Welcome, value and respect everyone, be kind, show empathy and act with integrity.

Ramadan Assembly 2020

Reminding ourselves of the importance to help one another in these uncertain times, whatever our faith.
Ramadan 2020

• In the next few weeks, Muslims will begin to observe Ramadan. Like every year, we at Stockland Green School support our Muslim students during this time learning from the discipline they demonstrate.

• Muslims refer to themselves as one ummah – a community – and Ramadan is usually the ultimate communal fest. Muslims break fast together, pray together, empathise with one another. They do it all, side by side. But the global coronavirus pandemic means many traditions will be done differently. Worship will become a private affair, without the large congregations Muslims are used to.
Since March 2020, all places of worship are also closed as per government guidelines. Muslims therefore will be praying remotely and privately during Ramadan as they have done during Friday Jummah (congregational) prayers which have been followed at home via online sermons.

Around the world, Ramadan is set to look very different this year
Ramadan... What is it?

- Muslims have five special duties to perform in their lives known as **The Five Pillars of Islam**. One of these is **Sawm** – the duty to fast during the month of Ramadan. **Ramadan** is the ninth month of the Muslim Year. Ramadan begins when the new moon is sighted in the night sky. This will be a thin crescent moon and it means that the fast will begin the following morning. Fasting is compulsory during daylight hours and so Muslims will get up while it is still dark so they can eat. This first meal of the day is known as **sehri** and must be finished before the first prayer, which is called **Fajr** and it is said just before the sun comes up. **It is a month when they try to live especially good lives, so they will often try to give up any bad habits and stop doing things they know are wrong. Ramadan is believed to be a holy month when Shaytaan (the Devil) is not allowed to tempt human beings.**
Ramadan 2020

“This Ramadan will be at a slower pace. It will give us more time for reflection and the opportunity to be closer to God,”

Many Mosques, including those in Birmingham are making plans to distribute iftar meals to people in need or alone who would normally come in person to the Mosque.

Mosques will be streaming lectures and prayers, offering online counselling and organising members to take food to staff at nearby hospitals.
As you know, a new type of Coronavirus was discovered in November, called COVID-19. Since November, it has spread to many different countries, including here in the UK!

During these strange and uncertain times... how can we all take the time to reflect and help others just as Muslims will be doing during Ramadan?
Italy has the largest number of Coronavirus cases in Europe and was placed into quarantine on 8th March. This means that people who live there are not allowed to leave their houses unless they need to buy food or medication.

People around the country have stood on their balconies singing songs and playing instruments to cheer each other up during quarantine.

Click the image to watch a video of the celebration!

https://safeshare.tv/s/DDRiINX6pQ

How can we help others?

Article 14 (freedom of thought, belief and religion)
How can we help others?

Greece began to closed schools, businesses and many shops as more people there were infected with the virus.

On 15th March, people all over Greece stood on their balconies or in their gardens and clapped to show their appreciation for their medical staff in the country.

Click the image to watch a video of the celebration!

https://safeshare.tv/s/48Lm0juAbyM

What impact do you think their gesture might be having on their community? Have you clapped for our British Keyworkers on a Thursday? How does it make you feel?

Article 14 (freedom of thought, belief and religion)
How can we help others?

Also in the UK, lots of people have been offering to help vulnerable people in their communities.

Many people have printed these cards and posted them to neighbours, offering to buy their shopping or phone them if they are feeling lonely.

Other people have also given away things for free (such as spare nappies or soap), offered to walk each others’ dogs or have just been kind to each other!
What are our local business doing?

It’s not just individuals helping each other. Have a look at some of things different business are doing to help support people during this crisis.

**Pret Au Manger** are offering **free hot drinks to NHS workers**.

**Supermarkets** are **opening early for elderly and vulnerable people**.

Companies such as Disney have promised to **pay staff**, even during closures.

**Aston Villa** is just one of the **UK football teams** who have **donated spare meals to charity**.

**World Book Online** have just made their **eBooks and audiobooks** available for **free for children to access at home**.

The government have offered money to help **businesses who are losing money** due to isolation.
So SGS... share your good deeds. Let us know how you are helping those around you in these difficult times through your conversations with your teachers, Pastoral Staff and use our social media pages!

Keep in touch!
Arrange a way to keep up to date with your friends and family through technology. You could text, call, Skype or even challenge each other on a virtual game!

Get to know your neighbours
Is there anyone living near you who could be in need of some extra help? Why not pop a note through their door to see if they would like some assistance with shopping, gardening or delivering post?
If you’re observing Ramadan, my best wishes to you during this time. Even if you are not then please take the time to consider the needs of others. Stay safe, stay healthy and look after one another