

PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK

Academic Year 2023-24















FOREWORD BY THE VICE PRINCIPAL & HEAD OF PRIMARY

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students

Welcome to Raffles World Academy. We are delighted you have chosen to be a part of our rich learning community. If you are new to our school, then I hope that you will find our welcome especially warm. RWA has an enviable reputation for its friendly atmosphere and the approachability of its staff.

With more than 89 different nationalities in our student body and many different mother tongues spoken and cultures openly celebrated, you are part of a very diverse and internationally-minded global community. We are always conscious of the fact that parents and their children have a choice and value the trust you place in us through your enrolment. Our growth has been significant but we are now nearing capacity. This is in no short measure due to the strong relationships we continue to nurture with parents and students. PARWA, our parent association is a constant support. Their impact has been positively recognised by the KHDA as an exemplar model.

The academy is a community where diversity is enriching and where individuals, whatever their abilities, or the challenges they face, are all valued. We strive to provide students an inspiring education in which they may excel in activities that involve leadership and global understanding. We strongly promote a culture that fosters positive self-esteem and a sense of belonging by celebrating the achievement and success of each student and safeguarding their wellbeing. We look forward to a new and exciting school year, one which will offer each one of us plenty of opportunity to make new friends, foster enduring relationships, discover hidden talents and realise achievements large or small.

This parent-student handbook is intended to be a ready-reference for parents and students to get to know the nuts and bolts of the academy life. Each student, especially in the upper primary school, has a responsibility to get to know and be 'hands-on' with the content of this handbook. So, please ensure your child/ren, especially if they are in the upper grades (3-5) read the handbook with you. In turn, parents are also encouraged to use this handbook as a resource to assist their child, in following procedures and getting the best out of every learning opportunity, both in school and in the co-curricular activities (CCAs) on offer. In addition to the handbook, each parent will receive a grade level curriculum guide that will give full information about the curriculum, subjects and our approach to teaching and learning specific to the grade level. We also organise information sessions, open days, parent conferences, and of course, the key social events throughout the year, which will give you an opportunity to know the school well. Some of the information contained in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics. However, it is not intended to be all encompassing or indeed exhaustive.

If you find that you have further questions about the contents of this handbook or about any of our procedures that are not covered, please direct your questions to our teachers, admissions staff, leadership team or myself. We will be happy to assist you.

I wish you all a great start to the academic year 2023-24 and look forward to meeting you in person.

Sincerely,

Dr Armeena Tabassum

Armeera Tabana

Vice -Principal and Head of Primary School (Pre-KG-G5)

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About Raffles World Academy

Raffles World Academy is a CIS accredited IB continuum school authorized to offer the four IB programmes. PYP, MYP, IBDP and IBCP) from Pre-KG to Grade 12 (3-18 years old). The IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) is offered from Pre-KG to Grade 5, the MYP in secondary school from grades 6 to 10 and the IB Diploma Programme (DP) and Courses Programme is offered in grades 11 and 12. The school has an international population of approximately 1800 pupils from more than 89 nationalities and an equally diverse academic and administrative team. The school is part of the Innoventures Education group which provides quality private education to the highest international standards.

Our learning environment, teaching and learning, monitoring and assessment and student services are all – learner centered and quality driven. As part of our approach to provide high quality learning, we seek to maintain optimal teacher-student ratios and class sizes. We recruit and retain high-quality teaching and academic support staff, sourced both internationally and locally, with our staff being well-qualified, rich in experience, holding strong track records of achievement and are prepared to go that 'extra mile' to meet the needs of our students. Teachers and support staff undertake regular professional development training in order to stay abreast of current international best practice in teaching and learning.

We provide a personalized education, acknowledging that every student is different, as a person and as a learner. We have a dedicated Inclusion support team that can meet the needs of students with mild to moderate learning difficulties as well as additional English language needs and also those who face the challenges of being gifted and talented. We seek to challenge students whatever their abilities, to reach their full potential. Our aim is to develop young people who exemplify the attributes of the IB Learner Profile which is central to the ethos of our school and ready to make the world a better place.



Our Guiding Statements

Our Vision

Providing world-class education

Our Mission

To empower students with a rigorous, holistic and international education for success in an ever -changing world

Our Philosophy

- To be recognized by the success of our students in achieving their personal goals
- To make student development the centre of all school decisions
- To aspire to the highest internationally recognized performance standards
- To build and celebrate a culture based on internationalism
- To enable the staff to become life-long learners through the development of their professional practice

Our Core Values

Achievement | Collaboration | Innovation | Integrity | Respect | Responsibility

The RWA Motto

'Towards Excellence'

The RWA Mascot

Arabian Stallion

Our Acronym- R.W.A stands for:

Rise. Wonder. Achieve

The RWA definition of International Mindedness

International Mindedness begins when we are open to and curious about the world in which we live, respect our own culture and want to know about the culture of others1.

