



مدرسة الدوحة البريطانية  
DOHA BRITISH SCHOOL  
AIN KHALED



# Primary Newsletter

27th February 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

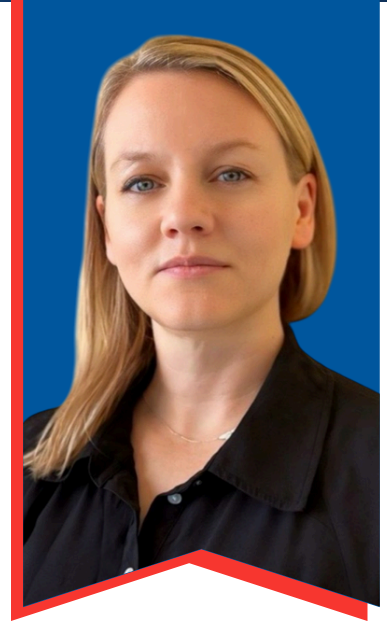


Welcome to Doha British Schools

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



What a week it has been—a celebration of talent, memories being made, and remarkable achievements!

Our joint production was a true testament to our one-school approach, with Year 6 students sharing the stage with the Secondary. The performance was met with a standing ovation around the theme of being the change you want to see in the world.

The show featured a mix of musical numbers, instrumental showcases, dramatic pieces, and dance routines – all built around the central theme of coming together as one. Each segment was carefully crafted to highlight the value of working collaboratively, reinforcing the idea that our strength lies in unity.

The stage and light crew played a crucial role behind the scenes, showing a level of maturity and responsibility well beyond their years. Their hard work ensured every cue was executed flawlessly, allowing the performance to flow smoothly from one act to the next.

Character development, a cornerstone of the DBS experience, was clearly evident throughout the production. Our students displayed notable courage, confidence, and talent, and their commitment to their roles was evident in every scene. This focus on personal growth not only enhanced the performance but also embodied the spirit of our school.

Our commitment to sporting excellence also continued, with students earning accolades that further add to our proud tradition of athletic success.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication and passion of our staff, the talent and resilience of our students, and the unwavering support and encouragement from our families. When the community comes together to ensure the best for our students, there is nothing we can't achieve.





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HEAD OF PRIMARY MESSAGE

## MRS. MARIE SIBLEY

We have had our final sports events before Ramadan this week and once again achieved success. Our Year 6 Girls played their final basketball match of the league and fought valiantly but were beaten by AKIS, meaning they finished second overall in the league out of 5 teams. The Year 6 Boys were crowned the unbeaten champions of the league which is phenomenal. Our Year 3 and 4 students attended an Outdoor Athletics tournament on Tuesday and we had some great individual successes with medals in the Standing Triple Jump, Ball Throw and 600m events. Well done to all our young sports stars. Just a reminder that Swimming will not take place during Ramadan. However, PE lessons will take place as usual but PE staff will be mindful of the fact that some students are fasting and may need to take breaks.

This week we have been conducting Learning Walks around school dropping into lessons and evaluating the learning taking place. I felt truly honoured to do this as I saw such excellent learning in every room that I visited. This was due to a combination of thorough preparation, subject knowledge and strong pedagogy on the part of the teachers I observed as well as an excellent attitude to learning on the part of the students who were all focused and eager to learn and challenge themselves. These Learning Walks form part of our Continuous Professional Development and School Improvement.

I had the pleasure of attending the Secondary production on Monday evening and was extremely proud of our Year 6 students who participated. Some of them had joined a Drama ECA with Secondary students back in September as part of our transition programme and performed some really thought provoking pieces exploring issues around identity and humanity amongst other topics. Miss Martin, our Primary Music teacher, had also worked with a large group of Y6 students to learn two songs which they performed beautifully. One of the strengths of an all through school like DBS is that we are able to give our Year 6 students these opportunities to work with Secondary students and staff which helps them to feel more confident about their upcoming move. Congratulations and thank you to all involved in the show.

