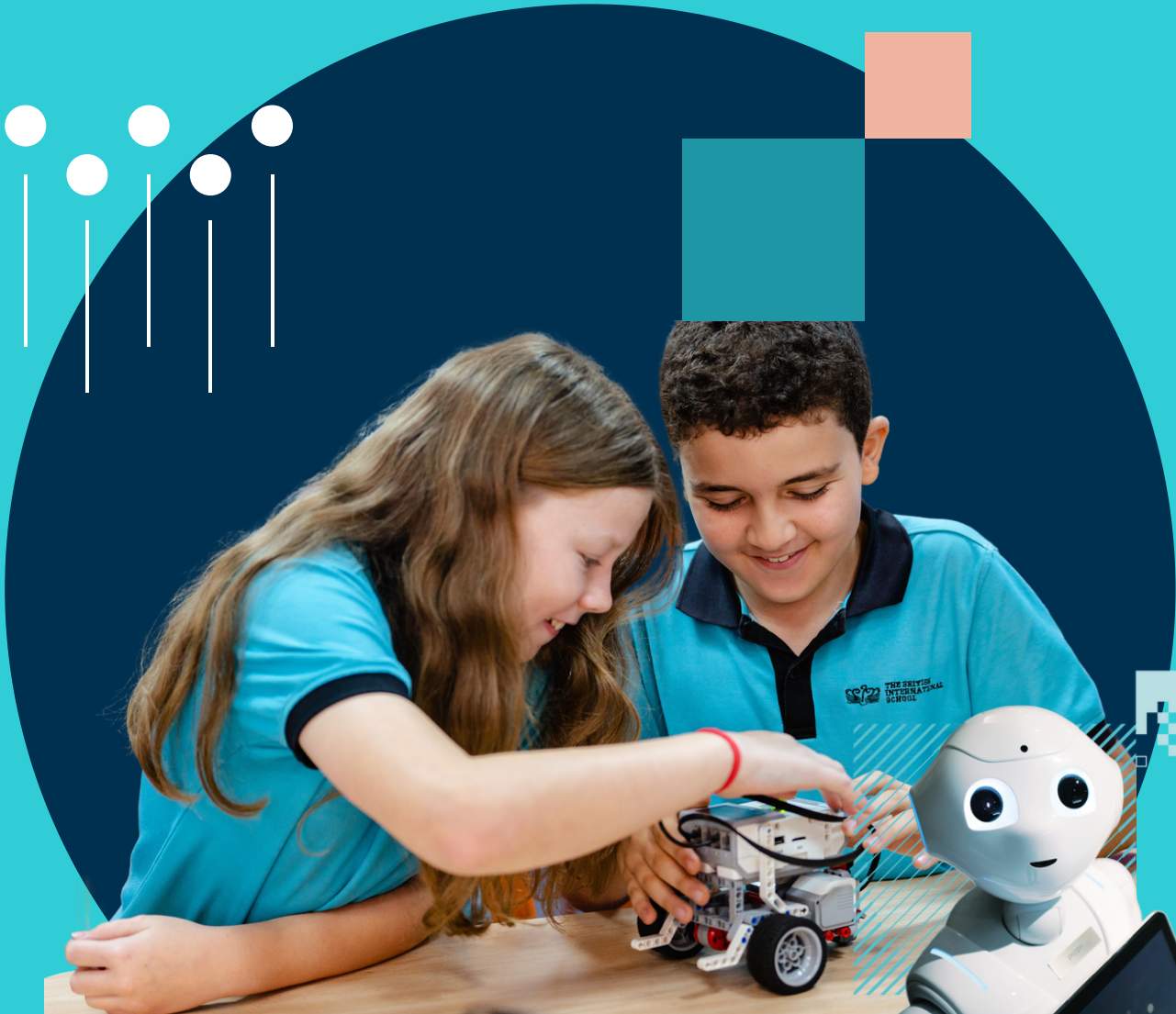
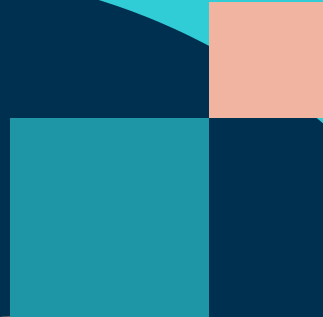
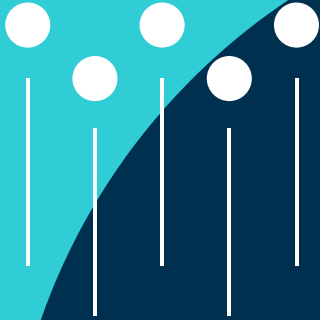




