

## AL IMAN COLLEGE – EARLY LEARNING CENTRE TERM 2 2024 NEWSLETTER

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuhu,  
Respected Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Welcome to our End of Term 2 Newsletter! As we bid farewell to an eventful and enriching term, we celebrate the milestones and moments of joy shared by our children, families and educators. Alhamdulillah, this term has been filled with growth, discovery, and laughter, laying a strong foundation for exciting adventures that await us in Term 3.

Our highlights this term included:

- **Eid Festival Celebration:** A joyous event at Al Iman College grounds, bringing our community together in celebrating Eid Ul Fitr.
- **Wayapa Wuurrk Incursion:** An insightful experience for children and educators, fostering a deep connection with our community and environment through Aboriginal perspectives.
- **Greater Western Water Incursion:** An educational adventure exploring the importance of water conservation.
- **Maternal and Child Health Nurse Outreach Program:** Providing families direct access to valuable advice and support from the Maternal Health nurse.
- **Eid Ul Adha Celebrations:** Engaging children in activities that capture the essence of this special occasion.

We extend our thanks to all families and educators for their unwavering support throughout Term 2. Your participation and support have been key to making this term successful and rewarding.

We are looking forward to welcoming our families, children, and staff back for another fantastic term in Term 3.

JazakAllah Khairan.  
Sr Noor Illyaas and AIC ELC Team

### IMPORTANT DATES

Please be informed that Al Iman College Early Learning Centre will be **closed for Term 2, 2024, from Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> July till Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024.**

Please find below the **last day for term 2, 2024**, for Kinder groups and LDC:

- Kinder groups A and C – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- Kinder group B – Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- Kinder groups E and F- Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- LDC - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Below are the **Term 3 start dates** for Kinder groups and LDC:

- Kinder groups A and C - Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024
- Kinder group B – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024
- Kinder groups E and F – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2024
- LDC – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

## Key dates for term 3



### Police Incursion (Our community helpers):

- Kinder groups A and C - Wednesday 17th July 2024
- Kinder group B - Thursday 18th July 2024



### EID MORNING TEA (For all ELC children and their mothers/female guardians)

- Kinder groups A and C - Wednesday 24th July 2024
  - Kinder group B and LDC - Thursday 25th July 2024
  - Kinder groups E and F - Friday 26th July 2024
- Time: 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM



### MCH (Maternal and Child Health Nurse) Outreach Program:

- Kinder groups E and F - Friday 19th July 2024
- Kinder group A and C - Monday 22nd July 2024
- Kinder group B - Tuesday 23rd July 2024

# Kinder Group A

Teacher: Sr Fatema El Sabsabi

## Embracing Unique Personalities: My Journey with Kindergarten Group A

In the Name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful,  
As-salāmu ‘alaykum wa-rahmatullāhi wa-barakātuh

*I had the amazing opportunity of taking on the teacher role for group A this term, and I have to say I was blown away by the amazing personalities, and how quickly we created a special bond. Every child brings their unique qualities to our kindergarten. From the famous sketchers who draw better than Picasso himself, to the enthusiastic learners who always ask questions and want to know more! the story lovers, the thoughtful friend, the list goes on Tabarak Allah, so blessed to have every one of them.*

### What the children wanted to learn this term

To start the term, we conducted a group time with a fun puppet where the children were asked questions like, "What interests you?" and "What do you want to learn at kinder this term?" Many children expressed themselves and shared their thoughts with us. This was all documented, and we dedicated ourselves throughout the term to cater to all their interests. This was done through group learning experiences and individual or small group sessions.



### Fostering Literacy and Numeracy

**Building Literacy and Numeracy Skills:** Most of the children stated their desire to learn how to write their names, learn the ABCs, and count. In response, we concentrated on literacy and numeracy activities, both indoors and outdoors. We concentrated on name recognition and fundamental phonics. One of the highlights was tracing our names using elements that we gathered from the outdoors, such as twigs, leaves, and bark. We hung the children's names up once they were finished so they could practice writing and recognise their names. We also had a great time playing alphabet games, especially the octopus alphabet game, in which children placed a small octopus toy on the letter that was called out. Another popular game was the number hunt outside, in which teachers hid numbers 1-10 across the yard for the students to locate. Mashallah, the children showed wonderful excitement, with pleasant smiles on their lovely faces.



