

THE MARK

01

The Benchmark Newsletter



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INTRODUCTION

Assalam-O-Alaikum

We are immensely joyful to welcome you all to the first issue of the quarterly newsletter. This newsletter is intended to keep parents in touch with the activities at school, parents shouldn't miss out on! We would like to have something from our director's or principal's desk too, to check out what they have for us and to make communication even better. It includes description of short surahs, Series of biography of Holy Prophet (S.A.W) and much knowledgeable stuff to munch on as well, that would not only elevate the degree of our knowledge but lead our lives to somewhere In Sha Allah! Moreover, we would like to include some articles on some helpful and amazing topics that would help brightening up the concept of THE BENCHMARK.

Now we hope you have a good time with it and hopefully it serves its purpose in the best way.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

سُورَةُ الْفَاتِحَةِ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿١﴾ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ﴿٢﴾
مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ ﴿٣﴾ إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ ﴿٤﴾
اهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ ﴿٥﴾ صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ ﴿٦﴾
غَيْرِ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ ﴿٧﴾

1. In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful.
2. All thanks are Allah's the Lord of Aalamin (mankind, jinn and all that exists)
3. The Most Gracious, the Most Merciful
4. The Only Owner (and the Only Ruling Judge) of the Day of Recompense (i.e. the Day of Resurrection)
5. You (Alone) we worship, and You (Alone) we ask for help (for each and everything).
6. Guide us to the Straight Way.
7. The way of those on whom You have bestowed Your Grace, not (the way) of those who earned Your Anger, nor of those who went astray.

SURAH FATIHA

DESCRIPTION



The word **HAMD** means praise and thankfulness. **AL-HAMD** means pure praise of Allah. It also includes praise for the gifts and blessings He has given us and He is the one who deserves to be praised and to whom we should be grateful.

LORD: Though the actual word used in Quran is Rabb but as there is no proper equivalent for Rabb in English language, it is translated to Lord. It means the One and Only Lord for all the universe, its Creator, Owner, Organizer, Provider, Master, Planner, Sustainer, Cherisher, and Giver of security. Rabb is also one of the names of Allah. However, the word "Lord" is used as the nearest to Rabb. All occurrences of "Lord" in the interpretation of the meaning of the Noble Quran actually mean Rabb and should be understood as such.

The 'MOST GRACIOUS, THE MOST MERCIFUL.

His Mercy, knowledge and forgiveness encompass everything in existence!

MASTER OF THE DAY OF JUDGEMENT.

Allah is the master of both, this life and the day of judgement. On that day, He alone will be the Master, and no one will be allowed to speak without His permission. People may escape from justice in this world, but they will not be escaped from the punishment they deserve on that day.

YOU ALONE WE WORSHIP, AND TO YOU ALONE WE TURN FOR HELP.

As everything else is in need of Allah. Therefore, Allah alone is worthy of worship and we should only ask Him for help. This is the claim and as well as the promise to Allah.

GUIDE US TO THE STRAIGHT PATH.

Guidance is of two kinds:

- a.** Guidance of Taufiq and it is totally from Allah, i.e. Allah opens ones heart to receive the truth (from disbelief to belief in Islamic Monotheism)
- b.** Guidance of Irshad through preaching by Allah's messengers and pious preachers who preach the truth i.e. Islamic Monotheism.

To the STRAIGHT PATH: The way of prophets, the siddiqun (i.e. those followers of the prophet, who were first and foremost to believe in him, like Abu bakr As siddiq), the martyrs and the righteous, [as Allah said: "And whose obey Allah and the Messenger (Muhammad ﷺ), then they will be in the company of those on whom Allah has bestowed His Grace, of the prophets, the siddiqun, the martyrs and the righteous. And how excellent these companions are!" (4:69)].

Narrated Adi bin Hatim (R.A): I asked Allah's Messenger ﷺ about the statement of Allah: "Ghairil-maghdubi alaihim [not the way of those who earned Your anger]", he replied: "they are jews". And 2. Walad-dallin (nor of those who went astray)," he replied: "The Christians, and they are the ones who went astray". [tirmidhi and Abu Dawood]



Definition of Qur'an

The Quran is the Arabic speech of Allah which was revealed to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ (47:2) in its precise meaning and exact wording. It is the literal, uncreated Word of Allah. The word 'Quran' is frequently mentioned in the Quran itself.

