

My EU50 Years 'a Growing

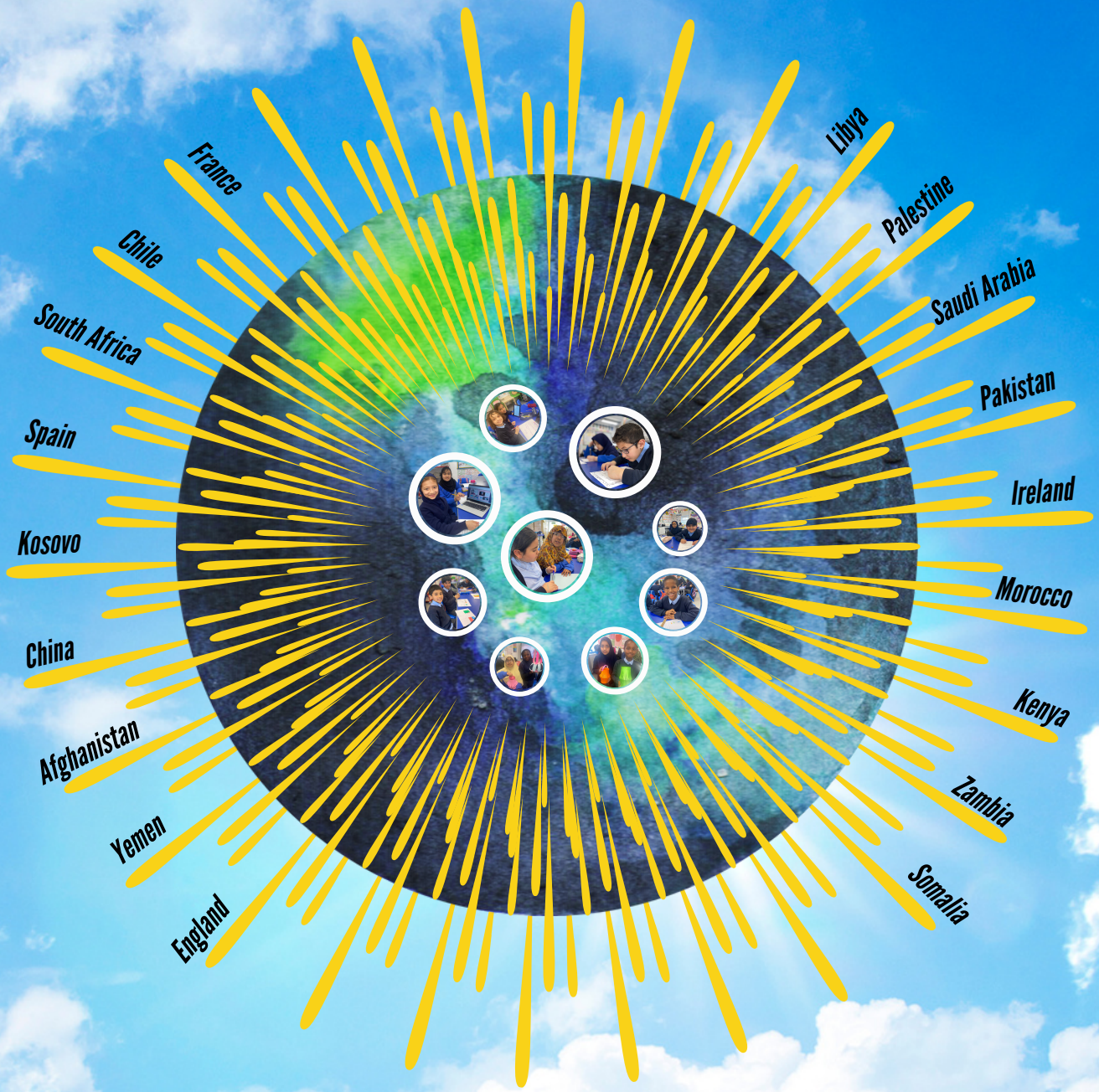
Caoga Bliain ag Fás

Communicating Europe Initiative 2023
Tionscnamh Cumarsáide na hEorpa



An Roinn Gnóthaí
Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade





United In Diversity - Aontaithe san Éagsúlacht

متحدون في التنوع



European Commission

Letter By HE. Dr. Daithí Ó Murchú. Honorary Consul for Côte d'Ivoire to Ireland,
International Consultant and Expert Advisor and mandate to HRH of
(.Āl Şubāh) the ruling family of Kuwait (الصباح) The House of Sabah
تحياتي لأصدقائي وعائلاتي الأعزاء من مدرسة شمال دبلن الإسلامية الوطنية ، أيرلندا.



Greetings to all readers of this most inspirational and insightful magazine created by the whole-school community of North Dublin Muslim National School, Ireland.

It has been a great privilege and pleasure for me not only as a former principal teacher in Dublin 15 but also as an Honorary Consul and Royal Family mandate, to be a part of this exciting project entitled: Caoga Bliain ag Fás – My EU50 Years 'a Growing.

This wonderful project focuses on Ireland's 50th anniversary of EU membership (EU50), and the North Dublin Muslim National School's community participation, through whole-school community participation to uncover the incredible journey of the Muslim communities in Ireland EU50, through the eyes of the students, their families, their associates and friends.

This magazine beautifully and poetically explores the perceptions, the realities of change and growth, the diversity, and inclusion of the Muslim community, and the school as Muslim, Irish and EU citizens over 50 years of My EU 50. In Irish, English and Arabic, we can read and enjoy the fruits of creativity of the EU50 project, which again brings a new and exciting, 'Caoga Bliain ag Fás - My EU50 Years 'a Growing!', website to the people of Ireland and to all Muslims and EU citizens.

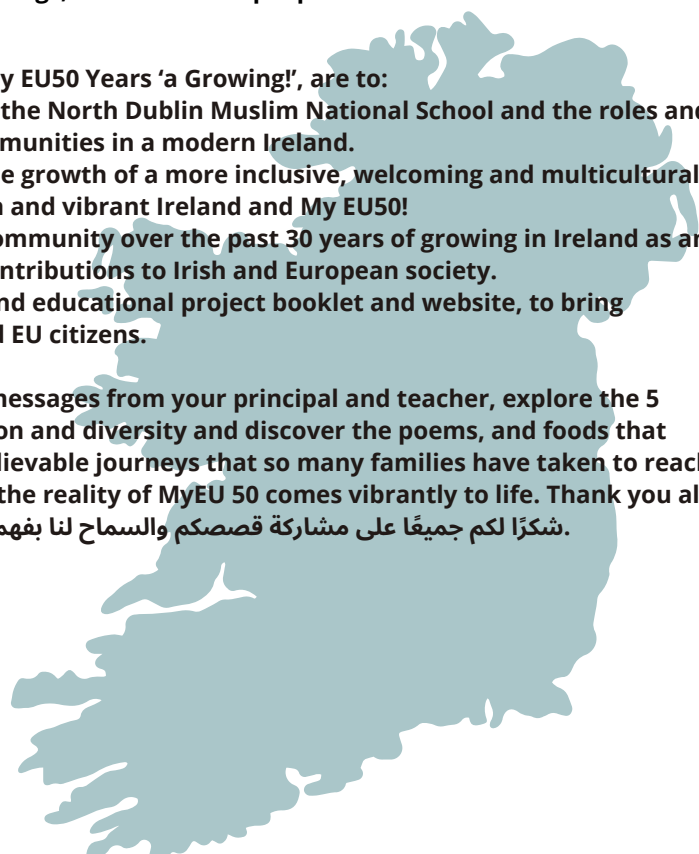


The project aims of 'Caoga Bliain ag Fás - My EU50 Years 'a Growing!', are to:

- Focus on the role of children attending the North Dublin Muslim National School and the roles and contributions of their families and communities in a modern Ireland.
- Focus on creating awareness around the growth of a more inclusive, welcoming and multicultural Muslim community as part of a modern and vibrant Ireland and My EU50!
- Documenting the lives of the Muslim community over the past 30 years of growing in Ireland as an EU State and presenting the positive contributions to Irish and European society.
- And finally, present an informational and educational project booklet and website, to bring positive awareness to Muslim, Irish and EU citizens.

I can unequivocally say that as I read the messages from your principal and teacher, explore the 5 pillars of Islam, feel the passion for inclusion and diversity and discover the poems, and foods that delight the students, and read of the unbelievable journeys that so many families have taken to reach the North Dublin Muslim National School, the reality of MyEU 50 comes vibrantly to life. Thank you all!
شكراً لكم جميعاً على مشاركة قصصكم والسماح لنا بفهم حياتكم كمسلمين في أيرلندا وأوروبا في عام 2023.

Dr. Daithí Ó Murchú HC



A letter from Eoin Walsh, our principal



A Chairde,

North Dublin Muslim National School was delighted to be selected by the Department of Foreign Affairs to participate in the Celebrating Europe Initiative, which closely shares the vision and values of our school community.

Participation in the initiative gave an opportunity for Third Class to explore Europe through the lens of our community. Our school's project sets out to not only explore and explain what it means to be a Muslim in Europe in 2023, but to learn what has changed for the community over the past fifty years and to share our hopes for the future.

The direction our research took and the fantastic work you will see in this magazine was pupil-led and came from our wonderful 3rd Class Buí, and I would like to congratulate them on behalf of the entire school community for this amazing feat. I would like to say a huge thank you to their teacher, Ms. Olivia Roe, for her enthusiasm in leading this project and her commitment to ensuring that it has been a successful journey for our pupils, the school and the wider community.

We are grateful to the pupils and parents of our school community, Imam Yahya Al-Hussein, the Islamic Foundation of Ireland, the Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland and Clonskeagh Muslim National School for the part they each played during this project in helping to create and share an authentic view of the past, present and future of our community. Thank you to Kajsa from Second You for sharing her expertise throughout the project, guiding us, and bringing the project to life in this magazine.

This magazine outlines much of the work that was carried out throughout this project, and we hope that it gives you a sense of what our pupils have discovered and experienced along the way.

Principal, Eoin Walsh



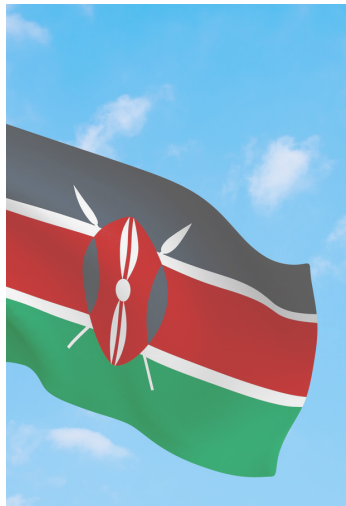


WE COME FROM

ALL OVER THE WORLD!



