

Headteacher's Reflection

"Salah is the **FIRST** thing we will be questioned about, so do not make it the **LAST** thing on your mind."

With the above quote in mind, we start this new term with our 'Salah Drive' focus.

It is my responsibility and aspiration for each and every child to leave our school with secure understanding of salah in their actions, recitation and understanding of its importance.

It is also a reminder for us as adults to discuss the importance of salah at home and discuss the questions children have linked to this topic. It is key for us to be good role models in our salah so that our children follow in our footsteps, in shaa Allah

Our whole school focus this term:

Salah:- Salah Drive

Our previous term focus:-

Handwriting, reading and spelling

We will continue to focus on these throughout the year.



Date Valley School

Autumn term

Newsletter

Dates for the Diary

Autumn Parent Workshops 2019	
Reading	7 th November
Quran memorisation	27 th November
Quran reading	12 th December

- Special assembly - Friday 22nd November
- Themed Week: Parliament Week - week of 9th - 13th December
- School Council elections - taking place during the week of 9th - 13th December
- Last day of term - Wednesday 18th December
- Parent-teacher meetings - Thursday 19th December (Early Years & Primary closed)

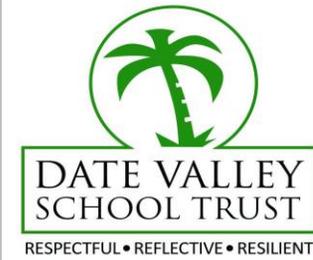
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"At Date Valley we are respectful, resilient and reflective learners."

Behaviour and Ethos

At Date Valley we have discussed how important it is to be happy, grateful and being kind.

Try and discuss these ideas at home.

Smiling: Smiling not only makes us feel good but is also a sunnah. Try putting a pencil between your teeth. Make sure it isn't touching your lips. Science show that if we do this for three minutes our brain starts to release a special substance that makes you feel good. Remember Allah sent you to Earth to spread goodness.

You are a star: We are all Allah's stars! Cut an apple across horizontally to the stem to reveal a star core inside. Ask your child to pick out the tiny seeds and talk about how Allah created each seed with everything in it that needs to be an apple!

Allah has given each one of us so many blessings. We must use every seed within us to become a star that lights up the world.

A wrinkled heart: Discuss what sandpaper feels like and link it to words that can hurt people's feelings. Discuss what cotton wool feels like and link it to words that are kind and soft.

Discuss what would happen to your heart if 'sandpaper' words are used and what would your heart feel like if we used 'cotton ball' words. Think

Headteacher Focus

In the last newsletter I shared our staff meeting focus with you. This term my focus is on PUPIL BEHAVIOUR.

I have conducted observations in lessons and around the school. We need to focus on the following areas:

- Walking around the school quietly
- Lining up quietly
- Listening to others when one is speaking
- Following instructions
- Following the Core Values at play time

PTFC News

The PTFC would like to pass on a huge JAZAKALLAH KHAIR for all the support and donations from parents for the International Food Sale! Through your help we had an amazing variety of foods from around the world - the event was a sell out and we raised £942.55 ma shaa Allah!

Following on from the success of the previous Coffee Morning, the PTFC are pleased to announce our next Coffee Morning on Wednesday 27th November, which will be held straight after the Quran Memorisation Workshop in shaa Allah.

Finally, the PTFC is super excited to announce our first ever Storytelling Evening and Winter Fete to be held on Saturday 14th December! There will be two performances delivered by a very talented storyteller in the school hall. The first at 5pm which includes a selection of Islamic heritage tales of wonder, wisdom and humour suited for younger children. The second performance is at 6pm and is titled 'Miracles in the Desert: A story of the Hijra' (please note there is a separate charge for each play which cost £5). Meanwhile outside, there will be an array of food stalls, arts and crafts and market stalls and hot drinks including hot chocolate and desi chai! So please come join us for a fun filled family wintery evening - we look forward to seeing you in shaa Allah!

Pupil Voice

Eco code

Our Year 4 Eco-Warriors have labelled the recycling bins to raise the profile of recycling and explain what to put in the recycling bin.

Our next action point will be to get a compost bin for the school to reduce our food waste, as well as remember to turn off the lights to save electricity.

Outcomes of the review conducted as part of the ECO team

As a school, we are doing really well in matters concerning healthy living and school grounds.

However, the areas requiring the most improvement are energy, waste and water.

In shaa Allah, these areas will be our focus for this term.

Attendance

Punctuality Week: Many thanks to all the families who made such an amazing effort to make it in time for 8.00am during our first Punctuality Week! Our lateness after the register closed improved and some children made a supreme effort and changed their habits, making it on time every day! Very well done! Please remember, if you can do it for a week, **why not make those changes last and be on time every day.** We still have a fair number of children who are consistently arriving after 8.10am. **All children arriving at 8.10am need to report to the School Office** - let's try to get to school at 8.00am and start the day together as a class team.

Attendance update

Reception: 97.9%
An-Nur Y1: 96%
Ad-Duha Y2: 97%
Al-Fajr Y3: 97.2%
At-Tariq Y4: 99.2%
Y5: 97%
Y6: 94.9%

Ma shaa Allah! Well done to At Tariq class for their great levels of attendance! Keep it up!

The collective attendance for Year 6 is at **Needs Developing**. We urge parents to support outstanding class attendance to help your child achieve their full potential.

Curriculum Corner

Why is READING so important?

Reading is a fundamental part of childhood and a skill which should be developed to support lifelong learning.

Confident and competent readers will foster a love of reading through a rich and varied experience of texts, in which the children are empowered to exercise freedoms of choice and independence.

Inspiring children to read is a moral imperative and their fundamental right. It underpins all learning and secures a good trajectory for personal development.

Research states that children who continue to read for pleasure during their childhood will be more successful in adulthood than those who haven't.

A growing number of studies show that promoting reading can have a major impact on children and adults and their future. Upon reviewing research literature, Clark and Rumbold (2006) identified several main areas of benefit in reading for pleasure:

- Reading attainment and writing ability
- Text comprehension and grammar
- Breadth of vocabulary
- Positive reading attitudes
- Greater self-confidence as a reader
- Pleasure in reading during later life
- General knowledge
- A better understanding of other cultures
- Community participation
- A greater insight into human nature decision-making