



مدرسة الدوحة البريطانية  
DOHA BRITISH SCHOOL  
AIN KHALED



# Primary Newsletter

6th 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

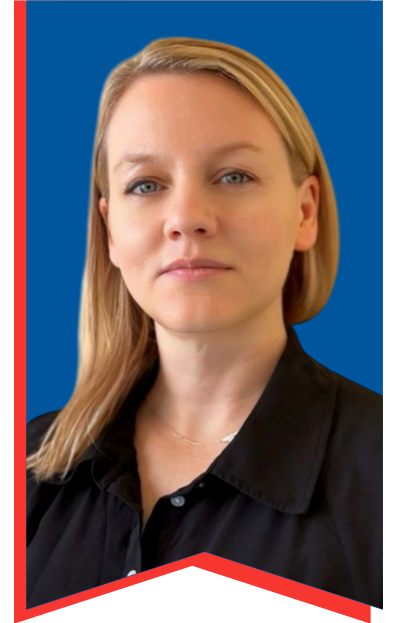


Welcome to Doha British Schools

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



We would like to extend our sincere thanks to all parents who took the time to engage with us in reviewing our Guiding Statements. Your feedback and insights are invaluable as we continue to refine and strengthen our school's vision and values. This process is key in shaping the future of our school and ensuring that we remain aligned with the needs of our students and wider community.

This week, we were pleased to **welcome IB accreditors** to DBS Ain Khaled as part of our ongoing efforts to maintain the highest standards in education. Their visit allowed us to showcase the incredible work happening in the IB Diploma Programme, from curriculum development to student engagement.. Thank you to those parents that volunteered to meet the accreditation team.

We are proud to say that at Doha British School Ain Khaled, safeguarding is our highest priority. And online safety plays a critical role in ensuring the well-being of our students. During the week beginning 16th February, we will be running a series of assemblies, discussions, and activities to educate students about staying safe in the digital world.

With technology playing an increasing role in children's lives, this is one of the most important areas where our partnership with parents is essential. While we will be working with students in school, we encourage families to take an active role at home by discussing:

- What apps and platforms your child has access to
- Privacy and safety settings on devices
- The importance of not using devices unsupervised
- Encouraging open conversations about safe and responsible online behaviour

In Secondary, our commitment to safeguarding can also be seen in the introduction of Yondr pouches, ensuring that mobile phones do not become a distraction during the school day. We appreciate parents' support in reinforcing the importance of this approach.

By working together, we can help our children develop healthy digital habits, make responsible choices online, and stay safe in an ever-changing digital world. Thank you as always for your continued engagement and support.







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## HEAD OF PRIMARY MESSAGE **MRS. MARIE SIBLEY**



### ***Success just keeps on coming at DBS Ain Khaled!***

I am proud and delighted to let you know that last weekend DBS AK won the QPPSSA Games for the second consecutive time. This is possibly the biggest event in the Sporting calendar for the Qatar Private Primary Schools Sports Association and was attended by 12 schools. Our students competed in swimming, football, basketball and athletics and accumulated points throughout, with the final results being announced on the Saturday afternoon. Congratulations to all the students involved, thank you to the many parents who came along to support and thank you to the PE team who have given up so much time over the last few weeks.

That same PE team has had no time to rest at all as they have started our series of Sports Days this week. The weather is beautiful and the children are all thoroughly enjoying the friendly rivalry between houses.

There have been other wonderful things going on this week to enhance our curriculum. Our Year 3 students all visited Torba Farm as part of their work in Geography related to Fair Trade and Organic Farming. Year 2 students have been studying 'Explorers' and were lucky enough to be visited by Sheikha Asma Al Thani, the first Qatari woman to conquer Mount Everest. Our Year 5 students had a fabulous Egyptian Day on Thursday where they took part in a variety of activities and wore amazing costumes to conclude their study of Ancient Egypt!

The day began with a fascinating exploration of historical artefacts, sparking discussions about the lasting impact of Egyptian inventions on modern civilisation. Students then stepped into the world of ancient Egypt, exploring the tomb of Tutankhamun and creating their own Egyptian-inspired jewellery. They also delved into the mummification process, using tomatoes to observe the effects of time. The fun continued with a treasure hunt, and everyone had a blast learning to write their names in hieroglyphics!

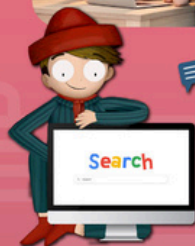
Just a little reminder that school will be closed on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week for our mid-term break. I hope that you enjoy the beautiful weather and some of the various activities around Qatar for National Sports Day on Tuesday.





# SAFEGUARDING & WELLBEING

CREATING A SAFE SPACE



## Conversation starters for parents and carers: ONLINE CONTENT



Trying to start a conversation about online safety with children can be a daunting task. There are many reasons why children may not want to talk to adults about it. One might be that they don't think you'll understand or that you won't know how to help if they came to you with an online problem. It can also be hard to start a conversation about something that you might have limited knowledge about. However, with screen time increasing during the lockdown, it's important now more than ever, to be talking to children about what they are accessing online.

