



مدرسة الدوحة البريطانية  
DOHA BRITISH SCHOOL  
AIN KHALED



# Primary Newsletter

20th March 2025

## **Our Purpose**

Is that every young person should gain as much as possible from our school, based on our belief that all learners can, need and want to achieve

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## **Our Vision**

Is to be a vibrant, welcoming international school that provides a first class education enabling pupils to thrive within a dynamic, global environment

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## **Our Mission**

Is to prepare all pupils through a relevant, challenging curriculum and well-resourced facilities, to become lifelong learners contributing to a global community

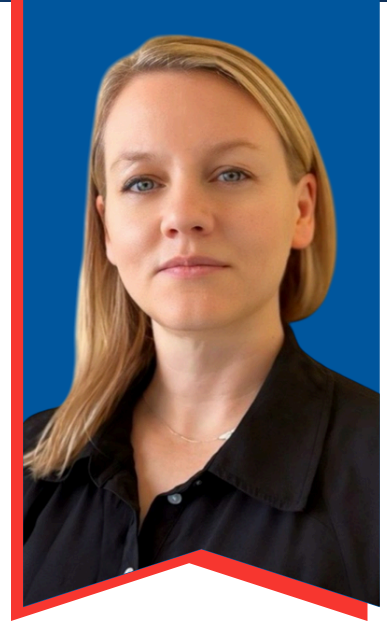


Welcome to Doha British Schools

Doha British Schools are one of the world's leading British International Schools in Qatar, with a reputation for outstanding academic excellence since 1997

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

# MRS. LYNETTE GRANT



This past week has been a wonderful celebration of our community spirit. We were delighted to welcome Snoonu for our Garangao celebrations, bringing joy and tradition to our students. Our Iftar community event, in collaboration with our Wakra campus, was a fantastic opportunity to come together in the spirit of Ramadan.

This weekend, some of our students will be representing DBS Ain Khaled in a Mathematics competition in Dubai. We wish them the very best and are already incredibly proud of their achievements.

A quick reminder that World Book Day is fast approaching on 24th April—get those costumes ready!

With so much happening, it's clear that DBS Ain Khaled remains a vibrant and dynamic school, where special memories and experiences are created for students, staff, and parents alike.

Community matters, and together, we continue to make it stronger.





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## HEAD OF PRIMARY MESSAGE

# MRS. MARIE SIBLEY

Our youngest students, Pre-School, have been enjoying learning about 'People Who Help Us' and have been highly engaged in their learning this week, being police officers trying to discover the whereabouts of the missing teddies! They have designed posters which they have put up around school, found clues and interviewed suspects! This is one of the aspects of DBS Ain Khaled that impresses me the most. Our teachers go above and beyond to create meaningful and inspiring learning opportunities to ensure that our children develop a love of learning.

We have more events coming up before the end of the school year but I would like to draw your attention to our World Book Day celebrations which will take place on Thursday 24th April. We would love all the children to come to school on that day dressed as a character from one of their favourite books. Please do try to focus on books rather than movies as the day is celebrated to specifically encourage children to have a love of reading.

We hope that these special experiences mean that our students love coming to school! I am sure you will all agree that the more time a child is in school, the more likely they are to achieve what is expected of them at the end of each year. We understand that children get sick sometimes and have to stay at home. However, I would like to share some recent findings from the UK about the impact attendance has on pupil outcomes.

- At KS2, pupils who attended school nearly every day in Year 6 (with an attendance rate of 95-100%) were 1.3 times more likely to achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to pupils who only attended 90-95% of the time. This means missing just 10 days of year 6 reduced the likelihood of reaching the expected standard by around 25%. Pupils who attended nearly every day were 1.8 times more likely to achieve the standard than persistently absent pupils who only attend 85-90% of the time (relating to 4 -6 weeks more time in school).
- At KS2, pupils who attend between 50 and 55% of the time are twice as likely to achieve the expected standard than students who are severely absent (attending less than 50% of sessions). A pupil with 60-65% attendance (equating to approximately 4-6 extra weeks in school) has a four times greater chance of successful outcome than those who attend <50% of the time.
- At school level, as more pupils are in the higher attendance bands, the greatest gains in outcome could be made by pupils from the 90-95% band moving into the 95-100% attendance band (0-20 days extra in school over the year). However, this analysis shows that there may be gains in attainment by improving attendance of all pupils by a single 5% band across the range of attendance bands.





# GYMNASTICS ACADEMY

ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS. PARKOUR. YOGA. ECA / ASA



**EID CAMP  
ASTRO EXPLORERS**

مدرسة الدوحة البريطانية  
DOHA BRITISH SCHOOL  
AIN KHALED

**MAR 30 - APR 3**

**ACTIVITIES:**  
GYMNASTICS, PARKOUR &  
ACROBATICS, TEAM BUILDING  
GAMES, KIDS ZUMBA, ARTS AND  
CRAFTS AND MANY MORE!

