



Fusion Fostering

Caring for your future

Welcome to Our spring Newsletter 2022

Dear All,

Welcome to the April edition of our newsletter.

The team and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your dedication and determination in providing a safe and loving home for our children. We would also like to congratulate you all for coming together and supporting us as an agency through our Ofsted inspection. As you can imagine this was a very hectic time for us all but with the continued support, teamwork, and strength we were proud to have achieved an overall rating of Good and for leadership outstanding.

The Northwest team has continued to show commitment and dedication to one and other and as we see our future progression, we also see a continued drive to introduce more carers to our team. We have recently been working close with a new carer who plans to offer respite support. As we continue to grow, we aim to create a new focus to ensure we are offering the best support to all. We have a busy time ahead with preparations for our Group Networking events that are in the process of being put together in your local area that will provide you all with additional support whilst give you all a chance to share experience and offer support to others. These groups provide carers valuable times to share experience and reflect on the practice and family life of others.

As we look forward to Spring and Summer and getting Away, please remember to inform your SSW of any proposed plans for Holiday or Breaks be it 1 night or more. As an Agency we have a responsibility to know where all LAC in your care are staying as we have a duty to inform the LA of any changes in the young person's day to day arrangements and this includes if young people are being cared for by Nominated Support. The above is to ensure that all the necessary permissions are gained and in case of an emergency whereabouts and who has responsibility for the children is known.

Thankyou

Lorraine

Welcome to our new Foster Carers

Welcome Joanne & Paul Cassinelli

Joanne and Paul have been approved foster carers since 2017 and during this time they have cared for two young people one being a young teenage girl who had issues with her birth family and a young UASC who arrived in Manchester. Joanne and Paul are currently caring for S who has been placed in their care since 2018 and they have recently transferred to the agency having previously worked with Adam. Joanne and Paul felt as though their previous fostering agency were going through changes and they felt less supported. As a family, they enjoy spending their time together as well as promoting Shania and their granddaughter's favourite hobby dancing.



Welcome Julie Smethers

Julie is a new carer and has joined the team as part of our respite team. We would like to welcome Julie on boards and wish her all the best in her fostering career.



Easter Celebrations

We are looking forward to sharing a lovely event with you all at Heaton Park on April 9th to celebrate Easter. We have activities for all children to get involved in and look forward to seeing you all there on the day. As well as our Easter celebration we also celebrate Ramadan with a wide network of our carers and children.

Welcome Ramadan celebrations.

One of our carer's in the Northwest has provided us with a detailed account of the celebration and process of Ramadan celebrations.



Ramadan is the 9th month of the Islamic Calendar, which comprises of 12 months based on the Lunar cycles of the moon. Hence, depending on the sighting of the new moon, the actual first date of Ramadan can vary country to country. Most Muslims in the UK choose to follow Saudi Arabia or Morocco as their observatory guide as to when the new month begins.

This explains the discrepancies in why Muslims do not all start Ramadan, or indeed celebrate Eid on the same day. It is not a set date, like the Christian Easter celebration. Easter holiday is set to coincide with the first Sunday after the Paschal Full Moon, the first full moon after the vernal equinox.

This year, it is predicted that Ramadan will begin around Saturday 2nd April, and Eid will fall four weeks thereafter. Coincidentally, this year there will be an overlap of the holy months of Lent and Ramadan.

The preparations for Ramadan begin within practising Muslim households' weeks before Ramadan begins. Ramadan itself is a month of spiritual cleansing, repenting from sins, and fasting from just before dawn to just after sunset. Traditionally, South Asian Muslim families start making foods that can be frozen weeks in advance such as samosas, pastries, and kebabs, so that these can be prepared easily for the breaking of the fast meal during Ramadan which is named 'Iftaar.' The traditional food with which each fast is broken at iftaar is dates. Eating dates to break a fast stem from the traditions of Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him). Dates are full of nutrients, and when one breaks their fast with dates and water, this is an easily digestible source of quick energy and hydration after a long day of fasting.

Each family has their own way of celebrating Ramadan, depending on their ethnic origins, level of spiritual practise, geography, and modern-day commitments. However, the following are a few universal facts.