نأتي من جميع أنحاء العالم





It has been a privilege for our school to be chosen to take part in this project that celebrates Ireland's 50th year as a member of the EU. This project has given the pupils in Third Class the opportunity to research the history of the Muslim community in Ireland and across the EU. Along the way they have also celebrated their own identities as Muslims, as Irish and as European citizens.

The Third Class pupils took on a central role in driving this project from its initial stages. They came up with amazing ideas on how to research, present and share the role they have as Muslim children in Ireland and in Europe. We connected with the wider school community including parents, the Muslim National School and our patron, Imam Yahya.

These connections gave us time to listen to the experiences of others who have come to Ireland from the EU and further afield. Working with the pupils on this project has been an invaluable experience for me as a teacher. It has been an honour to celebrate the inclusivity of Ireland and of the EU with the pupils in NDMNS.

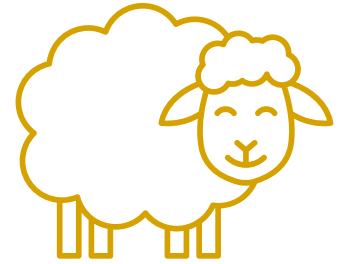
My hope is that this magazine gives readers an insight into the importance of our growing Muslim communities in Ireland and within the EU.

Le gach deá-ghuí,
Olivia Roe, Class Teacher



TRADITIONS AND
THINGS WE LIKE
TO DO IN OUR
RELIGION!

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Eid Al-Adha is our blessed festival which is celebrated on the 10th day of Dhul Hijjah, which is the 12th month of the Islamic calendar. When we celebrate Eid Al-Adha we can eat and drink as much as we like. Depending on where we come from, we celebrate for up to three days and especially love yummy lamb dishes!

Ramadan is a time when our parents go without food and water from dawn to sunset. At the call for Maghrib prayer, people are allowed to eat and drink. At the end of Ramadan comes our big celebration, Eid Al-Fitr. During this celebration we get new clothes, we get lots of goodies, have many parties and best of all we go for our Eid prayer at the Masjid. It is a lovely celebration that every Muslim looks forward to at the end of Ramadan.



Reading the Qur'an is a big part of our daily life, and we mostly do this with our parents, as the texts can be quite difficult to understand for children. It gives us the opportunity to spend some nice time together, reading and chatting.



Helping each other out is one of the most important pillars of our religion, and as much as we can, we spend time working with and for the community, to help make our lives as enjoyable as possible. It is fun to work together and you make many friends!

لِحَمَلَةِ اللَّهِ





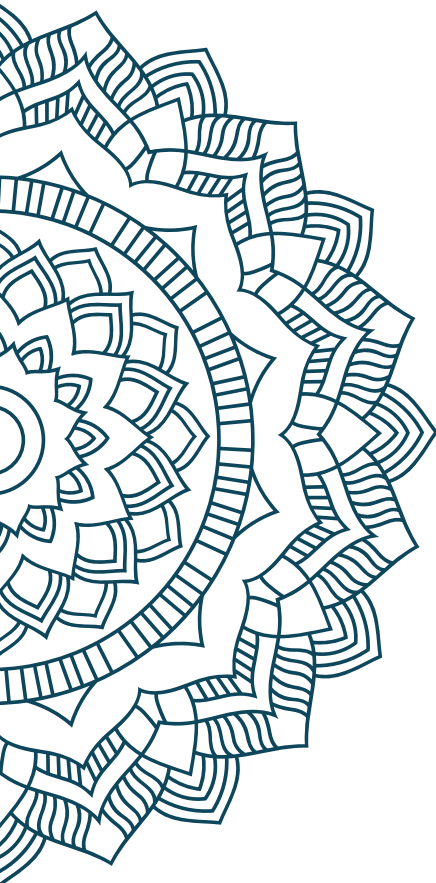
Many of us are lucky to have our grandparents living with us, and we love it when they teach us traditional songs and dances from our home countries.



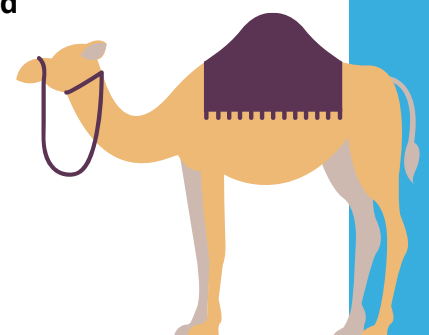
Our religion is very important to us and is a big part of who we are, so we take time out to pray five times per day which gives us the opportunity to focus on our inner selves.



Although we enjoy playing Play Station and playing with our friends, upholding and learning traditional handicrafts like weaving, sewing, art and music is very important to us and it is really nice to sit with an adult and learn something that you will have use for the rest of your life.



Mmmmmmm, who doesn't love cooking and baking? Much of our time together with family and friends is spent cooking delicious dishes from our countries, but, we are kids and we love pizza and nuggets too!





Caring for everyone and everything! The 17 SDGs.

NDMNS has an elected Student Council every year to represent all students in the school. This year the Student Council worked on identifying our rights as children in EU. We looked at the UN Convention on the rights of the child. Each class representative then taught their classes about these rights. We were happy to do our bit to ensure the pupils of NDMNS are aware of their rights.



If we all do a little bit, it becomes a lot!

The word “Sustainable” means that something can carry on forever. The SDGs are there to help create better ways of life without destroying the environment and resources that we, the animals and the plants need for the future.

Of course, it’s important that leaders of countries and companies across the world work together to achieve these goals.

But we too need to think and talk about the SDGs, and live in ways that help benefit other people and the Earth.

With the help and guidance from our teachers, families and friends, we can all learn to take better care of ourselves and our planet.

Many of the stresses and worries for humans are the lack of nutritious food and clean water. One goal is to end poverty in every shape and form, all over the world. Solving the type of poverty where people don’t have enough to eat in order to live is the first step. This goal goes beyond just food and water; it also includes making sure everyone has work and a place to live, access to hospitals, and the opportunity to say what they think or to use the skills they have.

This helps everyone to be more healthy, and to prevent diseases from spreading. Women should be able to have babies safely, and medicines or vaccines should be available to everyone as well as education and schooling. We should also do everything we can to be kind to nature and not pollute or destroy our environment.



“Sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Gro Harlem Brundtland



The 17 SGDs



1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health & Wellbeing
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water & Sanitation
7. Affordable & Clean Energy
8. Decent Work & Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities & Communities
12. Responsible Consumption & Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life On Land
16. Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

17. Partnerships For The Goals



The job of an Imam

An interview with Yahya Al-Hussein

1. How long have you been an Imam?

I have worked in this position for 40 years.

2. Which country are you from?

Sudan in north eastern Africa.

3. What do you like about living in Ireland?

Ireland is a peaceful country and everyone is friendly and welcoming. I feel part of the local community.

4. How old were you when you came to Ireland?

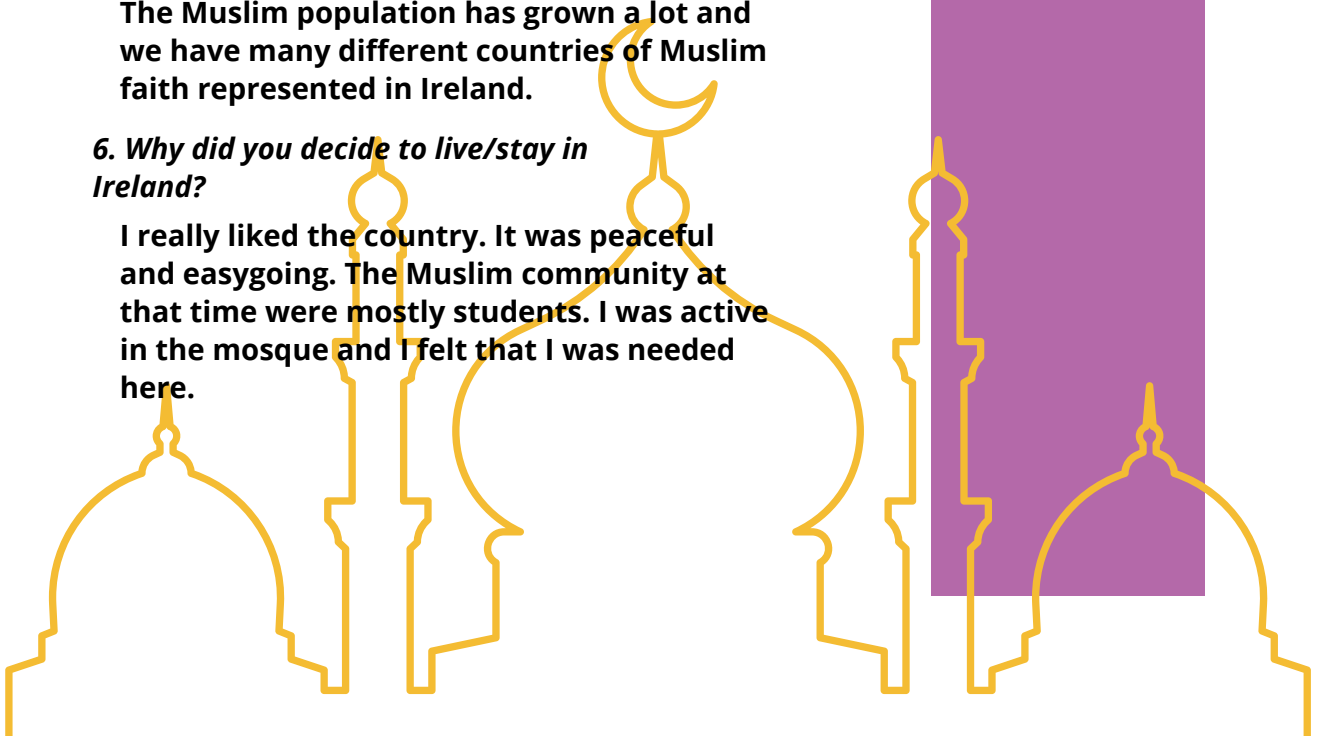
I was 33 years old, and I arrived in Ireland in 1983.