## Exploring Interests and Creativity

Throughout the term, the children developed a special fondness for a particular book titled "Coco the Coconut Crab." They frequently asked for this book to be read to them, showing great interest in its characters and story. Inspired by their enthusiasm, we decided to investigate deeper into the world of coconut crabs. We learned all about these fascinating creatures, drawing pictures of crabs, watching videos of crabs in their natural habitat, and even creating our own playdough crabs. With the help of all the children, we made our own coconut tree, which was a wonderful collaborative project. This experience has been great fun and has sparked the children's creativity and curiosity.



## Exciting Visits and Learning Experiences

This term, we had the pleasure of welcoming Sammy the Snake and his friend Frances the Frog from the Greater Western Waters Education. The children were already familiar with these characters from a book we read in class on saving water. This interactive and enjoyable excursion taught children the value of conserving water, a principle important in Islam and critical for our future. Alhamdulillah, the children learned essential lessons while having fun.

During the incursion, Karen, the incursion facilitator, showed us felt images on a board depicting how clouds release rain onto the mountains, forming pools, dams, and rivers. It was fascinating to see the water cycle in action. She also read the book 'Saving water' about Sammy the Snake and Frances the frog, and how Frances, at times, made mistakes by wasting water, which made Sammy sad. But together, they learned to make better choices to SAVE water.

We learned practical tips such as using a nozzle on the hose when watering the garden, turning off running taps when washing dishes or brushing our teeth, and not playing in the shower while the water is running. Understanding how water reaches our taps and the importance of conserving it was our main outcome. Through engaging activities and stories, we gained a deeper appreciation for water conservation and how we can all play a part in saving this precious resource.



## Eid Festival Fun

Our Eid Festival was a memorable event. The children had a fantastic time going on rides, patting baby animals, and then returning to the ELC to eat and discuss the fun day we all had together. Alhamdulillah, it was a joyous celebration filled with laughter and fun. The celebration of Eid brought us all closer and created wonderful memories. We are looking forward to creating many more happy memories with these children with lots of fun and learning along the way.

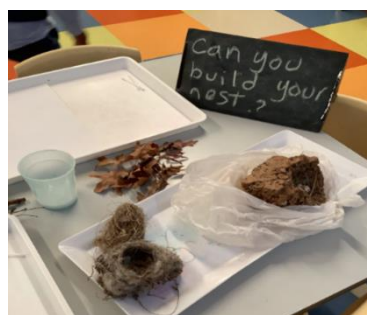


## Kinder Group B

Teacher: Sr Reham Mohamed

### Can you build your nest?

The children engaged in investigating how birds build their nests. During group time, discussions revolved around the materials that birds use, and where they are found. The children were encouraged to compare three different nests by exploring their shapes and sizes. Then we read a story about how birds build nests, sparking excitement among the children who counted eggs being laid. Subsequently, the children used tissue paper to create eggs of varying sizes to fit into corresponding nests, promoting hands-on learning and exploration.



## Eid Ul Adha

The children engaged in learning about what all Muslim communities expected to do during this Eid. Children were involved in 3D Kaaba craft activity and developing their fine motor skills while painting people making tawaf around it.



## Earth Day

All children were involved in a group discussion about how to save the earth, reading a book about reuse, reducing and recycling, helping the animals, planting seeds, stopping cutting the trees, turning off the tap when we brush our teeth, walking or using the bikes instead of driving the car and turn off the light to save the energy.

Our kinder children celebrated this occasion by creating earth using play dough and painting the Earth using balloons, dipped in blue and green paint. They pressed it on their paper then they drew their hands on a piece of paper and cut it out to stick them on their earth painting.



