

Dear Parents / Guardians,

## RE: Head teachers End of Term 2020 Letter

I write to you today to mark the end of a most extraordinary and challenging year for us as a community. It is fair to say that today feels strangely flat as we weren't able to finish with the usual flurry of joyous farewells with the pupils and staff.

Following months of lockdowns, home learning, well-being phone calls, one-way systems, stripy tape, sanitiser, PPE, handwashing songs, classroom door to door lunch drops and virtual meetings we move into the Spring Term with much the same expectations! Life as a school has taken such a dramatic new direction and demanded a level of flexibility that has certainly kept us on our toes. I wish to applaud the whole school community for coping, adapting and rolling with the constant unfolding changes. We are clearly not 'out of the woods' yet, but we have grown used to the new normal before us and ahead of us for a while longer.

I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the human impact that this pandemic has had on our wider school community. Many of you will have been personally affected by this and I'm aware that many people in our community have lived through COVID 19. We are so proud of how our community, including pupils, parents, staff and management, have worked together to maintain as much normality for all of us despite the Covid-19 restrictions the school has had to put in place and often adapt, to adhere to the government guidelines. Thank you for your continued support, understanding and patience during this term; it is much appreciated.

I pray that that you all keep safe over the December break and hope to see all pupils back on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

Dr Mineza Maher  
 Iqra School Head teacher



## Achoo!

The Prophet salallahu 'alayhi wa salaam said: 'When He Breathed into Adam AS the soul reached his head, and he sneezed' and said 'Alhamdulillah'. Allah SWT answered him by saying: 'Yarhamuk-Allah (Allah bestows His mercy upon you)'.

The first word Adam AS said was Alhumdulillah and the first thing that happened to him was the bestowing of Allah's mercy on him. This is an important sunnah and one of the rights over another muslim.

Practising a sunnah and telling another about it is a very simple act but one that can bring you lots of rewards from your Lord.

Now whenever you say these words, you can always remember when it was first mentioned.

## Reception Highlights

What a brilliant autumn term for EYFS! The children have been getting to know each other and making lots of new friends. As well as working hard on their phonics, the children, have learnt about sharks, jelly fish and turtles as part of the under the sea topic. Great fun has been had dressing up as pirates and learning all about pirate ships.

It was lovely to have our reception children join the rest of the school in dressing up for cultural day. They all looked lovely. Also, what could be nicer that decorating and eating yummy biscuits whilst raising money for Children in Need!



### Reception Super Stars

Uswa Jannat for excellent behaviour and attitude to learning.

Fatima Abbas for her positive attitude to learning and willingness to try new things

Mehak Hammid for having exemplary behaviour and being an excellent role model for all the pupils and for having an excellent attitude to learning

Mysha Qureshi for always having a can-do attitude and trying her best in all aspects of her learning.

Zaynab Khan - for her enthusiasm with learning and resilience when learning is sometimes tricky

Nuh Tizerarine for always being independent and being a super problem solver

## WELL DONE!

## Year 1 Highlights

The children in Year 1 have had a productive autumn term. The whole school Science Day involved a rotation of activities including rainbow colour mixing. The Science Day was so much fun that we decided to hold a whole school Maths day too where everyone took part in a carousel of maths games.

For black history month the children learnt all about Mary Seacoll! In the interactive lesson our own Ms Pearce dressed up as Mary Seacoll and the children enjoyed asking her lots of questions.



## Year 1 Super Stars

Zoha Ali for huge improvement and attitude to her writing

Yassine Dhamani great positive mindset with wanting to try his best

Aniyah Mehreen for her excellent attitude and hard work in all areas of the curriculum

Ariz Mukhtar for working really hard and always trying his best.

Meerum Adnan for working consistently hard in all areas of the curriculum

Adow Mohammed for trying his best and improving his writing and maths

## GREAT WORK!!



## Year 2 Highlights

Year 2 have been busy bees this Autumn term.

Year 2 have been tackling the topic question “where would I live? England or Kenya?” The children had an exciting virtual trip to Windsor castle to learn more about England. The children sat comfortably at school while they were shown around the castle. The children enjoyed seeing the queen’s throne and Sceptre and all had the opportunity to be knighted. A popular question that the children wanted answered was; how old is the queen?!

To learn more about Kenya and its culture, our pupils, explored the vibrant art by Martin Bulinya. The children put on their creative hats and got busy whilst making their own African masks, which were absolutely amazing!

Year 2 had a special visit from the Gruffalo. The children learnt all about their new friend Gruffalo and this formed the basis for their creative writing task.

Year 2 have stayed resilient through their isolation. They have become experts at using Microsoft teams and also did a great job of managing their mental health and well-being. Well done Year 2!!



## Year 2 Super Stars

Mohiuddin Khurram for using his own initiative and becoming an independent learner.