5. Have there been changes from when you first came?

The Muslim population has grown a lot and we have many different countries of Muslim faith represented in Ireland.

6. Why did you decide to live/stay in Ireland?

I really liked the country. It was peaceful and easygoing. The Muslim community at that time were mostly students. I was active in the mosque and I felt that I was needed here.





7. What languages do you speak and do you like living in Europe? Have you been to any other European country?

I speak Arabic and English and, yes, I have travelled around many European countries as well as Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore and noted that being able to travel freely anywhere you want to in the world was one of the great things about living in the EU. I do consider myself European and I am proud of that.



8. How many years has the Mosque been here in Dublin?

Since 1983 when the building was bought by fundraising of the Muslim community in Dublin.

9. Who helped you develop the Mosque? Was it easy/challenging?

It was very challenging as a lot of money, resources and people were needed to complete the project. The Muslim community held many fundraisers to help get the money together.

10. What was involved in developing the Mosque?

One of the challenges was to find the right people to work in the mosque itself, managing the offices, taking care of finances and fundraising as well as overseeing resources. Ireland has been very open and Muslims are integrated into Irish society and it's very easy for them to continue to develop their lives and practice their faith.

11. Why did you become an Imam?

Like any other church, every mosque needs an Imam, and to take up this position, you are chosen by the community. In Ireland, being an Imam is a full-time employment, as you are involved in the running of everything that involves the mosque, as well as teaching children and linking with the local Muslim schools.

12. What inspired you to start up the Dublin Mosque?

It is an important part of life for all Muslims and it was good for the Dublin Muslim community. It is very important to look after one another.

13. How do you contribute to Irish society?

We encourage our members to get involved in the local communities. Many Muslims are working in various professional sectors all over Ireland. We enjoy holding community events such as the 'open Mosque' where people are welcome to come and see how the Mosque operates and meet with people from our Muslim community.

14. What are your hopes for the future?

I would love to be able to continue to live in peace and to contribute to the Irish community, helping people of my faith to integrate even more into society. I hope that Muslim children will continue to grow as Irish and European citizens and perhaps even serve in the Dáil one day!



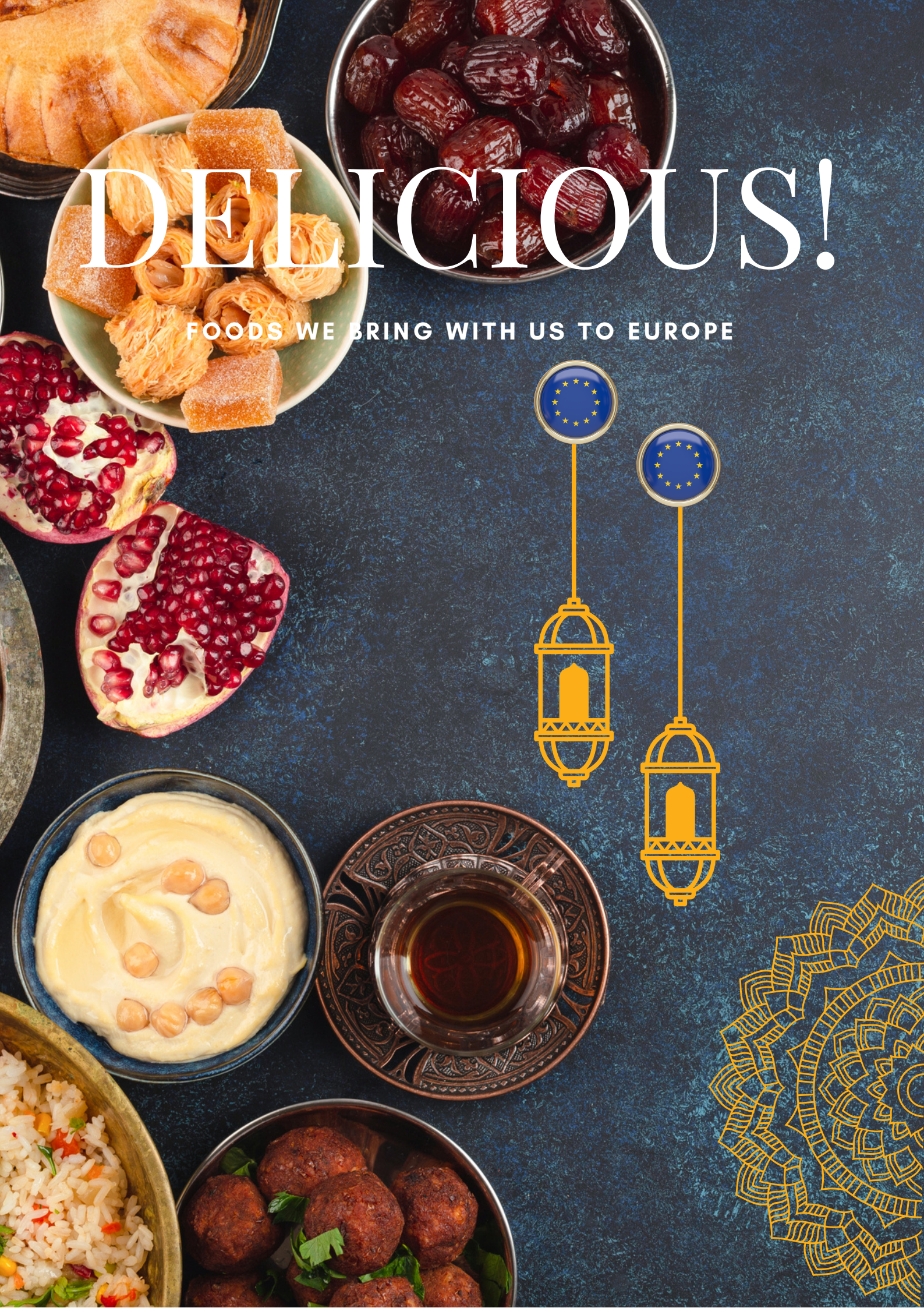
SHOWING OFF OUR COLOURS!



WE HAD SUCH FUN ON OUR RECENT
INTERCULTURAL DAY!

DELICIOUS!

FOODS WE BRING WITH US TO EUROPE



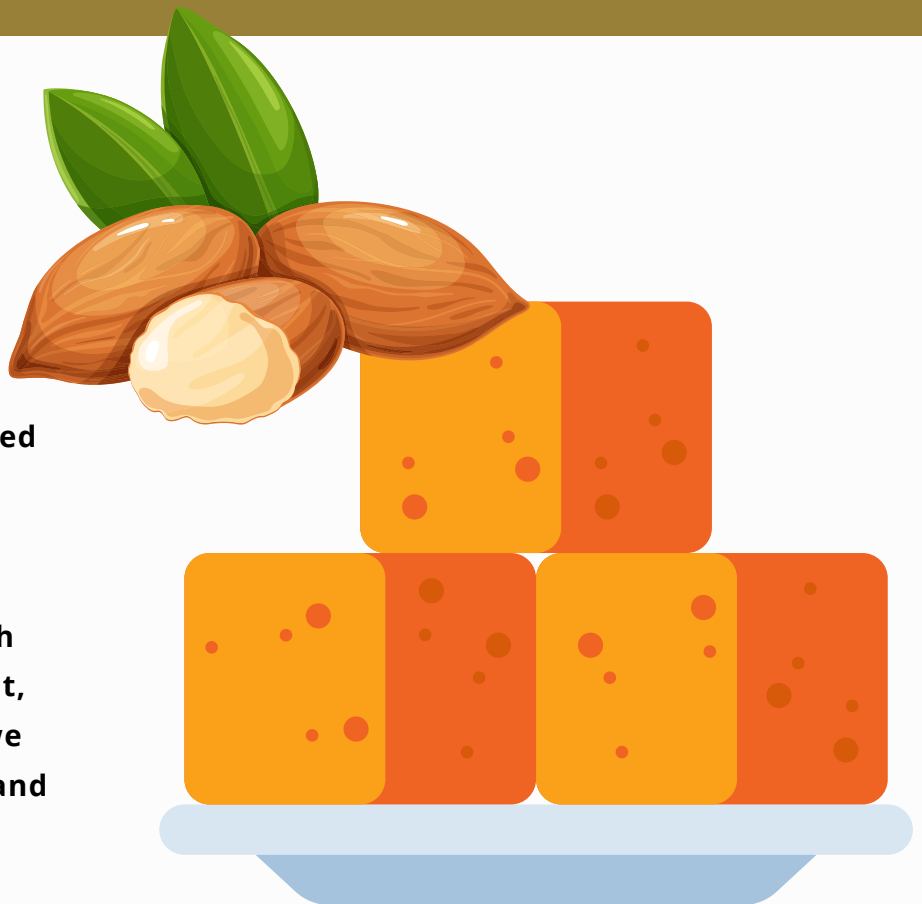


YUMMY

Food

Like any other kids, we absolutely love homecooked food, especially sweets things!

Our parents and grandparents love to teach us just about anything, but, it is especially fun when we get to roll up our sleeves and get mucky in the kitchen!





★ Baklava

Baklava is a layered pastry, which is flaky, and crispy, and has a rich and sweet taste with a nutty flavour from the ground nuts used in the filling. The flaky layers of buttery phyllo dough, which breaks when you eat it, make a mess, but it's worth it!



