



a happy school™

2017-18: November

Issue
No. 2

the smile

NEWSLETTER

AL BASMA BRITISH SCHOOL

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Guardians

We have had a very busy month at Al Basma with the launch of Pet Care Month, thank you to all parents who have already donated items to the charity collections for the cat and dog homes. We will continue to collect pet paraphernalia which you no longer need and pet food until December 7th. It is very important that we teach the children that sharing because we are caring extends to all living creatures, not just people.

Thank you to all parents who purchased we are one @ Al Basma t-shirts to show your respect and support for our multi-cultural community on Tolerance Day. All proceeds go to the PTT who use any money raised to fund future PTT events. We have had lots of educational visits with children going to Funworks, Lego land, Saadiyat Art festival, the Higher Education Fair and Science Exhibition at ADNEC. Expo 2020, Jack and the Beanstalk from Lollipop theatre company and Early Starters book fair have all visited school this month. We also have the planetarium visiting school next week. Congratulations to our junior and senior student councils and young leaders who have been elected and have begun to take on responsibilities. All children enjoyed taking part in our Flag Day celebrations. In addition Grade 1 have enjoyed UK Day and Fairytale Day whilst Grade 3 have enjoyed Ancient Greek and Grade 2 had Stone Age Day to conclude their topic studies for the half term. Grade 5 have WWII day coming up where they will be evacuees for the day.

Attendance and Punctuality are our focus for the second half of term 1. Please remember poor **punctuality** and poor **attendance directly affect your children's learning**. Please ensure they are in school **before 7.50am** for the national anthem. Registers are taken before 8am in almost all grades. Please do not pick your children up early unless it is absolutely unavoidable. **Learning takes place until 2.35pm** in all grades. Absence even for a lesson directly impacts on your children's progress. Attendance and punctuality awards will be issued in each grade each week and awards will be based on attendance from Sunday 12th November.

The children in G6 to 10 who visited **London** in the half term holiday had a fabulous time engaging in lots of educational and cultural experiences. Unfortunately the planned a **ski trip in December to Switzerland** for children aged 12 or more on 27th December is unable to go ahead as the number of children who have paid a deposit is not adequate for the trip to run. We will be launching another overseas trip opportunity soon for the last week of the spring or summer holiday.

Mrs Allison McDonald (allison@albasmaschool.ae)

KEY DATES

27th November – G4 and G6 Planetarium Show
29th November – National Day Celebrations
30th November – Martyrs Day – School closed
3rd December – Prophets Birthday – School closed
14th December - End of Term 1
7th January – Start of Term 2 for students

ATTENDANCE/PUNCTUALITY

Best attendance:

1st Place: G4E – Ms Leo
2nd Place: G1A – Ms Amber
3rd Place: G3C – Ms Yvonne

Best punctuality:

1st Place: G7D – Ms Nicola C
2nd Place: G3A – Ms Nicola G
3rd Place: G6B – Ms Amanda

 **BSME**



Careers Information

We would encourage any parents interested in sharing their career and their pathway with our G9 and 10 students to contact Mr John KS4 Leader who will arrange a time for you to come in and talk to the children. john.g@albasmaschool.ae

PTT Events

The PTT hosted their second **coffee morning** of the year with **Principal's Q&A** on the first Thursday of November. The mums discussed National Day preparations, visited the book fair and looked at uniform samples from potential new suppliers.

The PTT are hosting ladies only **Zumba Classes** on Sundays with a professional female instructor in the school hall at 4.30pm. The sessions are a great fun way to get fit and we invite as many parents as possible to join us. Sessions are AED 25 or AED 20 if you make a block advance booking.

The PTT have also started ladies only **Yoga classes** with a female professional instructor. Classes are at 4.30pm on Monday and Wednesday in the drama studio and are proving very popular with staff. One session cost AED 45 with the price reduced to AED 40 if there are more than 10 people in the class.

They are also looking at **Children's swimming and Karate lessons** on Saturday mornings. More information will follow soon.

The PTT are also selling high quality **uniform label booklets** and **we_are_one@albasma t-shirts** and **National Day t-shirts** for upcoming events to raise funds.

Please contact the Vice Chair of the PTT Ms Tamanna for further details of any of these events on volunteers@albasmaschool.ae

Enrichment

Enrichment is taking place weekly. Please remember to inform reception before 12:30pm if children are not attending and ensure children are collected promptly at 4pm. 3 late pick ups will result in the place being withdrawn.

National Day Celebrations

We will be hosting our 46th UAE National Day Celebrations on the morning of **Wednesday 29th November**. Parents and Guardians are invited to join us as per the below programme.

We welcome any parents who wish to support the PTT with the afternoon's celebrations or if they would like to display any **UAE artefacts or UAE animals or plants** as part of our celebration to contact volunteers@albasmaschool.ae.

Local parents are coordinating to create a celebration of Emirati Culture. If you would like to be a part of this group please **contact Madam Najia** to share your ideas and see how you can get involved at ns191965@gmail.com or contact Ms Vikki by calling reception who will share Madam Najia's contact details.

We are asking parents to **donate recycled or homemade decorations** for their child's homeroom for the "decorate a classroom" competition. This will take place during the morning of the 29th November when children will be given time to make decorations and put up donated decorations in their classrooms. This is one of the activities to **celebrate UAE culture and identity** that the children will take part in that day.

Finally, we will be having a **UAE food and drink competition** for parents. Please send in your entries on the morning of the 29th November, between 7.30am and 11am. Please mark your dish with savoury or sweet **COMPETITION ENTRY**, so it does not get sent to the class party, and your child's name and class so we can notify winners. If possible send in a disposable container. Please remember, no nuts!

