



a happy school™

2016-17: April

Issue
No. 8

the smile

NEWSLETTER

AL BASMA BRITISH SCHOOL

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Guardians,
Welcome back to Term 3, we hope you had a restful and enjoyable holiday. As usual Term 3 is packed with events and activities. It was great to see so many parents at our **Parents' Evenings** in weeks one and two of term. The teachers enjoyed sharing the children's progress with parents and celebrating their achievements. Our Young Leaders were a credit to the school once again acting as translators and guides.

Sharing Because We Are Caring. Our third appeal of the year has been brought forward following the **fire** last week which **destroyed the Labour Camp** located close to **Al Reef**. Almost 200 workers lost everything in the blaze which destroyed the camp. We would like children to donate **toiletries, men's clothes, blankets and canned or dried foods** over the coming fortnight to help to replace what was lost and support these members of our community as they try to rebuild their lives in Abu Dhabi. Collection points will be available in Reception and outside Mr. Mo's Office. We know our children and families are very generous and will support the less affluent members of our society at this very difficult time.

Thank you to all parents who attended **Booknics and shared reading** sessions last week with our KG and Primary school children, the children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to share their favourite books with their parents. Also as part of our **ADEC Reading Week celebrations** the KG children enjoyed a **Lollipop Theatre** Production of The Ugly Duckling. **The Book Fair** was a great success with many children taking advantage of the opportunity to purchase books to further expand their opportunities to read for pleasure. We look forward to taking delivery of the books which were earned for the school library. Thank you to all parents who supported the annual Book Fair.

We are very happy to be able to report that since returning to school Grades 8 and 9 have been to the **Science Fayre in Dubai, Al Ain zoo and Legoland**. This week Grade 5 will go to **Bounce** as part of our Healthy Lifestyles initiative. Also, over the last two weeks we have had children represent the school at the **Arabic Reading Challenge and Sustainable Schools Summit**. Over the coming months we hope to further develop the number and range of educational visits we can include in our programme to enhance the children's learning experiences. Last week saw the launch of our first **overseas trip to the UK** for children from our current G6 to 9 who will be aged 12 or over on 29th August 2017. The operator Explorars shared more information with interested parents on Sunday at 6pm.

KEY DATES

wc 16th April Al Basma's Got Talent Auditions begin

wc 30th April Sharing Because We are Caring

3rd May Enrichment begins

wc 4th May reregistration opens

wc 7th May Graduation Photographs

wc 14th May Graduation Ceremonies

wc 4th June Whole School Art Exhibition

wc 4th June PTT Family Iftaar and Bonnet Competition

wc 11th June Art Exhibition Winners displayed in Deerfield's Mall

wc 11th June Assessment Week

22nd June 2.35pm End of term 3

10th September return to school for Term 1 2017/18

ATTENDANCE/PUNCTUALITY

Best attendance:

1st Place: G5D – Ms Poppy
2nd Place: G2E – Ms Caitlyn
3rd Place: G8B – Mr Alfredo

Best punctuality:

1st Place: G9A – Mr Cian
2nd Place: G3E – Ms Yvonne
3rd Place: G6D – Ms Nicola



Mrs Allison McDonald (allison@albasmaschool.ae)

Graduation Ceremonies for KG1 and G5 will take place in the week of 14th May. Homeroom teachers will provide additional information to the parents of the concerned children. The loan of gowns is provided by school free of charge for the event. The children are currently practising for the ceremonies.

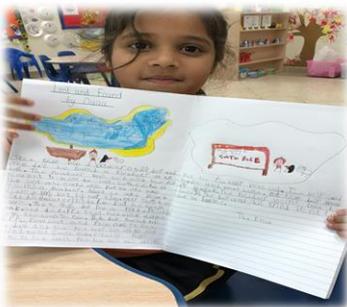
Class and individual school photos will continue this week with graduation photos for KG1 and G5 taking place next week. Homeroom teachers should be in touch with any changes to the schedule. Order forms with proofs should be coming home in the third week of May and all orders should be delivered to school before the end of term.