### 1 ASK THEIR MOTIVATION

Sometimes it's easy to assume we know why children choose certain games or apps. It can seem obvious, like the child interested in football will be enthusiastic about the new FIFA game. But sometimes it can be more subtle than that. It could be that it's an outlet for their creativity or it might be that they like the look of the main character. Learning their motivation and knowing why they like it can help advising them on how to use it safely and help you discuss the pros and cons.



### 6 MAKE TIME TO LISTEN

When your child can't wait to tell you about their new game, always try and listen to what they say. We always have a lot on our minds, so it's easy for us to drift off onto other things which may be more important. However try to stay involved and ask them more details about aspects of the game/app. Children will appreciate your interest and the more questions you ask, the more you can find out. If you act uninterested, then they are less likely to tell you about it again in the future.



### 2 CULTIVATE A BLAME FREE CULTURE

Children can often blame themselves if they come across something that scares them or makes them feel uncomfortable. There will be times when your child has gone against something that you have forbidden, however, most children do not intend to put themselves at risk. Therefore, it's important that your child is able to come to you with a problem and won't be blamed for it. Try to understand what happened and why and warn them of the dangers once more. Engaging in a 'told you so' dialogue or suggesting they are in trouble for not listening may deter them from reporting any future concerns.



### 7 ASK THEM TO BE THE TEACHER

Showing an interest in what children are accessing online is a great opportunity for you to learn something new as well. Children on the whole love sharing their experiences so by asking them to teach you how to use an app or play a game is not only a great way to bond, but you will also feel more empowered to talk about it. It is easy to shy away from conversations when the child perhaps knows more about the subject content than you do. This can help to turn this around.



### 3 SHARE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Starting a conversation by sharing something that you've seen or that has made you feel uncomfortable can be a great opener. Talking about your own feelings can help children realise that it isn't just them – adults can be affected too. You can then go into how you coped with it therefore indirectly giving children advice on how they can also cope in uncomfortable situations. You can also explain that the reason that you've chosen to talk to them about it is because talking helps. Children will hopefully be able to see the parallels in the experiences and mimic your behaviour in future.



### 8 USE SCHOOL MESSAGING

It might be that your child's school has sent out a message about the Childline number or to remind children to use the CEOP button to report content. Ask the children what they learned about these at school. When would they use the Childline number? When would they need to use the CEOP button? What does it look like? Asking the children why the school thought that the information was so important that they sent out a message about it reinforces what they learnt whilst at school.



### 4 TALK ABOUT THE NEWS

Asking children what their response is to news stories around online safety can be revealing. For example, there has been a recent survey conducted by the BBFC who are currently campaigning for the application of age ratings and content warnings on video sharing platforms. What do they think about this? Can they think of a time when this would have helped themselves or someone they know? Are they against the idea? If so, why? Could they be accessing something they shouldn't be?



### 9 ASK ABOUT THE RISKS

Many children may know what online risks are and will happily explain the potential dangers. Listen and try not to be overly shocked if they tell you something that disturbs you. This can then lead nicely into you asking the question about what steps they are taking to look after themselves or what help they could seek if something goes wrong. Sometimes it's just nice to know that your children know the dangers and have taken steps to help reduce the risk for themselves – this is the ultimate goal.



### 5 ASK FOR ADVICE

It could be that you really do have a friend at work who is debating whether or not to let their child do something online, or it could be that you're bending the truth slightly, but hopefully the outcome would be the same. Don't be afraid to ask others for advice. Not only why they should let the child use it, but also what would they tell the child to be aware of. What are the risks? This will help you understand the risks yourself and what to look out for in future.



### 10 ASK ABOUT RESPONSIBILITIES

Try asking open ended questions about roles and responsibilities online. Who is in control of the internet? Who is looking after you whilst you are online? Who decides what is appropriate for children to see? This can reveal a lot about a child's perception about who is responsible for their online safety. If they believe that it is up to everyone else to keep them safe, then you know you need to have a conversation about how they can reduce their own risk.



### 11 ASK ABOUT SCHOOL ADVICE

Sometimes it's hard to know what to warn children about. If there is a new app or game that your child has come across recently, ask them what they think their teacher would say about it. What advice would school give them? What have they been told about trusting people online or about fake news? Finding this out would be a good way to hear what advice they were given at school and help you reiterate the same message. Quick reminders about what to do if something makes them feel uncomfortable or who their trusted adults are can make all the difference.



### Meet our expert

Heather Cardwell is a practising Online Safety Lead and senior school leader who is passionate about safeguarding children online and educating them around online risks. She has over 10+ years as a Computing Lead and has successfully developed and implemented a whole school approach to online safety in schools, delivering online safety training to both school staff and parents and helping to roll-out a bespoke online safety policy across her local network of education settings.





# SPOTLIGHT OF THE WEEK

A T D O H A B R I T I S H S C H O O L

**NADIRA  
IBRAHIM**  
PRIMARY COUNSELLOR



## DIGITAL WELLBEING IN A CONNECTED WORLD



In today's fast-moving digital age, technology is central to education and social life. While it offers great opportunities for learning and connection, it is important to support students in developing healthy digital habits that promote both safety and wellbeing.