## Reconciliation Week

This term we celebrated Reconciliation Week, in our kindergarten room, we are committed to fostering an environment of learning and respect for Australia's rich Indigenous heritage, enhancing our community's awareness and appreciation. Our children embarked on a journey of discovery and respect through a culturally enriching activity. We began by collecting leaves and other natural materials, enjoying the playful experience of exploring these elements outdoors.

During our discussion, we delved into the meanings behind the colors of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags. We explored the significance of the sun in the Aboriginal flag, discussing its central role in guiding the Indigenous peoples in understanding seasons, weather patterns, and the natural environment. The children learned that black represents the people, red symbolizes the earth and ochre, and the white Dhari on the Torres Strait Islander flag, which is significant in cultural ceremonies. The green and blue colors represent the land and the sea, respectively.



## Kinder Group C

Teacher: Sr Saman Tahir

### Earth Day

In April, we joyfully celebrated Earth Day, focusing on educating the children about caring for our precious planet. Our days were filled with engaging activities that seamlessly blended play and learning. During our discussions, we emphasised that Allah Subana Tallah encourages us to be mindful of our resources—avoiding wastage of water and food. To contribute positively to the Earth, we emphasized the importance of planting trees and saving water. One captivating activity involved the children holding a globe. As they took turns, they discovered that the green areas represent land, while the blue areas symbolize water. To add a creative twist, the children crafted their own mini-Earths using blue and green crepe paper. Each child placed the paper in a circle, added water, and allowed it to dry. When peeled off, the colors from the crepe paper transferred onto the white paper, forming their unique Earth creations. Through these activities, we fostered a love for our planet and encouraged responsible stewardship.



## Recycling

As a continuation of Earth Day, we designed activities to help the children grasp the concept of recycling and learn proper practices. When the children entered the room, they encountered an array of recycling materials: empty boxes, paper rolls of assorted sizes, and more. Their creativity sparked as they built towers and structures using these items.

During group time, we delved into the world of recycling bins. The children were already familiar with the red, yellow, and green bins. We engaged them in a bin activity, followed by flash cards featuring the different bins. Each child took turns placing small cards into the correct bin, reinforcing their understanding of responsible waste disposal. 🌱 ♻️ 🗑️



## Exploring Wonderful Water

children had an enriching educational incursion led by the Greater Western Water Education. The focus was on understanding water conservation and responsible usage. By using books, felt board and puppets the lady explained how we can save water by detecting leaks from taps. The children discussed practical ways to conserve water. Key points included not wasting water while washing dishes and using a nozzle when watering plants. The session was lively and interactive, leaving an impression.





## Eid Ul Adha Activities

As the Dhul-Hijjah days approached, the children were introduced to the significance of Hajj through an informative video. They learned about the essential steps of this sacred pilgrimage. Next, an artifact representing the Kaaba was placed on the table. The room filled with a sense of reverence as we collectively recited "Labbaik Allahumma labbaik." The heartfelt atmosphere inspired us to make dua (supplication) that Allah would invite us for Hajj in the coming year. Following the Hajj activity, we shifted our focus to Eid. We discussed the tradition of animal sacrifice during this festive occasion. The children then expressed their creativity by crafting Eid greeting cards, which they proudly took home to share with their parents.



## Kinder Group E

Teacher: Sr Saman Tahir

### Eid Festival to celebrate end of Ramadan in Term 1

On 24<sup>th</sup> April all the children of ELC celebrated the Eid festival with great enthusiasm! The children were buzzing with excitement, eagerly counting down the days. They had a unique opportunity to interact with adorable baby animals, including ducklings, bunnies, and lambs. Their little hands touched soft fur, and they spent quality time around the farm animals.

The festivities continued with delightful rides, mini trains, jumping castle and sweet treats like fairy floss and popcorn. As the day ended, the children were filled with joy and pleasure. Even now, they fondly reminisce about the fun-filled day.



## Road Safety

Group E delved into the exciting world of road safety through interactive activities. Our main objective was to instill safe practices in the children, especially when they are near cars. During group time, we introduced flash cards featuring traffic lights and road signs. Children learned about the “stop” and “go” signs, understanding when to pause and when to proceed. We emphasized the golden rule: always hold hands when crossing the road. Through discussions, children grasped where and how to cross safely. They understood that an adult’s hand provides security during this crucial moment. To reinforce the learning, we got creative! Each child crafted their own traffic light using cupcake holders.



