

Tuesday 19th April 2022

Dear Families,

I hope you've had a lovely break, and Ramadan Mubarak to all of our families observing Ramadan.

We are writing to you today to clarify the Academy's approach to children fasting during Ramadan. We are aware that a number of children in UKS2 were fasting in school today and as an Academy we would like to support our children fasting during Ramadan.

From an educational point of view, Oasis Academy Temple would prefer it if children whose families wish them to fast, did so on a "partial" basis, preferably on a Friday, to introduce them to fasting as per family belief, rather than have them fully participate as they may go on to do when they are older. Certainly, school would not support any child under the age of Year 5 to fast. The reasons for this position are outlined below:

*Local information suggests that many Secondary Schools discourage fasting for children below the age of 12;

*Hunger and thirst provides a barrier to concentration, which can already be hard for the children in this particular half term with the weather being warmer and classrooms hotter;

*There are many "lively" outdoor activities taking place this half term and school would not feel confident in allowing children who are unable to eat or drink to take part in swimming, PE, sports day and the trips and other things involving quite intense physical activity, for health and safety reasons.

So, balancing educational participation at its fullest, with due consideration and sensitivity to religious and cultural choices of families, it would be the Academy's suggestion that perhaps fasting can take place partially, over the weekend, for children, in order that they experience this but in a way that does not restrict the opportunities provided at Oasis Academy Temple during the summer term.

If you still wish for your child to fast in school during Ramadan, please click on the link below and complete the short questionnaire.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=zz3XjXy17EC3-HVbUS2fe3nxmlG9ZJ5JgNLkj7w8ly9UNEpUV0xVNDRaT1pPNzQxNk8zQVRTNzVXTy4u>

Thank you, as always, for your continued support,

Mr Khan

Deputy Principal

Oasis Academy Temple

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