We progress to acknowledge our common humanity and to recognise and value diversity existing within our communities, whether local, national or global. We exercise our individual and collective responsibilities as world citizens to safeguard the planet we share, promote peace, challenge injustice and engage in improving welfare for all, especially the disadvantaged. We seek to develop a deep understanding of the complexity, diversity and motives that underpin human actions and interactions 2. We strive to foster mutual respect, dialogue and cooperation through being open and willing to see the world through the lens of all those who share it with us.

As an IB World School, international mindedness is embodied in our implementation of the IB Learner Profile, which challenges students to be communicators in multiple languages, principled in their promotion of international justice, risk-takers in the spirit of exploring new cultures, knowledgeable about world issues, thinkers about complex problems, caring and committed to service, inquirers about the world, open-minded toward other perspectives, balanced in their approach to life, and reflective about their own personal development.

The IBO Mission Statement

The International Baccalaureate (IB) aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. To this end the organisation works with schools, governments and international organisations to develop challenging programmes of international education and rigorous assessment. These programmes encourage students across the world to become active, compassionate and lifelong learners who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right.

1 With acknowledgement to The Diploma Programme: A basis for practice, 2009, p.4.2 Ibid.

The IB Learner Profile

As an IB school all children will be encouraged to develop the attributes of the Learner Profile, throughout their time with us. The Learner Profile is a set of crucial personal qualities that go beyond academic success. These involve the students striving to become:

Inquirers

We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

Knowledgeable

We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

Thinkers

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

Communicators

We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

Principled

We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

Open-minded

We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.

Caring

We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference to the lives of others and in the world around us.

Risk-takers

We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

Balanced

We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives – intellectual, physical, and emotional – to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our independence with other people and with the world in which we live.

Reflective

We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.

In addition to these concepts, content and skills that are embedded in the curriculum, students are taught and practice the attitudes outlined by the IB. These attitudes are descriptive of a person who is a responsible citizen of their local and worldwide community.

Section 1: Academic Programme, Curriculum and Approaches to Teaching and Learning

Raffles World Academy (RWA) is committed to the successful learning of all our students. We seek to personalize learning to meet the learning needs of all individuals. A good start in education is essential to the building of a strong and enduring basis for a bright and successful future. RWA believes that parents play a fundamental role in the education of children. To be successful, we believe it is necessary to establish a strong partnership between the school and the family, where honest and open dialogue can be exchanged. At RWA, the concern and care for each child takes precedence at all times. Our programmes offer a framework that meet a child's academic, social, physical, emotional and cultural needs.

Our students' needs for education are varied. The IB programmes are compatible with most national and international programmes and students usually find transfers relatively smooth from an educational viewpoint. The IB Diploma Programme is widely accepted as a high standard of education for university entrance. At each stage in a child's development, we aim to build self-confidence and a sense of independence, responsibility and ownership in what they do and how they do it.

The following table summarises the curriculum in each phase of the school:

Grades/ Phase	Curriculum
Pre-KG	International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP) benchmarked against the EYFS for Pre-KG. (Ages 3-4 years)
KG1	International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP) benchmarked against the EYFS for KG1. (Ages 4-5 years)
KG2	International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP) benchmarked against the UK National Curriculum for KG2 with an EYFS focus for PSPE. (Ages 5-6 years)
Primary School G1 -G5	International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP) benchmarked against the UK National Curriculum for ages (6 -10+ years) leading to the PYP Exhibition
Lower – Upper Secondary school/ Grade 6 - 10	International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) (11 – 16+years) leading to the MYP Personal Project.
Grade 11-12	International Baccalaureate Diploma (IBDP) (16+ - 18+) Or IB Career -related Programme (IBCP) (16+-18+) and BTEC

Pre-KG, KG1 & KG2 curriculum

Our Pre-KG classes follow the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IBPYP) alongside the UK's Early Years Foundation Stage framework (EYFS), which continues seamlessly into KG1 and KG2 and the primary school grades 1–5. There is a greater focus on the importance of learning through play and a commitment to structured, purposeful inquiry, as it underpins all development and learning for young children. The classrooms contain different spaces for quiet and active play as well as access to the outdoor play area.

We offer a child centred programme in which the needs, abilities and interests of each child are met. Our KG curriculum does not concentrate solely on academic development, but also on the physical, emotional and social development of children. Teachers are required to adhere to the principles of developmentally appropriate practice, which allows children to follow their own interests amongst various purposeful and stimulating activities within their learning environment. This choice empowers children to take responsibility for their learning, as well as allowing them to work independently and collaboratively.