✿ Basbousa

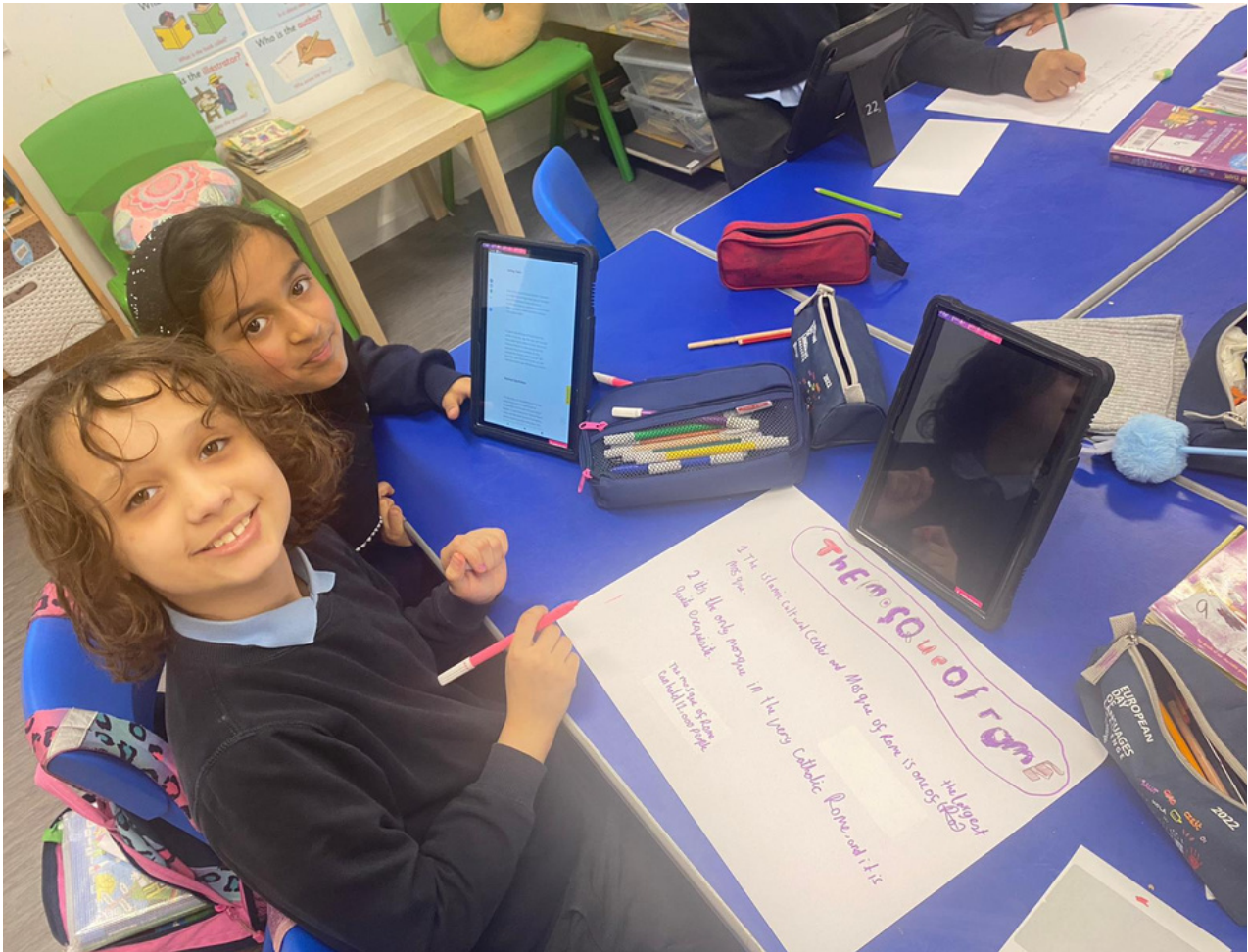
The name, Basbousa means "Just a Kiss" and the soft, buttery semolina cake, covered in syrup is one of the best things you can taste! It's very easy to make as well, so we get to help in the kitchen when this is on the menu.



☪ Kahk

Kahk is a sweet, which we eat during Ramadan, it is So delicious and tastes of ground mahlab, cardamom, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, and fennel. It also has sweet dates in it, perfect for when you're hungry after fasting the whole day.





The five pillars of Islam

What are the 5 pillars of Islam and what do they mean?

The five pillars - the declaration of faith (Shahada), prayer (Salah), alms-giving (Zakat), fasting (Sawm) and pilgrimage (Hajj) - constitute the basic norms of Islamic practice. They are accepted by Muslims globally irrespective of ethnic, regional or sectarian differences.

Why are there 5 pillars of Islam?

There are five key practices that all Muslims are obligated to fulfil throughout their lifetime. These practices are referred to as pillars because they form the foundation of Muslim life. The five pillars of Islam are Shahada, Salah, Zakat, Sawm, and Hajj.

Shahada

Declaration of Faith

The first pillar of Islam is the Shahada, the assertion of faith. There are two shahadas: "There is no god but God" and "Muhammad is the messenger of God". This set statement is normally recited in Arabic: *lā 'ilāhā 'illā-llāhu muḥammadun rasūlu-llāh* (لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ) "There is no god but God (and) Muhammad is the messenger of God." It is essential to utter it to become a Muslim and to convert to Islam.

Salah

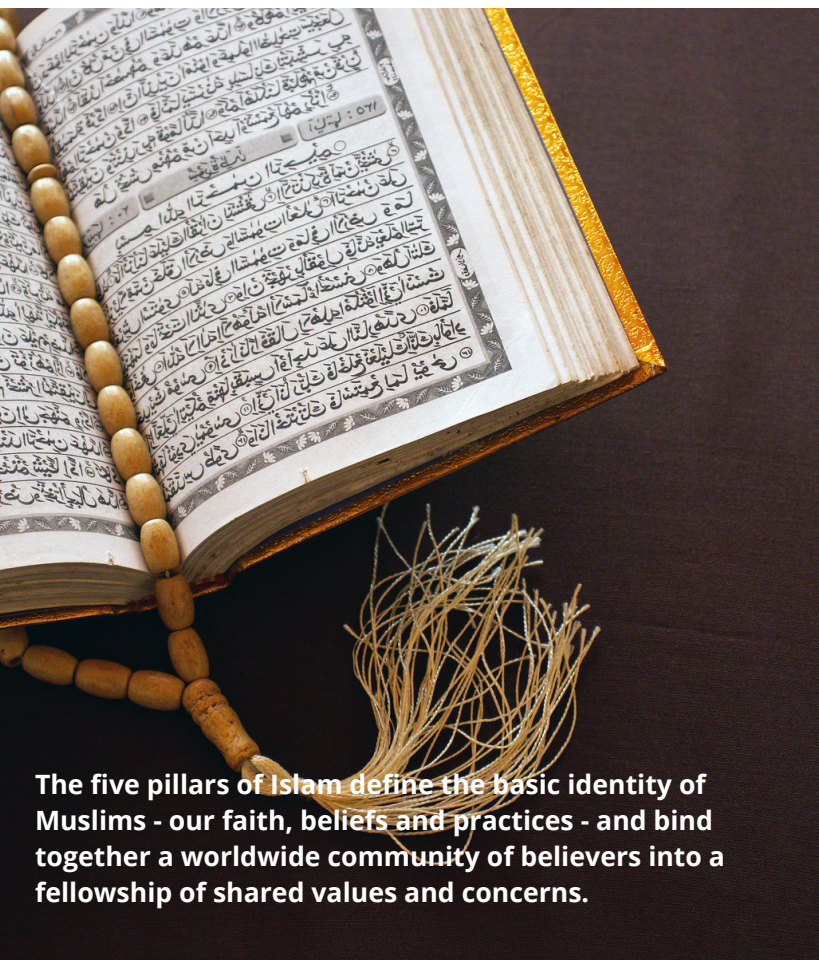
Prayer

Salah is the second pillar of Islam. It is an act of worship which is the first and continuous sign of the believer's obedience to Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala. For us, Salah is not a burden, but rather a privilege to learn and develop a deeper connection with our creator. We pray five times a day, Fajr, Dhur, Asr, Maghreb, Isha.

Zakat

Charity and Almsgiving

Zakat is the third pillar of Islam. This means that every adult Muslim who owns wealth over a certain amount, known as the Nisab, must pay 2.5% of that wealth as Zakat to those less fortunate. We believe that paying Zakat purifies, increases and blesses the remainder of one's wealth.



The five pillars of Islam define the basic identity of Muslims - our faith, beliefs and practices - and bind together a worldwide community of believers into a fellowship of shared values and concerns.

Sawm

Fasting

Fasting is the fourth pillar of Islam. Fasting takes place during Ramadan which is the holy month in the Islamic calendar. Muslims do not eat or drink from dawn to sunset. Ramadan is a very important month for Muslims as they believe Allah rewards the fasting person by forgiving his/her sins and answering his/her du'aas.

Hajj

Pilgrimage

Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam. Hajj (pilgrimage) means going to Mecca and doing certain acts of worship. Those who are able must go for Hajj at least once in their lives. The first and last place they visit when on Hajj is the Ka'bah which Muslims call 'the House of Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala'.

MUSLIM NATIONAL SCHOOL CLONSKEAGH

We visited the Muslim National School located in Clonskeagh in Dublin 14 to share our project with them.

The Muslim National School was the first state-funded Muslim school to open in Ireland. It was founded by the Islamic Foundation of Ireland in 1990 and officially opened in 1993 by President Mary Robinson.

We shared with the children in the Muslim National School, the research and work we have done on celebrating Ireland's 50th year in the EU. It was great to make this community link with our sister school and we had great fun meeting all the children there. It also gave us a chance to celebrate our shared identities as Muslim children living in the EU.

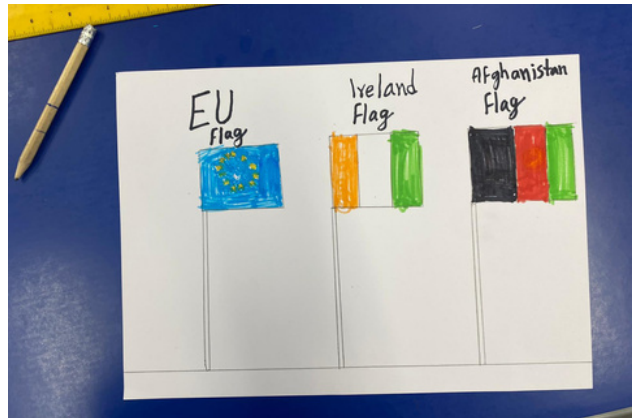


A magnifying glass is positioned over a map of Europe and the Mediterranean region. The lens is focused on the Balkans and the Aegean Sea. The text 'What Europe Means To Me' is overlaid in large white font across the top half of the image.

What Europe Means To Me

And Our Hopes

FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS IN THE EU



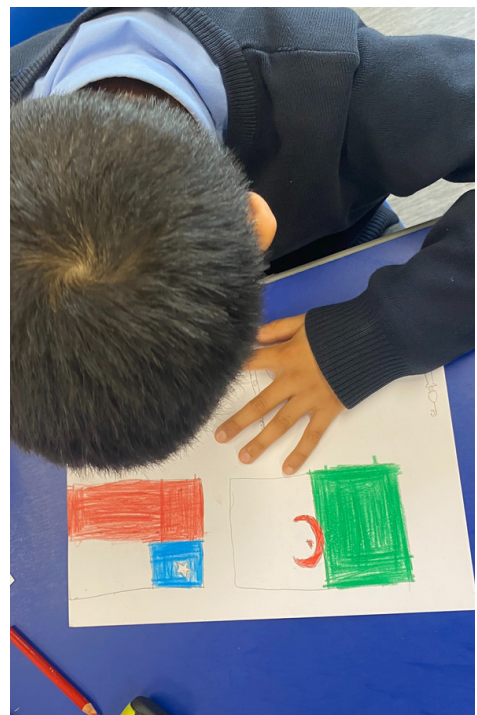
All around the world!