## TIPS

### SCREEN TIME

A key part of this is managing screen time. Encouraging children to take breaks, engage in offline activities, and set boundaries around device use can help improve focus and prevent digital fatigue. Families can support this by creating tech-free spaces, such as keeping devices out of bedrooms to promote better sleep and overall well being.

### DIGITAL LITERACY

At the same time, digital literacy is more important than ever, particularly as social media has become a daily part of life. Teaching children how to think critically about online content, protect their privacy, and use the internet responsibly helps them navigate the digital world safely. Schools and families play a vital role in shaping these skills.

### OPEN DISCUSSION

By setting clear expectations and encouraging open discussions about online safety, we can help children build a balanced relationship with technology, one that supports both their learning and their wellbeing in an ever changing digital world. This includes talking about appropriate online behaviour, recognising risks such as cyberbullying or misinformation, and knowing when to seek help. Creating an environment where children feel comfortable discussing their online experiences ensures they are supported in making informed and confident choices in a digital world.

For more advice on supporting children with online responsibility, visit [Safe Space Qatar](#).







# MOVIE UNDER THE STARS

F R I E N D S   O F   D B S

DOHA BRITISH SCHOOL  
AIN KHALED

FRIENDS OF DBS PRESENTS

## MOVIE UNDER THE STARS

Disney **MOANA 2**

"OPEN SEATING"   "FOOD & SNACKS"   "RAFFLE DRAW"

get YOUR TICKETS

**21**  
FEB.

**DOHA BRITISH SCHOOL**  
AIN KHALED  
FOOTBALL FIELD

**05:30**  
PM

**Tickets Available**

**Main Foyer** – Pick-up & Drop-off: 7:00 AM – 7:15 AM  
**Pre-School & Reception Entrance** – 1:00 PM  
**Canteen Area** – 2:00 PM







# PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

THIS WEEK IN PRESCHOOL



## Summary of the Week

We've had a fantastic week in preschool, with the children thoroughly enjoying the story of The Gingerbread Man! Many of them have been using masks to act out the story with their friends, bringing the characters to life through play and imagination.

One of the highlights this week was making and decorating salt dough Gingerbread Men. The children loved getting hands-on with the ingredients, pouring, mixing, and creating their own little masterpieces. It was wonderful to see their excitement as they took part in the process!

A huge thank you to all the parents who joined us for Learning Together Time! The children had a fantastic time, and it was wonderful to see you all engaging and playing together.

## Next Week

We will continue exploring The Gingerbread Man through even more fun and creative activities. We are also looking forward to a very special event—our first Sports Day! This will be a fantastic opportunity for the children to enjoy some active, outdoor fun while developing their physical skills.



## Teacher's Message

### Parent consultations

A reminder that Parent Consultations will take place on Wednesday, 19th February. Please sign up via the message sent on Class Dojo to book your appointment.

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss your child's progress!

### Sports Day

We are excited for **Pre-School Sports Day** on **Sunday, 9th February**, from **7:15 – 8:05 AM!**

For the event, please ensure your child wears their **sports kit** along with a **t-shirt in their house colour**, which matches their class colour.

To keep them safe and comfortable, please also send them with:

- ✓ A hat
- ✓ A refillable water bottle
- ✓ Sunscreen applied before school

We look forward to a fun and active morning! Thank you for your support.

## Home Activities

We wish you all a wonderful half-term with your children! With the lovely weather, it's the perfect time to get outdoors, enjoy some fresh air, and make special memories together.

Don't forget to take part in the Sports Day celebrations happening across Doha—a fantastic opportunity for family fun and staying active!

## Pick Up

Please note that once you have collected your child from school, you are not permitted to wait in the school building and must leave the school premises.

This is to support safeguarding and comply with our fire policy. We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring a safe environment for all our children.

Thank you for your understanding.



## People Who Help Us

Our next topic is "People Who Help Us," and we would love to have parent volunteers come in and talk to the class!

If you work as a nurse, doctor, vet, chef, pilot, or in any other helpful profession, we would be delighted for you to share your experience with the children.

If you're interested, please send me an email at [emily.byars@dohabritishschool.com](mailto:emily.byars@dohabritishschool.com).

Thank you for your support—we look forward to hearing from you!







# RECEPTION HIGHLIGHTS

THIS WEEK IN RECEPTION



## Summary of The Week

This week the children have had a lot of fun exploring length and height. They wrote some wonderful sentences about their favourite part of our class story 'Pirates Love Underpants'.



## Teacher's Message:

Thank you to everyone who came and supported Reception during the Learning Together Time this week. The children absolutely love it and it is a great opportunity for you to explore our learning environment with your child.

Just a reminder that when children are collected at 1pm, you must then leave the school premises. You cannot wait around to collect other children at the 2pm collection time. You can of course avail of the creche facility which runs from 1-2pm. This is to safeguard the other children still in school participating in lessons until 2pm.

Thank you.





Thank You