

Class 4 were given the challenge to write a report about Imam Ikram's visit for the St. Lucia's Star. It was very difficult to choose which one to publish, but Isabella's included some great information which was clearly presented.

Staff and children in Key Stage 2 had the opportunity to ask questions and we would all like to thank Imam Ikram for giving up his time to speak to us.

On Monday 19th September 2016, St. Lucia's Primary School had a visitor. It was Imam Ikram; he came to teach KS1 and KS2 about his religion, Islam. He is a Muslim.

Like Christians have churches, Muslims have a mosque. Mosques are very different from churches, apart from they are both places of worship. First of all, mosques do not have any pews, but churches do. Mosques hardly have any furniture at all; in fact, usually the only furniture in the room is a qibla or mihrab. A mihrab is a wooden piece of furniture that shows which way Mecca is. Mecca has the most important mosque in the world and it is said the prophet Mohammed was born there.

Muslims pray five times a day, one before sunrise, one at midday, one at about 3 o'clock, one just before sunset and one just after sunset. Before they pray, they wash; they wash: hands, nose, face, arms, hair and feet. Muslims have to face Mecca when they pray. Their God is Allah, but they will call him God as well.

Every year, if Muslims can afford it, they will give 2.5% of their earnings to a charity of their choice, as long as it helps poor people. Also, Muslims fast. Fasting is where you don't eat between sunrise and sunset. They do this for a month and call this month 'Ramadan'. Everybody can do this apart from children up to 13 or 14, pregnant women or aged people. There isn't an exact age for this because if you have an illness like diabetes and you are 50, then it is not safe, but if you're 70 and 'still going strong', then you can do it!

Every Muslim is meant to try to follow the five pillars in their lives. They are: fasting, faith, prayer, giving money to charity and pilgrimage. A pilgrimage is a special journey to the most important mosque in the world, at Mecca. The journey can cost about £5000, so you can only travel if you can leave £5000 for your family to live on as well.

Most people think that Muslims have to wear a certain thing, but 'no'. They are free to wear whatever they want. Women might choose to wear veils or hijab and men might choose a long tunic and small cloth hat. They choose to wear these because they think they will get more reward for their prayer.

So, to conclude, I think everybody enjoyed this talk and would love to learn more. Isabella Healey said, "I think was an educational talk and everybody learnt something."