I know that many of our children are very excited that Ramadan is upon us and it was wonderful to have Ms. Rasha and some of her students in assemblies this week to explain the significance of Ramadan. We have shared with you our Ramadan timings. I would like to remind you that there are no ECAs during Ramadan and ask that you try to be here on time to collect the children as many of our teachers are fasting and will need to also get home. Thank you for your understanding and I wish you all a blessed Ramadan.





# 2025 RAMADAN TIMING

AT DOHA BRITISH SCHOOL

As we await the official announcement of Ramadan, please see the adjustments to the school day outlined below:

- The school day will start at 08:30am and finish at 13:30pm
- Our front school gate will open at 08:15am
- The side and back gates will open at 8:15am
- Pre-school and Reception students will finish at 13:15pm

Please ensure all students are collected on time in accordance with the above.

As we observe Ramadan, we kindly ask all members of our school community to be mindful of the cultural and religious significance of this holy month. This includes adhering to expectations regarding attire, ensuring that clothing remains respectful and appropriate for the occasion.

We appreciate your support in fostering an environment of mutual respect and understanding during this important time.

*Wishing you and your family Ramadan Mubarak.*





# LEADING THE FUTURE

AI- ENHANCED WRITING ASSESSMENT AT DBS

Innovative Assessment for Schools

## CJ LIGHTNING

AI enhanced CJ



I am excited to announce a groundbreaking development in our commitment to educational excellence and raising attainment in writing. As the first school in Qatar to implement an AI-enhanced writing assessment system in partnership with No More Marking, we are taking a significant step forward in how we evaluate and improve student writing.

### Innovation Meets Educational Excellence

Our established partnership with No More Marking has already provided robust moderation of students' writing. Now, by incorporating AI technology, we are enhancing this process to deliver more precise, timely, and actionable feedback. This innovative approach involves sharing anonymised images of pupils' writing tasks, which are then transcribed and analysed using secure AI cloud services.

#### Supporting Whole-School Improvement

By systematically analysing this comprehensive data, we can:

- Enhance our curriculum to address identified needs
- Ensure consistent writing standards across the year group
- Pin-point good practice and seek to effectively replicate this.

#### Data-Driven Curriculum Enhancement

Beyond individual feedback, this system enables us to:

- Identify collective strengths and areas for development
- Make informed adjustments to our curriculum
- Target specific writing skills that need additional focus
- Share best teaching practices across departments

This initiative reflects our commitment to not only maintaining high standards but also ensuring our students are truly future-ready. Through this approach, we are demonstrating how technology can be used responsibly to enhance learning while preparing our students for a future where AI plays an increasingly important role in all aspects of life.



**DR. LUKE CHEATER**

VICE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE





# WELLBEING NEWSLETTER

CREATING A SAFE SPACE AT DBS

MESSAGE FROM THE



DOHA  
BRITISH  
SCHOOL

*In today's world, the internet is a huge part of our student's lives, whether it's for learning, socialising, or entertainment. While it brings plenty of benefits, it also comes with risks that can be hard to navigate. As a school, we want to make sure students are not just aware of these challenges but are also equipped to handle them in a safe and responsible way. Through ongoing conversations, school initiatives, and support from families, we can help students develop healthier relationships with technology.*

## This week at School

To further support our students, we have implemented several initiatives aimed at promoting a balanced and mindful approach to technology use. The introduction of Yondr pouches is a strong step in minimising distractions during school hours. By creating a phone-free learning environment, students can focus better in class, engage in face-to-face interactions, and develop healthier habits around screen time.

## Working Together

Keeping children safe online is something we all need to work on together, both at school and at home. We encourage families to set simple, clear rules around technology use, like having meals without devices and limiting screen time before bed. Finding time for hobbies, outdoorplay, and in-person conversations can also help children develop a healthier balance between their online and offline lives.

## More This Month

This month, we have hosted an Internet Safety Coffee Morning at DBS AK, where we discussed the challenges young people face online, such as screen time management, cyberbullying, and privacy concerns. This was a great opportunity for parents to gain insights and share strategies on how to support their children in navigating the digital world safely.

