What do I need?

Glass jar with lid

Glass paints

Ribbon or twine

Glitter

PVA glue

Sadaqah jar

What do I do?

Look at page 2 to learn about the Islamic New Year and why *sadaqah,* or voluntary charity, is important. Here we'll show you how to make a *sadaqah* jar to collect money for charity as part of your new year celebrations!

Remove any labels by soaking your jar in warm, soapy water and gently rubbing the label away with a cloth or a brush. Dry your jar ready to decorate.

Now decide what type of design you want to decorate your jar with. You can use many different craft materials to add patterns to it.

For example, you could use glass paints to paint the Islamic crescent moon and star onto it, use glitter and glue to add some sparkle, tie ribbon or twine around it - or do all three!

If you want to label your jar, you could use glass paints or a marker pen to write 'Sadaqah Jar' or 'Charity Jar' onto it.

Once you're happy with your jar decoration, put it on display so that you, your family and friends can put spare change in it as you walk past.

After a couple of months, open your jar, count the money you've collected, and donate it to your favourite charity!

Al-Hijra

Islamic New Year

Known also as Islamic New Year and Arabic New Year, *Al-Hijra* marks the beginning of a new lunar year in the Islamic calendar. It falls on the first day of *Muharram* - the first month in the Islamic year.

The Islamic calendar began in 622 CE, when the Prophet Muhammad and his followers journeyed from Mecca to Medina and set up the first Muslim community. In reflection of this, the Arabic word for the calendar is *Hijra*, meaning 'departure' or 'migration'.

During Islamic New Year, Muslims are encouraged to consider the importance of *Hijra*, to self-reflect, and to set resolutions for the year ahead.

As charity is one of the five pillars of Islam, charity is an extremely important aspect of Muslim life. Around Islamic New Year, *sadaqah* is often given in the form of monetary donations or the sharing of food with those less fortunate.