

Monday 4th March 2024

Fasting in Ramadan 2024 /1445

"Oh, you who believe! Fasting was prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you, that you may become righteous." Surah Al-Baqarah (The Cow) – Holy Qur'an 2:183

Zaid ibn Khalid Johni related that the Final Messenger of Allah, Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) said: "He who provides for the breaking of the Siyam (fasting) of another person earns the same merit as the one who was observing Siyam without diminishing in any way the reward of the latter." (Tirmidhi)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Increasing Faith Literacy and Meeting the Needs of Muslim Pupils at Norwood School

We would like to take this opportunity to let you know about arrangements that will be in place for our Muslim staff and pupils during Ramadan. We acknowledge, as a school, the importance of Ramadan and Eid ul Fitr in Islam, and we are mindful that we need to be particularly vigilant and sensitive to the welfare and education of our children during this important time.

Ramadan begins on 10 March 2024, plus or minus a day dependent on the moon. Prayer times for Ramadan may be found on many mosque websites.

<https://www.almustafatrust.org/ramadan-timetable-2024/>

<https://www.eastlondonmosque.org.uk/news/ramadan-timetable-2024>

Eid-ul-Fitr (the festival marking the end of Ramadan) is tentatively expected to start on the evening of 9th April, which falls during the Easter Break.

Prayer Times

Prayer times for Ramadan will be advertised around school. The prayer times are from 12:10pm (at the start of Ramadan) and 12:06pm (towards the end of Ramadan) during the school term. We will ensure that students can pray at lunch time. Ms Hussain, one of our Citizenship and RS teachers, has advised us that although the prayer time begins at 12:10pm, the actual prayer can be read anytime up until the next prayer, which is Asr at around 4:30pm. So if children choose not to read during lunch time, there is plenty of time to pray later in the day and it is completely acceptable to do so later, if you have a legitimate reason, such as being in school.

We are mindful that we would like to minimise truancy from and lateness to lessons, therefore, students will not be excused from lessons at any other time during the school day.

Friday prayers can be completed during lunch. Ms Hussain's, room S25, will continue to be used by boys, whilst Ms. Ahmed, a member of the Maths department, has kindly offered to oversee the girl's prayer room on the maths corridor. We are aware that those praying will need to wash their arms and feet, as our toilet facilities are not built for this purpose, this may lead to a few puddles on the floor which will need to be cleaned up afterwards. We will ask the caretakers to be vigilant, informed and 'wet floor' signs should be put in place.

Absence for Authorised Religious Observance

A one day of authorised absence can be granted for religious observance at Eid-ul-Fitr (Id-ul-Fitr) and another at Eid-ul-Adha (Id-ul-Adha), the festival at the time of the annual Hajj Pilgrimage. If parents/guardians request further days, then individual consideration will be made. We know that you will appreciate that each case should be considered on an individual basis, looking at patterns of absence and the impact on the overall attendance level. Whilst we empathise with the emotional and physical challenges that this period might present, we know that, as parents, you will also appreciate the importance of students being in school, in lessons, learning.

Lessons during Ramadan

Normal timetabled lessons will carry on during Ramadan. Students will be expected to bring their PE kit for Dance and PE as usual. Students will change and participate as fully in the activities as possible. Of course, we will remind staff that they should be mindful of not demanding fasting students to over exert themselves. In Music, we will do what we can to reasonably accommodate students' wishes in lessons, whilst we will be sympathetic to their wishes to a certain degree, we hope that you understand that we are not able to replan the curriculum or offer non participation; music is taught in the school, as are all subjects, in order to advance the education and wellbeing of all students and this includes during Ramadan. Historically, students have been more than happy to take part fully in Food Tech lessons but will take their 'makes' home to eat later in the day and will not take part in tasting in the lesson. We will be asking Heads of Year to look ahead at the Learning for Life lessons that will be delivered throughout Ramadan and make sure that the content is appropriate and suitable for all.

Year 11 Information Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming parents of Year 11 into school for the Information Evening on Thursday 14th March between 5 - 7pm. Light refreshments will be provided, but we will not be offering alcoholic beverages.

If any of our Muslim families have any further practical suggestions that they think we could be of assistance with, please do let me know,

With kindest regards,

May Allah look favourably upon your fasting and answer your prayers.

Ms J Nicholas
Senior Deputy Headteacher