3355 2290 | 3355 9983    www.rebelangels.qa

Register via this link:

<https://www.rebelangels.qa/winter-camp>

Hurry! Limited Slots Available!

For more details, contact us at:

+974 3355 2290

+974 3355 9983

## Eid Camp at Doha British School Ain Khaled!

Calling all young astronauts! Get ready for a galactic adventure like no other at Rebel Angels' Eid Camp!

This is your chance to blast off into a universe filled with action, creativity, and endless excitement at Doha British School Ain Khaled!

**Dates:** 30th March - 3rd April

**Time:** 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

**Days:** Sunday to Thursday

**Age Requirement:** 3 - 12 years old

### Activities Include:

- Zero- Gravity Gymnastics
- Parkour and Acrobatics
- Team- Building Challenges
- Kids Zumba
- Cosmic Arts & Crafts
- And so much MORE!

Prepare for lift-off and explore the stars with us! Your mission is to jump, flip, train, and create like a true space explorer!

**Limited seats available—Secure your spot before takeoff!**





# SAFEGUARDING & WELLBEING

CREATING A SAFE SPACE

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators TEACHING CHILDREN FIRE SAFETY

Fire safety is especially important around Bonfire Night, as fireworks, bonfires and sparklers add extra risks for families and young children. Every year in the UK, thousands of accidents occur due to improper handling of fireworks and neglecting fire safety measures. This guide offers practical tips for keeping children safe when handling everything from fireworks to space heaters.

### 1 BONFIRE NIGHT AWARENESS

Bonfire Night is exciting, but it comes with several inherent risks. Educate children about the dangers of fireworks and open flames. Teach them that only adults should handle fireworks and that bonfires should never be approached. Keep children at a safe distance (at least five metres away) from bonfires and explain why supervision is crucial during these events.



### 2 SUPERVISE FIREWORK USE

Fireworks should only be handled by responsible adults who are following UK laws and guidelines. Make sure to buy fireworks that meet British Standards and adhere to all instructions that come with them. Keep children a suitable distance from any firework activity and designate an adult to supervise the event. Ensure no one goes near fireworks after they've been lit.



### 3 SPARKLER SAFETY

Sparklers are often captivating for little ones, but they can burn at extremely high temperatures – over 1,000 °C! Only allow children over the age of five to use sparklers, and make sure they wear gloves. Teach them to hold sparklers at arm's length and never wave them near others. Once a sparkler has burned out, extinguish it fully in a bucket of water – which you should prepare beforehand and always keep nearby.

### 4 ORGANISED DISPLAYS ARE SAFER

If possible, families should attend an organised fireworks display rather than holding one at home. These tend to be far safer as they're run by professionals adhering to strict safety regulations. Organised displays also provide a controlled environment where children can enjoy the event from a safe distance, reducing the risk of accidents.



### 5 KEEP FIREWORKS AWAY FROM THE HOME

If you are hosting your own fireworks display, set them off well away from homes, sheds or fences to avoid starting accidental fires. Choose a wide-open space with no flammable materials nearby and keep a means of putting out fires to hand in case of emergency – such as a bucket of water, a hose or a fire extinguisher. Afterwards, ensure that all fireworks are fully extinguished and never attempt to relight one if it doesn't go off.



### 6 BONFIRE SAFETY

If you're building a bonfire, place it well away from trees, buildings, fences or anything else flammable. Make sure it's structurally sound and not at risk of collapsing. Only burn natural materials like wood and leaves, avoiding petrol or other accelerants. Children should be kept far away from the bonfire, and it should always be supervised by adults. Be sure to fully extinguish the bonfire before you leave it.



### 7 "STOP, DROP AND ROLL"



Ensure that children know what to do if their clothing catches fire. Teach them the simple "stop, drop and roll" technique, which can quickly extinguish flames. Practice this with them before events like Bonfire Night, so they feel confident if the need to use it arises. It can also be helpful to keep another means of putting out these kinds of fires on standby, just in case. An extinguisher or flame-retardant blanket are both sound choices.

### 8 SECURE CANDLES AND OPEN FLAMES



Beyond Bonfire Night, everyday fire safety is also crucial. Candles can be a common fire hazard, especially in homes with young children. Teach children not to touch any open flames, and ensure candles are placed in sturdy holders away from combustible materials. Never leave candles, incense burners or other such items unattended, and always extinguish them fully before leaving a room or going to bed.

