



THE ARCADIA PREPARATORY SCHOOL

NEWS

ISSUE 1

September 2016

www.arcadia.sch.ae

Our Learning Partnership Begins ...

The Arcadia Preparatory School opened its doors to pupils for the very first time on Sunday 28th August 2016 and in doing so, realised a dream that has been several years in the making. It was a delight to observe our teachers, parents, managers and children so happy and excited. Our amazing school campus came alive as lessons began in our classrooms and the buzz of school began.

We are at the beginning of a journey to provide the highest quality British primary education with an emphasis on developing learners who are confident, happy and encouraged to recognise learning as an ongoing and lifelong pursuit.

Beginning a new school brings with it many challenges, not the least being to ensure a

sense of belonging and community for all stakeholders - staff, parents, pupils and Board. To this end, the first term of our school's operation will see a range of opportunities for parents, teachers and pupils to be involved in establishing relationships and helping to shape our school as we develop policy and procedures for the future.

I look forward to working closely with you as we deliver on our promise of the very highest standard of inclusive and child-centred primary education within a nurturing, secure and modern educational environment.



Nurture
Lifelong
Learning



Communication



At the heart of every great school lies strong communication. We recently sent emails to all parents providing instructions on how to establish a log in for our online parent portal. There are two aspects to this initiative; one being a web based parent portal site, the second, a parent app for mobile devices.

By using these tools, you will be able to view your child's timetable, receive information regarding your child's class programme and view newsletters and details of upcoming

school events and activities. You will already have received a welcome letter from your child's class teacher through the portal and teachers will be providing weekly updates on your child's learning, in-school homework outcomes and areas for further learning and development through the online system.

We would like every parent to be able to access the portal at all times, so please contact us directly should you be encountering any technical issues in establishing your login and access.

Please follow us on social media



Healthy School Lunches ...

Thank you to our school canteen caterer, Bloom, who provided free school lunches for all children during our first week. Having tried the food myself I can thoroughly recommend the quality and taste. The informal feedback that children have given me indicates that they too, enjoyed the food.

If you would like to order school lunches for your child, please visit the Bloom website (www.bloomcatering.ae) to view

the weekly menus and to order and pay online. All children will be eating lunch with their classmates on a daily basis, regardless of whether or not they have brought a packed lunch from home or are receiving school lunches. We see this as an important time when children learn to enjoy lunch with friends in a calm and civilised manner. This is a behaviour expectation that we hold as being important in developing well rounded pupils.





Partnership with our Parents ...

Introduction to Arcadia Evening

We would like to invite all parents to a 'Introduction to Arcadia' evening on Monday 26th September. This will provide you the opportunity to:

- Hear from the Principal about the school's ethos, mission, management structure and plans for parental input in school development
- Learn about our core curriculum, Early Years Explorers and Enrichment Learning programmes
- Meet your child's class teacher who will present the class programme and expectations for the term
- Be introduced to our specialist subject teachers and support teaching team
- Celebrate the launch of The Arcadia Preparatory School library

This will be an informative and enjoyable evening that will provide you with important information. Further details and registration information will be provided through our parent portal and school website.



Communication and Learning Apps



Seesaw

Class teachers will be sending you details on how to set up Seesaw (our core learning app). Once you have established this, you will have access to a daily learning feed for your child.



Parent Portal

The online parent portal is an important means of online communication between home and school. If you have any difficulty setting up and accessing the parent portal, please contact the school directly and we will provide you with technical assistance.



Teacher Induction Programme



Meeting with our Founder and Chairman, Mr. Mohan Valrani



Orientation visit to KHDA



Apple training for teachers

Our highly qualified teachers arrived in Dubai two weeks prior to school opening and underwent a rigorous induction programme. Our teaching team has impressed everyone with their application, drive and determination to provide the very best

educational experiences for our pupils. As a school we are committed to providing an on going professional development programme to ensure that our teachers remain current and at the leading edge of modern educational approaches.



Talk for Writing - Core Literacy Strategy

We are pleased to announce that we will be implementing the 'Talk for Writing' programme as our core approach to the teaching of reading, writing, speaking and listening through all classes at our school.

This highly effective programme, developed by UK educational expert Pie Corbett, has proven extremely successful in raising standards of performance for primary children, wherever it has been used.

At the end of this month, we will be bringing Talk for Writing consultants over

from the UK to work with our teachers.

It is our intention that The Arcadia Preparatory School will become a centre of excellence in the use of this unique and highly regarded programme.

The consultants will also deliver a workshop for Arcadia parents to allow you to learn more about the programme. This will be held on Friday 30th September. Workshop details and registration information will be provided through our parent portal and school website.



Arcadia Superstars - First week of school

We asked two of our founding pupils what they most liked about their first week at The Arcadia Preparatory School ...



LUCA - Year 2

I like that there are fun things to do at school and not just work.
The photo booth on the first morning was fun because my dad wore a funny wig.
Science and Maths are my favourite subjects

ZEINA - Year 4

I really like this school and the teachers are very kind.
I enjoy the interesting work that we do.
Reading is my favourite subject at school.