Students' progress and attainment is benchmarked using the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. The learning objectives are categorized into the following learning areas:

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Communication language and literacy
- Mathematical development
- Knowledge and understanding of the world
- Physical development
- Creative development (Expressive arts and design)

Primary school - Grade 1-5

RWA is authorised to offer the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IBPYP). The IBPYP is an international trans-disciplinary programme designed to foster the development of the whole child, encompassing social, physical, emotional and cultural needs, in addition to academic welfare. At RWA we have taken the best from national curricula around the world and benchmarked this content against the UK National Curriculum. We have integrated the National Agenda expectations such as Moral Education and UAE Social Studies into our programme. Where authentic links can't be made, we share the outcomes in standalone lessons. As part of the new enhanced PYP, we have also added science as a separate subject where it cannot be integrated within the Programme of Inquiry.

The PYP provides an opportunity for learners to construct meaning, principally through concept-driven inquiry. While academic subjects are part of the PYP, the emphasis is on the interrelatedness of knowledge and approaches to learning through a trans-disciplinary programme of inquiry.

Along with fundamental language and math skills, your child will investigate carefully selected topics of global significance using a structured method of inquiry. The programme challenges students to ask important questions, conduct in -depth research, analyse findings, report in a variety of ways and reflect on their responsibility as global citizens. In doing so, we seek to develop higher order critical thinking, creativity and problem-solving skills, positive attitudes toward learning and promote the values that characterise our school's ethos.

The PYP views the development of the following approaches to learning as essential for the success of the student. Throughout their learning students acquire and apply these skills or approaches to learning:

- social skills
- research skill
- thinking skills
- communication skills
- self-management skills.

The school focuses on developing a series of attributes in the students that make up the PYP Learner Profile:

- Inquirers
- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Risk-Takers
- Knowledgeable
- Principled
- Caring
- Open-Minded
- Reflective
- Balanced

In summary, the aim of the Primary Years Programme is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet help to create a better and more peaceful world.

Process of inquiry

The IBPYP's fundamental concepts are articulated as key questions and they drive the inquiry process. Each question is comprehensive and integrates many ideas. The PYP believes this way students learn in the most constructive manner to:

- develop a deep understanding of important concepts
- conduct research into knowledge which has local and global significance
- acquire and practice a range of essential skills/ approaches to learning
- be encouraged to develop positive attitudes towards learning, the environment and other people
- have the opportunity for involvement in responsible action and social service

Subject areas

PYP schools follow an integrated curriculum, for clarity we have separated the subject areas that are covered in the primary school:

Languages

English	This is the language of instruction throughout RWA.
EAL	English as an Additional Language is required for students who are non-native speakers
	of English and whose English language skills are not yet sufficient to allow them to fully access the
	curriculum and participate in all learning activities.
Arabic A	Compulsory for all Arabic passport holders KG1- Grade 5 at RWA
Arabic B	Compulsory for all students holding non-Arabic passports KG1- Grade 5 at RWA
MFL	All Grades 1-5 students will choose between French and Spanish as a third additional language.
Mother Tongue	French, German, Spanish, Russian, Italian, Hindi, Urdu and Swedish Mother Tongue is currently offered
	to all native speakers from KG1- Grade 5.

Students will study a language (English, Arabic A or B, French or Spanish) under each of the following strands:

Oral communication: listening and speaking

Written communication: reading and writing
 Visual communication: viewing and presenting

Mathematics

Students will study mathematics under each of the following strands:

- Data handling
- Measurement
- Shape and space
- Number
- Pattern and Function

Science

Science is taught within the context of the units of inquiry and the newly introduced standalone lesson once a week. The following strands are covered:

- Living things
- Earth and space
- Materials and matter
- Forces and energy

Social studies

Social Studies is taught within the context of the units of inquiry and is studied under each of the following strands:

- Human systems and economic activity
- Social organisation and culture
- Continuity and change through time
- Human and natural environments
- Resources and the environment

Islamic Studies

Compulsory for all Muslim students from KG2 and above and is conducted in either Arabic or English, dependent on the students' Arabic class (A or B).

Music and Movement

Music and Movement is a study undertaken by Pre-KG and KG1 students. It is a combination of elements of the physical education programme and the music programme. Students will study Music and Movement under each of the following strands:

- Singing
- Playing instruments
- Creating/composing
- Notation
- Listening and responding
- Body control
- Movement to music
- Games

Performing arts/ Music

Students will study music under each of the following strands:

- Creating
- Responding

Visual arts

Students will study art under each of the following strands:

- Creating
- Responding.

Physical education (PE)

Students will study PE under each of the following strands of active living:

- Movement composition (gymnastics, dance)
- Games (net games, invasion games, striking and fielding games)
- Individual pursuits (swimming, athletics)
- Adventure challenges
- Health related fitness

Information and communications technology (ICT)

At RWA technology is seen as a tool in the classroom which can enhance engagement and effectively personalize learning experiences. We firmly believe that technology is not the driver of learning experiences; rather it is something that supports them. In the primary school, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is a specialist subject, with students learning skills such as coding, robotics, programming, keyboarding and mouse skills. In addition, they learn to use a variety of computer programmes.