(see for instances 2:185, 10:37, 10:61 and 17:106).

The Quran clearly states to whom, when, in what language, how and why it was revealed: it was revealed in the month of Ramadaan (2:185) on the Night of Power or Decree 'Laylat -ul-qadr' (97:1)

"We revealed it on a blessed night." (44:3)

It was revealed in Arabic language.

"We verily, have made it a Quran in Arabic, that you may be able to understand (its meaning and admonition)." (43:3)

It was revealed in portions, each of which was written and committed to memory as soon as it was revealed, and its revelation was spread over twenty-three years of Prophet's life, during that time he was occupied solely with the spread of message.

"And it is the Quran which We have divided (into parts), in order that you might recite it to men at intervals; and We have revealed it by stages in 23 years." (17:106)

(Taken from the book of Molvi Abdul Aziz)





MOHAMMAD

The Prophet's Birth

The master of prophets, Muhammad ﷺ was born in Makkah on Monday morning in the month of Rabee' al awwal. It was the year of elephant, 571 CE, few days after the unsuccessful expedition of Abraha against Makkah.

Yemen at that time was under the rule of Ethiopia, and Abraha was its governor. He built a huge church in Sanaa hoping that Arabs would perform pilgrimage to it. A man from Banukinanaah, knowing his motive, entered the church at night with the intention of defiling it. As soon as Abraha came to know about it he swore to destroy the kaaba. He waged a large army including elephants and marched on towards Makkah. However, the lead elephant is said to have stopped at the boundary around Makkah and refused to enter. He stubbornly continued, which made the army encounter a great disaster as a punishment. The air above them was full of birds with pebbles in their beaks. They swooped to and fro over the army, pelting them as they did so. This disaster killed many men and the rest returned unsuccessful. Arabs attached a great importance to this incident and named this year 'the year of elephant'.

As this new born baby was predestined to destroy peoples old superstitious beliefs and to lay new foundation for human progress, Allah has saved Kaaba by sending birds. Furthermore, He showed different signs at his birth; some churches sank down and collapsed, the magian's fire went out and fourteen balconies of kisra's palace caved in.

Ibn saad reported that Muhammad's ﷺ mother said: 'when he was born there was a light that issued out of my pudendum and it lit the palaces of Syria.'

His mother, Aminah, then soon sent a word to Abdul-muttalib of the happy event. Happily, he came to see his grandson, carried the infant in his arms to the kaaba. There he prayed and thanked Allah Almighty for such a blessing. Abdul-muttalib named his grandson Muhammad, a name quite uncommon among the Arabs. Abdul - muttalib said, 'Today I have named him "Muhammad" so that his name may be praised on the earth and in the heavens.'



First day at School



Yeah finally,

the day dawned when all the teachers were waiting to receive their new kids and were busy performing their duties. While the students fell in a whirlpool of emotions, stomachs growling, a thrill, a roller coaster ride, nostalgia and of course how they could not miss their cosy beds! Some kids entered the threshold with a heavy heart and just could not help crying bitterly. Anyways teachers felt pity for them as it reminded them of their time and tried to handle them in the best possible way.

However, some entered smiling and their face beamed with happiness when they saw their peers awaiting them. Though an amazing contrast was to be seen or at least it did not make the scene monotonous for us.

Later on, they were welcomed warmly by their new class teachers in their new classes. They were given welcome props also which really delighted them. Teachers made them involve in some fun filled activities and by the passage of time children got cheered up.

Alhamdulillah! As the home time was nearing some of them were seen yawning and putting their heads down on the desks. Seemed they had a tiring day well that is probably because they were not used to it.

Then came the time everyone was waiting for, 'home time'. Some were quite gleeful to get back to their homes and some were enthusiastic of how wonderful day they had at school. While others felt weary because of the tiring day.



EID DAY

EID MILAN AT THE BENCHMARK

On the 16th morning of August the school was filled with beautiful hues of colours. An amazing scene was to be seen when children poured into the ground. All of them were dressed up in their fancy Eid dresses. Children were thrilled to celebrate Eid with their peers and teachers and enjoyed playing games and lunching together Alhamdulillah!

