

1	 <p style="text-align: center;">UTILISING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 8 December 2017AD / 19 Rabiulawal 1439H</p>
2	<p style="text-align: center;">أَحْمَدُ لِلَّهِ الْوَاحِدِ الْقَهَّارِ، مُقَدِّرِ الْأَقْدَارِ، وَمُصَرِّفِ الْأُمُورِ عَلَى مَا يَشَاءُ وَيَخْتَارُ، وَمُكَوِّرِ اللَّيْلِ عَلَى النَّهَارِ وَجَعَلَهُ عِبْرَةً لِأُولِي الْأَبْصَارِ.</p>
3	<p style="text-align: center;">وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ الْعَزِيزُ الْغَفَّارُ، وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ سَيِّدَنَا مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدَهُ وَرَسُولَهُ الْمُصْطَفَى الْمُخْتَارُ،</p>
4	<p style="text-align: center;">صَلَّى اللَّهُ وَسَلَّوْبَارَكَ عَلَيْهِ، وَعَلَى آلِهِ الْأَطْهَارِ، وَصَحْبِهِ الْأَبْرَارِ، وَالتَّابِعِينَ وَمَنْ تَبِعَهُمْ بِإِحْسَانٍ مَا تَعَاقَبَ اللَّيْلُ وَالنَّهَارُ.</p>
5	<p style="text-align: center;">أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ، أَوْصِيكُمْ وَإِيَّايَ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ وَطَاعَتِهِ، فَقَدْ فَازَ الْمُتَّقُونَ.</p>
6	<p style="text-align: center;">قَالَ تَعَالَى:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">يَأْتِيهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا قُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ ﴿٦﴾</p>
7	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, Let us together continue to be steadfast in reinforcing our faith and conviction in Allah SWT by performing all that He has commanded and striving to abandon all that He has prohibited us from doing. May we achieve happiness in this world as well as in the Hereafter.</p>
8	<p>Pursuant to the school holiday season, let us ponder upon the content of the sermon today entitled, "Utilising The School Holidays".</p>

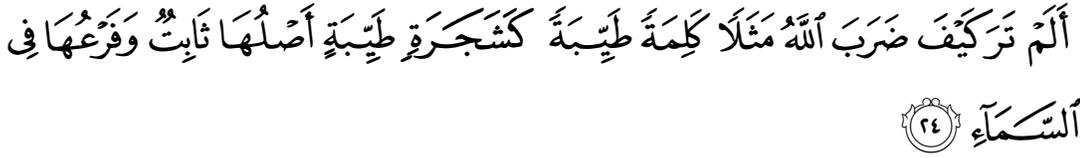


9	<p>Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah,</p> <p>The holidays are surely and eagerly awaited by our school going children. It allows them a much needed rest and recreation time, after the exhaustion of undergoing their learning sessions. Various plans have been made to take advantage of the school holidays.</p>
10	<p>But, we wonder if the holidays are filled with useful activities and are bringing good, or harm, to our children? Therefore, on this blessed day, let us reflect upon these very important issues, including the following:</p>
11	<p>First: Being responsible for our children's acts of worship</p> <p>Throughout the school session, parents will normally put their full trust and responsibility on the shoulders of teachers in school. However, when the holidays arrive,</p>
12	<p>All those roles must be fully undertaken by parents with a full sense of responsibility. Remember that children are the trust of Allah SWT put upon us.</p>
13	<p>This accurately portrays the emphasis made by Allah SWT in Surah Al-Anfal, verses 27 and 28:</p> <p>يٰۤاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ ءَامَنُوْا لَا تَخُوْنُوْا اللّٰهَ وَرَسُوْلَهٗ وَتَخُوْنُوْا اٰمَنَاتِكُمْ وَاَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُوْنَ ﴿٢٧﴾ وَاَعْلَمُوْا اَنَّكُمْ وَاَوْلَادَكُمْ فِتْنَةٌ وَاَنَّ اللّٰهَ عِنْدَهٗ اَجْرٌ عَظِيْمٌ ﴿٢٨﴾</p>
14	<p>Which means: "O, you who believe! Betray not the trust of Allah and the Messenger, nor misappropriate knowingly things entrusted to you. And know that your properties and your children are but a trial and that Allah has with Him a great reward."</p>
15	<p>Performing Solat, or prayers, should be upheld. If at school we do not have the opportunity to pray together with our children and family, these school holidays would be the best time for us to pray with them at the mosque or musollah.</p>
16	<p>Teach them that even as busy as we may be, the obligation to perform</p>



