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Dear Parent / Carer,

We are fast approaching the exam season and end of year curriculum which means an extremely busy time in school and lots of opportunities for pupils to apply their learning. We are also aware that Ramadan is predicted to start next week. This will coincide with Key stage 2 tests and the beginning of the transition curriculum, which prepares students for secondary school. We want to help students to demonstrate their very best knowledge and skills to help them create a bright future. With this in mind we have set out guidance below which has been provided by ASCL (Association of School and College Leaders). The advice has been gathered after wide consultation with the Muslim community in the UK. Please see the web link below for further information.

**<https://www.ascl.org.uk/help-and-advice/help-and-advice.ramadan-exams-and-tests-2018.html>**

The pursuit of education is a religious and moral duty for all Muslim students of both genders. There are many references in the Qur'an and the hadith which urge believers to gain knowledge. For example, "Seeking knowledge is compulsory for every Muslim, man and woman." (hadith). A favourite supplication of the Prophet was, 'O Lord, increase me in knowledge.' (Qur'an 20:114) Al-Bukhari attributes a tradition to the Prophet which says that the disappearance of knowledge and the absence of scholars from society would spell the demise of civilisation. For Muslims, the ultimate goal is to seek God through knowledge, including learning how to deal effectively and knowledgeably with this world. Muslim students, like all students, will want to do as well as they possibly can in their examinations.

Fasting is only obligatory under Islamic tradition when a child becomes legally mature. It is recommended for children to practise shorter and partial fasts in order to train them for the full fasting when they become adults. **Children in primary schools are therefore considered too young to observe the full fast. They may, however, wish to practise a partial fast which is best done under the supervision of their family or carers outside school hours.**

We will also be reflecting on and celebrating the benefits of Ramadan as part of that preparation. The benefits we will focus upon: feeling closer to God whilst learning to exercise greater self-control. Establishing a healthier lifestyle and better habits. Greater feelings of peace, tranquillity and self-satisfaction spiritually. The opportunity to establish better relationships with self and others Ramadan also offers an opportunity to strengthen family and community ties through congregational prayer and celebration.

We as a school have a rich and wide diversity of cultures and religions which makes our school the vibrant and energetic family that it is. We appreciate the support and understanding of the whole community. The information was produced with a Muslim scholar, we are happy to meet and discuss any aspect with parents. Please contact the school directly for more information and if your child is fasting please let your child's class teacher know with written consent.

Thank you

Mrs R Ali  
Head of School