One of the key topics we focussed on is the importance of having open and non-judgmental conversations at home about internet use, as this helps children feel comfortable sharing their online experiences and seeking guidance when needed.

## Resources & Support

For parents looking for additional resources, we recommend using parental control tools, regularly reviewing privacy settings, and engaging in ongoing discussions about online behaviour. If you have any concerns or need support navigating these challenges, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school a safe and nurturing space for our students, both online and offline.

## Contact Us

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# SAFEGUARDING & WELLBEING

CREATING A SAFE SPACE

Part of our Gaming & Gambling Series

**NOS**  
Gaming & Gambling

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## What are they?

‘Games Consoles’

Much like a television allows you to watch movies or a radio allows you to listen to music, a games console allows you to play video games. The most modern ones are names you might be familiar with – Sony PlayStation, Microsoft Xbox, and Nintendo Switch – and almost all of them can now connect to the internet and be enjoyed online with friends

## What you need to know about... GAMES CONSOLES

## Safety Tips

**Check contacts**  
Online predators and hackers often use sly tactics to build relationships with children get them to illicit personal details through gaming platforms or gaming communities. Be on the lookout for suspect communications such as intrusive personal messages or people you suspect might not be who they say they are.

**Look for behaviour changes**  
Becoming withdrawn, irritable and anxious when not playing on a games console are trademark symptoms of gaming addiction. If children turn angry when asked to stop playing, that could also be a sign that an intervention is needed.

**Keep details private**  
Games consoles will almost exclusively ask you to enter your details securely on the console itself, or through a trusted website tied to the console maker. If somebody claiming to be working for Sony, Microsoft or Nintendo asks you to share your passwords or account details, do not give it to them.

**Use parental controls**  
Most gaming consoles will have parental controls which can be used to set up things like family management accounts. From here, parents can often set age limits on games and content, spending restrictions, limit play time and set up passwords and authentications to help keep children safe.

## Know the Risks

**Online Content**

While modern consoles don't strictly need to be connected to the internet, many of them also double up as an internet browser or provide the ability to stream TV shows and movies so it's important that the appropriate filters and parental controls are in place to restrict children viewing any unsuitable content.

**Addictive nature**

Games consoles require video games, and both can ultimately contribute towards an addictive habit. Playing too much and too often can force children to become reliant on the good feelings released when playing games, making them more likely to want to play them more frequently, and for longer periods of time.

**Hacking risk**

It's almost impossible to avoid signing up to different services when using modern consoles. Keeping track of all these accounts can be confusing and in a worst-case scenario, fraudsters could gain access to personal information, addresses and bank details by hacking online profiles.

**Online Chat**

Once connected to the internet, players can talk to each other either over headsets or using text chat functions on the consoles. Without the proper protections in place, children could speak to anybody of any age and find themselves building relationships with strangers they know nothing about.

## Further Support

**Block and report**

If someone has made your child feel uncomfortable, make note of suspect players' usernames. Often, you'll be able to ban or block these players in a game's settings. If you have proof of their intentions, don't hesitate to contact your local police force or authority with as much information and evidence as you can gather.

**Seek Support**

If you're concerned about your child playing too much on their console and think they may have developed a gaming addiction, try and offer them support. The World Health Organisation has classified gaming disorder as a mental health condition and there may be external providers locally who can offer you more targeted help.

**Keep IDs safe**

Be sure to talk to your child about the importance of keeping their identity safe. If they ever receive messages claiming to be from companies but something doesn't feel right, tell them not to respond and inform you. Things like odd spelling and grammar, strange email addresses, or asking for personal information are tell-tale signs.

## Our Expert

**Mark Foster**

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.







