



a happy school™

2016-17: January

Issue
No. 6

the smile

NEWSLETTER

AL BASMA BRITISH SCHOOL

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome back to Term 2, we hope you had an enjoyable holiday. The children have returned to school ready to learn and full of energy. We are looking forward to seeing you at the **parents' evenings** over the next two weeks where you will get to meet your children's teachers to review progress against their previous targets and get any new targets for Term 2.

Thank you to all of the parents who have topped up their children's pencil case to ensure they have the **stationery** to access the curriculum opportunities the teachers plan for them. Please check your child has the required stationery, this is listed in the Grade Curriculum Guide which was sent by email last week and is available on the website for your information.

We would like to welcome **Mr Mohammed Qamar** who has joined us from the UK to replace Mr Umar in the Maths Department. He has settled in very well and the children are making good progress under his direction. He has recently been teaching in Doha and prior to that was working at an outstanding school in Birmingham, England.

BriC has been upgraded and should now be quicker. We will be launching a BriC app in the near future to enable you to access BriC more easily from your mobile devices. We will be opening new modules as and when the glitches introduced in the data transfer are ironed out. We apologise for the short term inconvenience but this will ultimately make the system much stronger.

Following a very successful accreditation visit on Wednesday 11th January I am delighted to inform you that Al Basma British School has been awarded full membership of **British Schools Middle East (BSME)** as in conjunction with our BSO report evidencing that we meet the required standards the visit judged our school to be sufficiently British in nature to warrant membership.

Admissions opened for siblings on 15th January and will close on 28th. Due to overwhelming demand, KG1, KG2 & G1 admissions for all other students will close at midnight on 24th January having only opened on the 22nd. (www.bsme.org.uk/)

Mrs Allison McDonald (allison@albasmaschool.ae)



KEY DATES

wc 22nd & 29th January
iGCSE Taster Lessons for G8

23rd January (G6-9)
The Internet: "Staying within the Law"

23rd & 24th January, 4.30 pm – 7 pm
Parent Evening KG to G4

24th January, 8.30 am – 9.30 am
The Internet: "Keeping your Children Safe" for Parents

26th January, 9 am followed by
Coffee Morning in NMC Khaliffa A
"Cervical Cancer Awareness" event

24th January (G8-9)
The Internet: "Keeping Safe"

24th January, 4.30 pm – 7 pm
Parent Evening G6 to 9

30th January
G8 Options Meeting for Parents

30th & 31st January, 4.30 pm – 7 pm
Parent Evening G5-9

9th February
Movie Night

wc 19th February
International Week
International Day on 23rd February

ATTENDANCE/PUNCTUALITY

Best Attendance:

1st Place: G7D Ms Amanda/Ms Maie
2nd Place: G6D Ms Nicola
3rd Place: G1E Ms Aneela

Best Punctuality:

1st Place: 8B Mr Alfredo
2nd Place: 3A Ms Ashley
3rd Place: KG2E Ms Hemali

Learning

Grade 8 IGCSE Options

Grade 8 are beginning the process of choosing their electives for G9 and 10. They had an assembly on Thursday where the option subjects and process were discussed. Over the coming two weeks they will have taster IGCSE lessons in all of the optional subjects. There will be a Parents' Information Meeting at 1.30pm on the 30th January where the Option Booklets will be distributed containing information about each course and option forms should be submitted by 3pm on Thursday 2nd February.

Parents Evening

Pre KG to G3, 23rd and 24th January 4.30pm to 7pm. Meetings are by appointment in classrooms for pre KG, KG1 and KG2. G1 to 4 will be in the hall with the Arabic Team for walk up appointments on a first come first served basis. Please contact pre KG to KG2 teachers for appointments if you haven't received an appointment letter as yet.

The PTT and Governor representatives will be available on each evening.

G5 to 9, 30th and 31st January 4.30pm to 7pm. All teachers will be in the hall for walk up appointments on a first come first served basis.

We encourage all parents to attend these evenings to speak to the teacher about your child's progress and their individual targets for Term 2. This will enable you to work with your child at home to help them to meet their targets. Young leaders will be available to translate and act as guides on the evening as well as welcoming parents on entry.

