

ANDALUSIA ACADEMY

PRIMARY AUTUMN1 NEWSLETTER

This term our school value is **RESPECT**

HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME

Assalaamualaykum wa Rahmutallahi wa Barakatahu,

Welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year. I hope you've had a lovely summer. I would like to welcome all new members of staff, parents and children to our school. This first newsletter is a reminder of school policies and procedures to help pupils and parents settle back into the school year.

I find myself at the start of another year, reflecting on many conversations I've had with parents. They tell me that they send their children to Andalusia Academy because of the Islamic ethos, but they often feel that academically we can't compete with 'other' schools.

I'm pleased to say that as a school, we are producing some amazing results, both in our end of KS2 SATs and GCSE results. This is testament to the hard work of the teaching and school staff. We move on this year knowing that we can achieve exceptionally well. However, we are not complacent, and we are striving always to 'raise the bar' in everything we do.

I look forward to seeing more parents at the monthly 'Parent Forum' meeting, no appointment necessary, and if that time is not convenient feel free to stop me whenever you see me in the playground.

Insha'Allah let's hope we can all fulfil the hadeeth, 'Verily Allah has prescribed excellence in all that you do' (Sahih Muslim). Thank you all for your continued support.

Dr. Yusuf's WELCOME

Islam is modern, relevant & attractive so let's teach it that way!

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.

Peace and blessings upon the final messenger Muhammed and his household.

I am delighted to inform you that I (Dr Yusuf Abdul-Jobbar) will be joining Andalusia Academy starting September 2018. It is an honour to join Bristol's one and only full-time Islamic school. I have been appointed as Head of Islamic Studies. By the help of Allah the Almighty I am confident that I can make changes and add value to the school. Having spent 6 years in Madinah, managing educational programs at the world famous Islamic University of Madinah and supervising projects at Masjid An-Nabawi, I have so many ideas and strategies to share and implement.

I believe this unique experience together with my academic background will help me to rebrand Islamic Education at Andalusia. This is our school, for our community and we all need to participate and support it. Islam is perfect but we Muslims aren't. Islam is a complete way of life for all humans and is relevant for all times and places. Welcome to a new era at Andalusia Academy where we will (In sha Allah) prepare individuals to be global citizens who are beneficial to their family, their community and the world at large. Look forward to meeting as many parents/carers in the coming months, be izz nillah!

PROJECT BASED LEARNING

This year primary pupils will be learning through Project Based Learning. Pupils will gain knowledge and skills by investigating, exploring and responding to real-life problems. This will help pupils to see relevance in their learning and provide opportunities for them to use and apply the knowledge they are gaining in a variety of contexts.

All classes will have 'Project Time' built into class timetables. During this time children will engage in projects covering different subject areas such as history, geography, science, art, design technology, and ICT. Each year group will have three large projects, with some mini projects to ensure full coverage of the national curriculum.

Each project will stem from a question or challenge posed to the children. Some projects may be long-term, others much shorter.

Projects will be carefully planned, managed, and assessed to help pupils learn key skills (such as collaboration, communication & critical thinking), and create high-quality, authentic products & presentations.

Leave of Absence Forms

Please note that only in exceptional circumstances can requests for a leave of absence be authorised. Thank you to those parents/carers who have followed the correct procedures.

Parents must complete a leave of absence form stating the dates of the requested period and the exceptional circumstances why you are taking your child out of school during term time. Authorised leave of absence will be granted for funeral of a close relative. Any other request which does not fall into this category's will be un-authorised

School Uniform

It is vital that pupils come to school in the correct school uniform. If you are unaware of the correct uniform, this information can be collected from the school office.

Attendance

Our attendance percentage for academic year 2017/2018 was 92%. This is very low. The school's target is 96%. Please remember as a school we must make sure our pupils access the best possible opportunities available in relation to their education, therefore all pupils must attend school unless they are ill.

AAB will be working with Bristol City Council to improve the attendance figures. We will also be fining parents £60.00



PLEASE DON'T BE LATE

Last term we had many pupils arriving late. Please remember school starts at 8.25am. It is extremely important your child arrives at school on time. Being 15 minutes late every morning for a week adds up to 1 hour and 15 minutes of school time lost, over a half term this is 7 and a half hours! This is more than a whole school day. Please ensure your child arrives on time and ready to work

Children should not be left without supervision before the opening of school



Dental/Medical Appointments

If your child has a dental/medical appointment, please remember **they must come to school first** if possible.

Please try to arrange any appointments out of school hours. Pupils do not need to be absent from school all day for an appointment which may only take half an hour.

If they come to school first they will get their mark, even if this is only for a short period of time.



If you are driving your children to and from school, please be careful about how and where you park your cars.

Please do not park directly outside the school gates, on double yellow lines or blocking residents driveways, or any other place where it may be unsafe.

Please be considerate and let us; the school, the parents and the local community, all work together to keep pupils and other pedestrians and drivers safe.

Sickness Absence Procedures

Please remember the sickness absence procedures. School must be informed on the first day of absence. It is extremely important as any absences will be recorded as un-authorised if we have not had any explanation or reason why a pupil is absent from school.

Parent Volunteers Wanted for MEMBERS

I would like to invite parents to join the PTA club. 'PTA' stands for parents and teachers association, where parents come together and work with the school. This is done through helping with clubs, themed weeks, trips and most importantly fundraising, so we can raise money to develop the school further and provide additional resources and facilities for our children, insha'Allah.

Please leave your name in the office.



Awards Ceremony - **12 October 2018**

Christmas Day - **25 December 2018**

Boxing Day - **26 December 2018**

New Year's Day - **01-January 2019**

Good Friday- **19 April 2019**

Easter Monday - **22 April 2019**

May Bank Holiday - **06-May 2019**

Spring Bank Holiday - **27 May 2019**

Eid ul Fitr – Wednesday, **5th June 2019 - TBC**

Sports Day – **22nd July 2019 - TBC**