



PUTTING THE FUN BACK  
INTO LEARNING!

Dear parents and guardians,

Happy New Year!

We hope that you all had a restful and enjoyable Winter break and are now ready for the start of a new term.

We look forward to sharing another term of partnership with you as we continue to teach your children.

### **CURRICULUM**

Just a quick reminder that our Curriculum, the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum (EYFS) is a **Play Based** curriculum.

The EYFS curriculum has seven areas of learning and development:

- Three (3) Prime Areas namely Communication and Language (CL), Personal Social and Emotional Development (PSED), Physical Development (PD).
- Four (4) specific areas namely Literacy (L), Mathematics (M), Understanding the World (UW), Expressive Arts and Design (EAD).

This term we will continue to emphasise development in the Prime areas as they are the foundations for future learning which underpin your children's progress. However, our target setting evening will focus on the specific areas of Mathematics and Literacy and will include one target in an area of improvement from the Prime Areas.

Please plan to attend the parents evening as it is a very important collaboration opportunity with the homeroom teachers. The dates will be the 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> January. The exact timings will be communicated by your individual homeroom teachers.

We will be sending you more information regarding the curriculum in the summer term.

### **THEMES FOR THE TERM**

For the first half of term 2, we have planned learning activities in the seven (7) areas of learning around our topic "**Journeys and Transport**" and for the second half of the term our seven (7) areas of learning will be planned around our topic will be "**Pirates**".

Within these themes, some of the activities will include

- a. Different kinds of maps
- b. Travel Agents
- c. Treasure hunts and treasure maps
- d. Sailing boats and Sea travel
- e. Space and space travel
- f. Treasure maps etc.

As usual, you will receive weekly communication about what will be happening in the coming week.

## Phonics for Reading

We will continue to follow the Letters and Sounds phonics program. We will continue to build on phase two sounds and will start on phase three as well.

This term we are going to be streaming the children for phonics. They are going to get three half hour sessions a week in groups with children from other classes who are working on the same sounds as them. This way each child will get more focused phonics at their level accelerating their progress.

You will have received links to our online home reading scheme "Phonics Bug" from your teachers. Please continue to log in and support your child's reading at home.

For further information and resources: <http://www.letters-and-sounds.com>

Included with this newsletter, is a brochure on how you can support your child's reading at home.

## Mathematics

The Early Learning goal (ELG) we are working on in Mathematics, **Numbers** is:

Children can count reliably with numbers from one to 20, place them in order and say which number is one more or one less than a given number. Using quantities and objects, they add and subtract two single-digit numbers and count on or back to find the answer. They solve problems, including doubling, halving and sharing.

The Early Learning goal (ELG) we are working on in Mathematics, **Shape Space and Measures** is:

Children can use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities and objects and to solve problems. They recognise, create and describe patterns. They explore characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them.

This term we will be focusing on recognising numbers to 20, addition and number sentences, one more and one less, to name but a few. We will keep you updated on a weekly basis.

## OTHER POINTS TO NOTE

### School Day:

- School starts at 7.50am and finishes at 2:35pm.
- Please ensure that your child comes to school every day and is on time every morning after a good night's sleep. Recommendation is 10 to 12 hours sleep for under 5s.
- Please allow for your child to remain in school for the whole school day. Early pick-ups will impact on their ability to achieve the Early Learning Goals at the end of KG1.

### Uniform:

- Ensure that your child comes in their full school uniform every day. Details are included in the contact book and on the website.
- To prevent accidents especially during play, jewellery of any kind should not be worn. If girls must wear earrings, these must be small studs. Any hoop or hanging earrings will be removed and sent home. No chains or necklaces please as these can get caught on slides and other play equipment and form a choking hazard.
- Hair should be tied back for girls if it is shoulder length or longer.
- Please provide at least **one change of clothing** including underwear in case of any accidents.

### Food:

- Please pack a healthy breakfast, lunch and snack for your child. Any junk food, chocolate and sweets will be sent back home unopened.

- We remind you that we are a completely nut free institution as we have certain staff and children with severe nut allergies. Please do not pack nuts in any form in your children's lunch boxes.
- We also remind you that in school we encourage children to eat at their pace during meal times. However we do not feed or force children to eat. We encourage and support full independence in this area.

### **Toileting**

We remind you that as per our school policy, which you signed when your child joined us last term,

- We do not give personal care in the toilet except for the odd unexpected accident. We encourage and expect children to be independent in their own personal care and fully toilet trained from home.
- We do our best to remind children to use the toilet and they can do this any time they need to, as each of our classrooms has a toilet facility.

### **Communication:**

If you need to communicate with your child's teacher or with the Head of KG1/Pre KG:

- Telephone the school or email the teacher to book an appointment that is convenient to both of you. This will help avoid disappointment as teachers are unlikely to be available for individual unplanned meetings during class time or before or after school.
- Please continue to use your child's contact book for any needed daily communication with the teacher. It is important that you check these diaries and sign them every day to facilitate a good home/school partnership. Please ensure that your child brings the diary to school every day.
- Send an email. The teacher's email addresses are listed below.

**Ms Allison:** Principal

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

**Ms. Jayne:** AVP Early Years

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

**Ms. Layla:** K1-LA

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

**Ms. Denise:** K1-DE

[denise.l@albasmaschool.ae](mailto:denise.l@albasmaschool.ae)

**Ms. Laura:** K1-LY

[laura.clayton@albasmaschool.ae](mailto:laura.clayton@albasmaschool.ae)

**Ms. Ehinomen:** K1-EH

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

**Ms. Jenna:** K1-JE

[jenna.b@albasmaschool.ae](mailto:jenna.b@albasmaschool.ae)

**Ms. Edwina:** K1-ED

[edwina.g@albasmaschool.ae](mailto:edwina.g@albasmaschool.ae)

**Ms. Lulu:** K1-LU

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

From the Early Years Team,

Happy New Year to you all!