Here at NDMNS, we celebrate the diversity in our classroom.

We are all connected by humanity and even though we come from all corners of the world, we are celebrating being European.

We got creative and designed pictures that represent how we view ourselves as Irish, European and as global citizens.

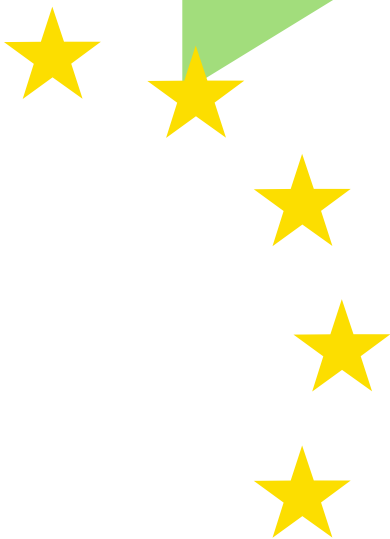


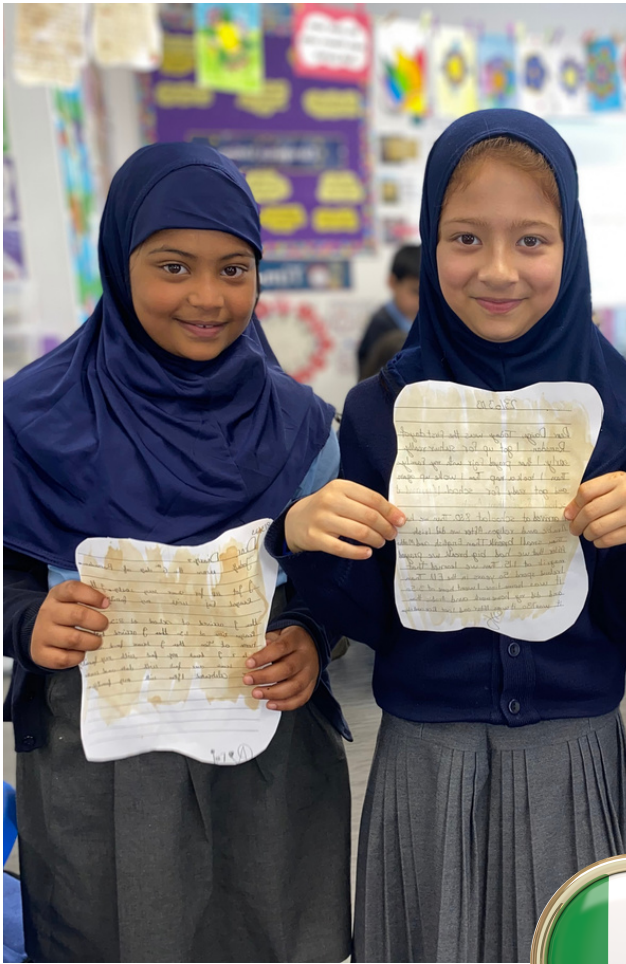


Exercise-
More gyms and leisure centres. I hope that our nations put more emphasis on staying active and feeling good. Taking part in sport and gym should be made more affordable so everyone can have an opportunity to exercise well.

Healthcare-
I hope that every country will develop their health care systems, build more hospitals and reduce waiting times for sick patients. I also hope that we increase the numbers of doctors and nurses to work in these hospitals.

Children's Voices-
Children are the future of the EU and I hope that children all around Europe will be given the opportunity to share their opinions and ideas with leaders even more than they are today.





Subjects in Schools-
I think governments should provide pupils with more subjects in primary school that will help them as they grow up. Cooking, using technology and dealing with finances would be a good start.

Cleaner Environment-
I hope that people become more responsible in taking care of the environment by reducing their litter and saving energy.
We all have to do what we can to save the planet.

Electric Cars-
I think people should be encouraged to buy electric cars more so than they are today, so that we reduce the amount of fossil fuels used and I also wish that public transport would be improved in cities and rural areas.



A poem by Irfan and Jibril

I am a Muslim as you can see,
And I am very proud to be me.
We celebrate Ramadan and Eid.
We fast and we pray many times a day.
NDMNS is a part of me.
We rise to the challenge,
Learning Arabic, Gaeilge and History.
We come from different places,
Our culture and history, you can see it in our
faces.
The Muslim faith is where I belong,
Now I want to explore the rest of the world, I'm on
my way,
I won't be long.

بقلم
عرفان وجبريل

أنا مسلم كما ترون
وأنا فخور جدا لكوني كذلك
نحن نحتفل بـرمضان والعيد
نصوم ونصلي مرات عديدة في اليوم
نمدرس -NDMNS- وهي جزء مني
نرتقي إلى مستوى التحدي
نتعلم اللغة العربية والجيلج والتاريخ
نأتي من أممات مختلفة،
ثقافتنا وتاريخنا يمكنك رؤيته في وجوهنا
العقيدة الإسلامية هي منطقتي
الآن أريد استكشاف بقية العالم، أنا في الطريق
لسن أطميل

Is Moslamach mé mar is féidir a fheiceáil
Agus táim an-bhrodúil as
Eid agus Ramadan a cheiliúradh againn
Bíonn muid ag guí agus ag troscadh go minic i rith an lae
Tá Scoil Náisiúnta Moslamach Tuaisceart Baile Átha Cliath ionam
Ardaíonn muid chuig an dúshlán
.Ag foghlaim Gaeilge, Araibis agus stair
Tagann muid as áiteanna difriúla
Feiceann tú ár Stair agus ár gcultúr inár n-aghaidheanna
Tá mé ar mo shuaimhneas leis an gcreideamh Moslamach
Ba mhaith liom an chuid eile den domhain a fheiceáil, tá mé ar mo bhealach
Ní bheidh mé i bhfad.

Our Parents

And Their Journeys

Across The EU



Many parents in our school grew up in the EU and experienced how their global community has become more inclusive over the years. We were very excited to hear from some of these parents when they came to talk with our class about their own journeys from across Europe.

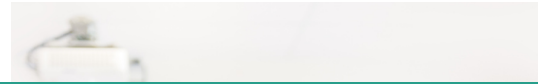




Where did you grow up?
Can you tell us about that?



Mother 1 - In a small town in Poland, she remembers long queues at the borders of Germany/Slovakia when travelling. It was very difficult to travel compared to now.
Mother 2 - Madrid, Spain. She remembers Spain as a dictatorship. A big change was that when Spain joined the EU, infrastructure and roads improved and made it easier to travel.



Did you go to a Muslim school?
Can you tell us about your school?



No. Primary schools were mostly public. Both mothers noted that there was no Muslim primary school in their regions. Both mothers converted to Islam in Ireland.



What traditions did you have when you were growing up?



When did you come to Ireland? Was there a reason for your move to Ireland?

Mother 1. Spending time with family and baking.
Mother 2. Flamenco dancing and ballet.

Mother 1 - 2006, take a break from studying and to experience Ireland.
Mother 2 - Learn English and further her education.

What food do you eat?
Is this from your country?



Mother 1 - Pierogi (dumplings),
recipes that aim to minimalism
wasting food.
Mother 2 - Paella

What do you think of living in Ireland as a
Muslim?



Both mothers said that Ireland is very
easy and inclusive to live in. Irish
people are very tolerant
of others and diversity is celebrated.
Schools, mosques and facilities are all
very positive for Muslims living in
Ireland.

Did you go to college or work in Ireland?



Both mothers work and have furthered
their education in Ireland. Both noted
that education is very accessible in
Ireland.
Both said that they thought that
working in retail would be a challenge
while wearing the hijab, however, this
was not the case in Ireland.



Do you think Ireland has changed since you
moved here?

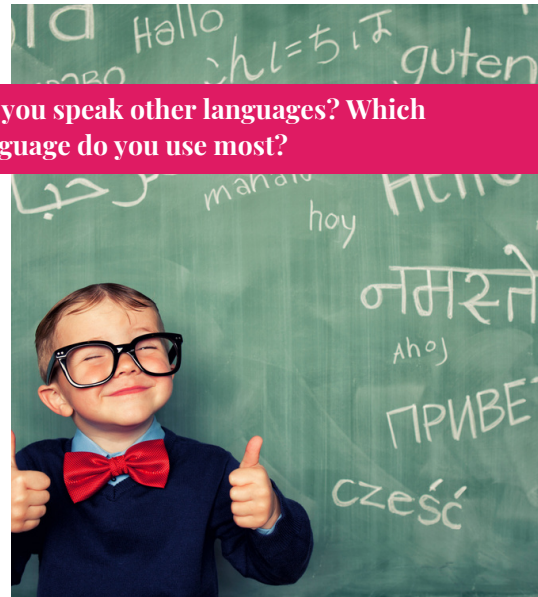
Yes, both mothers said that Dublin has
become more diverse and facilities for
different religions have improved a lot.
They both noted how Croke Park and the
Phoenix Park are used as prayer areas
during Eid. This gives Muslims a safe space
for their celebrations and worship.

Are there any Irish traditions that you like?



Parades on St. Patrick's Day.
Irish sport - football and camogie.

Do you speak other languages? Which language do you use most?



Mother 1 Polish and English.
English is the language used at home.
Mother 2 Spanish and English,
Spanish is used inside the home.
Both mothers are learning Pashto.

What are your hopes for Ireland and the EU in the future?



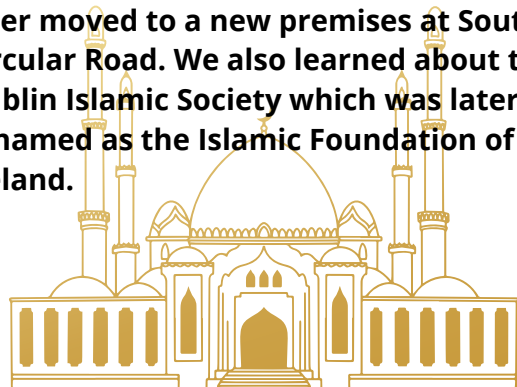
That every person will be able to get their own home. Make this easier from a financial point of view. Mother 2 noted a famous saying from JFK to the children, "ask not what your country can do for you- ask what you can do for your country" (Ireland and the EU), work hard, get an education, follow your dreams.



