



مدرسة الدوحة البريطانية
DOHA BRITISH SCHOOL
AIN KHALED



Primary Newsletter

9th January 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

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

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

Primary Newsletter



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



I trust this newsletter finds you well and refreshed after the winter break. Welcome back to what promises to be an exciting term at Doha British School Ain Khaled.

As we begin 2025, I'm delighted to see our corridors once again filled with the energy and enthusiasm of our students. The start of a new term always brings a sense of possibility and renewed purpose, and this January is no exception.

Looking ahead, we have several enriching experiences planned. Our students are eagerly anticipating their upcoming class trips, which provide valuable opportunities for learning beyond our classroom walls. A particular highlight will be our International Day celebration on 23rd January – a wonderful occasion that showcases the diverse and vibrant nature of our school community.

Following our successful British Schools Overseas (BSO) inspection, we are delighted to announce that we will be welcoming the International Baccalaureate (IB) team in February and the Council of International Schools (CIS) in April. These accreditation visits are vital in ensuring we continue to deliver excellence in education.

Our partnership with these esteemed accreditation bodies supports us in maintaining the highest standards and reflects our commitment to continuous improvement and providing the best possible learning environment for our students. Parent participation in completing surveys, joining focus groups, and attending workshops and events are just some of the ways you can get involved too.

If you have not done so already, please take a few minutes to contribute to our survey which is informing our review of the guiding statements ([here](#)).

The strength of DBS Ain Khaled lies in our partnership with you, our families. Your engagement and support play a vital role in creating an environment where every student can thrive. As we embark on this new term together, I look forward to continuing our collaboration to ensure the very best educational experience for our children.



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HEAD OF PRIMARY MESSAGE

MRS. MARIE SIBLEY



I hope that you all had a wonderful Winter break and enjoyed having your children with you for a couple of weeks. We have got off to a positive start to Term 2 and have welcomed a number of new students to the school.

This week has seen the introduction of a new timetable. Thank you for your patience in this matter as I know that it has meant changes to PE days and Library etc which have an impact on you. However, it has given us greater opportunities for collaboration across year groups, both in terms of students and staff. The children have coped well so far in getting to the correct rooms and meeting, in some instances, their new teachers. This will get easier over the next couple of weeks as children adapt to the new routines.

This is a time of year when many people commit to improving something during 2025. One of the things that we would really like to continue to improve is punctuality so please try to ensure that your child is in school by 7:00am every day. It can make children feel anxious if they arrive late to class every day and they miss out on important activities.

Every minute really does count so support in this will be much appreciated. We would also like to see fewer students leaving early within the school day. We understand that there are some times when medical appointments simply cannot be changed. However, wherever possible, we ask that you arrange things outside of the school day please. Thank you.

Next week we will have Pret-a-Portrait photographers in school starting on Wednesday and running through the following week. In addition to taking individual photographs, there will be opportunities for you to bring your children in for sibling photos. Please look out for a separate letter that will come out via email and will give you further information regarding specific dates and times.





SPOTLIGHT OF THE WEEK

SCIENCE AT DOHA BRITISH SCHOOL



In Science this year, our students have been buzzing with excitement as they immersed themselves in hands-on science lessons, designed to inspire curiosity, creativity, and a deeper understanding of the world around them. Here's a glimpse of the incredible learning taking place across the school:

Reception: Our youngest scientists explored the wonders of freezing and melting by creating their very own ice lollies. They also experimented with mixing colours, discovering how primary colours blend to make new ones.

Year 1: The students in Year 1 have been learning about how our amazing bodies work, focusing on the five senses and how they help us explore the world. They've also been discovering the magic of seasonal changes. To celebrate, Year 1 enjoyed a fun-filled Winter Day with activities like a snowball fight in the MPH, winter play in the Quad, and hot chocolate to keep warm.

Year 2: Year 2 students have been learning all about keeping their bodies healthy! They explored food groups and healthy diets, understanding how to make balanced choices. They also investigated the parts of a plant and their functions, discovering how plants grow and thrive, including studying seed germination to observe the first stages of plant life.