## Exploring Autumn and Winter seasons

This term, we immersed the children in the magic of two seasons Autumn and winter by engaging them with firsthand activity. The room was transformed with autumn theme with orange playdough and with natural materials. During the discussion they learned about the Autumn season using resources and materials. When it was time to go outside children were given baskets to collect the leaves and the seeds. All of them were so observant and they all collected and brought the baskets back inside and expressed their creativity by pasting and coloring leaves. As Winter arrived, we explored wintry weather by reading books and sharing resources with the children. The children enjoyed an art activity using cotton buds and white paint on blue paper. Snowflakes and frosty scenes came to life through their imaginative strokes.



## Wayapa Wuurrk Incursion

This term we had an interesting incursion named Wayapa Wuurrk, which translates to "Connect to the Earth" in the languages of the Maara People from Southwest Victoria and GunaiKurnai People from Gippsland, Victoria. This unique experience helped us understand wellbeing through Indigenous perspectives by developing our relationship with the environment and celebrating ancient earth mindfulness.

Aunty Deb came from the Indigenous community to share her profound knowledge of her Indigenous heritage. Her setup was visually stimulating, drawing the attention of all the children. She engaged the children with a variety of activities including shared storybooks that connected us to the land and its history, the elements of nature, body movements that express the nature and the importance of looking after our community and environment, the way Indigenous ancestors did. Through discussion she skillfully gave the importance of caring for the earth and she shared her heritage by showing her materials and brought physical examples for the children to explore such as kangaroo fur for them to feel and delicate hand-woven baskets.

Children actively participated in all the activities the experience not only provided valuable insights into Indigenous culture but also instilled a deeper sense of connection and responsibility towards our environment.



# Kinder Group F

Teacher: Sr Reham Mohamed

## Doctor Role Play

All children were involved in doctor role play using the doctor toy set and pretending to be Doctors, nurses and patients. This was an inclusive and interactive activity that captivated the children throughout the day, fostering creativity, social interaction, and role-playing skills in a fun and educational setting.



## Celebrating Eid Ul Adha

All children learnt about Eid Ul Adha and the practices of the Muslim community during this time of the year. They learned to recite “Labaik Allahumma Labbaik” and prayed for Allah for the opportunity to perform Hajj. The children also had the chance to create cards depicting their understanding of Kaaba and the rituals of Muslims walking around it, known as tawaf.



## Greater Western Water Education Incursion

In Term 2, we had an incursion from the Greater Western Water Education Program called "Exploring Wonderful Water." This provided the children with a unique opportunity to delve into the fascinating world of water.

Children had a chance to explore wonderful water - using rhymes, and role play and explore the concept of water, how it gets from the sky to our taps, and the many ways we use it every day. The also children learn about how to save our precious water with Sammy the Snake and Frances the Frog, a special treasure box, and lots of rhymes and actions after the lady read a story about "Water is Precious."



# Long Day Care (0-2 years)

Room Leader: Sr Sidra Hassan

## Teaching Hygiene Practices to combat Cold and Flu Season

This term, children learned about hygiene and participated in various hygiene practices. As winter approaches, children are increasingly getting sick, especially during the cold and flu season. To protect their health, we conducted group discussions about germs and how to prevent them, including hand washing practices.

We also carried out a hands-on experiment to teach children the correct way to cough and sneeze. By filling a plate with flour and having the children pretend the flour was germs, we effectively demonstrated how germs spread. Over time, the children became proficient in covering their noses and mouths when coughing and sneezing, aiming to minimise the risk of germs spreading in the environment.



## Eid Ul Fitr Festival: Celebrating Community and Joy at Al Iman College

This term we warmly welcomed the children back after Eid. We explained to them that Eid Ul Fitr, a joyous festival celebrated by Muslims worldwide, marks the end of Ramadan, a month dedicated to fasting and prayer.

