

Curriculum Newsletter

Reception Spring Term 1



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 this year are: Mrs Aksouh, Mrs Al Sader, Mrs Navazi, Mrs Gulamali and Mrs Dobra. Our talented team will ensure all children have a happy and successful transition into their classes: Al Haqq and An Noor.

Value: Service

This half term we will be focusing on the value of service. Children will reflect and discuss how we can show service to Allah, our families, our friends, our teachers, people in our community, people around the world and the environment, 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: 5:2, 16:90, 63:10 and 28:77.



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 begin learning their Phase 3 graphemes: **ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, er.**

We will practise writing these graphemes during the lesson and in Literacy.

The children will also learn to read words with double letters (**dd, mm, tt, bb, rr, gg, pp**) as well as longer words.

We will also learn the following tricky words by heart: **was, you, they, my, by, all, are, sure, pure.**

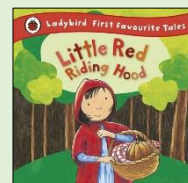
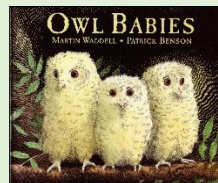
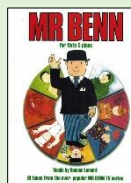
Children will receive a phonics reading book every Monday which will be changed the following Monday. Please ensure the book is in their bag every day to be read at school. Children are encouraged to read at home every day to build their decoding skills.

Literacy

The children will be 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. We will explore a mix of enchanting stories and fascinating non-fiction, while we unravel storylines, make wild predictions, slip into character roles, and embark on imaginative adventures!

We will be exploring a range of texts including:

- Mr Benn the Zookeeper (animation)
- Owl Babies by Martin Waddell
- Little Red Riding Hood (story telling - Traditional tale)



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 animals. We will begin with familiar farm animals that many children encounter in their daily lives.

As we progress, the children will learn about animals from different continents, allowing the children to discover the diverse ecosystems that exist around the globe.

In addition to this, the children will delve into the intriguing world of nocturnal and diurnal animals. They will learn about the differences between creatures that are active during the day versus those that thrive under the cover of darkness.

Personal Social and Emotional Development

In Spring 1, our core value is Excellence. We aim to foster a culture of excellence by encouraging children to challenge themselves and build resilience. Students will be inspired to step out of their comfort zones, tackle new challenges, and develop perseverance.

We will create an environment where asking for help is seen as a strength. By promoting open communication and collaboration, we aim to build a supportive community for sharing struggles and successes.

Mathematics

During the Spring term, children will embark on an exciting journey to enhance their mathematical abilities. We will start by diving into the world of numbers, focusing on representing and subitizing numbers from 1 to 10 in fun and engaging ways. As we build on their foundational skills, we'll revisit essential concepts like number composition and the process of combining two amounts.

<p>Additionally, we will focus on setting achievable goals, guiding children in identifying their aspirations and discussing strategies to reach them. This process empowers them to take ownership of their learning journey.</p>	<p>New topics await as we explore the concept of doubling numbers, where children will discover how numbers can grow and multiply. We will also learn all about odd and even numbers, recognizing the mathematical pattern within this concept.</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 work their hand and finger muscles, they will begin to develop 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P.E. days will be every Thursday. Please come to school dressed in your P.E. kit. 	<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 mark making!</p> <p>They'll be splashing around with all sorts of colors and experimenting with lines by printing and painting. In addition to this, the children will discover primary and secondary colours like colour detectives. Plus, they'll be taking a stroll through nature, drawing inspiration from flowers, plants, and critters to weave into their masterpieces.</p> <p>Claude Monet: Children will create a piece inspired by the focus artist.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Religious Education</u></p> <p>This half term, we will be focusing on the big question: <i>How can we help other people?</i></p> <p>We will explore the concept of charity and helping others in the religions of Islam and Sikhism and will look at what charity is and examples of how we can give charity in different ways.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Music</u></p> <p>The children will be developing skills in listening, reflecting, composition and performance. We will focus on the concept of 'pitch within music, recognising high and low notes, through the nasheed, 'I look, I look, I see'.</p> <p>Reflecting on the lyrics of the nasheed we will make links with the Quranic verse 6:162</p> <p style="text-align: center;">قُلْ إِنْ صَلَاتِي وَنُسُكِي وَمَحْيَايَ وَمَمَاتِي لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ</p> <p><i>Qul inna Salaati wa nusuki wa mahyaa yaw a mamaatillahi rabbil a'lameen</i></p> <p>"Say, 'Surely my prayer and my worship and my life and my death are all for Allah - Lord of the worlds."</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Arabic</u></p> <p>The children will learn how to recognize, read, write and pronounce the next letters of the Arabic Alphabet (ز ز (س ش) as well as a variety of vocabulary that incorporates these letters. They will also develop their vocabulary of colours.</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, and phonics on a weekly basis. If there are any additional updates, they will also be uploaded on Tapestry.</p>

Enrichment Opportunities

This half term, the children will explore the world of healthy snacks by making a fruit and/or vegetable animal. This ties into their Understanding the World curriculum and helps them develop their food technology skills.

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