



■ Cllr Elaine Norman, centre, visited the Al-Noor School as part of Islam Awareness Week

Pupils invite guests to find out more about Islamic life

More than 300 primary school children are visiting an Islamic school to watch plays, look at an exhibition and have their questions answered in celebration of national Islam Awareness Week.

The week of activities is taking place at the Al-Noor School in Green Lane, Goodmayes, and kicked off with a visit from the leader of Redbridge Council Cllr Keith Prince.

Someera Butt, headteacher, said: "All the children visiting from the participating schools enjoyed the experience and

left looking forward to more in the future."

Exhibits and displays have been created by pupils which explore various aspects of Islamic life including health, environment, sport, art and animals.

Children from seven schools in Redbridge have been invited to Al-Noor.

Ms Butt said: "It's all about our children talking and engaging with others and making a positive contribution to society and working towards the common good."

School concert set duo on path to TV stardom

Opera singers stun Britain's Got Talent crowd

by Jessica Earnshaw
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▶ A Britain's Got Talent duo, who have become reality show sensations overnight, started their careers at a Chigwell school.

Jonathan Antoine, 17, and Charlotte Jaconelli, 16, attended West Hatch High School in High Road, before leaving to focus on their singing.

Millions of viewers saw Simon Cowell describe tenor Jonathan as "unbelievable" after his performance of *The Prayer* by Celine Dion and Andrea Bocelli, alongside his friend Charlotte.

At the end of their audition, which aired on Saturday, the entire audience at the Hammersmith Apollo erupted into applause and gave them a standing ovation.

The talented double act first performed together at the school's end-of-year concert last year and a sports ball to raise money for new sporting facilities.

Of being compared to opera singer Pavarotti, Jonathan said: "It's an absolute honour. Some of the things he's done can just move me to tears."



■ Jonathan Antoine, who has been compared to Pavarotti, and Charlotte Jaconelli were a hit on Britain's Got Talent

He added: "I just want to sing and have fun with singing. I've found so many interesting people in this industry and I think this is a good opportunity to do that."

Head of music at the school, Ginette Brown, who taught the pair for five years, said: "Both Jonathan and Charlotte are exceptionally talented performers who have beautiful voices and great careers ahead of them."

"I and everyone associated with West Hatch High School

is immensely proud of both Jonathan and Charlotte and we wish them all the best in the next stage of the competition."

After an initial negative reaction from the show's judges, Jonathan added: "To be honest, for me it was expected because I don't look like a standard performer."

"I sort of expected there would be a reaction and I was hoping our performance would make them think differently."

Chemical spillage at school pool

An assistant caretaker at a Redbridge school was taken to hospital with breathing difficulties on Monday following a chemical spill.

Firefighters were called to a spillage in the swimming pool area of Newbridge School, Gresham Drive, Chadwell Heath.

Staff and 60 children were told to keep away from the pool and its neighbouring plant area after sodium bisulfite and sodium hypochlorite were spilled.

The caretaker was taken to Queen's Hospital, Romford, with minor breathing difficulties but informed Redbridge Council on Monday that he was fine.

Man found stabbed

A man was taken to hospital as a priority after being stabbed in Chadwell Heath.

The man, understood to be in his late teens or early 20s, was found injured in Clarissa Road, Chadwell Heath, at around 2.40pm on Friday.

No arrests were understood to have been made at the time of going to press yesterday (Wednesday).

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