	prayers should always be maintained. Teach them also about manners and proper conduct when we are at the mosque.
17	This would indirectly form noble characters and personality within our children. The same also goes with other acts of worship, such as fasting. Train and encourage our children to perform the optional fast on Mondays and Thursdays. Wake up together for sahur, or pre-dawn meal, and break the fast together. Indeed, there is a lot of wisdom in eating and having meals together.
18	In a hadith narrated by Wahsyi bin Harb R.A, and recorded by Imam Ibnu Majah, <i>some of the Companions recorded the following from Rasulullah SAW:</i>
19	<p style="text-align: center;">يَا رَسُولَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّا نَأْكُلُ وَلَا نَشْبَعُ. قَالَ: فَلَعَلَّكُمْ تَأْكُلُونَ مُتَفَرِّقِينَ؟ قَالُوا: نَعَمْ. قَالَ: فَاجْتَمِعُوا عَلَى طَعَامِكُمْ، وَاذْكُرُوا اسْمَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْهِ، يَبَارِكْ لَكُمْ فِيهِ.</p>
20	Which means: “We eat but are not satisfied.” Rasulullah SAW said: “Perhaps you eat separately.” The Companions replied in the affirmative. He then said: “Eat together and mention the name of Allah over your food. It will be blessed for you.”
21	Second: Fill our children's time with beneficial activities The rapid development of today's technology makes this world borderless. If not controlled, children are more likely to spend time browsing the internet.
22	It would be more unfortunate if they get caught up in immoral activities, such as browsing pornographic websites. That could invite untold dangers and harm. They would become addicted to gadgets and eventually become passive and anti-social.
23	Therefore, during the school holidays, let us fill our children's leisure time by bringing them to visit relatives. If there is a <i>kenduri</i> , bring them together, not only to attend as guests, but also to help out in the event. Indirectly, our children will get to know their relatives as well as their neighbours.
24	Similarly, if mosques, <i>musollahs</i> , or community associations organize activities such as <i>gotong-royong</i> , lectures, religious courses, scholarly



	classes to enrich our knowledge of the al-Quran(<i>tahsin</i>) and so on, then we should involve our children in those activities. In addition to being able to socialize, these activities would definitely also benefit them.
25	<i>Third: Be a community that cares for the youth around us</i> Besides parents, we, as a community, also have our role to fulfil. We must be aware and sensitive to the environment.
26	If there are youths appearing in suspicious settings, or overstepping the limits of Islam, let us lighten our tongue to reprimand them. Think of them as our own children. However, such reprimand should be done lovingly and wisely.
27	Do not taunt or scold them. A gentle but firm reasoning is better than a harsh reprimand, as the gentle approach is akin to drops of water falling on barren land; it will continue to seep deep into the ground and nourish it.
28	Allah SWT proclaimed in Surah Ibrahim, verse 24: 
29	<i>Which means:</i> “Have you not considered (O, Muhammad)how Allah presents an example, (making) a good word like a good tree, whose root is firmly fixed and its branches (high) in the sky?”
30	Fellow Muslims blessed by Allah, In ending the sermon today, let us reflect upon our plans during these holidays, whether our holidays this time will receive blessings from Allah SWT or will instead pass in vain.
31	Come, let us together reflect upon the conclusions that can be acquired from the sermon on this glorious day: First: Plan activities during these holidays with the best and fulfilling plan. Second: As parents, we have to take this opportunity to increase the practice of performing acts of worship together as a family, in



	<p>addition to fostering loving relationships.</p> <p>Third: The community should also play its role in helping to ensure that our children fill their time and opportunity during this school holidays fruitfully.</p>
32	<p>Allah SWT declared in Surah Al-Asr verses 1 to 3:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">أَعُوذُ بِاللَّهِ مِنَ الشَّيْطَانِ الرَّجِيمِ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">وَالْعَصْرِ ﴿١﴾ إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ ﴿٢﴾ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ ﴿٣﴾</p>
33	<p>Which means:“By time, indeed, mankind is in loss, Except for those who have believed and done righteous deeds and advised each other to truth and advised each other to patience.”</p>
34	<p>بَارَكَ اللهُ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ بِالْقُرْآنِ الْعَظِيْمِ وَنَفَعَنِيْ وَايَاكُمْ بِمَا فِيْهِ مِنَ الْآيَاتِ وَالذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيْمِ وَتَقَبَّلْ مِنَّا وَمِنْكُمْ تِلَاوَتَهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيْعُ الْعَلِيْمُ. أَقُوْلُ قَوْلِيْ هَذَا وَأَسْتَغْفِرُ اللهُ الْعَظِيْمَ لِيْ وَلَكُمْ وَلِسَائِرِ الْمُسْلِمِيْنَ وَالْمُسْلِمَاتِ وَالْمُؤْمِنِيْنَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتِ الْأَحْيَاءِ مِنْهُنَّ وَالْأَمْوَاتِ فَاسْتَغْفِرُوهُ إِنَّهُ هُوَ الْغَفُوْرُ الرَّحِيْمُ.</p>