



Al-Ashraf Primary School
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Tuesday 5th May 2020

Dear Parents,

Ofsted – we are a ‘GOOD’ school!

Following Al-Ashraf Primary School’s OFSTED inspection in March, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that we have now been rated a ‘**GOOD**’ school by OFSTED. This is a fantastic achievement for the entire school community and it is through Allah’s assistance and the hard work and sheer dedication of all those involved, that this has been accomplished.

I would like to pay tribute to all the parents for your dedication to the school. Undoubtedly, your support has been key in keeping our school alive. You placed blind trust in our school and decided to send your children to Al-Ashraf, despite so many unknowns and any guarantees of our survival, Alhumdulillah, your sacrifices have paid off. Jazakallah for taking the time to speak to the inspectors and for completing the Parent View survey. The lead inspector praised the schools positive relationship with parents and was impressed by your supportive outlook towards the school.

Our pupils were a great credit to us during the inspection. The inspectors were impressed by their exemplary behaviour and good manners, as highlighted in the report. They acknowledged that we are a school driven by strong values – where personal development is as important as academic achievement. In particular the inspectors were pleased with the way the school were able to deliver the Islamic ethos of the school in perfect harmony with the academic curriculum, praising the AKHLAQ values the school holds dear. This undoubtedly demonstrates the unique value the school provides within our community.

I would like to thank all of our staff in the nursery and the school for their hard work and most importantly for their commitment to always placing a child’s wellbeing and success at the centre of what they do. Teaching and attainment were commended highly by inspectors, specifically reading, phonics and the support offered to pupils who face challenges in their learning. Inspectors also praised the teaching of maths and science. Early Years is an area which is reported on individually and, the report is very clear, that children in Al-Ashraf get off to a flying start in the Nursery and Reception classes.

We are fortunate to have a highly effective Governing Body who work closely with all stakeholders and the wider community. The Inspectors met them and described them as having ‘been relentless in their pursuit to turn things around’. I would like to thank the

Governing Body and Al-Madani Educational Trust for their voluntary support and time to ensure continued success at Al-Ashraf.

The lead inspector expressed that it is extremely rare for any school to receive a 'Good' outcome following an 'Inadequate' judgement, in such a short space of time. The new Ofsted framework is far more rigorous and robust than ever before, which makes our achievement all the more remarkable.

While we can celebrate the Ofsted grading for now, we can never become too complacent. In line with our continued efforts to strive for excellence, there are areas highlighted in the report which we will continue to focus on to improve further. As part of our school improvement plan, we have already started working on our writing curriculum, together with the foundation subjects, which we will be implementing as soon as we return to school.

The full Ofsted report is available on our school website at <https://al-ashraf.org.uk/primary/files/ofsted-report-2020.pdf> and will go live on the Ofsted website on Tuesday 12th May 2020. Please make time to read the report and should you have any questions, please email me at zpatel@al-ashraf.gloucs.sch.uk. With the new Education Inspection Framework, the report is now easier to read, with fewer finer details. We hope to explain the report in detail to parents, once it is possible to do so, inshaAllah. I firmly believe that our successes, to date and our future achievements, will only be possible by us continuing to work closely together, inshaAllah.

Reflecting on some of our poignant moments, since November 2017, I am reminded of two of my personal favourite Qur'anic verses, which I would like to share with you:

'Verily, with every hardship comes ease' (Qu'ran, 94:5)

'They plan and Allah plans, and Allah is the best of planners'
(Qu'ran, 8:30)

The impact of these verses can be felt now more than ever. Allah SWT had a plan for our school and although the journey posed great challenges, it is with His assistance, we can celebrate reaching a turning point in this journey. I pray our school goes from strength to strength and that its place in our community flourishes. I pray our children all benefit from the Islamic environment we provide and develop 'firm roots with branches in the sky'. I pray that the Islamic identity they gain at Al-Ashraf will pay dividends to our society for many many years to come inshaAllah.

Keep us in your duas during this blessed month.

Wsww,

Mrs Zainab Patel
Headteacher

Mufti Abdullah AH Patel
Chair of Governors