

# Al-Islamia Primary

Autumn Term Newsletter –December 2025  
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## Assalamu Alaykum

As always, the Autumn term has been a lively and productive start to the school year. We've welcomed new staff and pupils, settled quickly into our learning routines, and enjoyed a variety of exciting experiences. Year 4's visit to New Walk Museum sparked plenty of curiosity about Egypt, while our annual ice-skating trip was full of laughs and falls!

Our Autumn Reading Challenge inspired pupils to dive enthusiastically into new stories and genres – well done to our class winners for their exciting book reviews – and Parents' Day gave us a valuable opportunity to share the children's progress and achievements. To round off the term, our Prophets' Theme Day offered a wonderful opportunity for thoughtful discussions, reflection and creativity into the classrooms through engaging activities. It has been a busy and rewarding term, and we look forward to building on this strong start as we move forward.

Our attendance this term is 98.42%, and we have also noticed a slight rise in punctuality. We would also like to recognise parental commitment to collecting children on time, and keeping the streets safe for our children and neighbours by parking up when dropping off and collecting children.

It is vital that we all commit to having children arrive on time each morning to help them reach their potential.

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

## New Staff at Al-Islamia

Mariam Apa – Year 1 teacher

Bareerah Apa – Year 2 teacher

Zainab Apa – Learning Support Assistant

Faatimah Apa – Year 4 teacher

Serra Apa – Learning Support Assistant

Maryam Apa – Year 5 teacher

Each of our new colleagues have settled in wonderfully and are already making a positive contribution to school life. We look forward to the enthusiasm, expertise, and fresh ideas they will bring throughout the year.

## The Big Draw

Sumayya Apa delivered an exciting Big Draw project this October, involving every child in the creation of a whole-school mural celebrating the characteristics that are reflective of kindness and thoughtfulness. Each child – and some teachers – are represented in the amazing piece. Can you guess whose is whose?



## Parent Book Club

Our Parent Book Clubs are meaningful opportunities for parents to learn more about the literature that is part of your child's reading diet. Knowing what is available in our bookshops and libraries, current literature trends and children's interests helps us as parents to guide children and have conversations about their reading. The meetings also allow parents to meet others within the Al-Islamia community in a relaxed and friendly environment.

This Autumn, we have had 3 book clubs, with the final one in the last week of term this December. Our next book club is in February 2026 (Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> for sisters and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> for brothers), and we hope more parents and family members recognise the importance of the event and attend the session.

For parents who wish to read the books we have explored, and read the titles for the February 2026 book club, the list is below:

September Book Club: When Stars are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed

November Book Club: Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz

December Book Club: Planet Omar: Accidental Trouble Magnet, by Zanib Mian, and The True Story of the Three Little Pigs, by Jon Scieszka

Upcoming February 2026 Book Club: A Squash and a Squeeze, by Julia Donaldson, and The Last Bear, by Hannah Gold

## Parents' Day

Parents' Day at our school was a fantastic opportunity to bring together parents and teachers to really celebrate and support our children. Parents met with teachers to discuss and celebrate their children's achievements, and discuss ways to help each child through a home-school collaboration. Events like this play an important role in helping our children thrive and reach their full potential.

We are grateful to all the parents for their involvement and to our staff for creating such a welcoming and supportive environment. If you have any queries or would like to discuss your child's learning further, please contact the school office to arrange a meeting.

# Black History Month

It is so important that we, as a Muslim community, know about and discuss the situations of others, particularly those who are often overlooked. We ensure that key Islamic figures and civilisations are explored within our History and Theme lessons, and participate in national initiatives to broaden our children's experiences even more. Black History Month is one such initiative, celebrated throughout October through an exploration of literature and stories by and about Black people.

Children learned about the accomplishments of those who are often overlooked; considered identity and belonging for Black Muslims and listened to poetry and stories about Black experiences.



# New Walk Museum

Year 4 enjoyed an exciting class trip to New Walk Museum, where they explored the world of the Ancient Egyptians. The children took part in hands-on activities, examined real artefacts, and learned about mummification, hieroglyphics, and daily life along the River Nile. It was a fun and educational day that brought their history topic to life, and the pupils returned to school full of enthusiasm and new knowledge.



## Ummah Welfare Trust - Kids for Kids

This week, pupils attended an assembly led by Ummah Welfare Trust, which introduced the 'Kids for Kids' initiative. The charity helped pupils develop an understanding of what charity means, explaining how the project encourages children to show kindness and empathy by raising money to support other children in need. Pupils were given charity collection boxes to make at home and fill with donations before returning them to school. As a small thank-you for their enthusiasm and participation, the children were also given sweets to enjoy.

## Africa's Finest

Excellent writing is a result of a breadth of experience, and we encourage and create opportunities that are exciting and interesting to help our children become better writers.

As part of their current writing unit, Year 5 visited Africa's Finest, a gallery in the Cultural Quarter of Leicester City, that celebrates Africa's rich heritage and culture through paintings, sculptures, food and jewellery. Our children had a wonderful time chatting with the proprietor, who explained how he supports African entrepreneurs to have ownership of their products and discussed some of the cultural links and stories behind specific pieces.

The children returned to school full of ideas and information, and wrote some wonderfully descriptive fact files as a result.



# Maths Week England

Learning that Maths is not just for maths lessons is a key skill for our young learners, so we participate in Maths Week England each November to bring Maths to life.