Children and teachers will be asked to dress in **UAE national dress or UAE flag colours or one of the PTT National Day t-shirts** for our celebrations on this day.

Children can bring party food for their class parties on Thursday morning.

Programme for Al Basma 46th UAE National Day Celebrations

7.50am Assembly and National Anthem

8am Parade KG1 to G10, **parents can watch**

8.30am KG1 parents can join their children in the KG1 area for the KG1 performance.

9.30am KG2 to G3 Celebration

Performances in the hall, **KG2 to G3 parents can watch.**

11am G4 to G10 Celebration Performances

in the hall, **G4 to G10 parents can watch.**

11.45am Class parties

12.30pm Buses for bus children not attending the family celebration

1.30pm Collection of children from homeroom classes

1.30pm PTT Family Celebration begins

Website

We have been updating the webpage in response to parent feedback and hope you like the new layout of the homepage. Please share any ideas for improvements with the PTT who will feed them back to me.

Improved Security Protocols for all Visitors

We have introduced improved security measures at reception with any visitor or parent passing beyond reception being required to submit their photo ID and sign in for a visitors badge. The badge should be worn whilst they are in school, they will also be issued with a visitors information leaflet. Copies of the visitors leaflet are also available in reception for interested parents.

Individual school photos are being planned for February with a very professional company from the UK following parent feedback on the photographs last year. Class photos will be taken in May.

The Early Starters book fair visited our school last week which was a great success with the students. They thoroughly enjoyed their time visiting the book fair and purchasing their favourite books.



CORE VALUES

The focus in October is

Tolerance

GENERAL INFORMATION

Parking

Please respect our neighbours by parking and driving respectfully and legally when visiting school. Please do not block our neighbours' entrances and speak respectfully to them if they ask you to move your car. Thank you for your support and the good example you are showing our children. Traffic Police do visit school at pick up time and do ticket cars which are parked illegally as it is a public highway.



When visiting school please respect that the access road in front of school is closed to traffic for the safety of all of our children and visitors. Please do not use it the disabled parking spaces in the car park are just as close if you have mobility issues.

Parent communication

Please contact - volunteers@albasmaschool.ae for more information about grade whatsapp groups and the PTT facebook page. Answers to questions asked at the coffee morning are posted on the PTT facebook page. Please check the facebook page monthly for up to date information about the school. Please submit any questions to be posed to the Principal during coffee morning to - volunteers@albasmaschool.ae up to two days before the coffee morning.

Contact details

It is very important that we have the correct contact details. If your details are not correct you will not receive our text messages or emails. Please contact - reception@albasmaschool.ae with your email address and mobile phone number if you are not receiving text messages or emails so that we can check and update your contact details.

Attendance and Punctuality

We will continue our focus on the importance of good punctuality and attendance this year.

Lateness and absence have a direct impact on your children's achievement and rate of progress. We place great importance on helping your child to become the best that they can be and high attendance and good punctuality are key to success in education and later in employment.

We have introduced termly prizes for parents and children. There will be termly prize draws for children with 96% or more attendance, children with no lates and children with no early pick ups. The winner of each draw will receive a parent prize and a child's prize. As part of the UAE Year of Giving we will give all 6 prize winners the option to receive a gift or have us make a donation of equivalent value on their behalf to support an international cause from a given selection.

Prizes are AED100 Bounce or Adventure HQ voucher for children to support our Healthy Lifestyle Campaign and AED 500 credit on school fees. Charitable donations are sustainable and are chosen from Unicef, Oxfam and Save the Children.

Parents can choose from 12 donations ranging from 25 mosquito nets to measles vaccine for 180 children to seeds for 10 farming families and educating 9 children. Children can choose from 10 prizes which range from 2 bee farm start up kits, winter clothes and toys for one child, warm blankets for 5 babies and educating 2 children. All donations will be recorded on the legacy tree in reception and will receive an e card acknowledging their donation.

Our target is to exceed 96% attendance this is equivalent to 8 days absence per year.

We have information leaflets in reception and presentations and FAQs on the website detailing the impact of absence and lateness on learning. Early pick-ups have an equal impact to lateness in terms reducing your child's learning and the financial cost to you of the fees you have paid for the days they have missed.

You can expect to receive a phone call from Mr Sinto the Social Worker linked to attendance if your child is absent for 3 consecutive days without notifying us of a reason for absence. He will also be calling the parents of children with less than 90% attendance over the coming weeks to discuss the impact of what equates to 19 days a year absence on the children's learning and development. Phone calls will also be made to parents of children with a large number of lates or early pickups.

Mr Sinto is also meeting parents and children who are late each day in Reception on arrival and handing out leaflets describing the impact of poor punctuality on learning. Lessons start at 8am therefore arrival after 8 am impacts directly on learning.

Perfect Attendance!

Early Pick Up

Please avoid picking your children up early on Thursday, especially if they have lost Golden Time. This is the sanction for failing to meet expectations, by collecting them early you are condoning this behaviour and helping them to avoid the sanction. Without sanctions behaviour will not improve and children who do not show improvement in their behaviour may not be re-registered for 2018/19.



Grade 4H getting creative making Greek vases and learning different phases of the moon



Students investigating a crime scene and working together to analyse the clues that helped them solve the mystery



G1 dressing up for their 'Fairytale Day'



G7 girls visiting 'Al Basma Art Exhibition' as part of their Art lesson



G7 to G9 students had a wonderful time exploring London. They visited Chelsea football club Museum, Buckingham Palace and Royal Holloway University

