



Date Valley Chair's Newsletter

Exciting Updates!

As we come to the end of another academic year, it is good to see the school community buzzing, with events and improvements taking place, Alhumdulillah.

- Alhumdulillah, the much-awaited interactive smartboards have been installed in classrooms and are a source of great excitement for the children. I am sure they will be used to improve the learning journey for the children and we will see the benefits of them in the coming academic year, in shaa Allah
- This is a time of change for the school. We are excited to be offering new opportunities for education to the community. 8 Gates is set to go now, offering a variety of services:
 - A new flexi schooling option, that we feel will appeal greatly to a section of the community
 - Wrap around care allowing parents to leave their children at school for extended hours, feeling secure in their choice of childcare
 - Evening Quran classes allowing a larger section of the community the opportunity to learn to read the Quran
 - We are in the process of opening a middle school which will allow us to offer education for children up to the age of 13, from next year, in shaa Allah
 - Our new improved Hifdh classes, that we hope will encourage more parents to take up the option of allowing their child to memorise more Quran, whilst they access a good curriculum-based education. As the first school in this area to offer this service, we feel positive that it will prove to be a success and a huge benefit to the community in the coming years. In shaa Allah

Ofsted Action Plan updates

- Recent communication from the Department of Education was very positive with them accepting the submitted Action Plan and expressing confidence in its implementation, Alhumdulillah
- A one-day, unannounced monitoring visit by Ofsted took place on Wednesday 27th June 2018. The purpose of the visit was to inspect the progress the school has made in implementing the Action Plan. We received some positive feedback, details of which will be communicated to all parents and staff once official communication has been received, in shaa Allah
- The Merton Borough Advisory Team will be joining us on 4th and 12th July to perform an external moderation of our children's literacy and numeracy books / work. This moderation will give us an insight into how our children are performing in comparison with others in the Merton Borough. This information will allow us to assess our school's performance, in shaa Allah. It will also provide an opportunity for the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to discuss next steps so that we can see continued improvement next academic year, in shaa Allah
- A Merton Borough Advisory Visit focussing on the primary section of the school is due to take place in the autumn term, in shaa Allah. This will provide the SLT the opportunity to discuss improvements and progress the school has made following the full Ofsted inspection in September 2017 and obtain advice and guidance on any areas of concern
- In summary, in shaa Allah, feedback received from Ofsted and the Merton Borough Advisory Teams will empower our SLT to continue to improve teaching and learning in the Primary Years. As the current year draws to an end the SLT will be preparing for the year to come and I make duaa we start the new academic year on a positive footing, ameen.

PTFC

- It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Sister Hina Uddin as the Chair of our PTFC. She, together with her dedicated team, have been an extremely successful PTFC with the school and the community having felt the immense benefits of this energy and commitment. May Allah reward her and all the PTFC immensely for their efforts, ameen.
- As she leaves us, we are a school without a new Chair ready to take over. We need a PTFC and in particular we need a Chair to bring the team together and organise the PTFC calendar. We would appeal to all our parents to please consider putting yourself forward for nomination for the position or encouraging someone you feel has the skills required to come forward. The Chair of the PTFC is a two-year commitment. Two years of your time and efforts can make a school like Date Valley thrive. The absence of this can take away a lot of the community feel our families benefit from. So please, if you can, please step forward for this role. It is a rewarding role, in shaa Allah, with much excitement promised along the way!

Date Valley School Summer Fete

The Summer Fete is due to take place on Saturday 14th July from 12.00pm - 6.00pm. This a wonderful opportunity for the community to get together and enjoy a fun filled day. We are expecting a variety of stalls with jilbaabs, hijabs, toys, sweets, a variety of food and much much more. There will be rides and activities to keep the kids amused, in shaa Allah. Our food stalls are always popular with burgers, pizzas, chicken wraps and mocktails just some of the items available. For the ladies we have pamper sessions taking place in total privacy.

Come and have some fun and support the school while you do. Bring your family and friends. We look forward to seeing you and hope that you will spread the word encouraging friends and family to attend, in shaa Allah.

End of an Academic year

So, as we draw to the end of this academic year, we face the inevitable task of saying goodbye to old faces and welcoming new ones.

- This year is a transition year for us as we have a change of headship. A change of headship is always a big event for a school. As we say goodbye to Sister Naheed, we reflect on her years at school and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her years of service and to wish her all the best in her next stage of life, in shaa Allah. I worked closely with Sister Naheed and witnessed first-hand her dedication and commitment to the school. As she leaves us I make duaa that she will continue to be a part of the Date Valley Community
- As is often the case, together with sadness we have hope. We have been fortunate enough to secure the services of Sister Neena Lone who has had considerable experience as an Assistant Head in a good state school and will now be bringing her experience to us. Her commitment to Date Valley School and Islamic Education will, in shaa Allah, stand her in good stead as she takes on the challenge of improving the school over the next academic year. We look forward to working with Sister Neena and welcome her into the heart of the Date Valley Community. In sha Allah
- We have some other movement within the staffing. We are sad to see Sister Nazli (At Tariq teacher); Sister Emma (Al Lail teacher), Sister Laila (Reception class teacher), Sister Munira (Early Years TA), Sister Amel (Primary TA) and Sister Khurshid (Early Years Quran teacher and TA) leave us. In their place we welcome back Sister Fariha (who is well known to many of you) together with Sister Fatima (An Nur), Sister Maha (An Nur) and Sister Catherine (Al Buruj) who are continuing on their journey in teaching with us