



Dear Parents and Carers

Ramadan is a very important and auspicious time for our Muslim families and friends and there will be a keen sense of looking forward to the festivities and celebrations that are coming. We look forward to sharing in these celebrations with you all. We would like to work in partnership with families to ensure that we have our children's best interests at heart.

With this in mind, we have taken guidance from the Standards Testing Agency (STA), Harrow Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), and the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) who have consulted widely with Harrow's Muslim faith Leaders and a variety of Imams, Islamic Scholars and Muslim chaplains.

Please note the following advice:

"No child under the age of puberty is obliged or expected to fast. Younger children may do a partial fast, but this should be in consultation with and under the supervision of parents, carers and schools."

Fasting is only obligatory under Islamic tradition when a child becomes an adult. It is recommended for children to practice shorter and partial fasts in order to train them for the full fasting when they become adults".

Parents/Carers may wish to take into account the following points of view to facilitate their decision-making:

"The 'biological maturity' view holds that children are expected to begin the practice of fasting at the age of 15. Children in primary school 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 the school hours".

Although we are aware and understand the fact that some of our children will want to be part of this occasion, according to this advice, which clearly states that children in Primary Schools are considered too young to observe the full fast, we kindly request that children do not fast during school hours.

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact myself or Mrs Kelly at the school.

We would like to wish you a Ramadan kareem and look forward to the forthcoming celebrations and festivities.

Kind regards,

Mr C. Westall

Headteacher

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