



A journey of learning in the light of God's love

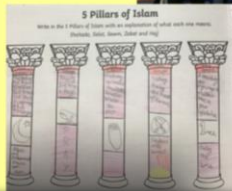
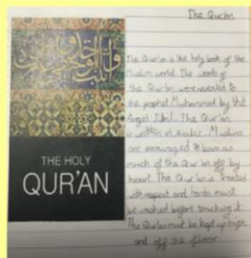
"What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade."

The parable of the Mustard seed - Mark 4:30-32

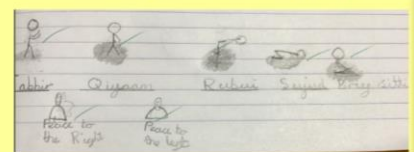
How do festivals and worship show what matters to a Muslim?

We began our learning journey by considering the Five Pillars of Islam and the importance of the Qur'an. We looked at English translations of prayers from the Qur'an and discussed how to treat it with respect. We enjoyed discussing prayers and the ritual or prayer and we discussed the features of a mosque. Finally, we interviewed a Muslim about Ramadan and Eid al-Fitr along with their faith and how they celebrate important Islamic festivals.

We began our learning journey by discussing and understanding the Five Pillars of Islam. We talked about what these are and how Muslims may choose to follow them. We also discussed the Qur'an and how this is a sacred and important text. Finally, we worked together to guided each other blindfolded around the room. This gave us an understanding about how a Muslim finds peace believing in and being guided by God.



We discussed the ritual of Islamic prayer. We considered the English translation of these words and the importance of prayer. We also observed the different prayer actions and how Muslims feel when they pray.



In the name of God, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. Praise be to God, the Creator and Sustainer of the World: Most Gracious, Most Merciful, Master of the Day of Judgment. It is You that we worship and to You alone do we turn for help. Show us the straight way, the way of the people to whom You have shown Your Grace. These are Your ones and made You happy and do not go astray.

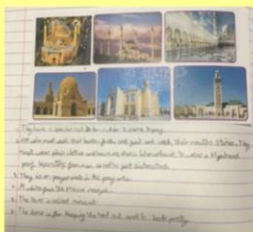
Why is this the opening?
Because it is the first thing that Muslims say when they pray.

What does it tell Muslims about God?
He is gracious and merciful.

Why do people need to be always the 'straight path'?



Next, we took a virtual tour of a mosque and considered the different features. We listened to the call to prayer and discussed the words used. Finally, we considered the importance of visiting a mosque for Muslims.



Finally, we interviewed Mr Admani and asked him questions about his faith. We asked questions about Ramadan, Eid al-Fitr and what prayer means to him. We were interested to hear about the different celebrations.



What is Eid and how did you celebrate this year?

Eid is a time of celebration after the month of fasting. We would pray and have a large breakfast with family. We would spend time with our family and have a big meal. We would have morning prayers at the mosque. We then continued to have more large family celebrations. We enjoyed having together and eating lots of delicious food. We finished the day with evening prayers. It is very much about family and family.

What does Ramadan and Eid mean to you?

They are very special to me. They are similar to Lent where we have to give up something (sweets, games and so on). It was about controlling our desires and feeling the pain that poor people might feel when we had food. It is about having empathy. It is a time to reflect and concentrate and think about how to make myself a better person.



How do you feel when you pray?

I feel at peace because I concentrate and think about god. I focus when I pray and don't think about what is around me.