Our Visit To The Dublin Mosque

We visited the Dublin Mosque to learn about the history of Muslims in Ireland as well as meet with the Imam to learn about his job. For many of us Dublin Mosque is our local Mosque which we attend every week. We arrived at the Mosque and met with Imam Yahya Al-Hussein. They took us on a tour of the Mosque, we saw Al-Manbar which is where the Imam gives his sermon every Friday. The Imam then kindly gave us a presentation on how the Dublin Mosque was founded and how it has developed in the Dublin 8 community over the years.

We listened to the Imam explaining how the first Mosque was founded at 7, Harrington Street, Dublin 8 and then later moved to a new premises at South Circular Road. We also learned about the Dublin Islamic Society which was later renamed as the Islamic Foundation of Ireland.





The first Mosque in Ireland was established in 1975 at 7, Harrington Street, Dublin 8. After lots of fundraising, a new property at South Circular Road was acquired in 1983 by the Dublin Islamic Society. The Dublin Mosque continues to grow and develop. The Mosque relies on donations and fundraising efforts to fund these developments.



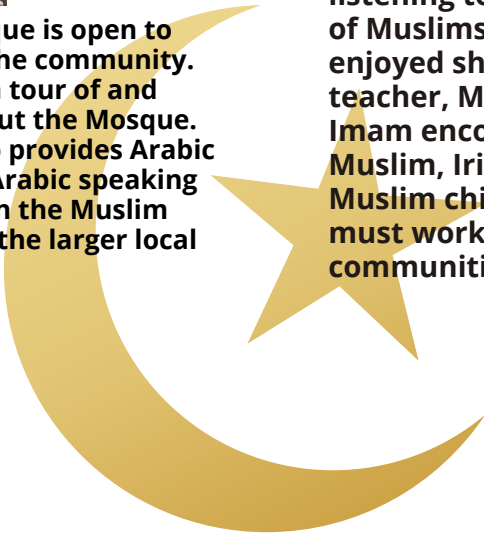
The Dublin Mosque hosts annual Ramadan Iftar for all people who are fasting. They are welcome to go and break their fast. The Dublin Mosque also hosts annual Eid Al-Fitr celebrations for everyone in the Muslim community. Families enjoy lots of activities for children while celebrating their faith.



The Dublin Mosque is open to everyone from the community. Groups can get a tour of and information about the Mosque. The Mosque also provides Arabic classes for non-Arabic speaking people from both the Muslim community and the larger local community.



This was a fantastic experience for us and we loved listening to the Imam describing the journey of Muslims in Ireland since the 1950s. We also really enjoyed sharing our Mosque with our teacher, Ms. Roe and our principal, Mr. Walsh. The Imam encouraged us to be proud of our Muslim, Irish and European cultures. We know we as Muslim children are the future and we must work hard for our Irish and European communities.





D I V E R S I T Y

Differences Are Unique

In School, People Are Different

Variety Is All Around The World

**Everywhere Isn't The Same,
That's Amazing**

Roses, Violets, They Are Different

So Are Muslims and Non-Muslims

**If People Were The Same, Life
Would Be Boring**

Together We Are Happy In Diversity

**You And Me, Let's Celebrate
Together**

Reem

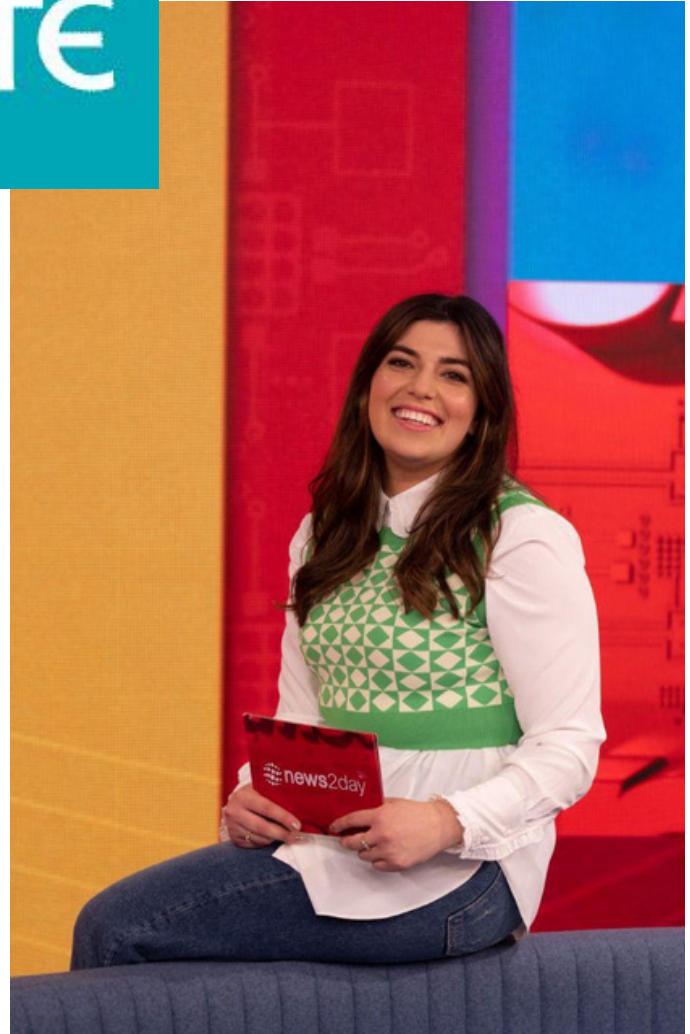


An Interview

GROWING UP IN IRELAND



RTÉ



Interview with Reem El-Hassany

1. What was it like to grow up in Ireland when you were small?

Growing up in Ireland when I was small was really good. I grew up in Limerick in the midwest of Ireland, so I didn't grow up in Dublin. I moved here when I was a baby and I remember discovering that my mother was probably the only one wearing the Hijab in our city which was quite hard, but, now when I go back to my hometown, I see loads of women and girls of all ages wearing it and it's nice to see that Limerick has become much more diverse now than it was when I was younger.

2. How do you like Ireland so far. How has it been for you and how could it change?

I really like Ireland. I have grown up here and therefore feel like this is my home. Over the last 25 years at least, the country and people's attitudes have changed a lot and have become much more diverse and open-minded. When I was growing up, I think I was the only one with a foreign name and a bit of darker skin whereas now, my younger siblings are in school in mixed classes with kids from all over the globe!



3. How does it feel living in Ireland being a Muslim today?

It feels good. I do feel like there are some points where people weren't as nice as they could have been, especially when I was growing up, but now that I am older and more confident in being a Muslim, I don't experience this as much.

4. Are you a practicing Muslim?

I try to be!
I pray I fast during Ramadan and I try to practice Islam as best as I can. My entire family is Muslim and we come from Iraq. I was born in Bahgdad.

5. How did it feel to be the odd one out in school when you were a child?

As a child it was a lot harder, as I was looking a bit different, practising a different religion and so on. But, as I got older, I see a changed Ireland with mixed groups of friends and people from different parts of the world.

6. If you could have, would you have preferred to go to a Muslim school?

I'm not sure, as this is my first visit to one, I did enjoy my school years in a regular Irish school, but would have liked to learn more about my religion during school hours for example, as I had to go to Arabic school every day for two hours during the full week!

7. How did you manage to fast full days during Ramadan when you were in school?

It wasn't until I was 12-13 that I fasted the full days when I was in school. I had a lot of support from good friends, and now that I work in RTE, I can freely practise Islam and honour Ramadan fully. This year, I plan to go home to my family a lot who still live in Limerick.

8. Have you celebrated Ramadan anywhere else in the world?

When I was younger, we used to go to Dubai to my aunt and her family to fast Ramadan there and I found it very nice to be in a country where everyone is fasting along side you.



9. You work for RTE in Ireland, do you enjoy it?

I love my job and I really enjoy working for "News2Day", the best one I have ever had, in fact. It is so much fun to work on bringing news and facts to kids in schools all over Ireland, to see and hear what they are up to. It involves a lot of driving, but, it is so much fun!

10. When do you wear your Hijab and when do you not?

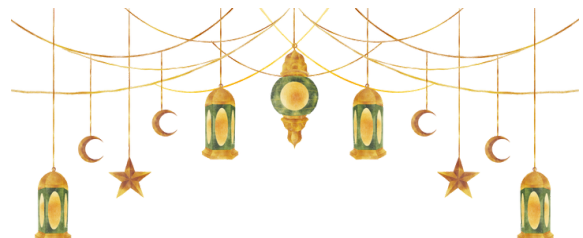
I wear my Hijab when I pray and that is probably the only time I do wear it, unless I am travelling in a Muslim country and haven't had quite the time to do my hair, then it is convenient to put it on. I feel that until I am fully confident in my identity as a Muslim worshiper, I won't wear the Hijab on a regular basis. I do believe that wearing it is and should be a choice and my parents supported both me and my sisters in this decision.

11. Are you proud of representing the Muslim community in Irish media?

I am really proud to represent Islam and the Muslim faith in Irish media, and I wish that the area of media would become more diverse more people like us were doing this. Perhaps things will change in the next few years.

12. How did you get the job in RTE?

I actually studies pharmacy at the university but when Covid 19 happened, I realised that I really loved journalism. I started studying this and as soon as I finished my master's, I received a job offer at RTE and started soon thereafter and I am so, so delighted.





THINGS

we love

ABOUT

Ireland!





It's a very peaceful country and we feel safe. Our families are well looked after, and we can enjoy our education.



The Irish language is cool and so different from the ones we speak at home! We are delighted to learn it.



The weather! Yes, we kids talk about the weather too, and we really enjoy it here in Ireland, as it is not too hot and not too cold. we especially love the Irish summers.