We use technology as an integrated component of lessons across the primary school. Support staff guide and assist teachers with ICT integration and provide professional development. More information about our 21st century classrooms approach to technology can be found in Section 7 of this booklet.

Personal and Social Education

PSPE is integral to teaching and learning in the PYP and is embodied in the IB Learner Profile. It represents the qualities of internationally-minded students and effective lifelong learners. To develop the wellbeing of each student, we inquire into the big ideas embedded in the following three strands:

- Identity
- Interactions
- Active living (offered through Physical Education)

UAE Moral Social Cultural Studies

MSCS is taught within the context of the Units of Inquiry and is studied under each of the following strands:

- Human systems and economic activity
- Social organisation and culture
- Continuity and change through time
- Human and natural environments
- Resources and the environment
- UAE Social Studies

Please see the **Curriculum Guide on our website** www.rwadubai.com for each grade level for more details and the overall expectations for these subjects. We'll be organizing curriculum information sessions for parents during the course of the academic year, so parents can learn more about the Primary Years Programme. See here (www.ibo.org/pyp) for more information.

Throughout this learning journey, our academic team will assist students to establish a sound foundation of knowledge and experience through a holistic approach to education with a wide range of integrated disciplines drawn from the creative and performing arts, experimental sciences, humanities and sports and after school activities.

Mother Tongue Programme

At RWA, we have a well- established diverse range of mother tongue offerings for native speakers of these languages. These programmes are designed for native speakers of these languages and are not for students who are not proficient in the language.

The mother tongue programme runs from KG1 - grade 5 in the primary school. In KG1 the programme runs after school (1.50 - 2.50pm).

In KG2 – Grade 5 the majority of the classes happen during the school time (i.e. 7.50 –2.50pm). However, there are some lessons after school in certain languages.

Below are the contact details for the various mother tongue coordinators:

- French Mother Tongue Coordinator Ms. Mathilde Le Foulon fmt.rwa@gmail.com
- Russian Mother Tongue Coordinator Mr. Maxim Mineev classes@headin.pro
- Spanish Mother Tongue Coordinator Mr. Maxim Mineev classes@headin.pro
- Italian Mother Tongue Coordinator Mr. Maxim Mineev <u>classes@headin.pro</u>
- German Mother Tongue Coordinator Ms. Lisa Lehmann- Schiwietz gmt.rwa@gmail.com
- Hindi Mother Tongue Coordinator Mr. Maxim Mineev classes@headin.prov

Important Information

- The tuition of mother tongue programmes is an additional cost to the RWA tuition fees; these programmes are organised by parents or external providers.
- RWA assists these MT providers through the provision of classrooms, access to professional development when available and quality assurance.

- Students are encouraged to take MT examinations, e.g. French CNED, and MFL French (Primary DELF) to meet the proficiency requirements of the home country, if entry to higher education is dependent on them.
- Please note the offering of a mother tongue will depend on the number of interested students, grade sections, students' level, and on their ability to miss Islamic studies classes (as most mother tongues lessons are offered during Islamic lessons and where this is not possible, it will be offered as an after school programme).
- A minimum number of students is required to start a batch (the batches are formed considering the children's age and language proficiency level).

RAFFLES WORLD ACADEMY - PRIN	/ARY SCI	HOOL	FIMET	ABLE S	TRUCT	URE 20	023-24	
SUBJECTS	Pre -KG	KG 1	KG 2	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5
Arabic A/Arabic B		2	3	3	3	3	3	3
Arabic A/Homeroom/MT		0		1	1	1	1	1
Arabic Cultural Studies	1							
Islamic A/Islamic B/MT/Homeroom			1					
Islamic A/Islamic B/Homeroom/Spanish MT				2	2	2	2	2
French/Spanish/MT				1	2	2	2	2
Art			1	1	1	1	1	1
Performing Arts- Music	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Dance /movement	1	1	1	0.5				
PE	1	1	1	1.5	2	2	2	2
ICT				1	1	1	1	1
Library	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
English	5.5	5.5	6	5	4.5	4	4	4
Math	5.5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Science	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Unit of Inquiry	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	3
MSCS (Moral Ed + UAE SS)/ Assembly				1	1	1	1	1
Assembly		1	1					
Free play	3	2.5	2					
Total lessons	23.5	24	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5

5 - DAY CYCLE
G1 - G5: 1 HOUR LESSONS (6 LESSONS PER DAY)
Pre -KG &KG1: 1 HOUR LESSONS (5 LESSONS PER DAY)

Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs)

RWA is proud to offer a wide range of co-curricular activities (CCA). We encourage participation to aid the holistic development of our students by building their self-esteem and improving their performance in academics, sports and other extra-curricular fields.