Hamza Ikram for always showing amazing manners and being a fantastic role model

Suleiman Mahamad for excellent home learning work and fantastic attitude to learning.

Ayza Arain for always trying her best and for being an amazing influence for positive mindset.

Sadath-Ghori Mohammed for always trying his best and challenging himself every day.

Oraiba Ijaz for improving her handwriting and helping others in class.

## SUPER!



## Year 3 Highlights

Year 3 had a fantastic trip to Go Ape. This was a special wellbeing trip to celebrate the return to school after the Covid lockdown. The children demonstrated amazing team work and resilience.

This was closely followed by a virtual synagogue trip. On the virtual tour the children learned about Judaism, the Torah and the religious festivals. The tour was very informative and brought the children's learning about world religions to life.

Year 3 have had a jam-packed term of fun creative activities ranging from role plays, investigations, building ruins, making roman shields and trying their hand at sewing. What a talented bunch!

Year Leader Ms Naeem stated that the children have arrived to school with big smiles and have expressed how much they are enjoying school. The teachers have been very impressed with the children's positive attitudes and the resilience that they have shown.



### Year 3

### Super Stars

Syeda Haneefa for showing resilience and enthusiasm towards her learning.

Aeish Sulman for always being a helpful, kind friend to everyone.

Aayan Gill for taking pride in his work and being a great learning buddy to other children.

Affan Khan for showing a great improvement in maths

Hiba Aden for improving her confidence and being a resilient learner.

Abdullah Ilhan for showing great improvement in class and building his confidence.

Ashab Naeem for pushing himself to try more challenging work

Ali Nasser for always being helpful, kind and a great friend to everyone.

## FANTASTIC!



## Year 4 Highlights

Year 4 have been working hard to develop their mathematical skills through making their own parfaits. The pupils have learned how to measure and weigh ingredients in grams and were able to transfer their counting skills into practice and discussed patterns.

Year 4 have had a wonderful and fun opportunity to learn all about rhyme and rhythmic patterns during the African drumming workshop.

In art the children have been busy comparing old and modern architecture and had a go at making their own arch bridges-

The children in Year 4 have adapted really well to virtual leaning during their self-isolation. The children were articulate and demonstrated a positive ready to learn attitude to learning. We are proud of both yours and your teachers' efforts.



Year 4

Super Stars

Ameena Shahzad Sheikh for showing excellent consistency in all areas of learning

Rayyan Khan for being a super-duper hard worker

Abubakr Hassan for always challenging himself in maths.

Mahrosh Ali for being a great role model both in and out of class

Imran Patel for being interested and engaged in lessons, especially during remote learning

Madina Ikram for trying her best in learning, and being kind to her classmates

**WONDERFUL!**

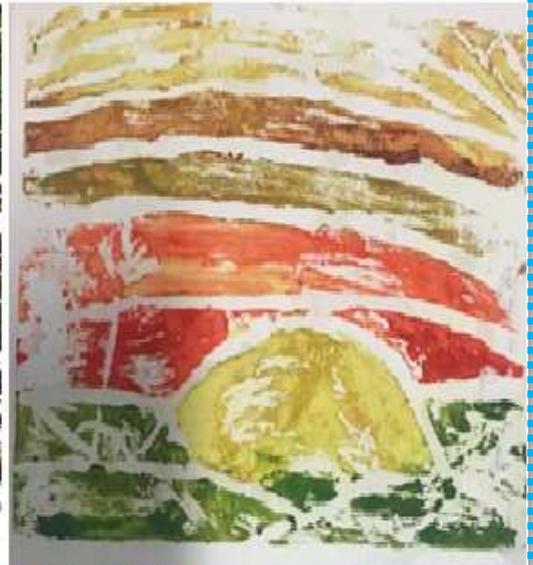


## Year 5 Highlights

Year 5's topic theme this term has been Africa. The children have learnt about the ivory trade and also spent time looking at African art and created their own lino block prints.

During remote learning, Year 5 children participated in maths day and learnt to weigh ingredients whilst making yummy savoury dishes and desserts. Edible maths!

Year 5 also had a great opportunity to go to Go Ape on their return to school early in term 1. This was a great opportunity to support our pupil's well-being after their long absence from school. It was lovely to see our children back together and having fun. The aims of the day were teamwork and resilience, key skills which have stood our pupils in good stead in their wider learning experiences.



## Year 6 Highlights

This term Year 6 have been very busy indeed! In Science they have been investigating how shadow length can be affected by the distance between a light source and an opaque object. On Maths Day they enjoyed using their knowledge of ratio to follow recipes for healthy wraps. In Topic they enjoyed learning about WW2 and engaged in an online workshop about the Blitz. Year 6 have particularly enjoyed working in the wellbeing garden and putting together a bird feeding station for local wildlife. What a super term!



### Year 6 Super Stars

Zahra Ali for her continuous hard work and positive attitude to learning.