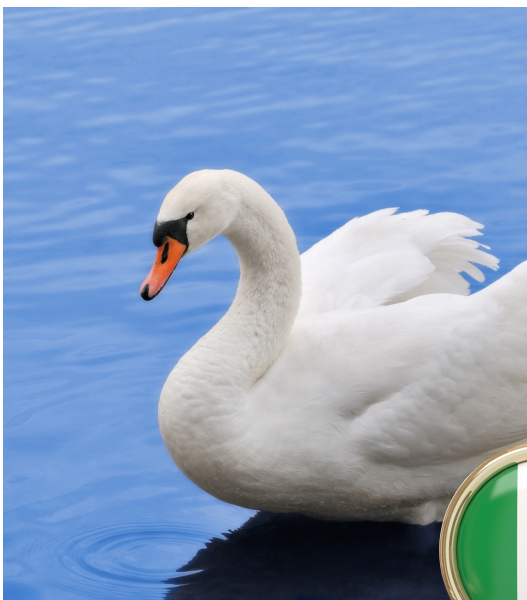




Mmmmm, the Irish food is yummy! We love everything from fish and chips, roast beef and you can't beat a homemade Irish beef stew with carrots and potatoes.



The fact that everyone has a voice in Ireland, and have the right to education is something we treasure very highly.



We love learning about ancient Irish folklore, and tales of the past.



Gaelic Football is such a cool sport! Fast and intensive, and we love to play it in school, trying not to get injured!

A poem by Nusaybah and Amira

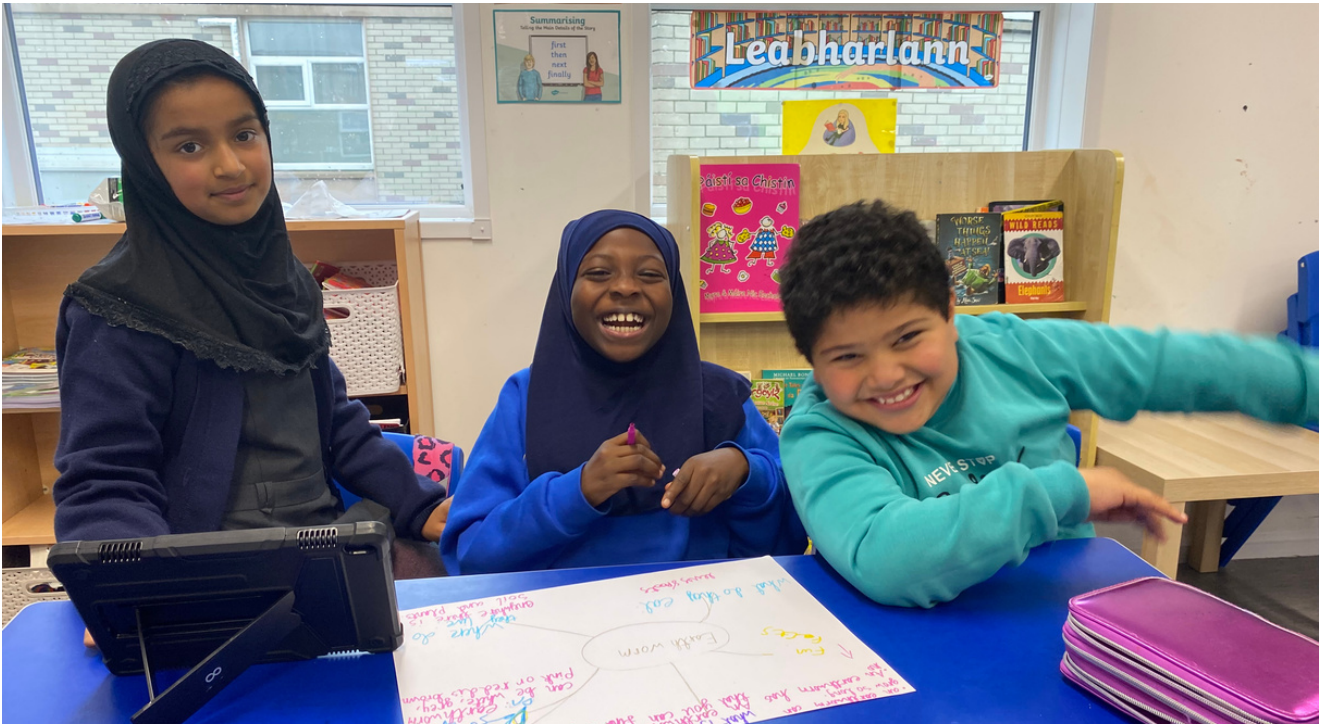
Is é NDMNS an scoil a théann muid chuig,
i gcroí chathair Baile Átha Cliath
ag ceiliúradh éagsúlacht
Gaeilge, Araibis, foghlaimíonn muid iad go léir
Agus ag leathuair tar éis a haon, guíonn muid sa halla,
Eid agus Ramadan a cheiliúradh againn
ag troscadh agus ag guí chomh minic agus is féidir
Tháinig muid chuig Baile Átha Cliath as gach áit
An Phacastáin, An Maracó
Aimnigh é 's bhí muid ann
Caoga bliain a cheiliúradh
San Aontas Euorpach bíonn an grá soiléir

بقلم: نسبة وأميرة
NDMNS هي المدرسة التي نذهب إليها
في قلب مدينة دبلن، نحتفل بالتنوع
اللغة الأيرلندية والعربية نتعلمها جميعا،
وفي الساعة 1:30 نصلي في القاعة
نحتفل بالعيد ورمضان،
نصوم، نصلي قدر المستطاع
جئنا إلى دبلن من جميع أنحاء العالم،
باكستان، المغرب، سمها ما شئت،
كنا كذلك
نحتفل بمرور 50 عاما في الإتحاد الأوروبي،
الحب واضح.

NDMNS is the school we go to in the heart of
Dublin city, celebrating diversity
Irish, Arabic, we hear them all and at 1.30 we pray
in the hall.

We celebrate Eid and Ramadan, fasting and
praying as much as we can.

We came to Dublin from all over the world;
Pakistan and Morocco, you name it, we were there.
Celebrating 50 years in the EU, the love is clear.



CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME

Here at NDMNS, we are very committed to helping those in need in our local and global communities. Our student council has organised several fundraising events this year. We have worked with the Muslim Sisters of Eire by doing a winter fundraiser for the homeless in our community as well as working with the Islamic Relief during charity week. Charity work is very important to us as Muslims and we are proud to be able to help others.



Mosques of Europe



We go on a journey across Europe!

