

AL YASMINA ACADEMY TERM 1 FS1 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER



ALDAR ACADEMIES
AL YASMINA ACADEMY

UPCOMING EVENTS

-Book Worm Book Fair: starts 14th October to 18th October.

-Half term: 21st and 22nd October.

-Parent Teacher Consultation meetings (PTCs) : October 23rd

-Pink Day: 18th October.



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF YEAR:

Miss Marsh

The weeks have flown by and we are all so pleased with how quickly the students have settled into school. They are all now making friends, learning routines and exploring the classrooms, shared area and outdoors. We had a lovely time meeting lots of parents at our FS 1 Parents Lunch, thank you for joining us.

Al Yasmina's 10th Birthday was a really fun day too! The students were very excited and had a wonderful time singing, dancing, making cards and party hats, not to mention the fabulous feat we had at lunchtime. Thank you for all your contributions.

Our 'Rocking in my school shoes' topic was a great success and all staff and students enjoyed rocking around school with our air guitars and Pete the Cat hats. We are very excited to be moving onto our new topic 'Animal Madness', we know we are in for another busy and fun packed half term.

Miss Marsh
Head of FS1

CURRICULUM IN FOCUS

This half terms topic is 'Animal Madness'.

Throughout this topic we will be using the following books to support our learning;

- Brown Bear by Bill Martin and Eric Carle
- Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
- Rosie's Walk by Pat Hutchins

We will be focusing each book for two weeks at a time. We will be getting to know the stories really well and hope that the children will be able to share what they have been reading at home.

Within our Communication and Language work we are going to be encouraging the children to listen carefully to others, have conversations with others and talk using simple sentences. We will also be asking as many questions as we can to find out more about the animals and stories that we are learning about. We are always trying to learn new words and this topic we are focusing on using and understanding action words such as jumping, running and hopping which will link nicely when we are learning about the ways in which animals move. As well as this we will be using prepositions such as on, in, under and behind to describe where objects are.

When we are working on our maths skills, we will be learning how to sort objects by their colour and size (big, medium and small). We will also be talking about spots and stripes and using animals to help us identify these different patterns. Alongside this we will be practising saying number names in order from 1 to 10 and we will be comparing different groups of objects to see which group has 'more' or 'less'.

Within other curriculum areas we will have a big focus on colour. The children will be encouraged to explore colours through a variety of games and activities including colour mixing in the painting area and colour mixing using food colouring and water. As well as this we will be learning to tap, shake and bang different instruments; use bricks and other construction materials to build enclosures for animals; learn new skills on the FS1 laptops and learn lots and lots about animals.

Letters and Sounds (Phonics)/Squiggle While You Wiggle (Writing)

During our Letters and Sounds sessions we will be continuing to get our ears ready for listening. The teachers will be hiding different items in boxes such as keys, crisp packets and instruments and the children will need to listen carefully to identify the sounds. We will also be listening to and following instructions in a game called 'describe and find it'. The adults will give instructions such as, 'Can you find an animal with a trunk and a tail?' and the children will need to find the correct animals.

We will now start our exciting 'Squiggle While You Wiggle' sessions. During these short, fast paced sessions the children will be developing their early writing skills by learning to draw different marks and patterns. We will be drawing marks including up and down lines, circles, wiggly lines and humps. First of all we use pompoms, ribbons or scarves and dance the squiggle in the air to music. We then listen to the same music whilst we put these marks onto large paper on the floor. These sessions are so much fun and really get our bodies, arms, hands and fingers ready for the tricky task of cursive writing.

SPECIALISTS IN FOCUS

Timetables

Here are the specialist times for your information:

	PE	Music	Library	Swimming (Feb 2019)
Red	Tuesday	Sunday	Sunday	Thursday
Purple	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Sunday
Yellow	Monday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Thursday
Green	Tuesday	Monday	Monday	Wednesday
Blue	Tuesday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Monday

PE – FS1 students will be focusing on movement and exploration. In this topic they will develop locomotor skills whilst maintaining balance. They will begin to learn how to be independent enquirers on how their bodies can move.

Music- The students will practise their skills in reactions, response and co-ordination through learning songs with actions and by correctly using a variety of percussion instruments. We will explore how we can create an atmosphere using music and also use instruments to create sound effects in stories. Students will start to differentiate between some musical contrasts and tempi (speeds). These activities throughout the year aims to improve their fine motor-skills, concentration levels, group work and confidence.

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 the Arabic teacher.

Non-native Arabic- Non-native Arabic speakers will take part in 3 lessons each week. Within the first half term they will begin to hear and repeat simple greetings, learn repetitive songs and become comfortable with their new teacher and the format of the Arabic sessions.

Swimming - Swimming for FS 1 children will start in February 2019. More information will be given at a later date.

FS 1 Information and Reminders

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.

School Uniform

Please ensure your child wears the Al Yasmina uniform including socks to the ankle, the correct coloured cardigan/jumper and foot wear (black leather shoes).

Nail Polish and Jewellery- Children are not allowed to wear nail polish or jewellery to school. We will only allow children one small set of stud earrings.

Hats- Children must wear a hat when playing outside all year round. We follow the policy of 'No Hat, No Play' so please make sure your child has theirs every day.

Star of the Week

In each class we have two special friends who love to spend the weekends with the school children. 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. Our Star of the Week mascots will begin coming home for the first time on **Thursday 1st November**.

NAMES & EMAIL CONTACTS FOR TEACHERS

FS1 Yellow class – Miss. Marsh FMarsh@alyasminaacademy.sch.ae - Head of FS1

FS1 Red class –Mrs. Dowland CDowland@alyasminaacademy.sch.ae

FS1 Purple class – Mrs. Brookes LKay@alyasminaacademy.sch.ae

FS1 Blue class – Miss. Lloyd CLloyd@alyasminaacademy.sch.ae

FS1 Green class – Mrs. Moore KMoore@alyasminaacademy.sch.ae

PARENT LIAISONS

Parent Liaison

As you may be aware, each class in Al Yasmina has a Parent Liaison. The role of the Parent Liaison is to liaise with class teachers in order to support the children's learning and the curriculum, by providing additional help and organisation. Parent Liaisons will cascade information from the class teacher to the parents to remind them of key dates, requests for help on trips and/or theme days, information about topic areas and other general notices. The Parent Liaison will also meet and greet new families to the year group and help them to get to know other parents within the class, through various social events, such as play dates, coffee mornings and other out of school activities.

REMINDERS

- Please make sure all uniform, snack boxes, lunch boxes, water bottles and hats are **clearly named.**
- If you are still experiencing any problems with the portal, please email CO@alyasminaacademy.sch.ae.