Each class used a book that explored a mathematical concept creatively, and then used maths imaginatively to explore concepts more deeply.

**Year 1** – Cats can't Count

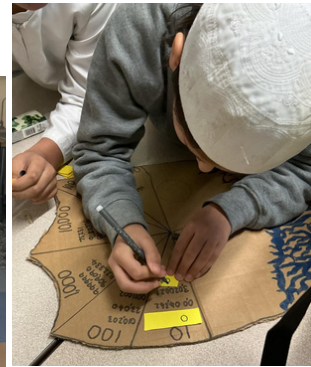
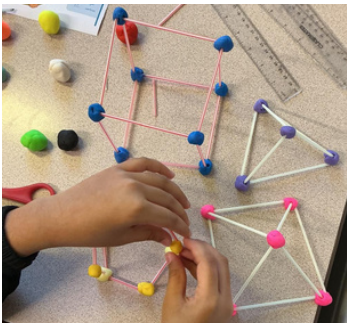
**Year 2** – How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?

**Year 3** – Ready, Set Hundredth Day

**Year 4** – Even Steven and Odd Todd

**Year 5** – Sir Cumference and the Roundabout Battle

**Year 6** – Fraction in Disguise



# Anti Bullying Week

Making sure that children are safe and happy is a key part of school life. We took part in Anti-Bullying Week to make sure children recognise key messages such as bullying, know how to address it, and what to do if someone else is being bullied. We know that bullying can happen anywhere, and we have a robust policy to prevent and address bullying, which is why incidents are few and far between. If your child believes they or someone else is being bullied, please advise them to speak to a teacher or Mehroon Apa. Parents are always welcome to visit the School Office with any concerns.



# Fairtrade Week

Fairtrade Fortnight has been moved to October, an initiative we participate in each year. The principles of trading fairly and paying a fair price are key principles of Islamic finance and marketing, and we believe it is important that our children learn about the importance of these principles and the effects of exploitation.

Children in Year 4 visited Aldi and did a label search of the origins of items and whether the suppliers were part of any fair trading alliances. They purchased some fairly traded items to enjoy themselves as well. Year 5 visited Just, a store in Leicester City that is committed to ethical trading, where children explored some of the items and purchased some trinkets too.

Year 6 visited Esquires, a coffee shop committed to using fairly traded coffee beans and cacao. The children enjoyed some hot chocolate before visiting Lush, which supports initiatives that highlight and combat unfair and unethical ideologies. A representative discussed Lush's approach to supporting and raising money for Palestine, and the children were given the opportunity to dissolve a colourful bath bomb, and presented with a scarf that highlights all the countries that Lush sources its products from ethically and fairly.



# Reading Challenge

Children in Years 1 to 6 were challenged to read and create Book Reviews for books they read throughout November. Each class has made a wonderful class book of reviews for others to read. Winners from each class were awarded with an exciting book to enjoy for themselves.



## Severn Trent Workshop

Severn Trent delivered an interactive assembly for KS2 about the water system and how water companies ensure that water is clean and safe. Children and staff were also encouraged to use water sensibly, with less wastage, a message that resonates with our Islamic values and principles.

Following the assembly, the presenter delivered a hands-on workshop for our Year 4 cohort, where they learnt about water usage through practical activities. They measured water, explored everyday water use and identified water wastage.

## Plate Painting

Aasiya Bora, a representative of Walk Wheel Cycle Trust, delivered bike learning activities over the summer, which every child thoroughly enjoyed. She reached out this Winter to offer an art activity for KS2 – Spin Art – which we booked immediately!

The children were given paper plates and an option of paints to drizzle over it. They then placed the plate on a specially constructed space in front of the spin bike's handlebars. Children then sat and pedalled furiously, causing the plate to spin and the paint to swirl and whirl, creating fantastic shapes and designs. The children were really excited to complete the task, and everybody created a unique piece of art.



## Parliament Week

We participated in Parliament Week in November, teaching the children about the buildings, rules, people and processes relating to law building, democracy and the work of local MPs as representatives in the Houses of Parliament.

KS2 were also very fortunate to have a visit from the MP local to Al-Islamia Institute, Shokat Adam, who talked to the children about his childhood in Leicester and the causes and concerns that he champions as the Leicester South representative. Our children had some interesting questions to ask him, from wanting to know what he is doing to combat drugs and vaping, to how he is helping the local homelessness issue.

## Ice Skating Trip

Al-Islamia was invited to take our children for an ice skating session at the rink in Jubilee Square this winter. With the rink only available from November to January, we are keen to ensure that our children have the opportunity to take part in activities that are otherwise unavailable to them due to accessibility, cost and availability.

Most of our children attended, and a large number of mothers, sisters and additional children joined our trip during the last week of term. It was an amazing session, and our children returned to school exhausted and satisfied, and very ready for their end-of-term break.



# December Theme Day

Each December, the children learn about and celebrate various prophets of Islam. This year, the classes learned the stories of the prophet they were exploring, and created art and craft projects reflecting their characteristics and key stories. Each class learned about a specific prophet:

Year 1 – Prophet Yunus

Year 2 – Prophet Musa

Year 3 – Prophet Yusuf

Year 4 – Prophet Ibrahim

Year 5 – Prophet

Year 6 – 25 Prophets

