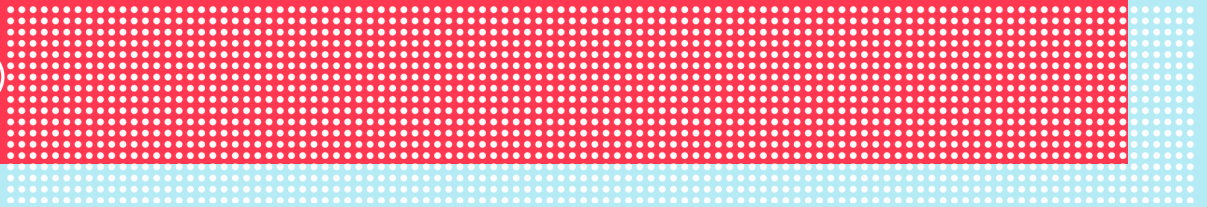




THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
ABU DHABI

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL



PARENT GUIDE

Foundation Stage 2023-24

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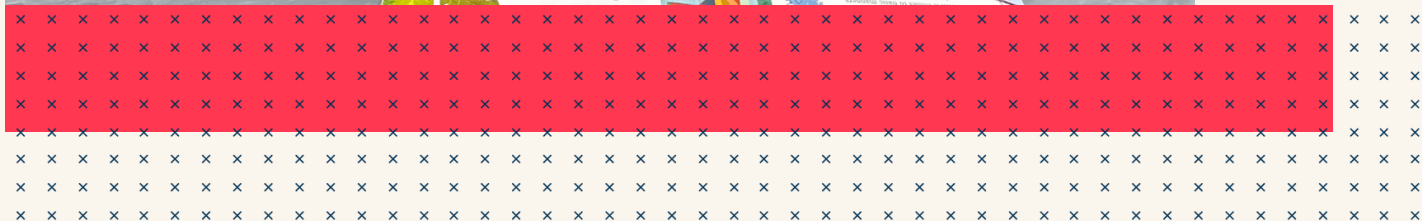
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Welcome to Foundation Stage at BIS Abu Dhabi

We are looking forward to getting to know all new FS parents, as well as your children, and hope your time with us will be a happy and enjoyable one. We, as teachers, are glad to have the opportunity to work with you as partners in your child's education.

The purpose of this booklet is to keep you informed about day-to-day routines, offering some advice on how to make the transition into Nursery and FS2 as smooth as possible and will hopefully answer some of the questions you may have.

We hope that you enjoy reading it and will discuss the contents with your child, to promote a happy, successful and rewarding year for us all.

WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF PRIMARY

Welcome to a new school year at the Primary School of BISAD. It is a great privilege for me to assume the role of Headship at the Primary School, leading a team of incredibly talented staff members. Each member of our team is dedicated to ensuring your child's success and helping them thrive throughout their time at BISAD.

At BISAD, we firmly believe that learning is a journey. This journey requires stepping beyond one's comfort zone, embracing challenges that have yet to be conquered, and forging connections with previous learning experiences. Such endeavors often come with setbacks, demanding perseverance and support. To embark on this journey, trust and belief are paramount. Within our Primary School environment, all staff members are deeply attuned to these principles and are committed to being there for every student on this exciting journey.



Our staff takes the time to personally understand your child, building robust and trusting relationships. This foundation creates a safe space for your child to explore, question, and confidently tackle challenges. With encouragement, guidance, and feedback, staff assist students in their pursuit of learning and progress, celebrating every achievement along the way. Our teachers meticulously plan for each year group, tailoring the curriculum to provide the right balance of support and challenges along the learning journey. This curriculum equips children with the essential knowledge and skills for their next stages of learning. In addition, we also aspire to instill a genuine passion for learning, making education exciting and meaningful.

We are strong advocates for broadening horizons through partnerships with organizations like the UN for global goals, incorporating Juilliard-inspired approaches to music and dance, and integrating science, art, and math through initiatives such as MIT and STEAM. Our curriculum experiences are thoughtfully designed to have meaning, continuity, and progression across year groups and subjects. We take pride in having specialists who support learning in foreign languages, sports, and music.