Lost property will be out on the prayer room corridor for collection.



Careers Talks

If you are able to come and speak to the G8 and 9 students about their career, day to day duties, professional development, career pathway and entry requirements this term or if you know someone who would be willing to do so then please contact Mr Cris on cristian.g@albamaschool.ae who is coordinating our careers talks this year.



Expression through Drama



Human Prints with Decoration



Always Safe in the Science Lab

Student Council

Thank you to all parents who sent in cakes for the Student Council Bake Sale on Thursday. The funds raised are going to be used by the student council to purchase equipment and resources for their Golden Time Enrichment and After School Enrichment.



Cross School Moderation and Sharing Good Practice.

Teachers from Belvedere and ICS visited school on 5/1/17 to take part in our second cross school moderation of English, Maths and Science for KG2 to G9, and writing for KG1. We hosted the event where we shared good practice in assessment, marking and feedback and curriculum planning too. Members of the Inclusion, Estates and H&S teams also visited to take advantage of the opportunity to network and share good practice. Reach also took part in the first visit and we have invited additional English National Curriculum schools to join our moderation network.



Activities

Parent Teacher Team

On 24th January the PTT have secured an external speaker who will talk to interested parents about how to keep their children safe on the internet between 8.30am and 9.30am. The Parent Teacher Team Coffee Morning will now take place on 26th January at 9 am. The Coffee Morning will be followed by a visit to NMC Hospital Khaliffa A for a coffee morning and talk as part of their Cervical Cancer Awareness Campaign. They will be offering free screening to 20 to 40 year olds and last time they visited for Breast Cancer Awareness Month the parents received massages and gift bags. The parents will be car pooling on Thursday so if you wish to attend but have transport issues please contact the PTT through their facebook or WhatsApp groups or by emailing

volunteers@albasmaschool.ae

The PTT are also planning a Movie Night on 9th February for children and parents. As last time all children must be accompanied by an adult throughout the evening. Popcorn and cotton candy will be available with drinks and other snacks throughout the evening. Pre registration is required and more information will follow soon.

The PTT awards a termly bursary to the school which the teachers bid for. It can only be used for extra curricular resources which are not included in tuition fees. Ms Karen and Ms Ashley submitted a joint bid for playground play equipment for the children to reduce wear and tear on the PE equipment. Their bid was successful and they were awarded AED 1500.

The PTT and teachers are busy organising events for International Week and the International Day Celebrations. More details will follow in due course.



UAE Year of Giving

Thank you to all parents and children who donated to our Sharing because we are Caring campaign. We collected a massive amount of goods which filled 18 extra large rubbish bags for distribution in the workers village. We intend to offer further opportunities this year for children to choose to support their local, national and worldwide communities through donations to celebrate the UAE Year of Giving. Our next event is scheduled to be a collection of non-perishable food items to be donated to a foodbank.

International Schools Award

We continue to work with Stockport School and a host of other schools in the UK and worldwide on a number of projects to secure International School Award

Drawings By Me

The children are all currently completing their pictures for Drawings by Me. you will receive an order form on the 29th January to be returned by 5th February. This initiative is being led by the PTT and will finance future PTT events as well as contributing to the Term 2 PTT Bursary Fund.

Governors

I am sad to announce that Ms Engy has resigned her post as Parent Governor due to external commitments. We would like to thank her for the time and effort she dedicated to the support of the school whilst on the Board. We will appoint a temporary replacement to represent KG from the PTT pending Governor Elections for the next two year term in September.

The first set of abridged Governor's Meeting Minutes have been posted on the website to give you an insight into the work of the Governors and their role in challenging the school leadership team and Principal regarding standards. The minutes are abridged as much of the content of the meetings is private and confidential pertaining to individual staff or students. All Governors sign a confidentiality agreement to ensure that this information remains private

Website

We have been updating the webpage in response to parent feedback and hope you like the new layout of the homepage. Please share any ideas for improvements with the PTT who will feed them back to me.

Improved Security Protocols for all Visitors

We have introduced improved security measures at reception with any visitor or parent passing beyond reception being required to submit their photo ID and sign in with a visitors badge. The badge should be worn whilst they are in school, they will also be issued with a visitors information leaflet. Copies of the visitors leaflet are also available in reception for interested parents.