THE BRITISH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
ABU DHABI

A NORD ANGLIA EDUCATION SCHOOL



PARENT GUIDE

Primary School 2023-24

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

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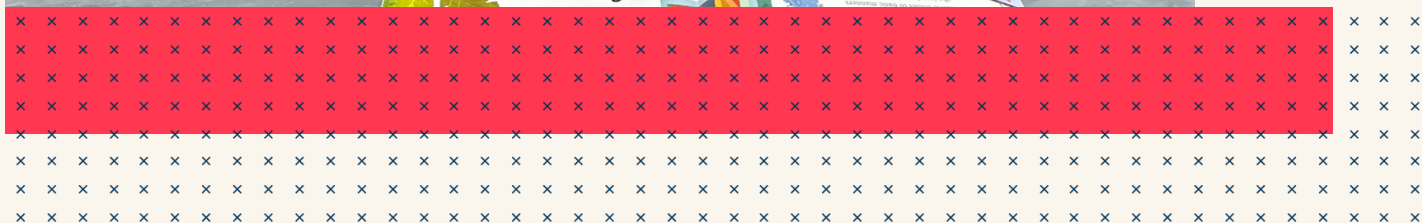
Welcome

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School Routines

Communication

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Welcome to Primary at BIS Abu Dhabi

We are looking forward to getting to know all new Primary 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 and 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

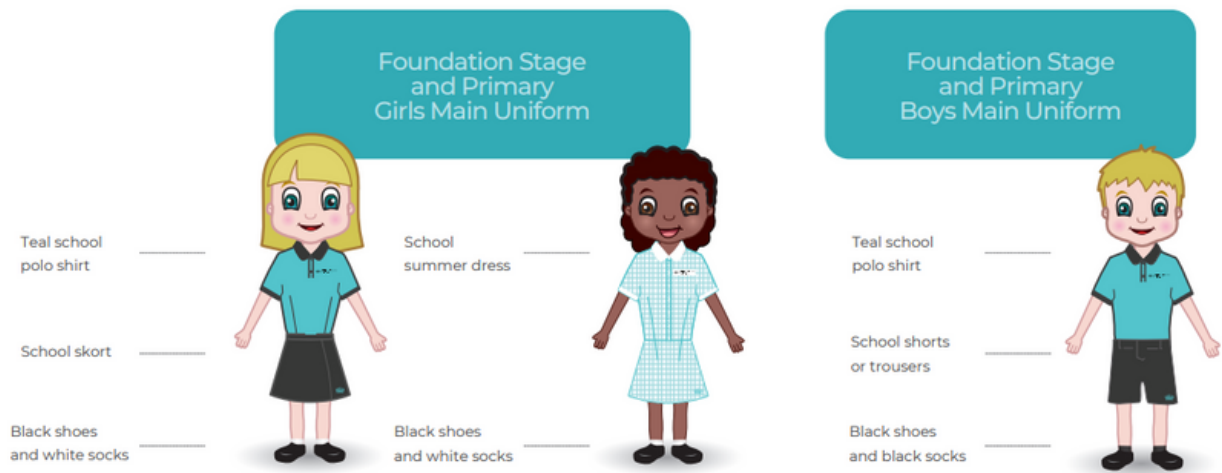
PREPARING FOR SCHOOL

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.