Our staff's commitment extends to both the learning process and its outcomes. We are dedicated to enabling every child to make substantial strides toward excellence. Our approach nurtures social, emotional, and communication skills, fostering a love for learning and a strong sense of community among students.

Exciting opportunities, enriching trips, and engaging community events await in the upcoming year. I am incredibly excited about seeing all the incredible things happening in school this year and witnessing the remarkable accomplishments your children will achieve within our educational setting.

Matthew Harper
Head of Primary School

Our Vision

"Empowering & enriching lives for future success"

Our Mission

"Our mission is to create world class learning experiences that recognise and nurture empathetic, resilient and talented individuals."

Our Values

Kindness, Honesty and Respect

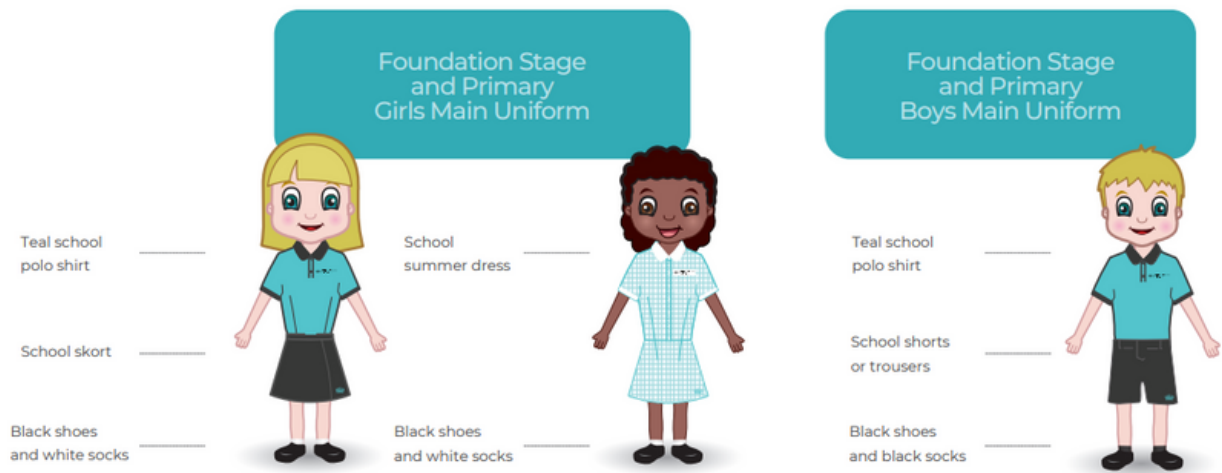
PREPARING FOR SCHOOL

Uniform

August is the month of school uniform and stationery shopping! The school uniform is a very simple one, all black leather shoes, charcoal trousers, shorts or skirt and a primary school polo shirt. Alternatively, girls may wear a turquoise, chequered dress if they prefer. All these items, along with hats, bags, PE kit and stationery should be purchased at Zak's uniform store in Al Raha Mall.

In the cooler months, students may wear the school jumper, cardigan, or fleece but they must not wear any non-school uniform items inside the building. It is the role of the class teacher to monitor school uniform and to ensure that students are dressed appropriately and in the correct uniform.

