MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF YEAR:
Mrs. Barthorpe

It is a pleasure to welcome you and your child to FS2 at Al Yasmina School. All of us in FS2 are very excited about the year ahead and getting started with all of the wonderful things we have planned. We have a fantastic team who are all passionate about early years and ensuring your child will get the very best from their time in FS2. We look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Each half term we will send you a newsletter, like this one, informing you of the topic we will be doing. This newsletter is intended to give you some additional information and answer any initial questions you may have. If you have any further questions about the teaching and learning taking place, please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs. Barthorpe
Head of FS2
This half term’s topic is ‘Super Me and Super You!’

Throughout this topic we will be giving the children the opportunity to talk about themselves and their families. We will also encourage them to listen respectfully to other children talking about themselves too. It is a great opportunity for the children to learn about the country they come from and where other children come from. This will allow them to talk about things that seem similar and things that seem different. They will be learning about what they look like, the stages of growth, their families, the people who are important to them, people who help us in the community and super heroes.

This half term will also be an important time for the children to show their new teachers what they are good at, what they like to do and how they like to learn. The children will be encouraged to be proud of their achievements, big or small, and share these with the adults in class. We have a WOW board where we can display their fabulous work for all to see and they then get the opportunity to talk about this work with their friends. The children will also be asked to think about and share what they are really good at and the things they would like to get better at during FS2. To enhance this with the children, we will also ask them to think about and explore what they would like to be when they grow up and the skills they will need to learn in school to help them to get there.

On top of the above this topic also allows opportunities for the children to talk about ‘Abu Dhabi’ as the place where they live. The children will talk about where they live, what their house looks like, where they like to go and what they like to do there. They will talk about important celebrations that we have in Abu Dhabi and about influential people for us in the UAE such as, Sheikh Zayed and learn about the amazing things he did to support the development of the UAE. This will help them to develop a greater understanding about this fantastic place they live in!

**Letters and Sounds (Phonics)**

The children will now begin Phase Two of the letters and sounds program. This will involve the children having regular phonics sessions in which they will learn to recognise and write letters. The children will also be taught to use these letters to read and write simple words.

To support them in doing this there will be lots of opportunities first for oral blending and segmenting. Oral blending is where the teacher breaks words into sounds and says them out loud e.g. ‘c-a-t’ and the children listen carefully and hear that those 3 sounds together make the word ‘cat’. Oral segmenting is the opposite of this, the teacher will say a word and ask the children to tell them what sounds make up that word e.g. ‘bat’ = ‘b-a-t’. As the children become more confident with this process they will be able to use these skills to support them in reading and writing simple words themselves.

The letters introduced to the children this half term will be in the order of letters and sounds, starting with ‘s’. The letters will be taught at a much faster pace than when they were in FS1. However, this previous knowledge will really support the children in moving their learning forward.

Alongside this the children will also begin to learn to recognise ‘tricky’ words. These are words that you can’t sound out such as: ‘go’, ‘to’ and ‘the’.

From October the children will be streamed for Phonics sessions by ability. Phonics homework will be put on to the portal so that you can see what your child’s focus is when looking at: sounds, tricky words, oral blending and segmenting and early reading. If you would like to support your child’s learning in phonics at home, please use this as a guide for you.
SPECIALISTS IN FOCUS

Specialists in focus

Timetables

Here are the specialist times for your information:

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<tr>
<th>Swimming</th>
<th>PE</th>
<th>Library</th>
<th>Music</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bring a swimming bag</td>
<td>Wear PE Kit all day</td>
<td>Bring library bag</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS2 Blue Tuesday</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS2 Green Wednesday</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS2 Purple Monday</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS2 Red Tuesday</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>FS2 Yellow Sunday</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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PE – This term in PE the children will build on the fundamental skills they developed last year and will be focussing on control and consistency. They will work individually, but will start to build towards working in groups. The aim of group work will be to develop teamwork and sharing skills.

Music - The children will develop their aural awareness through a variety of games and singing songs. They will revise the names of the classroom instruments and practise recognising them from their sounds. The children will also learn the correct way to play all of the instruments and will develop control by learning to play at the right time and together.

Swimming – Over the coming weeks, the children will be reinforcing their knowledge of the skills they learnt last year. Focusing on submerging, controlling breathing while underwater and developing their front crawl kicking action over longer distances. We will be introducing push and glides on front and back as well as torpedo kicking on their front and back.

For swimming children will need:
- An Al Yasmina Black swimming costume or trunks
- A swimming cap
- A **poncho towel** - this will allow children to ensure they are respecting the values of the country by keeping themselves modest when getting changed.
- Children are not to wear any earrings on this day
- A waterproof swimming bag

**Please ensure all items are clearly named and that names are replaced regularly due to them washing away in the water.**

Native Arabic – Lesson outlines will be sent home every week by your child’s Arabic teacher. For clarification or questions relating to Arabic, please contact Mrs Abeer.
AAlKhateeb@alyasminaacademy.sch.ae

Non-native Arabic - Non-Native Arabic will continue with 3 lessons each week. Within the lesson the children will be learning: numbers to 10; colours; shapes; songs and rhymes; simple greetings; common phrases and to recognise their name.
NAMES & EMAIL CONTACTS FOR TEACHERS

Green Class – Mrs Barthorpe  CBarthorpe@alyasminaacademy.sch.ae
Purple Class- Miss Reeves  SReeves@alyasminaacademy.sch.ae
Red Class- Mrs Kolesky  LKolesky@alyasminaacademy.sch.ae
Blue Class- Miss O’Kane  COkane@alyasminaacademy.sch.ae
Yellow Class- Mrs Armstrong  CArmstrong@alyasminaacademy.sch.ae