For up to date information regarding activities offered, please refer to our CCA page on the school website: https://www.rwadubai.com/learning/co-curricular-activities.

Inclusion Support at Raffles World Academy

RWA is a truly inclusive school, believing in the value of each child to our community. With our holistic approach to learning and achievement, we promote the honoring of diversity and individual differences, while looking to remove barriers to learning that may affect a student's access to quality education, optimizing the use of individual student strengths.

The Inclusion Team provides appropriate support to students experiencing Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) who are the Determined Ones, students with special talents or giftedness who have access to our Talented and Gifted (TAG) program, and those requiring English language support with English as an Additional Language (EAL).

Support services for Students of Determination (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities- SEND)

Our Inclusion Support Team works in collaboration with classroom teachers, individual subject specialists, parents and external providers, following a team approach to ensure pupils with additional needs are well-catered for and given the opportunity they need to learn well. Being an inclusive school, Raffles World Academy (RWA) is in line with the UAE Federal Law no. 29/2006 and 2014 that protects the rights of students of determination.

Support services for students identified as Talented and Gifted (TAG)

Gifted learners are learners who are able to excel academically in one or more school subjects. Talented learners refer to learners who consistently excel in practical performances such as in sports, leadership, artistic forms or in specific applied skills.

Our TAG program at RWA assists in the identification of the talented and gifted, supporting teachers with the design of challenging learning objectives, independent research opportunities, flexible grouping, etc. within the classroom, as well as through a specialized mentoring programme with a view to providing individualized enrichment, personalized to the learner. The Inclusion Support Team coordinates and develops resources for the TAG Mentoring Programme in the Primary School where the TAG students in each grade are given the opportunity to be mentored by various members of staff.

Support services for students with English as an Additional Language

The English as an additional language (EAL) programme is available for students who need English language support. Teachers assess individual student needs at the beginning of the school year, or on arrival to determine how to best support them. The format of the programme is a combination of pull-out and in-class support in primary. Parents are informed of both the type and duration of support offered. Progress is regularly reported via home correspondence, in student-led conferences, parent- teacher conferences, and semester report cards. Once students reach a 'high-intermediate' level they 'exit' the program. EAL students' progress continues to be monitored, and they can enter and exit the program as and when needed.

EAL in primary

- Pull-out: Students are 'pulled-out' of the homeroom class to attend lessons with the EAL teacher on a scheduled
 basis to target specific language goals. This small-classroom situation provides a safe learning environment for
 students to practice speaking, listening, reading and writing skills.
- In-class: The EAL in-class support takes place in the homeroom classes; EAL students are grouped and provided
 with support. The homeroom teacher and EAL teacher will work actively together to plan and strategize how to
 best assist and help students during these lessons. We parallel the skills and content of the regular classes, but in
 a modified language that is suited to the needs of the individual student.

As RWA is an IB continuum school, all our staff members are language teachers and trained to cater to a diverse student population.

For any further information on Inclusion at RWA, please contact the head of inclusion in the primary **Ms Tessa Ann**McGee at tessaam@rwadubai.com

For English as an additional language (EAL) support please contact Ms Rania Al Khatib at raniak@rwadubai.com

Section 2: Primary School Timings

Our school hours from Monday to Thursday are between 7:40am – 1:50pm in PreK and KG1 and 7:40am – 2:50pm in KG2 to G12.

On Friday – School timings for Pre-KG to G12 is from 7:40am-12:00pm.

In the first week of school, our PreK and KG1 students have settling in times – 7:40am to 11:30am. This is to help them (and parents) to get settled into school life and slowly adjust to longer school hours.

It important to notify the class teacher prior to the start, who will be coming to school by bus and going home by bus.

Please see below breakdown of lesson timings for Pre-KG -G5. (30minutes X2)