To enhance the children's wellbeing, Al Iman College organised a festival featuring various activities, including a colourful train ride, cup and saucer rides, jumping castle and a petting area with farm animals. The children delighted in interacting with the animals, patting their fur, and feeding them, emphasising the importance of family and community during this special time.





### Playful Learning: Kids Tackle Ocean Pollution on World Environment Day

On World Environment Day, June 5th, we talked to the children about taking care of the Earth. We discussed simple things like recycling and how pollution hurts animals in the ocean. During group time, we shared fun ideas on how we can help protect our planet. To make it exciting, we set up a play tray with toy marine animals and pretend pollution. The children enjoyed playing with the tray, using their creativity to 'clean' the environment and make a healthier home for the sea animals.



### Nature Play Week Activities from 8<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> April

In term two, we focused on nature play, a form of outdoor play that is age-appropriate and highly beneficial for children's development, health, wellbeing, curiosity, confidence, and social skills. Nature play involves using loose parts like sticks, rocks, and leaves to build and create, while also promoting physical development, spatial awareness, balance, and coordination through varied outdoor environments.

We introduced children to several exciting activities, including a Nature Leaf Shape Hunt, laying under the sky and counting flying birds, Bug Hunting, and playing in a mud kitchen. In the mud kitchen, children used mud for painting, pretended to cook and simply enjoyed the sensory experience. These activities allowed the children to explore natural resources using their senses, fostering improved focus, creativity, confidence, and the development of fine and gross motor skills.



# Long Day Care (3+ years)

Room Leader: Sr Heena Pathan

## Road Safety Week

National Road Safety Week gave us an opportunity to focus on teaching road safety awareness to our young learners. The week-long initiative, held from 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024 focused on educating young minds about the importance of road safety and the potential dangers they may encounter. By incorporating age-appropriate activities and discussions, we engaged the children in learning essential road safety skills, such as crossing the road safely, recognising traffic signs and understanding the role of the Lollipop lady at the school crossing. The children involved in the group conversation expressed their understanding about the road safety and traffic rules. This early exposure to road safety concepts aimed to instill good habits and awareness that will help keep our children safe as they grow and become more independent road users.



## Baking Cookies

Children showed a growing interest in pretend play and cooking with things like play dough and mud. Using their likings and interests we were able to organise an engaging baking activity in which we baked cookies with them. Through this learning experience, the children were able to develop fine motor skills by measuring, mixing, and decorating, which enhances their hand eye coordination and developed confidence. They also engage in early math and science concepts by counting ingredients, measuring quantities, and observing the changes that occur during baking. Through this engaging activity children learnt to work collaboratively with their peers, and shared ideas while making their cookies. This hands-on activity also helped children build confidence and independence, as they see the tangible results of their efforts and learn to follow instructions.





## Teaching Tradition: Exploring Hajj and Eid Ul-Adha Through Art and Stories

As we approached the blessed month of Dhul Hjjah, we introduced the children to the significance of Hajj and Eid Ul-Adha. Through interactive art and craft activities, we explored the rituals of pilgrimage and the concept of sacrifice, engaging the children while simultaneously enhancing their fine motor skill. It is important that we teach our young ones the Islamic history, so we shared the inspiring story of Prophets Ibrahim and Ismail (peace be upon them), explaining the origins of the sacrifice that is central to Eid Ul-Adha. This approach allowed us to impart important Islamic history and traditions to our young learners in an accessible and enjoyable manner.

The activities included creating models of the Kaaba, crafting paper sheep to represent the sacrifice, and making Eid greeting cards. These hands-on experiences not only reinforced the children's understanding of Hajj and Eid Ul-Adha but also fostered creativity and cultural appreciation.





## Cooking with children



Cooking with children is beneficial in many ways. It teaches them about math, science, and culture while developing important skills like following instructions and solving problems. This activity promotes healthy eating, builds confidence, and strengthens family relationships. By giving children age-appropriate tasks, they learn responsibility and independence. Cooking together also encourages creativity, improves communication, and helps children appreciate different cultures. It prepares them for adulthood by teaching useful cooking skills. Overall, it's a fun activity that enhances both cooking and family time.

