

A visit to the Mosque

Since April Prep children of Santa Maria are visiting places of worship to become aware about the religious and cultural diversity of our country. Children have already visited the St. Alphonsa Church in April.

Prep's visited the **Green Park Mosque on 19th July** accompanied by their Teachers and Didi. The visit was planned in the auspicious month of Eid-ul-Fitr. This is considered to be a sacred month in the Islamic calendar. Prior to this teachers had met Imam Sahab in the Mosque to discuss the objective of the visit. Imam Sahab also informed us about some important things like wearing clothes covering the body and head. Children were informed and conditioned for the visit days before.

Dressed in neatly ironed kurta-pyjamas / salwar-kameez and head covered with scarves, the Prep's were excited to visit the mosque. After a short orientation on the visit to the mosque and a water break, the children boarded their respective buses.



After reaching the mosque children observed "**Wazu**" the symbolic cleansing by washing their hands, face and feet.



Inside the mosque children were greeted by a handful of young boys who had come from various parts of the country to learn about the teachings of Quran. The Prep children entered a huge hall and sat down on a huge mat. Teachers and the children kneeled down and waited for the Imam to address them.

There was an exchange of greetings first after which the Imam spoke to the children. He said, "Yeh masjid hai, yeh Allah ka ghar hain, hum yahan Allah ki ibadat karte hain, puja karte hain". He said, "Hamen apne maa-baap aur madam ko wish karna chahiye aur unki izzat karni chahiye". He told our little Santa Marians "Hamen ek doosre se pyaar karna hain aur aman ke saath rahna hain . He also shared about how we must connect to God by **doing good deeds** in life and become a better human being. He asked one of his students to sing a "**Nazam**". Children listened to the "**Nazam**" carefully.



After we had prayed along with the Imam, children were asked to share some thoughts. Arshdeep said, "Hum yahan aaye accha laga". Vihaan said, "We should listen to our parents and study well".



Meanwhile, some children keenly observed the architecture of the mosque - specially the shape of the doors - "Yeh door rectangle shape ka hain, uspar design toh square shape ki hain, upar se flower ke petal jaise hain".

Children on seeing the book shelf, the prayer mat and the donation box spontaneously connected it to their class library, yoga mat and the daan peti at the gurudwara.



It was very kind of the Imam to have the cool, refreshing **Roohafza** served to us.



After a while, children lined up to return to their respective buses. At last we thanked the Imam Sahab and his students for being kind to us and making the visit a memorable experience.

We came back with fond memories and poured them on the paper. All children did an illustrative recall of the visit. It was truly a fulfilling experience.