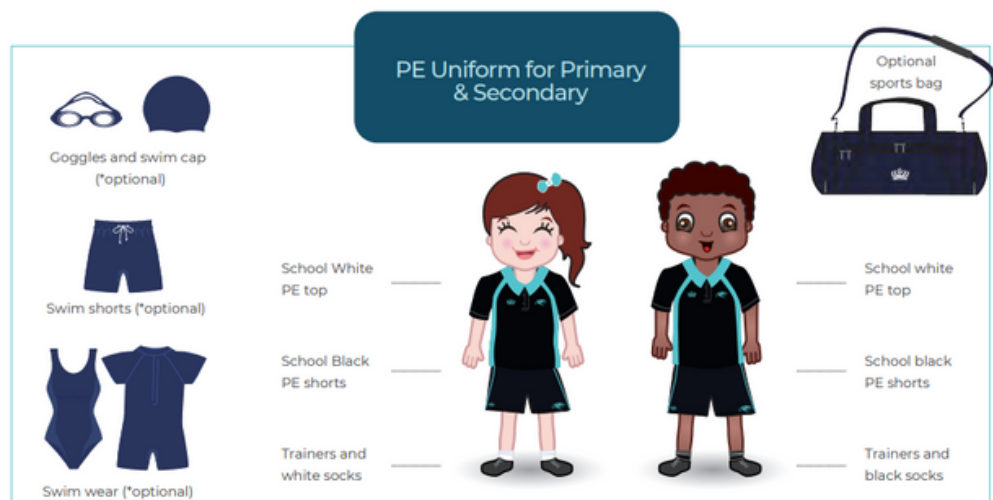
Primary students should refrain from wearing jewellery, although a pair of stud earrings and a watch is allowed. Hair must be neat with no extreme hair styles or colours. Overt religious symbols which may cause offence are not permitted and we ask that all students and parents are culturally sensitive at all times.



All our school uniform and accessories can be purchased at the Zak's Uniform Shop located in Al Raha Mall on the second floor.

Zak's Order Centre - Al Wahda Mall (Opposite Adidas Store - New Extension)

Note: The Zak's Order Centre does not have any ready uniforms stored at the location, only size sets for all uniforms which are available to try on and place orders.



What is the morning routine?

Nursery can enter school via Gate 4 between 7:30am – 7:40am with their parents and make their way to their classroom, where their teacher will be ready to greet them. FS2 will be welcomed by some friendly faces at Gate 6 between 7:30am – 7:40am and can show how independent they are by making their way to their classrooms. They will be registered and will then have some time to play and meet up with their friends, before gathering to sing the National Anthem. After a song and dance for 'Wake Up Shake Up', they will have a carpet time to discuss their day and start their learning. This is an important part of their day and we ask that you make sure they arrive on time in the mornings as late arrivals can unsettle them and lead to disturbances in their learning.

When may I collect my child?

Pick up time for Nursery can be at 1pm or 3pm. Please communicate which pick up time you prefer when your child starts Nursery. Pick up time for FS2 is at 3pm. Nursery and FS2 should be collected by parents directly from their classroom. This is a vital part of the day when teachers can share information with you about your child's day.

What should I pack for my child to eat and drink?

Your child will need a small snack and a slightly more substantial lunch. These should be clearly labelled and packed in separate named boxes/bags so that they can be easily sorted into the Snack and Lunch boxes outside your child's classroom. We promote healthy eating in our school and food sent in should reflect this. Fruit, vegetable sticks, yoghurt or a small sandwich are suitable for snack. A rice or pasta dish, sandwich or wrap, with fruit or vegetable sticks can be sent in for lunch. Please avoid sending in biscuits, cakes, chocolate bars and sweets. Save them for an occasional treat at home. Please remember we are a nut and pork free school.

Your child will need to bring in a named, refillable water bottle. These are kept in the classroom and all the children have unrestricted access to water throughout the day. Please do not send in flavoured milk or juice which is high in sugar.

My child is fully toilet trained. Do I still need to send in spare clothes?

Our children learn through hands-on experiences. Sometimes these lead to messy or wet clothes, which can be uncomfortable for the children. A spare set of 'Just in case' clothes is kept in the classroom for your child to change into if necessary. These clothes do not need to be uniform but should be easy for your child to put on. If your child comes home in their spare clothes, make sure that you send a new set in the next day. The learning never stops!

What are the behavioural expectations in FS?

In FS, we all follow three Golden Rules: Kind Hands, Kind Feet and Kind Words which feed into our school values of Kindness, Honesty and Respect. Teachers talk about these regularly with the children and children are encouraged to follow these at all times.