During the month of Ramadan, it is believed that the 'Devil' is chained up, and the world is a more peaceful place, whereby Muslims are encouraged to be better human beings, practising extra good deeds, random acts of kindness, giving in charitable causes, asking forgiveness /healing any family rifts, and exchanging specially prepared foods to be eaten at Iftaar. Indeed, some families enjoy hosting gatherings of family and friends to join in the breaking of the fast. Extra prayers are said, and the Quran that may sit on the shelf gathering dust through the year is dusted off and opened, and Muslims make an extra effort to recite the Quran.

Muslims wake before dawn to partake of an early breakfast type meal to set them up for the fasting day ahead. This meal in the early dark hours of the morning is called Suhoor. People are encouraged to eat nutritious foods such as oats, bananas, eggs, drink water and then make the intention of keeping the fast up until the Maghrib prayer, which is the time just after sunset when the time of Iftaar arrives. Fasting is only prescribed for healthy adults. People who are unwell, children, and the elderly who are frail are excused from fasting. Women are excused from fasting during their menstrual cycle, pregnancy and breastfeeding. People who miss fasts can make them up later, or give money in charity the amount that would be enough to feed a poor person for 30 days. Usually, monies are sent to a third world country where people struggle to feed themselves.

During the fast, Muslims are prohibited from eating, drinking, sexual relations & smoking. It is intended as a worship and a gift to Allah (God).

In my home, I have always liked to make Ramadan and Eid exciting for the children. Especially in England, there is so much excitement around Christmas time, and the 30 days of Advent, so I have found ways of creating similar excitement for the family around Ramadan. Although younger children do not fast, they can join in with other spiritual practises, and some children keep 'half a fast' from breakfast to lunch as a practise as they grow older. Last year my 4 year old daughter kept a few 'half fasts' as she calls them, which means she didn't eat her usual mid -morning snack!

Before Ramadan commences, we sit as a family and pray together, and discuss the merits of Ramadan, and I ask each of my children for a list of their favourite foods that they would like to see on the menu at Iftaar time. We plan shopping for Eid gifts. This year my daughter in law has come up with a novel suggestion; the children will get several gifts and new clothes, but the adults this year in my family are going to draw names out of a hat and just buy one secret gift each which we are naming as Mystery Molvi instead of a Secret Santa!

I have a box of decorations under my bed, which comprise of the crescent moon and star shaped hanging lights, Ramadan and Eid bunting, and these will be aired and dusted off the weekend before Ramadan.

Supermarkets have started selling Ramadan chocolate Advent Calendars that are designed for the 30 days of Ramadan, with an Islamic quiz type question under each chocolate. Family members have also made their own pocket wall hanging advent calendars where we have stuffed the pockets with little treats. I usually have a parcel for my little ones to open on the Night Of Eid, which comprises of new pjs, an Islamic story book or activity to complete on the night of Eid, which is considered very holy. I also wrote a story titled 'The Night Before Eid' and posted it off to all my relatives during The Eid of Lockdown 2020.

During the month of Ramadan, in my household we try to abstain from watching mindless TV or films – we only listen to Islamic themed 'nasheeds' (Hymn type poetry) and the children enjoy singing them to the rest of the family at gatherings. We say prayers together, and take turns in

reading out from Islamic scriptures, and sharing stories about our Prophet Mohammed (peace be upon him).

We bake goodies such as biscuits and the children decorate them with moon and star shapes, and we make Eid cards to send to family, and Eid decorations through Ramadan. We wrap gifts, and make up food hampers to give out to neighbours and friends.

Ramadan is very much a spiritual time of reflection, fasting, taking stock of life, thanking God for blessings, and celebrating at the end with feasting together with loved ones during the festival of Eid.

Shaheda Bera

Training.

Our training schedule for 2022 is regularly update and available for all to see and join. If you need any assistance on booking courses, please feel free to contact:

kpearce@fusionfostering.co.uk . We are also providing a hard copy of our schedule (subject to change) for your own information and for you to plan for throughout the year.

Up and coming courses for April.

11.4.2022- Sexuality (LGBT+) Development & Support Group 1pm-2pm (Virtual)

28.4.2022- Allegations Training (Virtual)

Spring Event Saturday 9th April Heaton Park

Preparing for Independence with Nick Barwick on the 17/05/22 7pm until 9pm

We are looking into starting group sessions to cover the Training and Development Standards (TDS). Dates and times to be confirmed.

Compliance Updates

A reminder that the new Health and Education Passports should be completed regularly by yourselves, and support is on hand from your SSW's who will also support you with along with any future changes.