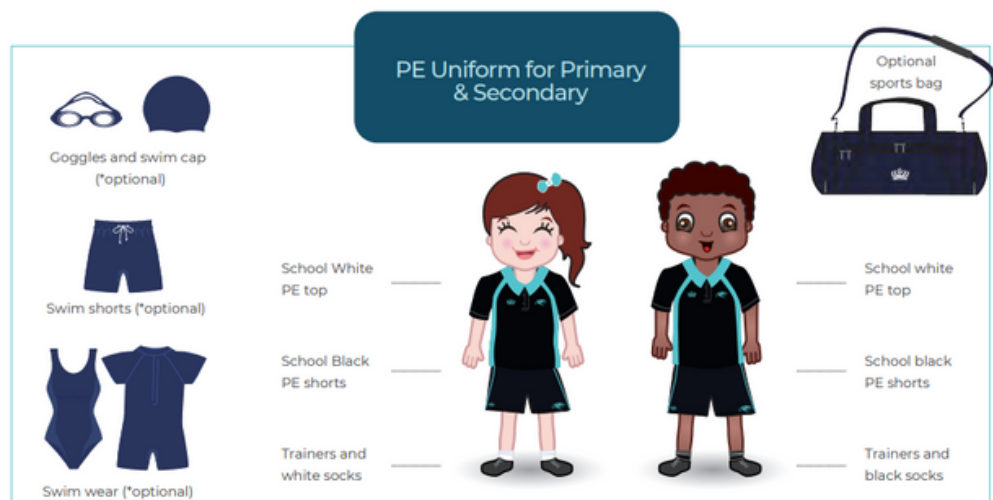
Primary students should refrain from wearing jewellery, although a pair of stud earrings and a watch is allowed. Hair must be neat with no extreme hair styles or colours. Overt religious symbols which may cause offence are not permitted and we ask that all students and parents are culturally sensitive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

Primary students will enter school via the Primary Entrance between 7:30am – 7:40am and make their way to their classroom, where their teacher will be ready to greet them. Registration is at 7.40am and students must ensure they are in class, ready to begin learning at 7.40am. Registration provides an opportunity for the class to come together before lessons begin at 8am.

When may I collect my child?

Pick-up time for Primary students is at 3.00pm in the Primary Playground. Your child's class teacher will be there at the end of the day should you wish to speak with them.

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

Primary students will need a small snack and a slightly more substantial lunch. 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. Please remember we are a nut and pork free school.

Your child will need to bring in a 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.

What specialist lessons does my child have in Primary school?

Each week, Primary students are taught by specialist teachers in Arabic, Islamic (Year 2 – 6), Social, PE, Modern Foreign Languages (Year 2 – 6) and Music.

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 your child's class teacher as soon as possible. This can be done 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.

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

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, they 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?

Daily reading with your child will support them to become more confident readers while also helping to develop their vocabulary. It is important that children hear adults read aloud also as it supports them to develop intonation and tone. If you would like support with how best to support your child at home, please speak with your child's class teacher who would be happy to offer ideas and suggestions.

Regular parent workshops are held throughout the year. These include information on Reading, Writing and developing Mathematical skills. You will receive notice about specific workshops closer to the time.

How do I communicate with my child's teacher?

