



*a happy school™*

May 2016

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# the smile

# NEWSLETTER

AL BASMA BRITISH SCHOOL

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Guardians

Last week we were very busy with visitors from the UK inspecting our school against British standards for British Schools Overseas accreditation. I am very proud of the teachers and the children for making our visitors very welcome and showing the inspectors how wonderful our school is resulting in the school being recommended for BSO accreditation by the UK Department for Education.

We were very sorry to say goodbye to Ms. Ruth and Mr. Oliver last week. We have been very lucky to be able to recruit two teachers to cover the absence until the end of the year. Both teachers will deliver the planning shared by the team to see out the remainder of the year. Streaming will continue as normal to minimise disruption for the children.

On 25th May we will be hosting a curriculum information evening where we hope to address some of the concerns of parents about the lack of textbooks. The event will be delivered in Arabic for G2 to 4 at 4.30pm and G5 to 8 at 5.30pm and will explain the English National Curriculum approach to teaching and learning and its approach to textbooks in Arabic.

In May we will be rolling out our parent portal. Parents of KG2JA, G1AM will receive a username and password by email and Ms. Jakiy and Ms. Amber will be trialing the system to share homework and some class resources. In G5 to 8 some science, art, and English classes will be trialing the system for homework and will begin to include teaching resources over the course of the term. The aim is that you will be able to access all homework and see the detail of what exactly your child has been doing in class in the previous week and the level they are working at, effectively replacing the information you would get from a textbook. You will be able to download and print resources so that you can go over worksheets again to secure learning. We aim to develop the use of the portal over the coming term and in Term 1 of next year until it is fully operational for all classes.

Our final round of admission assessments will take place next week. Please ensure Term 3 fees and re-registration fees are paid by May 31st to secure your child's seat for 2016/17. Seats not secured by the payment of the re-registration fee will be offered to children on the admissions waiting list in early June. Please visit the eSIS team if your child will be leaving us so that we can complete the paperwork and the online school transfer formalities.

## KEY DATES

- 14<sup>th</sup> May  
Family Picnic at 3 pm
- 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>  
School Photographs
- 19<sup>th</sup> May  
Parent Coffee Morning at 9 am
- 25<sup>th</sup> May  
Curriculum Info Evening
- WB 29<sup>th</sup> May  
KG1 & G5 Graduation
- WB 19<sup>th</sup> June  
Assessment Week
- 23<sup>rd</sup> June  
End of Term 3  
End-of-year reports issued

## ATTENDANCE/PUNCTUALITY

### Best attendance:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: 8A (Mr. Wayne)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: 3E (Ms. Helen)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: 6A (Ms. Maie)

### Best punctuality:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: 8A (Mr. Wayne)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: 6B (Mr. Alfredo)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: 1H (Ms. Lavanya)



Mrs. Allison McDonald

## Al Basma learning...



## GENERAL INFORMATION

We will be hosting our first **Family Picnic** on Saturday 14th May from 3pm to 6pm. This event will be organised by the Al Basma Parent Association. There will be a fashion show at 3pm - please sign up online using the link on the website. There will be parent and child cricket, football, basketball, tug of war, table tennis and badminton which you can sign up for on the day. Please bring a dish to the canteen to share with the other picnic goers at 6pm. Bring along your picnic chairs and rugs. The canteen will be open to sell soft drinks and the school will provide disposable cutlery and crockery with tea, coffee and water provided by the school. There will be a bouncy castle for KG1 & 2 students with face painting and balloon modelling to entertain the younger children too. We look forward to seeing you at school on Saturday.

The **last compulsory school day** for **KG1** will be 5<sup>th</sup> June. However, children are still welcome in school until 23<sup>rd</sup>. KG2 to G8 are expected to attend school until 23<sup>rd</sup> June to ensure they maximise their progress and attainment. If your child needs to leave school early, please contact Ms. Batul so that we can arrange the assessments before they leave as this is vital information for the next academic year.

Please make sure your child has the basic **stationary** to access the curriculum.

**KG1:** HB pencils, whiteboard pens, glue sticks, colour pencils

**KG2 to G3:** HB pencils, eraser, sharpener, highlighters, ruler, glue stick, whiteboard pens, colour pencils

**G4 to G8:** HB pencils, eraser, sharpener, ruler, glue stick, whiteboard pens, colours, maths set, calculator

As the **weather** is getting hotter, please ensure all children have a water bottle and a hat available for breaks, lunch and PE. We are moving as much PE as possible inside.

Please click the link in your email from Ms. Wilesse (Governor) to complete our **parent survey**. We value your opinions and feedback and always aim to act positively to address your concerns.

The recently updated **anti-bullying** policy is now published on the website. We do not tolerate bullying or discrimination of any kind and will always act quickly and decisively in response to any reported cases. Please encourage your child to report any incidences of repeated nastiness, verbal or physical intimidation or ongoing exclusion to their homeroom teacher or another adult. Mr. Mo, Mr. Sinto, Ms. Reshma and Ms. Barathi are always available to listen. There is also a Friendship Box outside the clinic where children can report an incident. Parents can report an incident to the homeroom teacher or to Ms. Batul ([batul@albasmaschool.ae](mailto:batul@albasmaschool.ae)). It is extremely important to us that our children feel safe and happy at school.

We hope to see more parents at the next **Coffee Morning** on 19<sup>th</sup> May at 9 am.

Please visit Zaks to fulfill any **uniform** requirements for Term 3.

## CORE COMPETENCIES

The coming focus is on

## Entrepreneurship