PTT Events

During the first week of June we will be judging the PTT's **Bonnet Competition** and the PTT will host a **Family Iftaar**. We would invite as many families as possible to join us for this event, the date is to be announced shortly.

The PTT are hosting **Zumba Classes** twice weekly with a professional female instructor in the dance studio on Sunday (ladies only) and Tuesday (mixed) at 6pm. The sessions are a great fun way to get fit and we invite as many parents as possible to join us. During Ramadan, this will be reduced to one session per week. Child care is available for a small additional charge. Sessions are AED 25 or AED 20 if you make a block advance booking.

The PTT are also selling high quality **uniform label booklets** and **We_are_one@albasma t-shirts** for upcoming events to raise funds. Please contact the Chair of the PTT Wilesse Williams for further details of any of these events on volunteers@albasmaschool.ae



Duaa – KG2 showing her fabulous story she wrote as part of “My First Novel” ADEC initiative.

Attendance and Punctuality Awards

Our attendance, punctuality, and no early pick up winners for term 2 will be announced in the next edition of our newsletter.

Prizes include AED 500 credit on Tuition Fees for parents, AED 200 Mall vouchers for staff and AED 100 Bounce Vouchers for children. All prizes can be exchanged for sustainable charitable donations. All donations made by prize winners will be recorded on the legacy tree in reception and donors receive an ecard from the charity to celebrate their donation.

World Safety Day was celebrated on Thursday 27th with a special assembly highlighting the risks and hazards faced in school and how to avoid them. The children designed posters and took part in our H&S Nightmare Mannequin Challenge.

Al Basma's Got Talent auditions are continuing this week with semi-finals and finals taking place next week with shortlisted performers entertaining the children in assembly. Please encourage your child to sign up if they have a hidden talent, we would love to see it.



This co-hort of students were selected to take part in the Arabic Reading Challenge. Congratulations to Hanin G9 and Yaseen G3 who made it through to the final! Good Luck!

Art Exhibition

Our Art Exhibition will take place in the first week of June with the theme Caring. Two winning entries from each class will be displayed in Deerfields' Mall in the second week of June.

Summer Holidays

Summer Holidays start on 22nd of June at 2.35pm. Please note teaching will continue until the end of term with a themed History Topic week in the last week of term. Children begin to return to school on 10th September with G3 to 10 all in school full time from 10th and KG1 to G2 a staggered start beginning on 10th.

Assessment week

End of term assessments will take place in the week of 11th June Please note end of term reports will not be available before 22nd June.

Enrichment

Enrichment will begin on Wednesday 3rd May and will end on the last Wednesday before Ramadan begins.

Ramadan Hours

Ramadan hours for students will almost certainly be 8.30am to 1:30pm subject to ADEC confirmation. We will inform you as soon as we receive the same. Bus Supervisors will be in touch closer to the time to confirm new collection and drop off times for bus children.

Admissions assessments have been taking place for KG1 to G10. Places are limited in KG2 to G10 and are only available to replace leavers from KG2 to G5 and in boys' classes in the secondary school. As always, siblings will be given preference. Applications for most grades are already closed as we are so heavily over-subscribed. If you still haven't applied for your Al Basma students' sibling's admission, please contact Ms Najuva as a matter of utmost urgency.



A group of G3 students performing Zuhar Prayer.

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.

The draw for term 3 will take place on the 20th June

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.

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 if the disabled parking spaces in the car park are just as close if you have mobility issues.

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.

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

Resilience

SPORTS DAY



HEALTH AND SAFETY CELEBRATION D

Students observed an interesting and informative ADEC Health and Safety vic the celebration day.



ABU DHABI READS 2017

This was another ADEC initiative to promote reading across the Emirate t International Book Fair 2017. The students and staff undertook different i

