



a happy school™

2016-17: September

Issue  
No. 1

# the smile

# NEWSLETTER

AL BASMA BRITISH SCHOOL

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome back following the Eid holiday.

It has been a very smooth start to the year for new and returning students who have settled back into school amazingly quickly. We are pleased to inform you that we are fully staffed and we would like you to join us in welcoming all the new staff to the Al Basma Community. They too have eased into the school well and are looking forward to meeting you at the parent induction and meet the teacher events. During this event you will have the opportunity to meet your child's homeroom teacher, gain information about their new grade/class and find out about the new parent portal (Bric) which will be launched next week.

We have sent out several emails and text messages in August and September on a range of subjects. Please check your junk and spam inboxes – if our mails are being sent to these locations, please add the Al Basma email address to your contacts list as this will ensure future emails are received in your inbox. If you have not received any email or text messages, please contact Reception with your updated details or fill them in on the permission forms sent home in the first week and return this to the school. All newsletters and the content of most messages are repeated on the website so this is a useful source of information.

We wish to retain our goal of being a healthy school this year and would ask that snacks and lunches are healthy. We would also remind you that we are a nut-free school.

Please feel free to contact me with any general operational concerns or issues and I will follow up or direct the mail to the appropriate member of the school management team for their response and action.

**Mrs. Allison McDonald**  
allison@albasmaschool.ae

## KEY DATES

Teacher-Parent Evenings

19<sup>th</sup> September

5 pm – KG1

6 pm – KG2

20<sup>th</sup> September

5 pm – Grades 1 & 2

6 pm – Grades 3, 4 & 5

21<sup>st</sup> September

5 pm Grades 6 to 9

## ATTENDANCE/PUNCTUALITY

### Best attendance:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: 4E (Ms. Helen)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: 4A (Ms. Laura)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: KG1G (Ms. Sagal)

### Best punctuality:

1<sup>st</sup> Place: 9A (Mr. Cian)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: 6D (Ms. Nicola)

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: 6C (Ms. Rabeya)

Below: Robotics is still popular



## a focus on Science...



Al Basma's **Parent-Teacher Team** is an increasingly active body which organises events to develop the Al Basma Parent School Community. Last year they were involved with National Day, International Day, Family Picnic and other events.

Nominations for the Executive Committee members will be emailed to all parents next week. A General Committee meeting will be called where all interested parents and teachers can attend to vote for the Executive Committee members. Meetings are held monthly as a minimum and are open to any interested parent as and when they want to attend. In a similar way, parents can be involved in as many or as few PTT events in the as they wish through the year. The PTT also host monthly Coffee Mornings where you can meet the Principal and management team. Questions can be registered with the Executive Committee Secretary prior to the meeting.

Our **Parent Portal - Bric** will go live on 24<sup>th</sup> September. Ultimately it will include downloadable homework and sample teaching resources for each of your children through one log in. We intend to build its' use over the coming term. It is also part of our commitment to reduce our environmental impact by reducing the amount of paper we are using. We will show parents how to use it during this week's parent meetings and login details will be emailed to parents on 24<sup>th</sup> September. It is therefore essential that you ensure that we have your correct email address.

There has been some reported difficulty with the **phone lines** to reception. In order to make contacting school less of an inconvenience and not restricted to school hours, we will open a new email

[earlypickup@albasmaschool.ae](mailto:earlypickup@albasmaschool.ae)

where you can register an early pick up request after 3 pm on the day before collection until 1.30 pm on the day of collection. In addition, we will open an email

[reception@albasmaschool.ae](mailto:reception@albasmaschool.ae)

for all other general enquires. Please note, for all matters relating directly to your child, their homeroom teacher should be your first point of contact. We will no longer operate [info@albasmaschool.ae](mailto:info@albasmaschool.ae) email.

Please return the **permission slips** sent home at the beginning of the term.

Ms. Mokkaam is available on reception for **Arabic speakers** and for translation purposes.

Please remember for the children's health and safety we request that you inform the school before 1.30 pm if you wish to collect them early or do not wish them to travel on the bus. There is no **early collection** between 2 and 2.30 pm. If you cannot collect your child by 2 pm from Reception, then you must collect them from their grade's pick up point at the back of the school accessed through Gate 2 after 2.40 pm. School ends at 2.35 pm. With more children on parent pick up this year, it is taking us longer to assemble the children to their pick up points. Kindly be patient and wait in your cars until we open the gates which will be as close to 2.40 pm as possible.

**Stationery** is not included in school fees and it is the responsibility of the parent to ensure their child has the minimum stationery required to access the curriculum. Starter stationery packs are available from school or the uniform shop and a list is available from the homeroom teacher or store if you wish to purchase items outside. Copy books are branded and should be purchased from the school store. If you have surplus books from last year, you can top up your supply from the store or uniform shop who can inform you of the requirement for your child's grade.

## CORE COMPETENCIES

The coming focus is on

## Respect