What are the Specialist lessons in FS?

Each week, Nursery students have 3 PE lessons, 2 Swimming lessons, 2 Arabic lessons and 1 Music session. FS2 students have 2 PE lessons, 1 Swimming lesson, 2 Arabic lessons and 1 Music session. All of these lessons are taught by highly trained, specialist teachers.

Does my child need to take swimming lessons?

Swimming is an exciting part of our FS curriculum and a key life skill for all children. It is important that all children are encouraged to take part. If your child is not well enough to swim, please keep them at home or send in a doctor's note explaining why they may not swim.

Can my child wear jewellery to school?

The children in FS do a lot of physical activity; running, climbing, crawling and sliding. Jewellery can be a health and safety risk in some situations and therefore we ask that children do not wear jewellery.

Can my child bring toys to school? What is Golden Time and what do I need to do for it?

Golden Time is held once a week during which time children may bring in a small toy to play with. This is linked to Show and Tell to promote communication and language. Your teacher will inform you of when Golden Time will be held. Please help your child select a small toy which they would like to show their friends. Please do not send in expensive items, electronic devices, such as iPads or gaming consoles, or very special toys. For the rest of the week, toys can stay at home as we have more than enough exciting opportunities for the children to focus on.

I cannot pick up my child today. I am running late. What should I do?

If you have arranged for someone else to collect your child, please inform the teacher as soon as possible. This can be done in person in the morning or by emailing the teacher directly in advance. If the arrangement has been made during the school day, please email the teacher before lunch or call Reception and ask them to pass on a message. Your teacher will not send your child home with an unfamiliar adult without your express permission, so please support us by informing us as soon as you are aware of a change. Your child will understandably be anxious about a change in routine and we can help to prepare them in advance.

Are there any after school clubs my child can attend after school?

We are delighted to announce that Nursery and FS2 students can now access a wide range of CCAs running from 3-4pm. These CCAs will complement our EYFS Curriculum and help to support and challenge children in their main areas of development.

What should I do if my child is not going to be at school?

Attendance is crucial to your child's development. We have and maintain very high expectations in relation to attendance and expect all of our students to achieve at least a 97% attendance record. If your son / daughter is sick, please inform the school by phone, parent app or the class teacher by email by 7:30am that morning. If you wish to request a leave of absence for your son / daughter, please be aware that the school is bound by strict local guidelines, and we ask for at least one week's notice. We are only able to authorise a maximum of 5 days absence in any one school year and only for the following reasons:

- Personal illness
- Scheduled medical appointment
- Death of a first or second degree relative: for three days only
- Taking part in an approved public performance or sports event
- On a field trip or educational visit
- Official community task or mandatory appearance before a governing body
- Travel of a religious nature
- Essential, urgent family travel (i.e medical treatment, death of a close family member)

Authorised absences must be confirmed by parents/guardians and an absence request form must be filled in (These forms can be found in reception).

Can I pick my child up early from school?

We recognise that from time to time it is necessary for parents to take students out of school early. In these cases, we ask that parents email the Class Teacher in advance to inform them of the details. Please note that we only approve an 'early leave' in the following cases:

- Medical appointments (although we ask that appointments are made outside of school hours if possible)
- Visa / Embassy appointments
- Urgent family business e.g. ill health
- Previously agreed events (see 'Absence from School')

We do not approve requests for students to leave school early for non-approved sports events, family visits or 'travelling.' If any student is leaving early, parents must present a 'yellow slip' from Reception to the class teacher to sign and approve.

What happens if my child becomes sick or is injured?

If a student is unwell or has sustained an injury, they will be taken to the school clinic to be assessed by the nursing staff. All visits to the clinic are recorded and you will receive a blue copy of the report of any minor incidents and the treatment given. This can be found in your child's school bag.

In case of serious injury, parents will be contacted immediately by the clinic staff. Please ensure that you inform us of any changes to your telephone number and that you answer your telephone when called in case the school needs to contact you in an emergency.