01



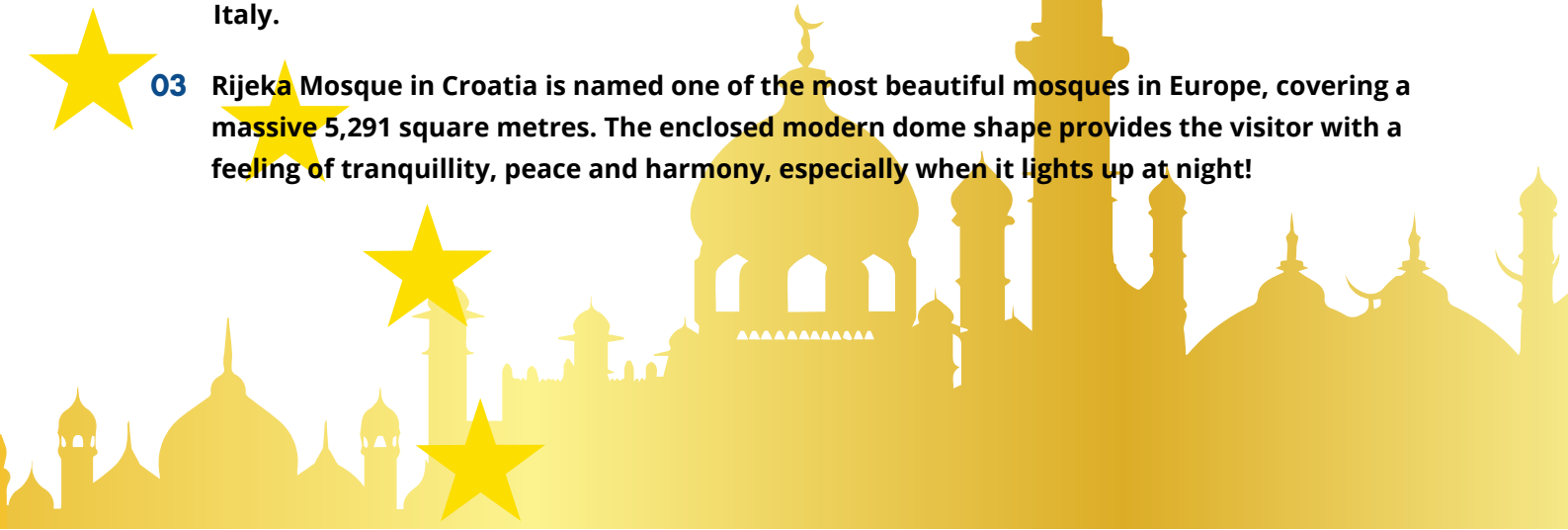
02



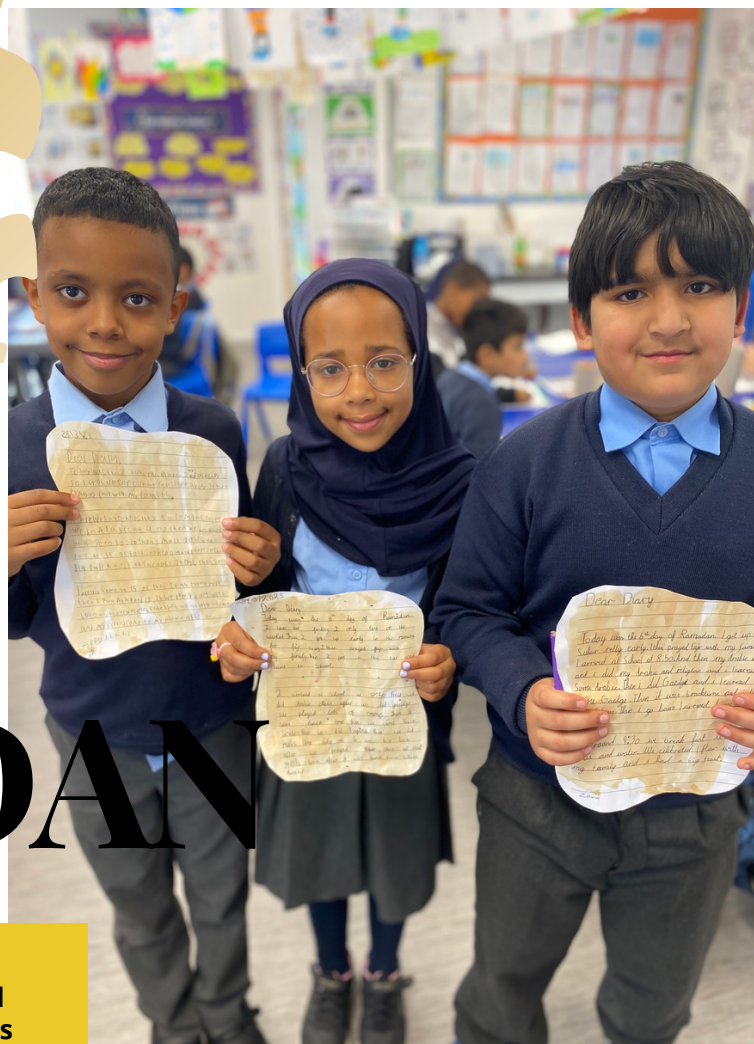
03



- 01** Built between 1922 and 1926, the Mosque of Paris is located in the Latin Quarter, near Notre Dame. It is very distinct, as it has beautiful green roofs and white walls, dominated by a 33-metre-high minaret. The Mosquée de Paris is also a place for rest and relaxation, with its hammam, restaurant, tearoom and shops, for the over four million Muslims living in France.
- 02** The Mosque of Rome is the largest in the Western world and was opened in 1995 by Prince Muhammad Hassan and his Princess Razia Begum. It cost €40-50 million to build and took over ten years. It is very impressive it can hold 12000 people at one time. It is the only mosque in Italy.
- 03** Rijeka Mosque in Croatia is named one of the most beautiful mosques in Europe, covering a massive 5,291 square metres. The enclosed modern dome shape provides the visitor with a feeling of tranquillity, peace and harmony, especially when it lights up at night!



A DAY DURING RAMADAN



Around 5:00

I woke up, got dressed, brushed my teeth and had Suhoor, which is a breakfast that Muslims eat very early in the morning. We then had Fajr prayer which is the very first prayer of the day. I then went back to bed for a nap until it was time for school.

9:00

I arrived at school and met my friends and my teacher. The traffic in Dublin city was very heavy today so it took us a long long time to get to school. We did lots of interesting things with our teachers. We had Arabic first thing with Ms. Samira followed by Irish with Ms. Roe. Later in the day, we worked on our project on the EU.

1:30

At lunchtime, we gathered in the hall and prayed Dhuhr together. The boys in each class take turns leading prayer. We then returned to class. I was very tired as today I was fasting. I try my best to fast twice a week during Ramadan, to get ready for when I am a grown up.

Evening

I helped my parents prepare Iftar which is the meal we eat at sunset. We were setting the table and getting all the yummy food ready to cook. I also did my homework and played a little on my PlayStation.

Sunset

My cousins and extended family came over to our house for Iftar. It was a great celebration and the food was delicious. We also prayed Maghrib when the sun was setting.

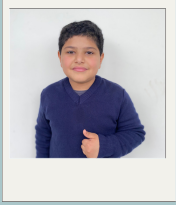
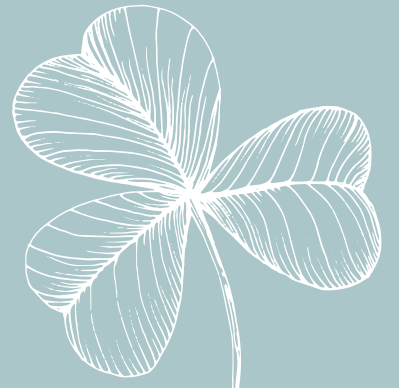
A poem by Sana and Amina

Tuaisceart, deisceart, oirthear agus
iarthar, is é NDMNS an scoil is fear.
Is Moslamaigh muid agus guíonn muid
Déanann muid é cúig uair i rith an lae
Bíonn Eid agus Ramadan a cheiliúradh
againn gach bliain.
Líonann ár gcroíthe le sonas agus áthas
Léann muid an Quaran gach lá
Ina dhiaidh é sin bíonn spraoi again.

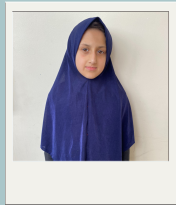
بقلم:
سنا وأمنة
الشمال، الجنوب، الشرق والغرب
مدرستين NDMNS في الأفضل
نحن مسلمون ونصلي
نقوم بذلك خمس مرات في اليوم
نحتفل بـرمضان والعيد كل عام
قلوبنا مليئة بالفرح والبهجة
نقرأ القرآن كل يوم،
وعندما ننتهي نخرج ونلعب

North, South, East and West, NDMNS is the
best.
We are Muslim and we pray.
We do so five times a day.
We celebrate Eid and Ramadan every year.
Our hearts are filled with joy and cheer.
We read Quran everyday,
And when we are done we go outside and
play.

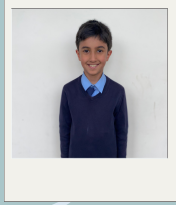
THIS IS US!



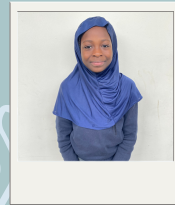
Fahad
Leopard
فهد



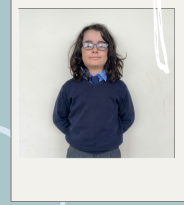
Asna
How Water
Flows
أسنا



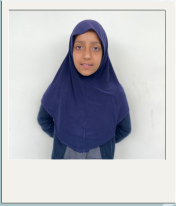
Abdullah
Servant of
Allah
عبد الله



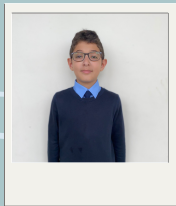
Irfan
Well
Mannered
عرفان



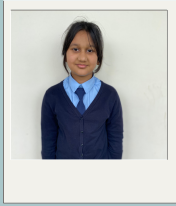
Salah
Righteous
صلاح



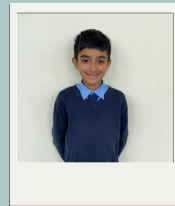
Aima
Unmarried
Woman
آيمة



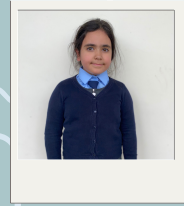
Kareem
Generous
كريم



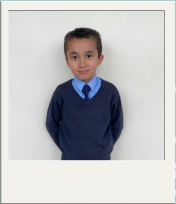
Amina
The Mother of
the Prophet
آمنة



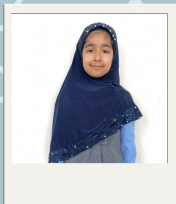
Muhammed
The Name of
the Prophet
محمد



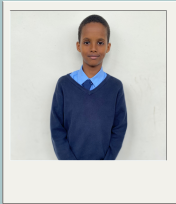
Amira
Princess
أميرة



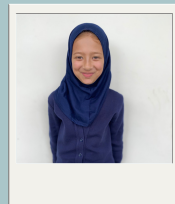
Ibrahim
The Father of
the Prophet
إبراهيم



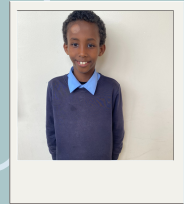
Nusaybah
Of Noble
Descent
نسببة



Abdirahman
Servant of the
Merciful
عبد الرحمن

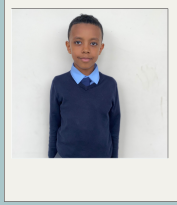
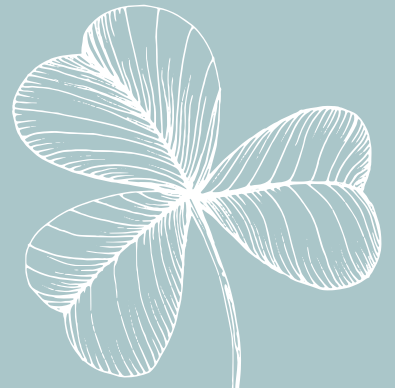


Sana
Bright Light
الضوء الساطع

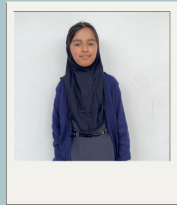


Jibril
The Angel
Jibril
جبريل

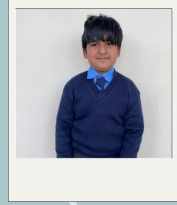
THIS IS US!



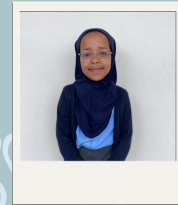
Abdullahi
Servant of
Allah
عبد الل



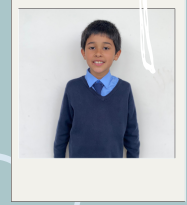
Simrah
Beautiful
Nature
سمره



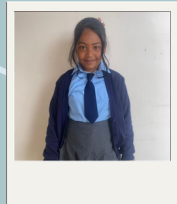
Zain
Primary
Worshipper
زين العابدين



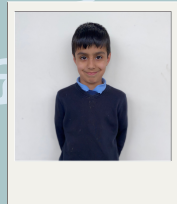
Awatif
Sympathy
عواطف



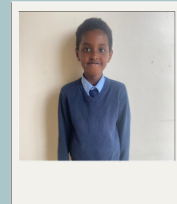
Walid
Newborn
Baby
وليد



Areej
Beautiful
Scent
أريج



Hamza
Lion
الأسد



Badar
Full Moon
بدر



**We'd like to thank everyone involved
in the making of this
Communicating Europe Initiative EU50 Magazine**

**First of all, the children of 3rd class,
North Dublin Muslim National School**

Fahad Albakr
Muhammed Ammar
Irfan Sewa Bello
Walid Boudhar
Abdullahi Maxamud Cusman
Jibril Siciid Daahir
Abdirahman Mohamed Dahir
Amina Farooq
Salah Mohammedi
Nusaybah Muhammad
Badar Muse
Awatif Yahya Muxsin
Areej Naseem Mohamed
Amira Nimani
Sana Pardess
Aima Rizwan
Hamza Saeed
Asna Safi
Ibrahim Shaeib
Abdullah Shehzad Nazir
Zain Ul-Abideen
Kareem Waseem Shbair
Simrah Zubair

**Our Múinteoir, Miss Olivia Roe
as well as our Príomhoide, Mr. Eoin Walsh**







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