

Prospect School

PROSPECT SCHOOL, READING

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Headteacher: Mr Philip Davies

12th May 2017

Dear Parent/ Carer

As you are aware, Ramadan begins at the end of May and will be around this time for the next few years. This year, the middle of Ramadan will also coincide with the summer solstice and the likelihood of a period of hot weather. The combination of long days and the hot weather will put extra pressure on our Muslim pupils, however they decide to observe Ramadan.

We have taken advice issued by ASCL (Association of School and College Leaders) about Ramadan and they have consulted widely with Muslim communities and Imams. We would ask that you consider very carefully the issues around school attendance, the curriculum and sitting exams and assessments this summer during Ramadan and consider the need for your child to balance their obligations as Muslims with their studies and the importance of school for their future. We will of course not dictate to pupils or their families how they observe Ramadan as this is a personal decision. However, we would remind you of the flexibility Islamic Law offers to delay or exempt themselves from fasting and late night prayers if you believe their performance in exams or at school could be affected.

The Department of Health has produced Healthy Ramadan, a guide to healthy fasting during Ramadan. The guidance warns about the need to drink enough water before fasting to avoid dehydration. <http://www.nhs.uk/livewell/healthynamadan/Pages/healthynamadanhome.aspx>.

The school is very keen to engage in communication with pupils and families to discuss these issues but respect the right of individuals to make their own decisions. It may be helpful if you inform the school if your child is fasting, but this is not compulsory. Exams (both GCSEs and in-school assessments) are likely to coincide with Ramadan until 2021 and the school is therefore keen to consider all the issues and formulate a long term approach

Please feel free to contact the school and discuss any of these issues. May I wish all those observing Ramadan a peaceful time.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Philip Davies'.

P Davies
Headteacher

ASPIRE - BELIEVE - ACHIEVE