



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

No.1



STAR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, MIRDIF

06th September 2018

ACADEMIC YEAR 2018 – 2019

Dear Parents and Children,

WELCOME!

The start of the new academic year has come and gone. We have all been here for a full week now and it seems so long ago since last Sunday.

Thank you to everyone who arrived for the Orientation Day. It was a new structure which proved challenging at times, however all children met their new teachers and enjoyed some class activities. Children are now coming into school smiling, linking arms with new children because new friendships have been made, and slowly, I am beginning to recall old names and learn new ones.

Over the course of the week, I have been popping into classes and have been met with smiles, greetings and endless enthusiasm from the children to tell me where they've spent their holidays. It appears we've practically had children travel to all areas of globe. Wherever children have been, they appear to have had a great time with lots of fun, sun and entertainment.

Traffic flow this week has been really smooth. Thank you for reading the information beforehand, adhering to the traffic marshals and doing what has been requested of you. It has been a very smooth start to school in relation to traffic options.

A HUGE THANK YOU



A SPECIAL WELCOME TO:

OUR NEW STAR STAFF, OUR NEW STAR CHILDREN and OUR NEW STAR PARENTS. We hope that you all settle in really well and have a very positive time with us.

EYFS

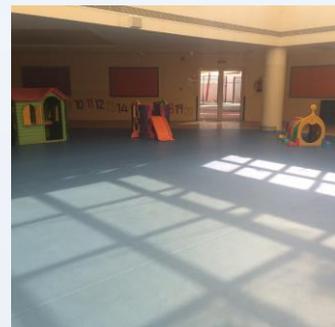
As some of you are aware, we have opened our EYFS1 block this year. This consists of four classrooms and outside areas. We have three EYFS1 teachers, all very experienced and from the UK. The EYFS1 leader being Ms Tasneem, who is an expert in the field of EYFS1 and has been leading a large EYFS1 department in the UK for the last few years.



NEW FACILITIES IN EYFS

If you have been down to the EYFS building, you will notice that there have been many changes.

1. The huge sandpit has been covered over and the floor is now levelled giving children a larger outside area which is indoors. This is fabulous because at present it is far too hot for children to be outside
2. The outside area adjacent to the splash pools has been refurbished
3. The outside areas of EYFS1 and 2 have all been canopied.
4. We are waiting for the flooring to arrive from China in order to lay the rubber on top of the tiles in the outside areas. This is still in transit, but we are eagerly awaiting its arrival. I will keep you updated with news
5. We have four new EYFS1 classrooms, these cater for three EYFS1 classes and a special EAL teacher who will support children who, at present, have English as a barrier to learning.
6. We also have many new moving resources...please be careful as you enter the main indoor area, you will need to use your road safety skills.



VISION

This academic year, due to the launch of Secondary School, we have been asked to change our vision such that it is an integral vision for EYFS through to Year 11. At present we have an initial draft and would welcome any suggestions from yourselves as parents to add to this. We are hoping to have both the vision statement and a motto chosen by the children for the end of the second week.

Initial draft

To nurture creative, curious and collaborative learners who are confident to make a positive impact on themselves as well as the local, wider and global community.

The vision then moves onto looking at Three Pillars of Learning which will support the curriculum.

Learning for SELF, Learning for CHANGE and Learning for ALL.

The vision also sits beautifully with the objectives of 'The Sheikh's Centennial Plan'.

<https://sheikhmohammed.ae/en-us/news/details?nid=24731&cid=>

UNIFORM

Uniform is now sold in school. It is great to see all children wearing the uniform, right from the first day of term. Children all look very smart, but I must say a special mention to Year 5 / 6 who look particularly grown up in their long trousers and shirts.

PLEASE label your child's uniform. If it is lost, it is then far easier to get back to you.

HAT and WATER BOTTLE

As usual, children also need to bring into school a school hat and a water bottle. These too need to be named.



LOST PROPERTY

Should uniform or items get lost, we have a lost property area which is now housed in the resource room with Mr Abdul. Please go along to this room if you need to find lost items.

It is Room 104 in the Year 4 & 5 Corridor.

LANYARDS

Can I please remind ALL parents that everyone should be wearing their lanyards coming into school in the morning and also when picking children up from school in the evening. This is a safety device and if you are wearing them, we know you are authorised to be in school.

I will keep reminding you over the next two weeks regarding lanyards.



GATE OPENING TIMES

A reminder that the school gates open at 7:40am. Please do not drop your children off at the main gate before this time.

CALENDAR

The school calendar was posted on the D6 communicator in the holidays. There are a couple of slight changes we need to make you aware of.

1. Residential week will now be on 10, 11, 12th February.
2. Sports Days will be:

Sunday 10 th February	FS 2
Monday 11 th February	Year 1 & 2
Tuesday 12 th February	Year 2 & 3
Wednesday 13 th February	Year 4, 5 & 6

AUDITORIUM

As some of you may have noticed, the auditorium has been blocked off; this is due to impending work. Several plans and designs have been created by companies for the refurbishment and redesign of the auditorium. This coming two weeks should see the tender be awarded and then work will start to complete, what will be a fantastic resource.



STAY and PLAY

Just a reminder to parents that we do have provision for after school care with our Stay and Play club.

If you wish to know more about the details, costs and times, please see Ms Jennie and she will issue you with a form explaining everything.

ORIENTATION BOOKLET

There's a lot more I could say, but I will stop for today and say a little bit more in my normal letter which goes out mid-week.

All I would ask is that you have a quick read of the little Orientation Booklet which was handed out on Orientation Day, as this has lots of important information in it which you need to know.



FINALLY.....

Finally, I wish you all a very pleasant weekend. It has been lovely seeing all of you again and catching up with what you have been doing. I would like to start 'Breakfast with the Principal' again, possibly on a Wednesday morning. If you are interested please give your name to Ms Anagha at the front desk.

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Event
Thursday 13 th Sept	School closed – Al- Hijra (Islamic New Year)

Thank you,

Ms Gill