

Curriculum Newsletter

Reception Spring Term 2



Salaams Parents/ Carers

Welcome to the Early Years Team! We have a fun and exciting half-term ahead as we continue our learning journey. Teaching in Early Years are: Mrs Aksouh, Mrs Al Sader, Mrs Gulamali, Mrs Dobra and Ms Bachi. Our talented team will ensure all children have a happy and successful transition into their classes: Al Haqq and An Noor.

Value: Gratitude

This half term we will be focusing on the value of gratitude. Children will reflect and discuss who we should show gratitude to and how, through stories of the Prophet Muhammad (saw) and other prophets, teachings from the Holy Quran and opportunities to put their learning into practice. Some verses we may be discussing include: 3:145, 14:7, 16:53, 27:19, 31:12, 39:7 and 54:35.



Here is a breakdown the Early Learning Goals and Phonics which will be covered this half-term:

Phonics/ Early Reading

In Phonics, the children will review all the Phase 3 sounds: **ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, er** as well as review words with double letters and longer words.

To further develop the children's reading skills, they will be exposed to different word patterns. This includes words with two or more digraphs, words ending in the suffix -ing, to enhance fluency and comprehension, and compound words - to expand their vocabulary and cognitive skills. In addition to this, the children will learn and explore words with s /z/ in the middle, words with -s /s/ /z/ at the end and words with -es /z/ at the end.

To support the children's reading fluency, we will also review all high-frequency words taught so far. Alongside this, we will also have spelling practice and secure and build confidence in reading and writing.

Children will receive a new phonics reading book every Tuesday which will be changed the following Monday. Please ensure the book is in their bag every day to be read at school. Children are encouraged to read at home every day to build their decoding skills.

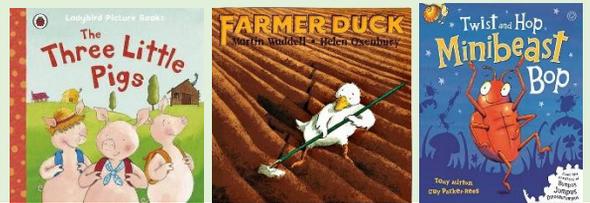
Literacy

The children will continue joining in at story time, continuing the development of their ability to focus on a story and their skills in deriving information from the text to answer questions.

As part of the enhancement of the children's literacy skills, we will be exploring information books and learning how to read and understanding simple sentences as well as learn how to write character descriptions and poems. The children will continue learning how to recognise capital letters, finger spaces and full stops in reading, and applying these skills in their writing.

We will be exploring a range of texts including:

- The Three Little Pigs
- Farmer Duck
- Twist and Hop - Minibeast Bop



Communication & Language

As the children continue to develop their concentration and listening skills, they will also learn how to make comments about what they have heard and ask questions to clarify their understanding. They will begin to hold conversation when engaged in back-and-forth exchanges with their teacher and peers.

The children will also continue to participate in small group, class and one-to-one discussions, offering their own ideas. The children will also begin to offer explanations for why things might happen, making use of recently introduced vocabulary from stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems when appropriate.

As a continuous part of their learning journey, the children will also revisit the class and school rules. Part of developing good communication and listening skills is being aware of boundaries and behavior expectations in the school setting.

Understanding of the World

During this half term, the children will embark on an exciting journey into the captivating world of mini beasts and scientific experiments!

We will begin by exploring everyday materials and their properties. Children will learn about various materials such as wood, metal, plastic, and fabric, discovering how each is used in daily life. Through hands-on activities, they will investigate the characteristics of these materials, such as texture, weight, and durability and its specific purposes.

We will then move on to explore the amazing world of mini beasts, learning why they are essential for our ecosystems. The children will learn about the habitats of these creatures and why they live and thrive in certain conditions.

As we progress, the children will also learn about the season of Spring and the Holy month of Ramadan.

Personal Social and Emotional Development

In Spring 2, our core value is Compassion. We aim to nurture the children's innate kindness and helping them understand the feelings of others through storytelling, practicing empathy through role play and by encouraging them to express gratitude and appreciation. By modeling compassionate behavior and praising acts of kindness, we will aid in developing a strong foundation of empathy and compassion.

Mathematics

During the Spring term, children will embark on an exciting journey to enhance their mathematical abilities.

We will start by diving into a new topic, exploring and introducing the money. The children will use play coins to help them recognize and understand the value of the different coins.

<p>Additionally, we will focus on learning about family life - understanding cultural diversity and inclusion, so children learn to value different perspectives and experiences. Looking at friendships, how to be a good friend, navigating these relationships and dealing with difficult feelings involving friends.</p>	<p>We will further refine the children's skills in comparing numbers, measuring length, height, time, mass, and capacity.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Physical Development</u></p> <p>The children will be developing their fine motor skills through threading, cutting, drawing, painting and building. As they continue to work their hand and finger muscles, they will ensure they have the correct pencil grip which will aid them in forming their numbers and letters correctly.</p> <p>To develop the children's gross motor skills, they will have opportunities to play with large outdoor equipment such as bicycles, scooters, large building blocks/plants, climbing and playing ball games.</p> <p>P.E. days are every Thursday. Please come to school dressed in your P.E. kit.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Expressive Arts and Design</u></p> <p>As little Picassos in training, children will dive into the wonderful world of collage and textiles and print making!</p> <p>They'll be cutting, sticking and experiments with different collage materials to create a picture. In addition to this, the children will discover the colors of Spring and weave these into their art through print, color mixing and exploration.</p> <p><u>Samira Mian</u>: Children will create their own Islamic Geometric art piece inspired by the focus artist.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Religious Education</u></p> <p>This term's big question is: How do Islam and other faiths use water and why?</p> <p>We will learn about the importance of water and how water is used by the faiths of Islam and Christianity.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Music</u></p> <p>This half term, the children will be learning the nasheed, 'I look, I look, I see' by Yusuf Islam, through which they will develop their listening and reflecting, composition and performance skills. We will be focusing on the music concept of dynamics, building our understanding of how our voices and other items can be used to make loud and soft sounds. Reflecting on the lyrics of the nasheed, children will make links to our school values and the verse 6:162 of the Quran which reminds us that everything we do is for Allah.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Arabic</u></p> <p>The children will be continuing to build on their Arabic pronunciation, vocabulary, speaking, listening and writing skills this half term, with a focus on the letters ص ض ط ص ض ط and their vocabulary of animals.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Use of Tapestry</u></p> <p>In order to build your child's learning journal, we will be weaving together the learning that happens at home and in the setting over time.</p> <p>Observations of the children's learning throughout the day will be uploaded on Tapestry in the form of photos and/or videos, alongside a description of the learning taking place. Flags outlining the specific area of learning will also be attached to the observation. This includes individual and group activities and, in some cases, whole class learning. Families are encouraged to upload observations of what their child does over the weekend or holidays.</p> <p>Homework will be uploaded on a half termly basis. If there are any additional updates, they will also be uploaded on Tapestry.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Enrichment Opportunities</u></p> <p>This half term, the children will explore the world of cultural snacks by making and baking their very own Ramadan biscuits. This ties into their Understanding the World curriculum and helps them develop their food technology skills.</p> <p>We will also have a Wriggle and Crawl workshop, we will get to see and learn about different Minibeasts in more detail and in a safe, managed and controlled environment. Each class will get a special workshop session with specialists in the afternoon, where the children will get the opportunity to get up close and personal with these magnificent creatures.</p>	