"Reception: Little hands, big discoveries as we explore colours and ice!"





SPOTLIGHT OF THE WEEK

SCIENCE AT DOHA BRITISH SCHOOL

"Year 1: Senses, seasons and snowy smiles."



"Year 2: Investigating food groups and exploring the parts of a plant!"





SPOTLIGHT OF THE WEEK

SCIENCE AT DOHA BRITISH SCHOOL

Year 3: By exploring how our bodies move, students created models of joints and bones and honed their classification skills by sorting animals into groups. A visit from STEM Explorers added even more excitement, sparking curiosity and deepening their understanding with a range of scientific demonstrations.

Year 4: Students created paper food chains to explore the relationships between producers, consumers, prey, and predators. They also investigated how different drinks affect teeth by soaking eggshells in various liquids, sparking discussions about making healthy choices

Year 5: Space Day took Year 5 students on an exciting journey into the cosmos! Dressed in planet-themed costumes, they launched their new topic with activities that sparked awe and curiosity about our solar system.

Year 6: The circulatory system came alive in Year 6 as students created realistic models of blood. This activity helped them visualize the vital components of our body's transportation system while sparking fascinating discussions about health and biology.



"Year 3: Sorting and classifying animals like true scientists!"





SPOTLIGHT OF THE WEEK

SCIENCE AT DOHA BRITISH SCHOOL

"Year 3: Building joints and exploring with the STEM Explorers!"



"Year 5: Out-of-this-world learning during Space Day!"



"Year 4: Building food chains and discovering the science behind healthy smiles!"

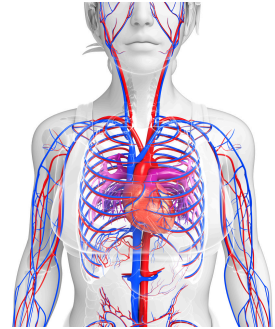




SPOTLIGHT OF THE WEEK

SCIENCE AT DOHA BRITISH SCHOOL

"Year 6: Bringing biology to life creating blood!"



Beyond these engaging lessons, our staff have been hard at work enhancing the science curriculum. Recent professional development sessions have focused on mapping out more opportunities for students to immerse themselves in practical activities that deepen their understanding. Additionally, teachers are refining the process for writing up investigations, ensuring students develop strong scientific inquiry skills.

We greatly value parents' feedback on the Knowledge Organisers, which have been shared to support learning at home. This input has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting how these tools enhance communication and strengthen the partnership between school and home.

Science continues to be a cornerstone of our curriculum, inspiring students to ask big questions, investigate their world, and develop a lifelong love for learning. Thank you for supporting our efforts to make science a truly magical subject!





SAFEGUARDING & WELLBEING

CREATING A SAFE SPACE

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO BUILD EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE

With increasing societal pressures, many children struggle with managing emotions, facing challenges and processing failure in a healthy way. This is why building emotional resilience in young people is vital for their mental health and personal success. This guide provides practical strategies for parents and educators to help children develop resilience and foster confidence, adaptability and a positive mindset.

1 ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Regularly engaging children in open dialogue fosters trust and emotional expression. Encourage them to share their thoughts and feelings freely without judgement. Set aside time daily, perhaps during dinner, to ask open-ended questions such as, "What's made you happy today?". This encourages children to express themselves openly.

2 MODEL POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Children often learn how to manage emotions by observing adults. By modelling calm and positive responses to challenges, you can teach them valuable emotional management skills. If you've had a difficult day, verbalise how you're feeling and explain how you plan to handle it, such as "I'm a bit worked-up, so I'm going for a walk to clear my mind."

3 TEACH PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS

Helping children break down challenges into manageable steps encourages a proactive mindset. Explain that every problem has a solution, even if it's not immediately obvious. For example, if a child is stuck on homework, support them in breaking the task into smaller steps, saying things like "Let's focus on just this first question for now."

4 FOSTER A GROWTH MINDSET

Encourage young people to view mistakes as learning opportunities. A growth mindset helps them see setbacks as part of the process, rather than something to be upset about. After a child loses a game or performs poorly on a test, for example, ask them what they've learned from the experience. This reinforces the idea that effort – and even failure – leads to improvement.