Should your child experience vomiting and/or diarrhoea, please keep them at home for a minimum of 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting and or diarrhoea. Students are further required to produce a fit for school letter from their doctor upon their return to school.

If your child requires medication to be administered during the school day, please inform your child's teacher, and give the medication with a copy of the prescription to the school nurse. Do not leave any medication in your child's school bag.

How can I be more involved in my child's learning?

FS regularly host 'Read and Relax' and 'Stay and Play' sessions for parents to spend time in class, learning alongside their children. The sessions will have different focuses. They take place early in the morning and last for approximately thirty minutes. Notice will be sent out in advance and we strongly encourage you to join your child.

Regular parent workshops are held throughout the year. These include information on Communication and Language, Physical Development and getting ready to write, Phonics, Reading, Writing and Maths. You will receive notice about specific workshops closer to the time.

In your child's report, the teacher will be giving you specific ideas of how to support them at home but here are a few general ways in which you can help.

- Reading stories with your child and getting them to retell the story.
- Looking for numbers in the environment and counting.
- Recognising/writing your child's name.
- Cooking with your child.

Throughout the year, FS2 will be sending out reading packs and reading books. Please choose a quiet spot and set aside some time where you can support your child with their reading. In Nursery, we encourage special time to snuggle up and read story books together.

Teachers will also communicate your child's learning to you via the Seesaw app. You will be able to respond by leaving a love heart like or a voice comment to encourage and comment on your child's learning. This is a firm favourite amongst our FS students!

How do I communicate with my child's teacher?

We pride ourselves on our relationship we have with parents and families at BISAD and would encourage you to speak to us at the beginning or end of the day in person. Alternatively, you may email your child's teacher using their school email address to ask any questions you may have. If you would like to have a meeting, please speak to the teacher about arranging a suitable time for a meeting.

If you would like to speak to the Year Leader in your child's year group, please contact Rhiannan Leake, FS Year Leader on rhiannan.leake@bisad.ae who will be more than happy to help or answer any questions you may have.

Throughout the school year, parents are kept informed of events, activities and their child's progress in a variety of ways.

Weekly class emails

These are sent every Friday afternoon and are used to inform you of what has been happening in the classroom that week. Reminders and dates of upcoming events are also included here.

Whole school newsletter

This is emailed each Wednesday afternoon. Please make sure that you are signed up to receive this newsletter.

You can do so by following the link below:

www.weblog.abudhabi.nordanglia.com/newsletters/

Weblog

Links to various items on the weblog can be found in the various newsletters:

www.nordangliaeducation.com/our-schools/abu-dhabi/news-and-events

Reports

These are sent home twice a year and give you information regarding your child's progress at school.

Parent Teacher Meetings

These are held each term to discuss your child's progress. A letter will be sent out the week before for you to choose your preferred timing.

Social Media

The school uses social media on a daily basis to update parents with urgent messages or to share good news and stories. If you are interested in receiving notifications, please follow us on the following social media accounts:

You tube : TheBISAD

Twitter : @bis_ad

Instagram : bis_ad

Facebook : British International School Abu Dhabi

The Parent App

We have a BIS Abu Dhabi Parent App! Within the app, you will be able to access personalised information regarding your child such as their reports, curriculum documents, teacher contacts and more. The app can be found in both the [Google Play](#) and [Apple Store](#), or by searching 'BIS Abu Dhabi' within the relevant App store



Once downloaded, please use the 'BISAD Parent Sign up' section to receive a password for your account.

Then enter the email address that is registered with the school, and click 'sign up' (this will be the account that receives correspondence from the school).



You will then receive an email with a password for you to register with. You can change the password once you have logged in if you wish. Please note once you have logged in once, the app will remember your login information.

Once you have logged in, there will be a short tutorial to help you get the most from the app. Please make sure you allow the app to send you notifications, so that you are able to receive important messages from the school that are sent via the app.

As with all apps, there will be ongoing updates, please do let us know your suggestions and feedback by emailing: comms@bisad.ae





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