Please ensure you are keeping up to date with your compliance.

Covid-19 Guidance

May we remind you that we are not fully rid of COVID and continue to support you all as best as possible to ensure that you are all up to date with COVID rules. Please ensure you are keeping your SSW up to date with COVID cases within your household and report this regularly.

If you are unsure, you can find more on the below link.

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Achievements

I would like to congratulate our children and young people for their ongoing dedication to their work within the family and in education, it is such a privilege to see the hard work, determination and support offered.

I see immense talent from our designers of the future.

MH- Eye catching table lamp.



TG: Our talented young superstar with his racing car made in school.



Our Good News Stories.

We love to show off your good news stories – if you have anything you wish to share for the next newsletter just let your SSW know.

- **RS-** recited part of the Quran in Arabic and then sat in the lounge with the family and chatted. Rebar looked at some alphabetic cards with the family and sounded out the sounds.
- **MH** - is proud of his lamp which he has painted in a teal colour and retro design.
- **SMc** - received the score of 0.97 seconds on her TT Rockstars and she achieved this by answering 60 questions in 97 seconds.
- **LB** -is really enjoying his time at Cadets.
- **TG-** has made fantastic effort in woodwork constructing a wooden car.
- **JK**-is focusing more on his revision at school for his GCSE's.
- **RS-** Has made a fabulous contribution to her education and demonstrates great enthusiasm when contributing to her school values. **Gold Award** from the teacher for all her work at school.
- **CC** - is doing well at school and making amazing progress.
- **KS:** Has made massive progress at school, and is having a lot of positive postcards being sent home
- **SNG:** Doing so well at school, and at home, and everyone has noticed how well he is looking and how much progress he has made.
- **LT:** has started to learn to drive, and is really enjoying his lessons, and is doing really well.
- **MG:** is doing well, and a new school has been chosen for him, and this will be so good for him.
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Keep up the good work

*Succession in the Northwest for one of our
SSW....Adam Perrin who completed 5k Park run.*

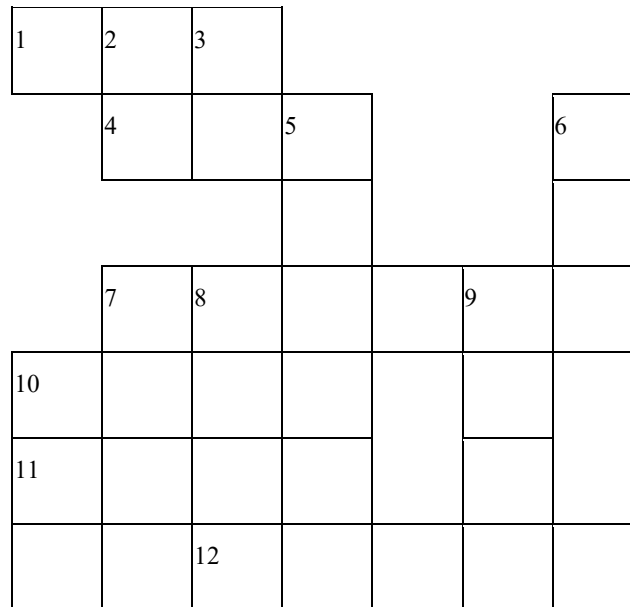
29.11 – First Park Run Graduation time

28.32 – Second Park Run Graduation time



Thanks again for all your continued support and dedication.

Easter Fun for the children



ACROSS CLUES

1. A big Easter dinner might have a honey-baked ___ as the main meat dish.
4. To color. We ___ eggs many different colors at Easter time.
7. The Easter _____ was filled with candy, colored eggs and a chocolate bunny.
10. Children try to find hidden Easter eggs during an Easter egg _____.
11. An Easter bonnet is a fancy hat that might have flowers and bows ___ it.
12. Many bakeries make hot _____ buns for Easter.

DOWN CLUES

2. Abbreviation for ADVERTISEMENT
3. It belongs to me - it's ___ Easter egg.
5. A spring holiday with egg hunts.
6. A favorite baked treat at Easter is a ___ cross bun.
7. A hot cross ___ is an Easter baked good, marked with a cross.
8. When a word begins with a vowel, use ___ instead of "a". For example, there was ___ egg in his Easter basket.
9. For Easter you might dye these.
10. What a bunny might do