### Strawberry hotcakes with Three Fruit Salad (Makes 12)

- 1 cup self-raising flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup Reduced-fat milk
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla essence
- 1 cup Reduced-fat strawberry yogurt
- 1 teaspoon Reduced-fat dairy blend
- 2 cups finely chopped fresh seasonal fruit, for serving (eg kiwifruit, strawberries, mango)

### What to do

1. Place flour in a bowl and make a well in the centre. Combine milk, egg, vanilla and half the yogurt together then whisk into the flour to make a smooth batter. Rest for 5 minutes.
2. Melt dairy blend in a non-stick frypan. Pour one third of the batter into the frypan and cook for 2 minutes until bubbles appear on the surface. Turn and cook until golden, then repeat with remaining mixture. Use a star shaped biscuit cutter to cut star shapes out of the hotcakes.
3. To serve, top each hotcake with a dollop of remaining strawberry yogurt and sprinkle with fruit salad of your choice.



## Keeping your Child Hydrated

Our bodies are about 70% water, which is important for regulating temperature, digesting food, and removing waste. We lose water by sweating, breathing, and urinating, so it's essential to drink enough to stay hydrated.

**WHY should kids #ChooseWater?**

**Water is a great drink choice for kids!**

- ZERO**  
It's super healthy:  
0 calories & no added sugar
- It's good for the body:**  
helps keep joints healthy, good for teeth, helps blood circulate
- It's good for the mind:**  
Staying hydrated helps concentration and focus

### Why Children Need More Water

Children are more at risk of dehydration than adults. They have more skin surface area and may not always recognise when they are thirsty. Look for these signs of dehydration:

- Headaches
- Thirst
- Dry lips and mouth
- Constipation
- Low energy
- Dark coloured urine

### How Much Water is Enough?

- Children under 8 years: At least 4-6 glasses per day
- Children over 8 years: At least 6-8 glasses per day
- More water is needed on hot days or during physical activity

### Tips to Keep Children Hydrated

- Pack a water bottle for kindergarten, school and outings.
- Encourage drinking water before, during, and after physical activities.
- Serve water with meals and snacks.
- Add fruit slices to water for flavour.
- Let children choose their own fun water bottles.
- Be a role model by drinking water yourself.

## Explore Your Child's Portfolio: Gain Insight into Their Learning Journey



Dear Families,

We invite you to explore your child's portfolio any time at the AIC ELC. These portfolios offer a glimpse into your child's unique learning journey, showcasing their growth, achievements, and special moments at the AIC ELC.

Additionally, we welcome your suggestions and feedback as we strive to create the best possible learning environment for our children. Your insights are invaluable in helping us tailor our programs and activities to better meet each child's needs.

## Lost and Found Box at the AIC ELC

Dear Families,



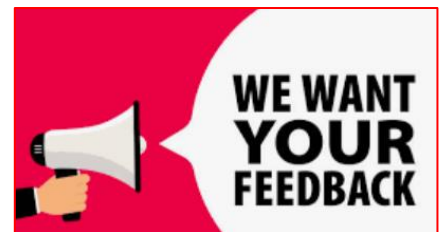
We kindly remind you to check the Lost and Found box at the AIC Early Learning Centre. There are several items that have been left behind and might belong to your child. Please take a moment to see if any of the missing items are yours.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

## We Value Your Feedback: Share Your Thoughts About Our ELC

We are committed to providing the best possible experience for our children and families. Your feedback plays a crucial role in helping us continually improve and enhance our operations to better meet the needs of our community.

We invite you to take a few moments to share your thoughts, suggestions, and experiences with us. Whether it's about our programs, facilities, communication, or any other aspect of our AIC ELC, your input is invaluable in shaping the future of our Centre.



**Please use the link below or scan the barcode to access our feedback form. Your responses will be anonymous, and all feedback will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and respect.**

<https://forms.gle/fZ7Yj2GC5Xz5M4b69>



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