its meaning
- Making Dua. (Supplicating to God, asking of Him, calling upon Him for the needs of one's self or others)
- Performing extra Salat (formal prayers), such as Taraweeh (before midnight) and Qiyam el-Layl (prayed usually after midnight, just before Fajr prayers)
- Doing good deeds - especially during the last 10 days of Ramadan
- 'Itikaaf during the last 10 days of Ramadan (for men). 'Itikaaf is when one closes himself in the masjid during the last 10 days for the sake of worship - cutting himself off from all worldly affairs.

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Interfaith Painting Project

Since before Easter, some pupils from KS3 have been working on the Interfaith Painting Project with BMCS, Ms Ellery and an artist from St. Mary's Redcliff. They produced fabulous canvasses full of bright colours on "What it means to be a Muslim". A group of Christians produced life sized paintings. Then the two groups got together and made some communal canvasses using felt tip, ink, wax and tissue. The grand launch took place on Thursday the 1st of July in Bristol Central Library where the work is being exhibited. Several people made speeches including The Mayor, the Bishop, a local Imam and some pupils. They all stressed the power of art and that they had learnt there were far more similarities than differences between the two religions. The event was finalised by a recital from the Quran, a nasheed and a performance by a talented gospel choir.

Hadiths on Fasting

Abu Huraira related that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: Whoever fasts during Ramadan with faith and seeking his reward from Allah will have his past sins forgiven. Whoever prays during the nights in Ramadan with faith and seeking his reward from Allah will have his past sins forgiven. And he who passes Lailat al-Qadr in prayer with faith and seeking his reward from Allah will have his past sins forgiven (Bukhari, Muslim).

Abu Huraira related that the Prophet said: Allah the Majestic and Exalted said: "Every deed of man will receive ten to 700 times reward, except Siyam (fasting), for it is for Me and I shall reward it (as I like). There are two occasions of joy for one who fasts: one when he breaks the fast and the other when he will meet his Lord" (Muslim).

Abu Huraira related that Rasulullah said: Many people who fast get nothing from their fast except hunger and thirst, and many people who pray at night get nothing from it except wakefulness (Darimi).

Art News

- The **jewellery box** project was very successful although not all the students managed to finish them. Year 7 used pictures and flowers and glittery bits. Year 8 used William Morris stencils, hand coloured with felt tips. Year 9 used floral wallpaper and all the finished boxes were lined with fabric inside with a padded base.
- Year 11 completed their wonderful art course work and controlled test in good time. Ms Ellery took their work to the moderation meeting and found she had marked them fairly and accurately. Our girls work stood up well in quality compared to that from other schools and showed clear individual styles.

Ms Ellery
Art Teacher

Islamic studies in Year 4

This year we have studied many aspects of Islam. Here is a brief description of some of the topics we have learnt about. We have explored the prophets in more detail for example, how they were with their people and how they gave the message that Allah is one. We have found some interesting facts about where some of the prophets were born, died etc...as well as their characteristics and what made them special.
On the topic of salaat we have looked at 'What sort of things make salaat invalid?', 'Why we should do our sunnah prayers?' and 'What makes Jummah special?' We also learnt some duas with meaning so that they come from the heart.

25 Prophets of Islam

First the children collected leaves and used them to rub over the prophets names with crayon for the background to get the leaf effect. Then they made the names 3D by carefully moulding and shaping tissue paper and then painting over it.

Look on the school website for the finished results!

First day back
Monday 13th September 2010

Year 7 Trip to Chepstow Castle

Mrs Godden, Ms Ellery and Mrs Sharif took Year 7 on a joint history / art trip to Chepstow Castle. It was a lovely sunny day and the girls had a tour of the castle with "Sir Thomas". They also met various characters such as the lazy monk and the grump Lord, enabling them to fill in questionnaires.
The girls made jewellery from various materials, welsh cakes and fired an onion cannon! After a lovely picnic lunch and praying zohar salah, they drew the castle.
Ms Ellery
Art Teacher

What's been happening in Year 3!

Year 3 has been very busy over the last couple of terms! We have been exploring our local area, sculptures and Ancient Egypt.
When looking at our local area we were able to identify some of the key human features of our local area and we were able to locate these on a map.

We also took a trip to Cabot Circus and designed some interested sculptures for Quaker Friars shops. We had so much fun designing and making our sculptures out of clay. We even designed an invitation to invite Miss Pike to our opening ceremony.

We have had a couple of busy terms, which we have all enjoyed, and look forward to an even busier term next academic year when we are in Year 4, insha Allah!

Term Dates for 2010/2011

Term 1 : Monday 13th Sep 2010 to Friday 22nd Oct 2010

Term 2 : Monday 1st Nov 2010 to Friday 17th Dec 2010

Term 3 : Tuesday 4 Jan 2011 to Friday 18th Feb 2011

Term 4 : Monday 28th Feb 2011 to Friday 8th Apr 2011

Term 5 : Wed 27th Apr 2011 to Friday 27th May 2011

Term 6 : Monday 6th June 2011 to Friday 22nd July 2011

INSET DAYS : 6th Sep to 9th Sep 2010 & 26th April 2011

EID-UL-ADHA Holidays: 15th Nov to 17th Nov 2010