### 9 EDUCATE ABOUT FIREWORKS HAZARDS

Make sure children understand the dangers of playing with fire or fireworks, and how to handle such things responsibly. Emphasise that fireworks are not toys and can cause serious injuries when improperly used. Demonstrate the importance of treating fire with respect and the consequences of misuse, which can help temper any curiosity and any resultant dangerous behaviour.



### 10 FIRST AID FOR BURNS

Even if you have the best possible precautions in place, accidents can still happen. Keep a first aid kit on hand. Ensure you know how to apply basic first aid to burns, so you can teach children those techniques too. If someone suffers a burn, run it under cool water for 20–30 minutes. Never use creams or ointments, as these retain heat and can cause further damage. Instead, seek medical help if the burn is serious.



### Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings and many other industries, helping them to maintain a safe working environment.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fire-safety>





# SPOTLIGHT OF THE WEEK

M A T H E M A T I C S   A T   D B S

**SHAUN  
WILLIAMS**

YEAR 5 TEACHER / KS2 MATHS  
SUBJECT LLEADER



An Exciting Journey

## CELEBRATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Mathematical Thinking in Real-World Contexts

This year has been an exciting journey for Maths at DBS, both within our school and on a global scale!

In school, we have placed a strong emphasis on manipulatives, key vocabulary, and mathematical thinking. Our students now have greater access than ever before to practical equipment, helping them visualise and solve mathematical problems with confidence.

Collaborative learning has also been at the heart of our approach. Students have been actively engaging in discussions, working together in groups to explain and justify their mathematical reasoning. Additionally, our weekly Mathematical Thinking sessions encourage students to explore mathematical concepts in real-world contexts. By connecting maths to their experiences of living in Qatar, these sessions make learning more meaningful and relevant.

### Competitions

We are thrilled to celebrate the outstanding achievements and active participation of our students in various mathematical workshops and competitions this month!

As part of our commitment to deepening mathematical understanding, we recently hosted a Greater Depth Workshop for students across our cluster. This workshop provided an exciting opportunity for students to explore advanced mathematical concepts and refine their problem-solving strategies in a challenging yet supportive environment.

A special congratulations to the students who took part in the Challenge ME competition! This competition is designed to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and our talented mathematicians impressed us with their dedication and resilience. Well done to all participants!





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M A T H E M A T I C S   A T   D B S



An Exciting Journey

## CELEBRATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Mathematical Thinking in Real-World Contexts

Looking ahead, our students are preparing for the prestigious Kangaroo Maths Competition on April 21st. Known for its stimulating problems and unique format, this competition challenges students to apply their mathematical knowledge and sharpen their critical reasoning skills. We wish all our participants the very best of luck!

We are proud of all our students' hard work and dedication in pursuing excellence in mathematics.

Keep up the great work!

### Ways to help at home

To further help your child progress in maths, there are ways you can help at home.

You can :

- **Encourage your child** to use Numbots or TTRS for around 10-15 minutes after school. Regular practice helps the rapid recall of number facts.
- **Involve math in everyday life** with your child, whether it is adding up shopping bills, baking at home or planning journeys.
- **Revisit your child's school work** and ask your child 'Why?' they are doing a certain method and 'How?' the method works.
- **Ensure your child completes their maths Century nuggets** to further consolidate their learning in class.







# PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

THIS WEEK IN PRESCHOOL



## Summary of the Week

This week has been an exciting adventure in Pre-School! The children became police detectives, working hard to solve the mystery of who took their teddy from the classroom. Through their fantastic detective skills, teamwork, and problem-solving, we are delighted to report that all teddies have been safely returned!

A big thank you to all parents for playing along and taking part in the fun—we truly appreciate your support in making this such an engaging and memorable experience for the children.

## Next Week

Teachers will be sending home materials to support your child in practicing writing their name. This should be a fun and enjoyable activity, so please encourage your child while ensuring they use correct letter formation—avoiding capital letters in the middle of their name.

You do not need to practice every day, but when you do, 10 minutes is the maximum recommended time to keep it engaging and effective.



“Thank you for your support in helping your child develop this important skill!”



# RECEPTION HIGHLIGHTS

THIS WEEK IN RECEPTION



## Summary of The Week

This week the children have enjoyed writing a fact file about Space. They included information about the International Space Station, famous astronauts and the jobs the astronauts have to do. We enjoyed exploring 3D shapes and having a shape hunt around school.

## Next Week

Next week we are writing a character description. We will be designing our own aliens and writing sentences to describe them. We are getting so good at using adjectives in our writing.

## In Maths

We are learning about 3D shapes and their properties. We are looking at what 2D shapes we can see in 3D shapes, how many faces, vertices and edges they have. Can your child find some 3D shapes around your home?

## In Spanish

Reception students are discovering this week the amazing skills of two special characters: María la Mariposa (María the Butterfly) and Carlos el Caracol (Carlos the Snail).





Thank You