5 PROMOTE SELF-CARE PRACTICES

Teaching children about self-care helps them understand the importance of balancing work with relaxation to maintain emotional wellbeing. Parents and carers could start a screen-free hour before bedtime where the family engages in relaxing activities like reading, setting an example to the child for how to unwind.

6 BUILD HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Strong relationships with peers and adults provide a support system that enhances resilience. Encourage positive, respectful interactions to develop social skills. Playdates or group activities can be instrumental in teaching children how to resolve conflicts with friends by modelling and practising calm communication.

7 SUPPORT EMOTIONAL AWARENESS

Helping children to identify and name their emotions allows them to manage those feelings more effectively. When a child's upset, encourage them to talk to you about what they're feeling in an empathetic and supportive manner, and ask them why they might be experiencing these emotions.

8 ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE

Giving children opportunities to make their own decisions boosts confidence and problem-solving skills. A good example of this would be letting children choose and pack their own lunches for school, guiding them with options but allowing them to assume responsibility for the task to help them take ownership.

9 DEVELOP COPING STRATEGIES

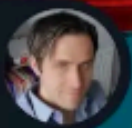
Teaching children techniques like mindfulness, deep breathing or journaling can help them to manage stress. Show them how to perform breathing exercises when they're feeling anxious, and practise this regularly. Reinforcing this behaviour in young people will make it easier for them to use these techniques of their own accord during stressful moments.

10 CELEBRATE SMALL WINS

Recognising effort, no matter how small, reinforces perseverance and encourages children to keep trying. After a child completes a difficult task, makes progress on a project or reaches another type of personal goal, praise their efforts, emphasise the hard work they've put in and be sure to let them know how proud you are!

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on a secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, which works with schools on improving their mental health provisions.





PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

THIS WEEK IN PRESCHOOL



Teacher's Message

We are thrilled to share how wonderfully the children have settled back into their routines and activities after the break. It has been heartwarming to see their smiling faces, and their teachers have truly missed them!

This week, the children have been captivated by the story "We're Going on a Bear Hunt". They have been enthusiastically practising retelling the story with actions, bringing the adventure to life in such creative ways.

Looking ahead, we will continue exploring this delightful story next week, culminating in a Teddy Bear's Picnic! Please feel free to send your child with their favorite teddy to join the fun.

Oli Oli

We are excited to announce that the children will be visiting Oli Oli for their first pre-school trip! A visit to Oli Oli offers an enriching experience for pre-school children, combining exploration, sensory development, and the opportunity to build independence. With hands-on exhibits and interactive play, children are encouraged to explore their curiosity, engage their senses, and discover new concepts in a fun, stimulating environment. The trip also helps foster independence as children navigate activities and make choices in a safe and supportive setting, creating a memorable learning adventure.

Sunday 19th January – Pre-School Red and Green

Monday 20th January – Pre-School Purple, Blue and Yellow





PRESCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS



Teddy Bear's Picnic

On Thursday, 16th January, we will be celebrating with a Teddy Bear's Picnic! The children are invited to bring their favorite teddy bear to join in the fun. Together, we'll enjoy a day filled with storytelling, games, and a special picnic, making it a delightful way to bring our learning to life. We can't wait to see all the cuddly companions!



Home Activities

Practise retelling the story "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" using this [link](#).





RECEPTION HIGHLIGHTS

THIS WEEK IN RECEPTION



Reception had a fantastic start to the Spring term by celebrating our new topic with a Pirate Day. The children had so much fun taking part in a treasure hunt, building pirate ships and making treasure chests. We wrote sentences about things that are precious to us and that we want to keep safe in our chests.

In Maths

In maths we have been focusing on the number 8, next week we will move onto the number 9. We will be finding, representing and ordering numbers to 9. We will be looking at how many different ways we can make the number 9 using a part whole model and ten frames to identify the number bonds to 9.

Next Week

Next week our class story is Sunk! We will imagine that we are stranded on a deserted island and will write a message in a bottle asking for help.





Thank You