



a happy school™

2017-18: October

Issue
No. 1

the smile

NEWSLETTER

AL BASMA BRITISH SCHOOL

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to our first newsletter of the 2017/18 academic year. We hope you had a lovely summer holiday and those of you who managed to get away on holiday or visit your home countries enjoyed quality family time. We would like you to join us in welcoming all new staff, parents and children to our Al Basma community. Teachers have been very impressed with how quickly everyone has settled into their new classes and we are all very impressed with the quality of teaching and learning taking place and the rates of progress we are seeing. Well done everyone!

Please remember poor **punctuality** and poor **attendance directly affect your children's learning**. Please ensure they are in school **before 7.50am** for the national anthem. Registers are taken before 8am in almost all grades. Please do not pick your children up early unless it is absolutely unavoidable.

Learning takes place until 2.35pm in all grades. Absence even for 1 lesson directly impacts on your children's progress.

We are now coming up to our first **Half Term Holiday** which begins on 20th October with children returning to school on the 26th October. During the holiday 10 of our students will be traveling to London and various locations in the South of England for **our first overseas trip** organised with the help of EXPLORARS a very experienced company.

We have planned a **ski trip in December to Switzerland** for children aged 12 or more on 27th December. All equipment hire, transport, activities, ski lessons and clothing are included in the price which represents great value for money. Skiing is a life skill which is like riding a bike, once you have learnt how, you can always do it. I taught my children to ski at a young age and they always look forward to skiing trips with great excitement. Interested parents should contact Ms Danielle as soon as possible to confirm their interest, danielle.f@albasmaschool.ae.

I am delighted to say we have had approval for lots of **educational trips and visitors** to school this term. We have planned for all children to go on at least one trip this year. Our **Grade 2** children have already been on a trip to the zoo to further their understanding of their Science topic – Animals including Humans. **Grade 1** visited Fun Works to further their understanding of their Science and Moral Education topics. This week **Grade 5** will visit the World Skills exhibition at ADNEC and **Grades 4 and 6** will have the planetarium in school linking to their Science topics. Later in the term **KG** will have the Lollipop Theatre company visit school and we will have a **book fair** in Early November for all students.

Mrs Allison McDonald (allison@albasmaschool.ae)

KEY DATES

19th to 26th October – UK London trip
20th October – First day of half term holiday
26th October – Students and staff return to school
30th October and 5th November – G6 to G10 Parents Evening
31st October and 6th November – FS1 to G5 Parents Evening

ATTENDANCE/PUNCTUALITY

Best attendance:

1st Place: G4B – Mr Elliot
2nd Place: G1C – Mr Richard
3rd Place: G3C – Ms Yvonne

Best punctuality:

1st Place: G2E – Ms Carole
2nd Place: G9A – Mr Themis
3rd Place: G6C – Ms Rachael C



BSME



Careers Information

We would encourage all Grade 8, 9 and 10 parents to take their children to the Exhibition regarding further education and vocational training opportunities at ADNEC during half term.

PTT Events

The PTT hosted their first **coffee morning** of the year with **Principal's Q&A** on the first Thursday of October. They also held their first **Movie Night** of the year last Thursday, which was a great success. It was lovely to see so many families there enjoying popcorn, candy floss and a movie in the school hall and drama studio.

The PTT are hosting ladies only **Zumba Classes** twice weekly with a professional female instructor in the school hall at 4pm on Sunday's and Tuesday's. The sessions are a great fun way to get fit and we invite as many parents as possible to join us. Sessions are AED 25 or AED 20 if you make a block advance booking.

They are also looking at **Children's swimming and Karate lessons** on Saturday mornings and parent and staff **yoga classes** on Monday and Thursday at 4pm. More information will follow soon.

The PTT are selling high quality **uniform label booklets** and **we_are_one@albasma t-shirts** for upcoming events to raise funds. In addition they will be selling **National Day t shirts** in the coming weeks.

Please contact the Chair of the PTT Wilesse Williams for further details of any of these events on volunteers@albasmaschool.ae

Enrichment

Online sign up for enrichment clubs will be open this week with clubs beginning on Wednesday 1st November

CORE VALUES

The focus in October is

Caring

Trips

Last week **Grade 1** went on a wonderful trip to Fun Works in Yas Mall. We had lots of fun exploring the different works and we did some great learning. We learned all about recycling and how to recycle different materials, we learned how to design and model a car and then we raced them against each other, we played in a mini shop and collected items from a list and we put on a great show for our teachers. We then had an excellent time playing in Whizzworks and we ate a delicious lunch.

Grade 2 had a fabulous day out at the Zoo, learning about the different types of mammals, reptiles and birds. We were allowed to feed plants to the giraffes, zebras, goats and camels, among other herbivores. We learnt that the difference between the colour of the eggs of the ostrich was because of where they lived. Afterwards we went to watch Sonia the sealion. She taught us about the three Rs – Reuse, Reduce and Recycle. If we want to help sealions and other animals in the world, then we need to try and reuse items, reduce the amount of plastic that we use, and recycle materials so that they can be made into different products.

Grades 2A and E then learnt about the differences in different reptiles. We got to touch a snake, a tortoise and a turtle. Grades 2C and D learnt about the different types of birds, admiring how a bird of prey could quickly catch a moving animals (it wasn't a real animal!). Grades 2B and G learnt about small mammals like sheep, goats and the armadillo. Even Mr. Ciaran answered a question correctly and was able to feed a baby lamb a bottle of milk as a reward!

We really enjoyed our trips and would like to thank all of the teachers and the staff for making it such an enjoyable and memorable occasion!

Please see pictures below!

Website

We have been updating the website 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 to obtain 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 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.

Individual school photos are being planned for February with a very professional company from the UK following parent feedback on the photographs last year. Class photos will be taken in May.



Grade 2 having fun on their trip to Emirates Park Zoo. Feeding and petting the animals.



Grade 5 attending the World Skills Abu Dhabi exhibition at ADNEC.



Grade 1 enjoyed making and racing cars as well as getting creative making hats during their trip to Fun Works.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Teaching and Learning happening around the school



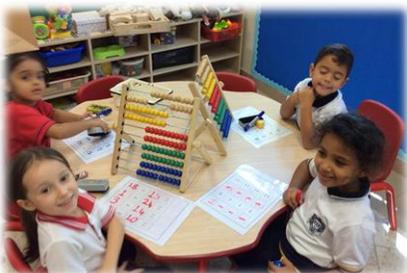
Great group work from **Grade 4** during their Maths lesson.



KG2H have worked together to think of actions to remember the story of Funny Bones



A fantastic piece of art work created by Amin Rabia in **Grade 8A**.



Students using different resources to assist with their maths questions.

Attendance and Punctuality

We will continue our focus on the importance of good punctuality and attendance this year.

Lateness and absence have a direct impact on your children's achievement and rate of progress. We place great importance on helping your child to become the best that they can be and high attendance and good punctuality are key to success in education and later in employment.

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.

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 of reducing your child's learning and the financial cost to you of the fees you have paid for the days they have missed.

Our target is to exceed 96% attendance, this is equivalent to 8 days absence per year.

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 8am 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 2018/19.

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