



a happy school™

2016-17: November

Issue
No. 4

the smile NEWSLETTER

AL BASMA BRITISH SCHOOL

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Guardians

Yet another busy two weeks at Al Basma have passed as we rush towards the holidays. Please note teaching will continue into the last week and it is very important that your children attend school until the last day of term. We thank those of you who have been without a teacher for the last couple of weeks for your patience. We have now secured two excellent teachers who will be joining us this week. We look forward to welcoming them to our Al Basma Community.

Last week we celebrated **Tolerance Day**. Wednesday 16th November was the first time the UAE had taken part in tolerance day. The PTT did a great job selling t-shirts and organising photo opportunities with the tolerance trees. Children enjoyed writing tolerance pledges and hanging them on the tree. Thank you to everyone who took part. Children from all grades have a much better understanding of the ADEC and Al Basma core value of tolerance and were able to explain in assembly what tolerance is, what it looks like when we are tolerant and what it looks like when we aren't tolerant. The teachers did a great job of organising lots of activities to improve the children's understanding. Tolerance is key to the smooth running of our multi-cultural community with over 54 different nationalities and 40 languages we must be respectful and accepting of our differences and learn from them.



Innovation week was announced by ADEC last week. It started with **Innovation Day** on 20th November. This week KG1 to G5 will create junk models, G5E and 7B will be creating model aeroplanes, G7 will be designing computer games using SCRATCH coding which G4 and G5 students will be testing. G1 to 3 will be visiting the robotics exhibition which selected G4 to 8 students are hosting demonstrating the robots they have built this term. Parents were invited to join us on Sunday between 1.45 to 2.15 pm to visit the robotics exhibit. Some of the children's innovations will be displayed in a special newsletter, on the TV screens in reception and around school, and in a display presented on National Day.

Mrs Allison McDonald (allison@albasmaschool.ae)

KEY DATES

20th November
Innovation Day

20th November
Robotics Exhibit: 1.45-2.15 pm

wc 20th November
Assessment/Innovation Week

27th – 29th November
Send in items for National Day

30th November
National Day celebrations

1st December
Martyr's Day School closed – School reopens on Sunday 4th December at 7:30am

wc 4th December
"Sharing because we are caring"

wc 11th December Anti Bullying Week

12th December
Prophet's Birthday (subject to change)

14th December
PTT/HAAD Smart Shopping Talk: 6pm

15th December
Term ends

Places for all PTT talks require pre-registration by contacting volunteers@albasmaschool.ae.

ATTENDANCE/PUNCTUALITY

Best attendance:

1st Place: G6D – Ms Nicola
2nd Place: G7C – Ms Lamia
3rd Place: G9B – Ms Rachel

Best punctuality:

1st Place: G6D – Ms Nicola
2nd Place: KG2C – Ms Alex
3rd Place: G9B – Ms Rachel

Educational Trips...

G2 visited the zoo last week over three days. They had a wonderful time and learnt lots about the animals they had been studying in science earlier in the term.



Secondary International Trip

Explorars visited school to host an information event for the G6 to 9 students about our upcoming trip to India in the second week of the spring holiday. We will host a girls trip and a boys trip which will both visit New Delhi and Rishikesh where they will camp and learn how to pitch a tent, trek in the foot hills of the Himilayas, white water raft in the Ganges, zip line and rock climb. The children were very excited to learn about the opportunity which will prepare our older children for the Duke of Edinburgh Award in G10. Children must be 12 before departure on the 31st March. We will be hosting a parent information event on Wednesday 23rd November at 6pm for the parents of children interested in travelling with us to India.

The ADEC **educational visit portal** has opened for us to upload the proposed trips for term 2. We look forward to informing you of the approved programme on return from winter break.

CORE COMPETENCIES

The focus is on
Integrity

Photos of the Week



Above: Making masks for Tolerance Day



Above: Creating a mural



Above: Students and teachers participating in Robotics during Innovation week.

NATIONAL DAY

Our National Day celebrations are fast approaching on the 30th November. We have a lot of activities planned in school in the morning. Bus children whose parents are not joining them for the celebration will go home on the bus at 12.30pm. Parents can collect their children from their classrooms at 1.30pm to take part in the family element of our celebration. Children can wear national dress all day as we will parade around the school at 8am. Children will be taking part in class parties and celebration assemblies in the morning and we are hoping civil defence will bring their emergency vehicles for the children to visit in the morning. Parents are welcome to stay for the parade after dropping children off in the morning and should return to collect children at 1.30pm. Arabic food should be sent on the day for the competition labelled with the child's name and the ingredients. Food for sharing and not being entered into the competition should be sent into school in disposable containers. UAE crafts and artifacts celebrating the national culture should be sent to school on 27th to 29th. Class decorations should be sent with your child to the homeroom teacher in week commencing 20th November. Henna, face painting, nail art, an art exhibit, an abaya vendor where you can place orders, craft and culture displays, local food, arts and crafts activities and some children doing traditional dances are among the planned attractions at our family celebration from 1:30pm to 4pm.