SSON TIMINGS Pre-	KG &KG1 (Timetabling - Mon - Thurs)	ESSON TIMINGS KG2- G	2 -G4 & G5(Timetabling - Mon - Thur	LESSON TIMINGS G1	& G3 (Timetabling - Mon - Thurs
	Pre KG &KG1		KG2 , G2, G4 &G5		G1 &G3
7.20 – 7.40am	Staggered Arrival	7.20 – 7.40am	Staggered Arrival	7.20 – 7.40am	Staggered Arrival
7.40 - 7.50am	Morning registration/ Homeroom	7.40 - 7.50am	Registration/ Homeroom	7.40 - 7.50am	Registration/ Homeroom
7.50 - 8.20am	Lesson 1	7.50 - 8.20am	Lesson 1	7.50 - 8.20am	Lesson 1
8.20 - 8.50am	Lesson 2	8.20 - 8.50am	Lesson 2	8.20 - 8.50am	Lesson 2
8.50 - 9.20am	Lesson 3	8.50 - 9.20am	Lesson 3	8.50 - 9.20am	Lesson 3
9.20 – 9.50am	Lesson 4	9.20 – 9.50am	Lesson 4	9.20 – 9.50am	Snack
9.50 – 10.20am	Snack	9.50 – 10.20am	Snack	9.50 – 10.20am	Lesson 4
10.20 – 10.50am	Lesson 5	10.20 – 10.50am	Lesson 5	10.20 – 10.50am	Lesson 5
10.50 – 11.20am	Lesson 6	10.50 – 11.20am	Lesson 6	10.50 – 11.20am	Lesson 6
11.20 – 11.50am	Lesson 7	11.20 – 11.50am	Lesson 7	11.20 – 11.50am	Lesson 7
.50am – 12.20pm	Lesson 8	11.50am – 12.20pm	Lesson 8	11.50am – 12.20pm	Lunch
12.20 – 12.50pm	Lunch	12.20 – 12.50pm	Lunch	12.20 – 12.50pm	Lesson 8
12.50 – 1.20pm	Lesson 9	12.50 – 1.20pm	Lesson 9	12.50 – 1.20pm	Lesson 9
1.20 – 1.50pm	Lesson 10	1.20 - 1.50pm	Lesson 10	1.20 – 1.50pm	Lesson 10
1.50pm	Dismissal time Bus kids leave classroom 1:45pm	1.50-2:20pm	Lesson 11	1.50-2:20pm	Lesson 11
		2.20- 2.50pm	Lesson 12	2.20- 2.50pm	Lesson 12
		2:50pm	Pick up time Bus kids leave classroom 2:50pm	2:50pm	Pick up time Bus kids leave classroom 2:50pm
		3:00pm	Buses leave campus	3:00pm	Buses leave campus

Please note that school timings will change during Ramadan. Ramadan timings will be communicated near to the time.

Morning Drop off / arrival

All students can begin arriving to school from 7:20am onwards. **Students are not permitted inside the classroom before 7:20am as there is NO supervision available.**

Pre-KG – Grade 2 students are to be dropped off to their respective classroom by parents. **No parents are allowed inside the classroom.** They can only handover their child at the door to the respective teacher.

Parents are always required to wear their ID badges when on the school premises. A visitor's pass can be obtained from the security staff when a valid EID, copy of passport or driver's license is presented. Access will not be granted without the ID Badge.

Grades 3-5 students can be dropped off at the school entrance. Students are encouraged to walk independently to their respective classroom. Leadership team will be around to shepherd students safely to their classrooms.

Parking is available at the front, side and back of the school. We request all parents to park safely and considerately, keeping in mind, both the other parents and the neighbours. Police patrol these areas and issue fines for those that park illegally. Please do the following:

- adhere to the <u>instructions of signposts</u> in the parking area and use the <u>marked crossing areas</u> when moving through car parks and across roads;
- when arriving or leaving the school premises, drive slowly and carefully, adhere to the <u>signals and instructions of our security staff</u> who direct traffic to avoid endangering pedestrians.
- obey the signs indicating whether you should move or stop

The safety of children and other pedestrians is our highest priority and careless or reckless driving will be reported. Our traffic marshals record registration plates of offenders and incidents will be reported. Any abuse of our staff, students and parent volunteers will not be tolerated and will be reported to the police.

Late arrivals

The **KG** and primary school gate will close at 7:45am. If students are unavoidably late, they should report directly to the primary secretary office through the main reception door. Staff at reception will enter their name in a log and update the attendance register on iSAMS. Regular late arrival to school has a negative impact upon student's progress. As part of our student's self- management development, we encourage personal organisation, part of which is being punctual.

Dismissal/ pick up

- Pre KG- KG1 dismissal at 1:50pm.
- Pre- KG & KG1 bus students will be dismissed promptly from the classroom at 1:40pm. Buses leave the campus at 1:50pm.
- KG2- will finish school at 2:50pm. Buses leave campus at 3pm.
- G1-G5 will finish school at 2:50pm, unless they attend after school activities between 2:50-3:50pm. Buses leave campus at 3pm.

All students from Pre-KG to G5 will be collected from the classroom door. One parent/guardian collects child from classroom door and leave promptly. Should a parent wish to make any alternative arrangements to collect their child, they must inform their child's class teacher or the primary school secretary **Phone: 04-4271357** before 12:00 (noon) on any given school day.

To avoid overcrowding gates will open at 1:30 pm for parents coming to pick up Pre-KG & KG1 students and at 2:40pm for KG2 -G5.

