

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**RE: End of Autumn half term**

السلام عليكم

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to thank you for your support at the end of a busy half term at school. We have had a very unusual but exciting half term. We would like to share some of the activities and projects our pupils and staff have been doing this half term at school.

**World Food Day- 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

We had planned planting activities for all pupils as part of celebrating World Food Day. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances this could not go ahead as planned. However, we will take this up after we come back next half term. We are grateful to all parents who went out to buy soil and seeds in preparation for this activity. You may hang onto the planting equipment until we reschedule this for our pupils.

**Peace Centre collection for food Bank**

We would like to say a big Jazakallahu Khayran for all the donations we received for the Peace Centre food bank as part of our World Food Day. This was received by the Peace Centre this week Alhamdulillah.



**World Mental Health Day- 10<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

We planned sessions around World Mental Health Day to enable and encourage pupils to:

- Be active
- Learn new skills
- Connect and talk to someone
- Give/be kind
- Mindfulness
- Importance of Dua/Adhkar in our lives
- Connecting with our Creator to overcome negative feelings

Our pupils were given the opportunity to 'Join Beyond Words' for mental health Day, a national creative project where pupils can put into words their feelings about a year like no other. For every submission, the Bupa foundation will donate £1 to each charity partner.

Writing has so many benefits for our wellbeing and mental health. In these extraordinary times, the creative process can help us make sense of how we feel.

### Primary

Our Year 4's wrote to the Leicester City Council in collaboration with Young Citizens- Improving Community spaces:

- In their Science lesson earlier this term, pupils took a walk around the area near school and conducted a local habitat survey.
- They drew a sketch map of the area discussing and labelling environmental dangers to the local wildlife.
- They then recorded their findings in a table and gave suggestions for improvements.
- One of the key dangers' pupils noted was excessive littering in and around Shaykh Adam Square. Pupils realised the need for public bins in the area.
- They have written letters to Claudia Webbe MP requesting to have 1 or 2 public bins placed in the area to encourage people to use these instead to reduce littering near our school.

We are very proud of our Year 4's for writing such persuasive letters for this cause.

### Attendance

We would like to remind parents of the importance of having good attendance. Research shows that low school attendance is linked to lower academic achievement. It is vital that we work together with our pupils, parents and carers so that we all aim to have excellent attendance at school.

Our minimum requirement for attendance is 95%. Any pupils whose attendance drops below 95% is classed as a 'persistent absentee'. The school office and Senior Leadership team work with parents and pupils whose attendance drops below this; we hope that we can encourage all pupils to have an attendance rate which is considerably higher than 95%.

### Uniform

Every pupil is expected to always adhere to the school uniform, without exception. Please take some time to look carefully at pages 17 and 18 of your daughter's planner, which details the requirements of the Academy's school uniform. If a pupil comes to school in the incorrect uniform, school staff will call home and a parent/carer will be asked to kindly bring in the correct uniform on that day.

### Provision for Teaching and Learning

From Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October this week our year 9, 10 and 11 were engaged in remote learning and have been continuing their lessons on Microsoft Teams. Our teachers had already prepared for such a situation and we moved very smoothly onto virtual teaching and learning. We hope that the Year 6's will also be able to access Microsoft Teams after the mid-term break, a platform where work can be set by teachers and pupils begin to familiarise themselves with virtual online learning.

### Date of re-opening

We will re-open on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020**.

We would like to say JazakAllahu Khayra for all the support we have had from parents, especially this half term as we have been going through turbulent times with the current Covid-19 situation. We wish everyone a lovely half-term break.

May Allah Azzawajal protect our entire JGA team, our families, and the community. Ameen

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*Khadijah Gulamali*

Head teacher