PARENT LIAISONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FS2 Purple</td>
<td>Saira Hanif</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Bilalathar@hotmail.com">Bilalathar@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS2 Green</td>
<td>Tatiana Zhelobanova</td>
<td><a href="mailto:t09054945@gmail.com">t09054945@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS2 Blue</td>
<td>Kristen Narara</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Kristen.narara@gmail.com">Kristen.narara@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS2 Yellow</td>
<td>Kim Teakle-May</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Kteaklemay@icloud.com">Kteaklemay@icloud.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FS2 Red</td>
<td>Mariyam Khan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Mariyamkhan@gmail.com">Mariyamkhan@gmail.com</a></td>
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REMINDERS

The school day
Over the first few weeks we will be transitioning the children into their new FS2 classrooms. In order to do this we will stagger the way the children arrive at school. To start with parents will be able to bring their children into the classrooms and help them to find their lockers. Once the children become more comfortable with where their things go we will then ask you to leave your child at the classroom door, as you have been doing in FS1. Once we feel the children are settled into their new classrooms we will then introduce them to lining up outside in the morning for the National Anthem. Mrs Barthorpe will inform you as and when morning routines begin to change.

School starts at 7.45am and the classroom doors will close at 8am. If you are later than 8am, please take your child directly to Reception, located at the main entrance, who will issue a late note for the class teacher. Please do not bring your child through the shared area first thing in the morning, unless they have a late pass. Parents need to ensure they are dropping their child off from the playground. This does not apply if the children travel to school on the bus – a bus monitor supervises these children until 7.45am.

At the end of the day, please wait outside your child’s classroom until the door is opened by the teacher who will call the children and send them out to you. Please do not allow children to play on the FS equipment whilst waiting or after collection. Instead please move immediately to the KS1 and 2 playground if you are waiting for older siblings.

At 2.10pm your child will be classed as late. They will stay in their classes and then be taken to FS2 Blue class at 2.25. If a child is repeatedly collected late, it will be reported to Miss Neville and further action taken.
**REMINDERS**

**Individual pin numbers for collection**

In order to keep our children safe in school we will be continuing with our PIN code and sign out system. Each day the person collecting your child will need to sign them out on the class sheet at the door. If we do not recognise the person coming to collect your child, even if they are your Nanny or Driver, we will ask them for that child’s personal 4 digit PIN number as well as a form of ID (Parent Pass or Emirates ID). Please ensure that you are aware of your child’s PIN and pass this onto anyone collecting your child. We will not allow children to leave without the PIN. We hope you understand that in the first few weeks of school it can be hard to recognise all of the new adults at home time, so please do not be offended if we ask you for your PIN number for the first week or two to ensure we are confident in sending the children home safely.

**Food**

Just a reminder that the children only need a small snack for mid-morning break. As part of the schools healthy eating policy we ask that where possible, this be a piece of fruit or vegetables. At lunch time, children should be eating items that are nutritional. Please do not give your children: fries, burgers or chicken nuggets for lunch – these are not suitable!

*Please be aware that we are a nut free school and items such as Nutella, hazelnut biscuits and peanuts are not allowed and will be removed from lunch boxes and given to you at the end of the day. This is for the safety of students who have severe allergies.*

All children should have a named water bottle to keep in the classroom throughout the day.

**Library**

May we remind you that only children who bring a book bag to school on the appropriate day will be able to take a book from the library. There is a fine for lost or damaged books.

**Birthdays**

Al Yasmina supports healthy eating and there is a school policy on this. Children/Parents are not allowed to hand out food or gifts to celebrate a birthday. However, you are welcome to provide a class book that can either be shared with the class or kept in the classroom as a celebration of your child’s birthday.

**Spare clothing**

In case of accidents please provide your child with some spare clothing to keep at school. It would be particularly helpful if this was in school colours and was provided in a named carrier bag which can be kept in their locker. If your child needs to use these spare clothes, please remember to provide a new set the next day.

*We are in urgent need of spare underwear and socks.* If you have any that do not fit your child anymore and are willing to donate it to the class, please give them to your Class Teacher or Classroom Assistant.

**School bags**

Children should either have the official Al Yasmina backpack or a small backpack. Some children bring in large bags that have wheels. These are not suitable as they do not fit in the lockers and unfortunately we do not have the space to store them.

**Reading routines**

Children will be reading either individually or in a small group at least once a week. It is highly important that you read with your child at home every day and it is now a school requirement that you sign and/or comment on your child’s reading at least once a week. Please ensure that your child’s reading folder is in school every day in case it is their turn to read, unless you are told otherwise by the class teacher.
**Hot weather and hats**

The weather is still very hot so hats are mandatory! If your child does not have their hat in school, they will not be allowed to play outside as we follow the rule ‘No hat, no play!’ If your child ever loses a hat please can you send them in wearing any hat just so they can still play outside.

**Star of the week**

In each class we have a special friend who loves to spend the weekends with a child and will happily enjoy doing whatever the family has planned. Our mascots also have a diary so that on Sunday he/she can share his or her adventures with the rest of the class. Mums and dads are most welcome to help with writing – our mascots are not very good at writing for themselves yet! You can also encourage your child to complete the diary – giving meaning to the marks that they have written and scribing underneath.

**Mystery reader**

We would like to invite parents/carers into school to read to the class. You may bring in one or two of your child’s favourite books (that can be in any language) and read and enjoy the text as if you were reading to your own child.

If you are available, please let your class teacher know. Most importantly, please do not tell your child that you are coming as this adds to the excitement of the experience! Once the children have settled we will put up a sheet for you to write down when you’re able to come in.