At the end of the school day and in the absence of a CCA, please ensure that children are collected no later than 2:50 pm for KG2- Grade 5.

Late pick up

- In the case of an unavoidable late pick up a 10 minute 'grace period' is sufficient to cover most reasons for late pick up.
- Teachers will have a note on their door indicating which room your child can be picked up from.
- Please be aware that persistent and/or excessive lateness beyond the 10 minutes grace period can create additional work for teachers and administrators. The school should always be informed if a parent knows they are going to arrive late for pick up.

Early Dismissal for medical or family needs

- On those occasions when your child needs to leave early, before the normal dismissal time, parents can email the class teacher to inform them of an early pick up in advance. Phone calls requesting early dismissal will not be accepted for safety reasons.
- Classroom teacher will inform security or the school reception, if they are notified of early dismissal in advance.

 No child will be allowed to exit the premises without prior approval taken from the class teacher or the head of primary.

Forward planning is strongly advised. The class teacher will be responsible for forwarding the letter to the head of school's office. Please ensure all contact details (parents mobiles, (UAE cell & landline numbers) are up-to-date.

Please be advised that if requests are received without sufficient planning and notification, there may be delays before leave can be authorized. The school cannot accept liability for any missed appointments under these circumstances.

After care club for Pre-KG & KG1

- There will be a paid afterschool care club provided by the school through an external provider for Pre-KG & KG1 students from 1:50-2:50pm.
- We strongly feel that our Pre- KG & KG1 students should not be in school beyond 1:50pm, as it is a very long day for our 3- 4-years old and they are extremely tired after 1:30pm. However, if there is any parent who would like their child to wait beyond 1:50pm for their older sibling in KG2-G5, then they are able to pick their child up at 2:50pm along with their older siblings. However, during this time their child should avail the paid after -school club.

Parental supervision

The school works closely with parents for matters relating to our student safety. Should parents anticipate being away from home for extended periods, the school should be informed in writing. In the interests of student's safety and security, the name of the adult assuming responsibility for the child's welfare must be given to the school along with all emergency contact details.

Supervision of students after school

Once the parents have collected their child, they must promptly leave the school premise, however if they need to wait for few minutes to collect their older siblings, parents must take full responsibility for the supervision of their children who should not be permitted to wander around the school unattended. Under these circumstances, the school will not be liable for any injuries resulting from lack of supervision by parents. Children are expected to follow the same essential agreements they do during the school day – no running in the school (this is a matter of health and safety); stay within eyesight of their parent or guardian. Parents are requested to ensure that neither they nor their children cause any disruption to lessons still going on in other classes. **The school canteen can be the waiting area for parents**.

Student attendance

Expected attendance in the primary school is five days a week (Monday to Friday) from morning registration to school dismissal at the appropriate time, depending on each grade.

As per the UAE Ministry of Education regulations, grade 1 and above students who miss <u>25 days</u> or more in any school year may be at risk of not being promoted to the next grade level unless they have been legitimately excused from school as a result of special circumstances. These special circumstances must be clearly communicated and agreed upon with the vice principal of the school prior to the absence. Examples include extra-curricular participation, field trips or extended illness. Excused and unexcused absences are recorded in each student's individual records and reports.

If your child is ill, please notify the school in the morning of each day of absence, either by emailing the class teacher or contacting the primary school office.

If you intend for your child to be absent due to holiday or other reasons during the semester, please notify the class teacher in advance advising if you intend for your child to arrive late or leave early on any particular day.

Medical absence

A medical certificate may be required after the second day of medical absence

- For any extended period, (greater than 1 week) you must notify the teacher and the vice principal as soon as possible of the length of absence when known. This will enable teachers to provide academic support.
- For prolonged unexplained absence, a child may be placed at the bottom of the waiting list and must pay the new student enrollment fee upon re-enrollment.
- An extended or unexplained absence (no shows) may result in enrollment being cancelled.
- Extended absences are handled on an individual basis but there is an expectation that there will be close communication between home and school to better support the student.

Section 3: School Regulations

Dress code

Parents and students are respectfully reminded that dress on school premises should always be sensitive to the cultural expectations of the host country. The principal's decision on whether dress and/or appearance is appropriate in consultation with the vice principal is final. Parents and students are requested to familiarize themselves with the dress code notices and be mindful of the expectations of the host nation with regard to both dress and behavior.

School uniform and attire

All students will be expected to adhere to the school uniform. We recommend at least two complete sets of uniform per child. Parents are expected to purchase the school uniform/attire prior to student attending school from our designated uniform store. (see below details)

We expect all our students to come to school neatly groomed, smartly dressed and in the correct school uniform. This sets a professional work ethic. Students need to be aware that our expectations are the same when they are wearing the RWA uniform outside school. Parents are asked to support their child in meeting these expectations. A letter will be sent home via the homeroom teacher if the uniform requirements are not adhered to. Following on from this, if the uniform remains incorrect, without a reasonable explanation, the school reserves the right to refuse attendance of a student who does not observe the uniform code requirement.