# SPOTLIGHT OF THE WEEK

AT DOHA BRITISH SCHOOL

**RAINA  
OMAR**  
SUBJECT LEAD/  
PE TEACHER



## Exciting House Rivalry at Primary Sports Week

A Celebration of Team Spirit, Determination, and Sporting  
Excellence

Primary Sports Week brought exhilarating and fierce competition as our houses battled for the top spot! EYFS students took on a variety of fun challenges, including water filling stations, football dribbling, and rugby try, while KS1 and KS2 students competed in football, basketball, dodgeball, and athletics.



After an action-packed week, Yellow Falcon emerged as the overall champion! It was a well-deserved victory, with all houses displaying remarkable effort, determination, and true sportsmanship throughout the event.

A huge well done to all participants for their incredible dedication and team spirit—you made Primary Sports Week a fantastic success!





# PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

THIS WEEK IN PRESCHOOL



## Summary of the Week

We've had a wonderful week in Pre-School, filled with exciting learning and play! The children have loved talking about who helps them at home and sharing all the ways they have been helping out too. It's been lovely to hear their stories!

In our role-play area, the children have been caring for babies, making sure they are well-fed and clean. Some of our little ones even took their babies for a check-up at the "doctor's office"—a great way to explore kindness and responsibility through play!



## In Literacy

The children have been working hard on writing their names, and they are feeling very proud of their achievements. It's been fantastic to see their confidence grow as they begin to recognise and form their letters.

**Thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend!**

## Next Week

**Looking ahead to next week**, we will be learning all about doctors and nurses—who they are, what they do, and how they help us. We can't wait to see the children engage in new activities and discussions around this topic!



## Message from Teachers

Next week, we will be learning all about doctors and nurses—who they are, what they do, and how they help us.

If you are a doctor or nurse, the class teacher may reach out to see if you would be happy to come in and talk to the children about your job. Don't be shy!

The children would love to hear all about what you do and how you help people. As Ramadan begins, we wish you and your families peace and happiness during this special month. May it be a time of blessings, kindness, and togetherness for you all.

If there is anything we can do to support your child during Ramadan, please let us know.





# RECEPTION HIGHLIGHTS

THIS WEEK IN RECEPTION

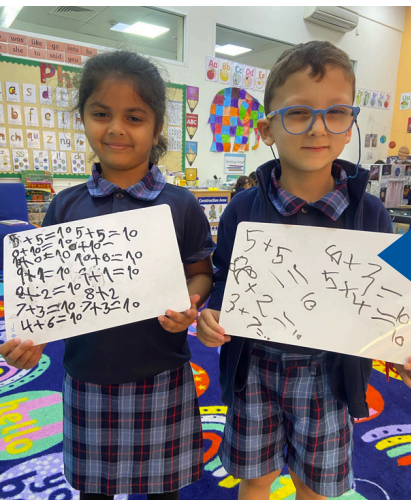


## Summary of The Week

The children enjoyed creating their own planets and writing about them.

## In Maths

We will be focusing on the composition of the number 10. We will be learning numbers bonds of ten and writing addition and subtraction numbers sentences making 10.



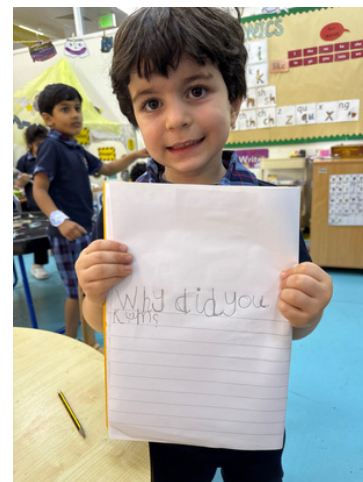
## In Spanish

Reception students are starting an exciting new topic: Conoces las minibeastas? (Do you know minibeasts?).

In this unit, pupils will follow the adventures of ten minibeast characters as the characters prepare for their imaginative school sports day!

## Next Week

Our class story is 'Eric and the Red Planet'. We will be writing a list of items we would take to space with us.



## Teacher's Message:

Next week the children will be making their own space rockets. Please send a plastic bottle to school with your child to decorate.





Thank You