Governors

Congratulations to Mr Elliot and Ms Najuva who were elected to the posts of teacher governor and admin governor and attended their first meeting on 7th November. We are currently seeking nominations for a KS4 parent governor with a child in G9 to enhance the parent representation on the Governing Body. We will be posting abridged minutes of the monthly governors meetings on the website from December. Governors email addresses are on the website. Please email them if you have any concerns you would like them to raise.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Attendance and Punctuality

Please ensure all children arrive before 7.55am, are only absent if they are ill and are not leaving school early. This will ensure that they have full access to the curriculum. Holidays during term time should always be avoided. Please contact Ms Hadeel G2 to 9 or Ms Sherehan KG1 to G1 for a leave form. Please be advised that all leave which is not for religious observance, compassionate or medical reasons will not be authorised.

hadeel.a@albasmaschool.ae
sherehan@albasmaschool.ae



Parent-Teacher Team

PTT had their monthly coffee morning and hosted a talk about food safety and healthy lunch boxes by Food Safety Officer, Mr. Abdul Salim, from the Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority on Thursday 17th followed by the PTT coffee morning. The answers to the questions posed to the Principal at the coffee morning and the PTT General meeting on 9th November are posted on the PTT facebook page with the General Meeting minutes. Please contact volunteers@albasmaschool.ae for more details of their WhatsApp groups and facebook page.



Assembly

Well done to Grade 5 girls who performed "Don't Worry Be Happy" in whole school assembly on Thursday 17th which they have been learning in music lessons.

Community Outreach

In support of the less fortunate members of our society Al Basma will be sending the left over food from our National Day celebrations to the workers villages. We will also be asking the children to donate items for re-distribution to the workers, to take part in our 'Sharing Because We Are Caring' campaign. Caring is another ADEC and Al Basma core value like tolerance and is quality we would like to promote in our students. We will collect donations of tooth paste, tooth brushes, new adult male socks and t-shirts or under vests (M or L sizes), hard candy, pens, notebooks, shaving razors, shaving cream, cotton buds, shampoo, 8GB SD cards, Du or Etisalat AED25 vouchers. More details will follow in the week after National Day when we will be accepting donations.

Stationery

Please ensure your child has a fully stocked pencil case at all times. The stationery pack purchased from the school store was a starter pack which you will need to top up and add to as time goes on. Please ensure that when you purchase a pack it is kept at home and that you send the required named items in a named pencil case which you monitor and keep stocked. Please do not send in un named full stationery packs or un named items.

Uniform

Please ensure children wear white long sleeved undergarments or leggings under their uniform now that the weather is cooling down. Also please ensure children are wearing a school fleece. Other coats and hooded jackets are only allowed to be worn into school and home, and not during assembly or during the day in class or at break or playtime.

Diabetes Awareness Event

On Wednesday 23rd November we will be welcoming doctors, nurses, opticians, dentists and physiotherapists from NMC hospital to carry out free random blood glucose, blood pressure, eye sight, dental, BMI, and cholesterol testing which will be open to parents and staff between 9am and 2pm. Please come to reception between 9am and 1.30pm if you wish to take advantage of this opportunity.

International Schools

Ms Rachel is leading the school's bid for the International School's Award. We will be linked with Stockport School a school in our group in Karella India and several primary schools in the UK and beyond as we make contact with children around the world, share how we live, learn about the way they live. We will engage in different learning activities with children from around the world through activities like the NASA project in Science and pen pals and video conferencing with children from all over the world, in English.



Sharing Best Practice

We will be linking with ICS, Belvedere and Amity Schools locally in early December when Al Basma will host moderation events for English and Maths and share best practice in assessment and recording, H&S and Facilities, EYFS assessment, teaching and Inclusion.

Parking

Please park considerately of our neighbours and each other at pick up and drop off time. Please do not block driveways or other cars and do not double park or block the roads as this also delays the school buses. Traffic Police do visit the school at these times and do issue parking tickets to those parked in contravention of the traffic laws.

BRIC

We are looking forward to opening the attendance module and the option for you to update your personal details. As requested by parents we are looking into the option of parents changing their username. We will begin moving our tracking and assessment documents onto Bric in January with the aim that you will be able to access your child's trackers via bric before the end of the school year.