Morning Welcome

Each morning I am at the main doors welcoming parents and children to another day of fun and learning at our amazing school.

You may also have also noticed that I usually have an iPad with me at the time. This allows me to make a note about any question, concern, query or idea that you may wish to ask me, as you drop off your child. If I am unable to provide an immediate answer, I promise to always get back to you in good time with a response, thanks to my trusty iPad!



Educational Quote

“

The fact is that given the challenges we face, education doesn't need to be reformed -- it needs to be transformed. The key to this transformation is not to standardise education, but to personalise it, to build achievement on discovering the individual talents of each child, to put students in an environment where they want to learn and where they can naturally discover their true passions.

-- Ken Robinson”

Reminders



School Bags

We would prefer children to bring back packs rather than trolley bags to school. Trolley bags can prove cumbersome to store and dangerous when children move around school (particularly up and down stairs).

School Uniform and PE Kit

Children are to come to school wearing PE kit only on PE days and may wear this all day. On all other days, children are required to wear correct school uniform (including school tie for years 3 and 4). Swimming will begin after the Eid break for Years 1 to 4. Children are to wear normal school uniform on swimming days and to bring swimming costumes and towel in a plastic bag or small drawstring waterproof bag. Swimming lessons for Foundation Stage 2 will begin in the second term (from January).

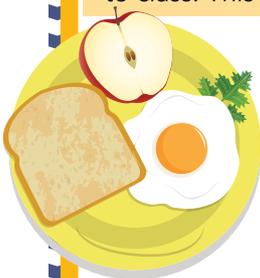
Physical Education and Swimming Days

SUNDAY	PE Kit - Years 1, 3 and 4
TUESDAY	PE Kits - Foundation Stage 1 and 2 Swimming Kit - Years 1, 2, 3 and 4 (after Eid)
WEDNESDAY	PE Kit - Foundation Stage 1 and 2
THURSDAY	PE Kit - Year 2

Absence or Lateness

Lessons begin at 8.00am each day and we appreciate your support in ensuring that your child is at school on time and ready to begin learning each day. If for any reason your child will be late to school or will be absent due to illness or any other reason, it is important that you inform the school as soon as possible. Please either email (stephanie.tawfiq@arcadia.sch.ae or jaclyn.redgwick@arcadia.sch.ae) or phone **04 552 2600**. If you are phoning after hours please ensure that when you leave a message, you indicate your child's name and class.

If your child arrives at school after 8.10am (either with or without you), he/she must report directly to the main reception where the administration team will record the late attendance and will then escort the child to class. This will minimise disruption for the class teacher and other children.



Healthy Snacks

All children should bring healthy snacks to school each day, even if they are also having purchased lunches through our canteen. This ensures that at break times children are able to maintain energy and focus. As far as possible, school staff will monitor that children are eating snacks. It is important that your child brings a named water bottle to school each day. These will be refilled throughout the day as required.

Bikes and Scooters

We are planning to make it easy for our oldest children to bike or scoot to school each day. In support of this we are currently in the design and planning stage for a bike and scooter stand area at the front of the school. Further details will be released shortly.

Foundation Stage After School Care Club

Running from 2.00pm till 4.00pm every day, this is now underway. If you would like to find out more about this parent paid service, please contact Matt at Gulf Star (matt.doran@gulfstarsports.com or **056 244 7039**).

Named Belongings

Please ensure that all your child's personal items (bags, uniforms, etc.) are clearly named. This will help us return lost items to the correct owner.

Teacher Feature

Christopher Lee

Year 2 Class Teacher



From a young age I have been heavily involved in sport, whether it be competing, training or coaching. I have always been interested in fitness and found a competitive side to myself at the age of about 10 years old. Ever since then I have pushed myself to succeed in everything I undertake, even in areas outside of sport.

The first sports I became good at were football and athletics. I found that I had a natural fitness that allowed me to run long distances with ease. I made many friends that will be my friends for life and this then led me in to trying my first triathlon. It instantly became a favourite sport of mine and I competed in many big competitions around Britain.



Over 10 years of athletics, triathlon and cross country I was part of national winning teams, British team champions and many regional successes. Football is my current passion and something I play regularly. Prior to leaving England to start an adventure overseas I coached athletics and cross country to primary and secondary school age children.

We have an extremely talented teaching team who also possess a wide range of interests and skills outside of teaching. In this newsletter we are featuring Mr. Lee, our Year 2 class teacher.

This Month

September Diary 2016

Tuesday, 6th September	School Newsletter
Sunday, 11th - Thursday, 15th September	Eid Al-Adha break
Sunday, 18th September	Baseline assessments begin
Tuesday, 20th September	Swimming lessons begin
Monday, 26th September	'Introduction to Arcadia' evening for parents Arcadia School library official launch event
Thursday, 29th September	'Talk for Writing' workshop 1 for teachers
Friday, 30th September	'Talk for Writing' workshop 2 for teachers 'Talk for Writing' workshop for parents