



PUTTING THE FUN BACK
INTO LEARNING!

Dear Parents,

We have now entered the second month of our Autumn term. Doesn't time pass quickly when you're learning and having fun! We have had an excellent start to the academic year and many students have now settled comfortably into school life. This positive and progressive start is only an insight into what to expect from the children this year. Let's continue to work together to ensure the greatest of achievements!

Curriculum overview and baseline assessments

This month, the class teachers will continue to assess the children's mathematical abilities as previously done for phonics. This is to ensure that each child's personal needs are met and supported. In response to the phonics assessment results, Grade 1 students will now be grouped according to their ability. There is a possibility that your child may be with a new teacher for their 20 minutes of daily phonics. This is to support your child with their specific needs, prompting greater rates of progression.

During October, in Mathematics, we will be focusing on number and place value. This will involve comparing and ordering numbers to 100 and beyond, and representing numbers and quantities through visual and physical means. We will also explore and practice using subject specific vocabulary, such as 'more than' and 'less than', to extend our ability to compare numbers and then begin to partition into tens and units and beyond for a further challenge. As we approach the end of the month, we will begin to revise addition and subtraction of 2-digit and single-digit numbers demonstrating our increased confidence in manipulating number. Higher achievers will be challenged to use larger numbers and more complex vocabulary on a daily basis for further progression.

Within English, we will be studying fictional stories, building an understanding of the spoken and written language through story patterns and sequencing. We will be building an understanding of sentence structures by continuing to practice the use of capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. To support the language development of the children, throughout the unit, we will be using the methods of Pie Corbett. 'Talk for writing' is a research-proven, successful approach, that allows children to immerse themselves in a story. This method encourages and supports children to build their confidence in exploring and practicing language in dramatic and creative ways. As many children are learning English as a second language, it is very important that we focus on student's speaking and listening skills to prepare them for written tasks. To support your child with their language development, we encourage you to speak to your child in English, when possible and allow them to watch English films and TV programmes.

Our Topic for this term is Animals including humans. To support the children holistically, we are beginning to use a thematic approach across the foundation subjects. This means that Geography, History, Science, Art and Design Technology will be linked together to support the creative teachings of the English National Curriculum. All of these subjects come under the umbrella term 'Topic'. During October, the children will begin to explore themselves through building an understanding of their bodies and senses. From this, we will progress to the exploration of common animals, comparing

physical structures to enhance their biological knowledge. This topic is predominantly science based however, it also has links to; animal habitats and countries for Geography, explores UAE creatures in connection with UAE Culture and History and the creation of animal patterns and models in Art and Design. On the class timetable all the sections that are referred to as 'Topic', 'Art' and 'D&T' are the time slots when the teacher will teach 'Topic' work. Timetables have already been sent home with all children however, an additional copy will be pasted into the child's contact book.

Further study

The assignment of homework tasks commenced this week, on return from the Eid break. A maths, phonics and topic based homework task will be distributed on a Sunday to be returned to the home-room class teacher on Wednesday. The Arabic team may also assign activities throughout the week. Please support your child with their homework however promote and encourage independence. The activities are designed to practice skills learnt during class and enhance the children's understanding. The activities will not be new learning but reinforce learning which has taken place during the week.

If you wish to increase the amount of further study your child does at home, there are websites that you can access for additional practice. They are filled with educational tasks and games which teachers refer to during class activities. We would also encourage you to read with your child as much as possible, both reading to your child and hearing them read in English as this is the easiest way to raise their literacy levels in English.

Phonics/ English

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play/>

Maths

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/counting>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths/>

In addition to homework tasks being sent home every week, Grade 1 teachers, will be sending a weekly overview of learning objectives. Due to the amount of differentiation required to meet all students needs, the weekly overview will be a generic list of what teachers are aiming to achieve in class.

School preparation

We would also like to take this time to remind parents that every child should come to school prepared for all subjects. Each child has been issued with a timetable and therefore checking that your child has the correct books, on a daily basis, is very important. Regarding the colour of the PE uniform, we do apologise for the delay in colour confirmation however, all parents will be informed as soon as possible. If you already have a child in the school, the uniform colour has NOT changed and all siblings are to match.

We thank you for your continuous support and appreciation of our efforts.

Grade 1 teachers