A Warm Welcome into Dubai Class!

**Year 2 Team**

Mrs Issa (Class Teacher)  
Mrs Martin-Eames (LSA)  
Mrs Kinsberger (LSA)  
Mrs Hill/Mrs Green will cover the class on a Thursday afternoon.

**Welcome to Year 2**

I trust you have all had a lovely summer and enjoyed some sunshine and rest. I am really looking forward to the upcoming academic year and hope the children are as excited about Year 2 as I am!

Year 2 is an important year for children in Key Stage 1. Towards the end of the academic year, the children will be completing a number of tests in Reading, Writing, Spelling/Grammar and Maths (SAT’s). The administration times of these tasks and tests are flexible and done in small groups. There is no need for any practice tests to be carried out at home, however daily reading and homework activities are recommended. The results of these tasks and tests are used alongside the ongoing teacher assessments, which help to provide a complete and rounded picture of a child’s attainment at the end of the key stage. Please ensure all homework activities are completed as this will contribute towards what your child has learnt in school and will help to prepare them for their SAT’s tests.

**Behaviour**

You will be aware that there is a whole school focus on appropriate behaviour for learning. In Dubai Class I have high expectations for behaviour and will insist that standards are high. The children are aware of this and we will continue to work on what good behaviour for learning looks like. There are systems for rewards and consequences in place and I will discuss serious behaviour issues with parents swiftly to ensure that disruption to learning is kept to a minimum.

**Reading**

Your child will have brought home their new reading book. It’s been lovely to see so many of them, getting into the reading habit straight away! Please continue to read regularly with your child. This will help them develop their skills in decoding new words and this also provides them with an opportunity to discuss their reading. One of the best ways to help your child is to read aloud, even if your child is a good reader. Children can concentrate on understanding the text, learn the meaning of new words and develop a love of books if you are a good role model. In Year 2 children read in small guided groups on a weekly basis. Children, from time to time, will also be asked to follow up the reading of their individual book with a reading comprehension task. Please support your child in completing these when set. We recognise that children read at different speeds and because of this we have a system in place whereby the children can change their individual reading books as often as they like through placing their reading book and diary in the allocated ‘Reading’ tray, situated in the classroom. When children do this, Mrs Martin-Eames or Mrs Kinsberger will change their reading book on that day.
Key word Lists
Children will be given sets of key words to learn to read. Please support your child to learn these. When your child is ready to be tested, make a note in their key word diaries as the key words are checked on a weekly basis and a new set of key words are given if your child correctly read them. You can develop your child's understanding further by checking if they can explain the meaning of the key words, construct a sentence using specific words or even by looking through a book to find any words from their key word list. It is important for children to fully understand and apply words that they can read. This will aid them with their writing and will allow them to put words into context.

Number facts
Number bonds and counting (forwards and back-wards) always benefit from extra practice! Children will be taught and encouraged to practise number bonds (addition and subtraction) and times tables. Don’t forget discussions involving maths too, like looking at number plates on cars or house numbers (Are they odd or even? What is the value of 7 in 73?). Lemon Curd and Strawberry Jam will be carried out in class on a daily basis and will be set for homework regularly. Mathletics is a vital resource that will benefit your child immensely with their mathematical understanding. Your child’s login details will be stuck into the inside page of their homework books. Please encourage your child to explore Mathletics as much as possible. Your child can earn Mathletics certificates which are presented to them on a Friday in our whole school Celebration assembly.

Homework
Alongside regular reading and learning of Key words, pupils will be given homework on a Friday to complete for the following Wednesday. Pupils are expected to complete homework and hand it in on time. If there are particular difficulties, parents should let the Year 2 team know.

Spellings
Your child will bring home a spelling book that will consist of a selection of words to learn, usually linked with their phonics learning and I would appreciate your support in helping them learn them. A weekly spelling test will take place on a Friday and new spellings will be sent out on a Friday. Sometimes these will be presented as a whole list and sometimes they will be grouped according to levels of challenge. If you would like advice on how to help them in this then please don’t hesitate to ask me.

Uniform
Please support the school in ensuring that the children take a pride in the way they dress for school. A smart presentation is an important element of appropriate behaviour for learning. If boots are worn into school during bad weather then children should have the correct school shoes to change into. Details of our school uniform policy can be found on the school website.

P.E
Our PE days are on a Wednesday and Thursday. Please follow the school uniform policy and ensure all kit is named clearly. I would urge you to ensure that all the children’s clothing and belongings are clearly named, not only does this reduce the amount of lost
property, but it also helps the children to become more independent in dressing and organising their property. PE kit should be kept in a drawstring bag on cloakroom pegs. Please avoid large rucksacks as they do not fit on pegs. PE kit should be taken home each Thursday to be washed and returned before Wednesday.

**Themed Topics for this year**

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<tr>
<th>Autumn: September - December Themes 2015:</th>
<th>Spring: January - March Themes 2016:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TRAVELLING - (Science/History/DT/Geography)</td>
<td>WINTER WONDERLAND - (Geography/Art/Science)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OURSELVES - (Science/PHSE/Art/History)</td>
<td>ANIMALS - (Science/Art/Music/PHSE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUTUMN - (Art/Geography/Science)</td>
<td>CIRCLE OF LIFE - (Science/Geography/Art)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIGHT &amp; DARK - (Art/Science/PHSE/Music)</td>
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<td>POST OFFICE - (Geography/Art/Music/Science)</td>
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<td>CHRISTMAS - (RE/D&amp;T/Art/Music)</td>
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**Advanced dates for your diary**

Harvest performance - 8ᵗʰ October 2015  
Parent’s Evening - 13ᵗʰ & 15ᵗʰ October 2015  
School Photo’s (individual) - 15ᵗʰ October 2015  
Half Term - 19ᵗʰ October 2015 - 23ʳᵈ October 2015  
Decorations morning - 1ˢᵗ December 2015  
KS1 performance - 9ᵗʰ & 10ᵗʰ December 2015  
Church Service at St Thomas’ Church - TBC  
Panto trip - 16ᵗʰ December 2015  
KS1 Christmas party - 14ᵗʰ December 2015  
Toy Day - 18ᵗʰ December 2014  
Christmas Holiday - 2¹ˢᵗ December 2015 - 1ˢᵗ January 2016  
School opens to children - 5ᵗʰ January 2016
It is very important to me that the children are happy in Dubai Class and I ask you to help me in this by communicating any issues with me as they arise. For day-to-day issues such as children going home with a friend, I would prefer either a written note or indeed that the children begin to tell me themselves in the classroom.

If there is a pressing issue which you feel would be better for me to know before the day begins then please send a note in with your child or pass a message through the office. For any other issues I am happy to make an appointment for a meeting after school, so that we can discuss matters further. Finally, I look forward to meeting you all personally at the parents’ meetings later in the term, but in the meantime, please do remember to share any worries or concerns with me as soon as they arise.

We all want the children to be happy and confident in school as this is when they learn best.

I look forward to working with you and your child over the forthcoming year and thank you in advance for all your help and support.

Mrs Issa.