Ladna Abdi for her excellent effort in all areas of her learning

Muhammad Shuraim for trying his best and showing great progress in his Math and Reading skills

Mehdi Achegaf 6.2 for super resilience in his learning

Laith Jehengari and Harun Mahmud for amazing progress made in this terms Art unit. There was great use of charcoal, water colours focusing and blending techniques

**GREAT  
WORK!**



## NEWS

**Anti-Bullying Week** The theme of this year's Anti-bullying Week was United Against Bullying. At Iqra we held an odd socks day in which pupils and staff wore odd socks to school in order to celebrate our differences. As part of their learning pupils watched 'Choose Respect', a thought-provoking film that allowed pupils to take an in depth look at how to manage relationships and respond to conflict. Following this, pupils, participated in respect workshops and lessons focused on exploring how we respect each other and ourselves, through our behaviour, language and actions. This year pupils also took part in an anti-bullying poster competition, as well as an acrostic poem competition using the word TOGETHER. There were some brilliant entries and so a very big well done to all those who participated. A huge congratulations to the winners: **Eliza Imran, Anum Rizvi, Muhammad Shaaf Arain and Sabiya Hussain.**

**Children in Need** Iqra are proud to support this amazing charity and by doing so have raised money and awareness to help children in need. The whole school took part in lots of fun activities from joining in with a Jo Wicks work out to a whole year group ramble (orienteering) fun competition. Everyone had an amazing time and really enjoyed all the fun events taking place. We raised an amazing £269!!

**Poppy Appeal** We have raised £51.60 for the Poppy Appeal through selling the accessories. Thank you

**Food Bank Collection:** Thank you to everyone who donated food to the Iqra School foodbank collection. Due to your generosity we have managed to make our third substantial donation to the Slough Al Miftah charity. The collections have supported many families in Slough and we hope, that in the New Year, you will continue to help us support the work of this charity. Check the following link for Al Miftah in the Slough Observer:

<https://www.sloughobserver.co.uk/news/18874157.winter-support-sloughs-homeless-muslim-charity/>



## Sports Round-up

Don't forget to check our monthly sports newsletters on our school website!



Year 4 were super excited to be visiting the Nets Kingdom world in Black Park. The pupils explored and climbed high up into the trees showing absolutely no fear at all! Everyone had an amazing time and would love to go back.



Iqra is participating in the Virtual School Games. The games are being organised by the Slough School Sports Network and Berkshire Active. Over 11,000 pupils are taking part from across Berkshire. Each month a new challenge is set and out of all the schools taking part Iqra had some amazing results. Year 3 + 4 came 3<sup>rd</sup> and year 5 came 2<sup>nd</sup>. All the pupils are really enjoying taking part.



Girls from year 5 & 6 are taking part in the F.A. Shooting stars football programme. The aim of the programme is to get more girls active through sport in a fun environment. The girls will follow a story, based around the Incredibles and emerge themselves into super hero characters. They will undertake missions, learn new skills and help save the planet!!!



Pupils from year 6 undertook a cycling proficiency course. The pupils had to master lots of new skills in the school grounds before putting their new skills to test on the surrounding roads. All the pupils benefited from the training and everyone passed their level 2 award.



Pupils across the school are participating in the Get Berkshire Active Skipping challenge. The pupils will learn new skills and strive to get the highest award. Not only is this great fun but helps with the pupils co-ordination, balance and fitness levels.

## Notices

### Start and End of the School Day

The staggered start and end of the school day seems to work very well for keeping us all safe and we will continue with this on our return in January. In order to continue to keep the school community safe we must once again ask that you adhere to all the social distancing rules; including wearing a facemask on the school premises, keeping your distance from other parents, pupils and staff at the school gates and in the playground, and encouraging your children to sanitise their hands once they enter the school building. We have asked on many occasions for you to use alternative ways of coming to school but if a car is needed then please be mindful of other parents when you drop off.

### Remote Learning

Remote Learning provision at Iqra has been a success! We have been praised by the Local Authority for the speed and ingenuity in our remote learning provision. As parents you are probably all familiar with the DfE guidance on remote learning and the need for pupils work from home if they have come into close contact with other pupils who have tested positive for COVID -19. As a result of this, we have ensured that our online facility to access teaching and learning supports all pupils who must be at home. We appreciate the patience from pupils, parents and staff during this technological change and further information regarding remote learning can be accessed via the school website.

### Extracurricular Clubs

As you are aware, during this Autumn Term, in response to government directives we have had to make changes to the delivery of our after-school club provision. We will be looking at the timetable for the Spring Term 2021 over the coming weeks and will be in touch in the New Year about any changes.

### Coats Reminder

We want our pupils to go out into the fresh air daily for play. With the cold weather upon us please ensure your child comes to school wearing warm clothes/coats every day.

