



PUTTING THE FUN BACK
INTO LEARNING!

Dear Parents,

The second part of the autumn term has now commenced and though this term will be slightly shorter than the first, there is still a lot to look forward to and lots to learn! Within this term, we will be continuing to teach the English National Curriculum, up until the second week of December, when we will begin to review the children's progress. As we are following the British National curriculum, we will conduct one-to-one assessments between teacher and student, to establish how much information has been retained and what areas need to be focused on. Therefore there will be no formal exams or tests. At present, Grade 1 teachers are unanimously pleased with the current level of progression being made by most children. Students are beginning to demonstrate more confidence and independence within their learning and many are building enthusiasm towards new and complex skills. A successful start to the term is evident.

Curriculum overview

On a weekly basis, Grade 1 teachers send an overview of what will be covered each week in a brief summary, here are the curriculum areas that will be covered this term.

Maths Curriculum

- Measures and Shape (Describe, visualise and draw common 2D shapes; sort 2-D shapes, referring to their properties, explore symmetry and angles, identify 3D shapes).
- Addition and subtraction within money (Using number bonds to add and subtract monetary amounts to 10 and 20, calculating the cost of a group of objects through problem solving, finding change from 20, 50 and 100dhs).
- Number and Fractions (count in tens and twos, spotting patterns, recognise multiples of two and ten, recognise odd and even numbers, find halves and quarters of shapes).
- Doubling and halving (Find doubles up to double 20 and corresponding halves).
- Mental addition (Add near multiples of ten by adding multiples and adjusting, revise adding 'ordinary' numbers (mostly ending in 1, 2, or 3), add two-digit numbers by counting on in 10s and 1s using mental strategies).

English Curriculum

The Curriculum areas for this term are:

- Using: capital letters, full stops, and finger spaces in their writing
- Introducing: question marks, exclamation marks, commas for a list, connectives, adjectives, sentence openers.

- Writing a story by structuring it accurately using the beginning, middle and end.
- Learning tricky word spellings from their phonic stage
- Applying phonic sounds in their writing.
- Developing creative ideas to describe, list, recount, re-tell, explain different genres

Topic Curriculum

As you are all aware, our Topic lessons are a combination of Science, History, Geography, Art, and Design Technology.

This term our Topic area will be 'Toys'. Within this unit, we will be:

- Exploring how Toys are made in Design Technology.
- Inventing and creating new toys in Art and Design.
- Researching the History of Toys, exploring a timeline of progression and the development of toys over the years.
- Discovering where toys are made and where they come from (location) in Geography.
- Investigating what materials toys are made and their properties in Science.
- Carrying out a brief investigation of forces when observing the movements of some toys also in Science.

Home study

We would like to take this time to thank parents for their continuous support with their child's home study. We would also like to thank those parents who have shown a great appreciation for all teachers efforts and who continuously assist with the progression of our students. It is, however, very important to remember that home study should be a method of consolidating children's learning and providing practice for newly learnt skills. We do not expect parents to teach their children new concepts. Grade1 teachers are urging you to encourage independence within your child's completion of home tasks, we would like you as parents to check your child's work and ensure they return their work on time, not complete the task for them. As the children are young, they will benefit from organisation and personal care reminders and support from you as parents.

Snack and lunch

Al Basma British School is a healthy eating school and we spend large amounts of time encouraging children to eat healthily and take care of their belongings. We do need your help with this. Ensuring your child comes to school with a small healthy snack (including fruit and veg) for the morning break, a bottle of water and a nutritious plate for lunch is essential for their concentration, focus and attainment. Please ensure that you are supporting our efforts to encourage healthy eating as it is in the children's best interests.

Letters and contact books

Letters are regularly sent out and often need parental replies. Please check your child's contact books and bags daily for any letters and reply at the earliest convenience.

Stationery

Most children have now brought their stationery packs to school. This makes teaching students a lot easier and we are very grateful for the prompt attitude of many parents. Unfortunately, due to the age of the children, they use resources such as glue and coloured pencils extremely quickly and therefore, Grade 1 teachers are asking for your help to supply additional coloured pencils, pencils and glue. This is to aid teachers in their creative methods and to ensure all pupils have the opportunity to participate in differing types of activities.

Uniform

It is extremely important within a school establishment, that all children are dressed smartly and equally to create unity and a stance of pride. Many children have now bought the school uniform and are wearing black shoes to school. Unfortunately, some children are not following these school guidelines and are disregarding school policy and rules. We urge you to support the school in regulating school dress and ensuring students are well presented.

Regarding the PE uniform, the specific house colours that you need to buy are still being established however, we will inform you as soon as possible. We apologise for any inconvenience caused and would like to assure you that no pupil will be punished for incorrect PE clothes at this time.

Further information

At present, the possibility of children going on education school visits are being discussed. Within the following week, a letter will be sent out asking for parents thoughts on suggested school visits. All trips are to enhance children's learning and are solely for their educational benefit. We trust that parents will support our creative methods and attempts to expand children's experiences through opening their eyes to new ideas.

We look forward to working with you through another successful half term.

With thanks,

Grade 1 Teachers