E Safety

This week we are focusing on E Safety. On Sunday Steve West, Senior Community Police Officer, will visit school to discuss the legal position in the UAE of social media, hacking and internet safety with the older children as it may be very different to the position in their home country. On Tuesday G8 and 9 will have a talk by an expert on how to keep themselves safe on the internet.

Parking

Please respect our neighbours by parking and driving respectfully and legally when visiting school. Please do not block our neighbours' entrances and speak respectfully to them if they ask you to move your car. Thank you for your support and the good example you are showing our children. Traffic Police do visit school at pick up time and do ticket cars which are parked illegally as it is a public highway. When visiting school please respect that the access road in front of school is closed to traffic for the safety of all of our children and visitors. Please do not use the disabled parking spaces in the car park are just as close if you have mobility issues.

Civil Defence

Representatives of the Fire Brigade will visit school on the 26th January to give their annual fire safety talk.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Attendance and Punctuality

Increasing attendance and punctuality and reducing the number of early pick ups is our focus for this term.

We have introduced termly prizes for parents and children. There will be termly prize draws for children with 96% or more attendance, children with no lates and children with no early pick ups. The winner of each draw will receive a parent prize and a child's prize. As part of the UAE Year of Giving we will give all 6 prize winners the option to receive a gift or have us make a donation of equivalent value on their behalf to support an international cause from a given selection.

Prizes are AED100 Bounce or Adventure HQ voucher for children to support our Healthy Lifestyle Campaign and AED 500 credit on school fees. Charitable donations are sustainable and are chosen from Unicef, Oxfam and Save the Children.

Parents can choose from 12 donations ranging from 25 mosquito nets to measles vaccine for 180 children to seeds for 10 farming families and educating 9 children. Children can choose from 10 prizes which range from 2 bee farm start up kits, winter clothes and toys for one child, warm blankets for 5 babies and educating 2 children. All donations will be recorded on the legacy tree in reception and will receive an e card acknowledging their donation.

Our first prize draw for term 1 will take place in assembly this week. The draw for term 2 will take place on the 23rd March.

Our target is to exceed 96% attendance this is equivalent to 8 days absence per year. We have information leaflets in reception and presentations and FAQs on the website detailing the impact of absence and lateness on learning. Early pick ups have an equal impact to lateness in terms reducing your child's learning and the financial cost to you of the fees you have paid for the days they have missed.

You can expect to receive a phone call from Mr Sinto the Social Worker linked to attendance if your child is absent for 3 consecutive days without notifying us of a reason for absence. He will also be calling the parents of children with less than 90% attendance over the coming weeks to discuss the impact of what equates to 19 days a year absence on the children's learning and development. Phone calls will also be made to parents of children with a large number of lates or early pickups.

Mr Sinto is also meeting parents and children who are late each day in Reception on arrival and handing out leaflets describing the impact of poor punctuality on learning. Lessons start at 8am therefore arrival after 8 am impacts directly on learning.

Early Pick Up

Please avoid picking your children up early on Thursday, especially if they have lost Golden Time. This is the sanction for failing to meet expectations, by collecting them early you are condoning this behaviour and helping them to avoid the sanction. Without sanctions behaviour will not improve and children who do not show improvement in their behaviour may not be re-registered for 2017/18.



Great Footwork in the Sports Hall



Sports Hall ready for a Lesson



Controlling the Balls as a Team

Parent communication

Please contact - volunteers@albasmaschool.ae for more information about grade whatsapp groups and the PTT facebook page. Answers to questions asked at the coffee morning are posted on the PTT facebook page. Please check the facebook page monthly for up to date information about the school. Please submit any questions to be posed to the Principal during coffee morning to - volunteers@albasmaschool.ae up to two days before the coffee morning.

Contact details

It is very important that we have the correct contact details. If your details are not correct you will not receive our text messages or emails. Please contact - reception@albasmaschool.ae with your email address and mobile phone number if you are not receiving text messages or emails so that we can check and update your contact details.

CORE COMPETENCIES

The focus is on

Empathy