

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
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أَلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ نَحْمَدُهُ وَنَسْتَعِينُهُ وَنَسْتَغْفِرُهُ. وَنَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنْ شُرُورِ أَنْفُسِنَا وَمِنْ سَيِّئَاتِ
أَعْمَالِنَا. مَنْ يَهْدِهِ اللَّهُ فَلَا مُضِلَّ لَهُ وَمَنْ يُضِلِّ فَلَا هَادِيَ لَهُ.
وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ لَا شَرِيكَ لَهُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ.
اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَأَصْحَابِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ.
أَمَّا بَعْدُ،
فِيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ أُوصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.

Let us all increase our devotion towards Allah the Almighty by performing all that He has decreed and abstaining from all that He has prohibited. Hopefully, Allah the Almighty will bless us and be pleased with us in this world and in the Hereafter.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our children look forward to school holidays because they are free from textbooks, extracurricular activities and extra classes. It is time for them to relax, have fun and do things they like.

However, school holidays are not meant to be spent only having fun and forgetting about schoolwork. Parents must plan activities that benefit their children during school holidays. It should be remembered that during the school holiday season, various heartbreaking tragedies such as drownings, road accidents, child abduction,

or even cases of crimes committed by teenagers who are still in school often occur. Letting children manage their vacation time on their own without supervision may cause them to get caught up in harmful social activities, especially those that involve matters related to the faith of a Muslim. The Prophet (peace be upon him [PBUH]) said in a *Hadith* narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

كُلُّ مَوْلُودٍ يُوَلَّدُ عَلَى الْفِطْرَةِ فَأَبَوَاهُ يُهَوِّدَانِهِ أَوْ يُنَصِّرَانِهِ أَوْ يُمَجِّسَانِهِ

Which means: “Every child is born with a true faith of Islam (i.e. to worship none but Allah Alone) and his parents convert him to Judaism or Christianity or Magianism,”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

‘Time is gold’. This expression is often mentioned to describe how precious time is. But most of us forget to make the most of our free time and health. The Prophet (PBUH) said in a *Hadith* narrated by Imam al-Bukhari:

نِعْمَتَانِ مَغْبُونٌ فِيهِمَا كَثِيرٌ مِنَ النَّاسِ الصِّحَّةُ وَالْفَرَاغُ

Which means: “Two blessings which many people squander: Good health and free time.”

People who manage their time wisely by doing useful things are successful people. On the other hand, people who are negligent and waste time are losers. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 103 (*Surah Al-'Asr*) verses (*ayat*) 1 to 3:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

وَالْعَصْرِ ۝١ إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ ۝٢ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَّصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَّصَوْا
بِالصَّبْرِ ۝٣

Which means: “By the declining day, man is [deep] in loss, except for those who believe, do good deeds, urge one another to the truth, and urge one another to steadfastness.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Parents are not only responsible for their children’s physical and educational needs but most importantly must instill in them religious values from an early age. We should take the example of Luqman al-Hakim in educating his children. Allah the Almighty says in the Quran in Chapter 31 (*Surah Luqman*) verse (*ayat*) 17:

يَبُنِيَّ أَقِمِ الصَّلَاةَ وَأْمُرْ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَانْهَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَأَصْبِرْ عَلَىٰ مَا أَصَابَكَ ۚ إِنَّ ذَٰلِكَ مِنْ عَزَمِ الْأُمُورِ ۝١٧

Which means: “Keep up the prayer, my son; command what is right; forbid what is wrong; bear anything that happens to you steadfastly: these are things to be aspired to.”

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There are various activities that should be planned and implemented during the school holidays such as inviting children to perform the obligatory prayers in congregation at the mosque because it is the basis for all good practices. The Prophet (PBUH) said in a *Hadith* narrated by Imam Abu Daud:

Which means: *“Command your children to pray when they become seven years old and beat them for it (prayer) when they become ten years old; and arrange their beds (to sleep) separately.”*

Guide our children to learn the Quran. Ask them to help with housework. Take them to visit relatives. Go on trips with them so that they have the opportunity to see and get to know the outside world. Children can also be sent to participate in short-term courses such as ICT classes, *fardhu ain* classes, prayer camps, skill classes or other suitable activity that will improve them.

Parents should always pray for the well-being of their children because it is the parents' prayers that will bless and protect them from all disasters.

Let us ponder upon the words of Allah the Almighty in the Quran in Chapter 25 (*Surah Al-Furqan*) verse (*ayat*) 74:

أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ

وَالَّذِينَ يَقُولُونَ رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا ﴿٧٤﴾

Which means: “those who pray, ‘Our Lord, give us joy in our spouses and offspring. Make us good examples to those who are aware of You’.”

بَارَكَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ فِي الْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيمِ، وَنَفَعَنِي وَإِيَّاكُمْ بِمَا فِيهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ
وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، وَتَقَبَّلَ مِنِّي وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ، إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ. أَقُولُ
قَوْلِي هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ الْعَظِيمَ لِي وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ
وَالْمُؤْمِنِينَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُورُ الرَّحِيمُ.