We pride ourselves on the relationships we have with parents and families at BISAD and would encourage you to speak to us at the end of the day in person. Alternatively, you may email your child's class 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. Alternatively, if you would like to discuss anything with the Year Leader in your child's year group, please contact them via email to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Year 1 Year Leader – Hayley Cochlin – hayley.cochlin@bisad.ae

Year 2 Year Leader – Chloe Abdollahian – chloe.abdollahian@bisad.ae

Year 3 Year Leader – Janine Griffiths – janine.griffiths@bisad.ae

Year 4 Year Leader – James Burns – james.burns@bisad.ae

Year 5 Year Leader – Andy Zindilis – andreas.zindilis@bisad.ae

Year 6 Year Leader – Jamie Atkins - jamie.atkins@bisad.ae

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

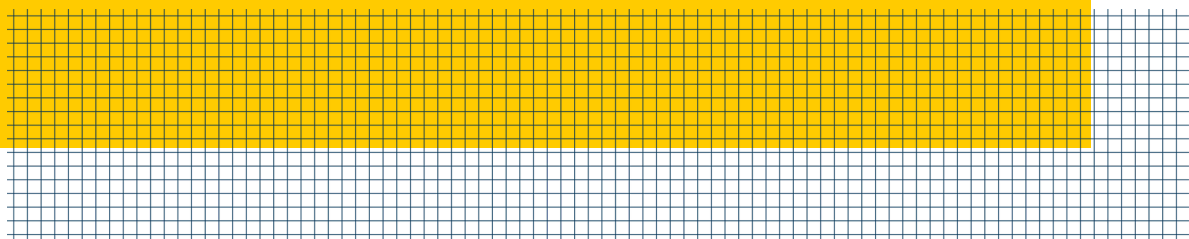
Opportunities Beyond the Classroom

House



All students, families and teachers belong to one of our four houses – Ash, Elm, Oak, or Willow. Students should have a House polo shirt to wear in PE lessons and on House occasions. Many students become House Leaders for various events and help to organise and publicise those events. They are directed in this by the House Coordinator, Miss Fletcher.

In addition, throughout the school day students can earn House Points with excellent class work or home learning, positive attitudes around school or in CCAs, or through leadership or service to others. These House Points are collected and counted towards individual and House totals which can earn bronze, silver, and gold certificates as well as the coveted termly House Shield.



BISAD Diploma

The BISAD Diploma creates a unique opportunity for BIS Abu Dhabi students to develop the personal attributes and characteristics for future leadership and success. Students start their journey from their first steps in Primary School and continue all the way through to the IB Diploma Programme.

Why is the BISAD Diploma so important?

As students' progress through the school, these essential life skills become second nature, and when writing their first CV or applying for their first job, they will have an extensive record of what really makes them truly exceptional, beyond their academic achievements.

Diploma Categories

As part of the Diploma, you are expected to record your achievements in each of the 9 Categories in a Diploma Portfolio. This is a way of documenting while also working towards this prestigious award:

1. Service
2. Leadership
3. House
4. CCAs
5. Academics
6. Cultural
7. Sport
8. Arts
9. Environmental Awareness



The BISAD Diploma is fully online and, as a result, become much more accessible for all our students in the form of our new BISAD Diploma App. It is now available across multiple digital platforms, enabling students to upload their wonderful achievements at home, in school or on the go at the touch of a button! Download the App on the [Apple App Store](#), [Google Play](#), or through the [BIS Abu Dhabi Parent App](#).

Co-Curricular Activities

Details of Co-Curricular opportunities are published at the beginning of each term and parents can sign their children up online. CCAs are a fantastic opportunity to try new things, develop new skills and make new friends.

If students are not involved in CCAs they should leave the school building at the end of the school day as normal – they are not permitted to be on the school site unsupervised.

Global Campus

At BIS Abu Dhabi, curriculum initiatives create valuable opportunities for students to work locally and globally across our family of schools with peers from other schools through Global Campus, our digital learning platform. Our global collaboration with UNICEF is at the heart of our schools' programmes, challenging students to tackle inequality and promote diversity and inclusion throughout their young and adult lives.


The Nord Anglia Global Campus is a unique internet community of learners of which students in all Nord Anglia schools are a part. Your son / daughter will have access to forums, debates, competitions, and articles on the Global Campus throughout the academic year and we hope that families will take advantage of the site to extend learning and thinking at home. Log in details will be provided to students.
www.globalcampus.nae.school/






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