Labelling

All items of clothing, as well as bags, lunch boxes, water bottles, shoes, etc. should be clearly labelled with the child's name. This will minimise any potential losses.

You will need to purchase school uniforms from the supplier directly: ZAKS Store

Oasis Center, Level 1 (Oasis Mall) situated on Sheikh Zayed Road (This new location will be operational from 15th July 2023)

Store Phone Number: +971 4 344 5637 Store Coordinates (25.224861, 55.258938)

Store Trading Hours: 10 am to 10 pm - 7 days a week. Open on all days of the week.

Toll Free Number: 800-ZAKS (9257)

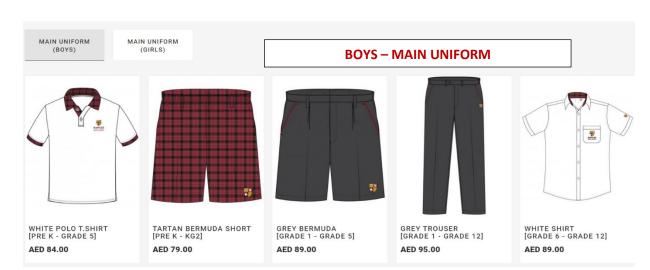
WhatsApp number for general information: +971 52 276 8954

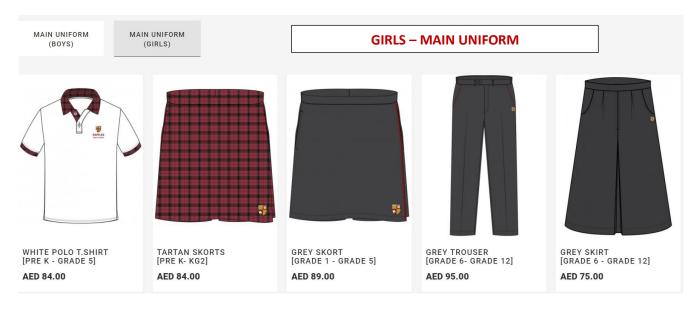
Email: info@zaksstore.com

Web: www.zaks.me

Please see below the description and images of the school uniform for the academic year 2023-24







PE uniform for 2023-24



Boys and Girls Winter Clothes



Socks – white.

Shoes – smart, black footwear. No boots i.e. no footwear should be above the ankle. Shoes must be completely black with no coloured stripes, swishes or logos. Shoes must be firm and supportive and students must keep their shoes in good condition.

Art lesson attire

Each child will require some form of protection for their uniform during art lessons. A large, old shirt with the sleeves rolled back or cut off, or a ¾ length apron or smock will suffice. Please ensure that these are labelled very clearly with the child's full name and class; these will be kept in the classroom and be sent for washing from time to time.

Expectations for school uniform

- Uniform should ONLY be purchased from the RWA supplier **ZAKS** (see address above) in order to ensure uniformity of style and fabric. **Substitutes are not acceptable.**
- Students should be clean and neat in their appearance at all times.
- No jewelry should be worn. However, girls are allowed to wear one small, plain pair of gold or silver studs
 worn in the conventional position in the ear lobe. Multiple earrings, nose studs and piercings in other parts
 of the body are not permitted. Friendship bands, bracelets, ankle chains, rings, necklaces etc. must not be
 worn at school.
- If any of the above items are worn at school, they must be removed immediately and at the request of any member of staff.
- Exaggerated or extreme hair-styles are not allowed. Hair that is touching the collar for either boys or girls, should be tied back for the student's safety.
- In winter girls may wear black tights during cooler months. RWA warm fleeces and tracksuit pants are available for purchase from our uniform supplier. If after reminders from staff, a student does not respect the RWA dress code, parents will be notified.
- Items of religious significance may be worn with the prior written permission from the class teacher only following written parental request.

Personal effects and electronic devices

Students are not allowed to bring in personal effects, e.g. toys, [unless the teacher has requested particular items]. Electronic equipment such as an iPod, iTouch, iPad or iPhone or similar can only be brought and used if there is a written agreement between the school and the student's home. On a daily basis Grades 2-5 students are expected to bring in an iPad as a learning tool as part of the BYOD programme run in the upper primary grades of the school.

Mobile telephones

For safety reasons, students are allowed to bring their mobile phone to school, but it **must be switched off and kept in the school bag during the day**. If they are seen or heard they will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day. If students need to contact their parents during the school day, they must not use their mobile phone or iPad. In the event of an emergency, they must inform the teacher, who will determine the appropriate course of action and allow the student to use the school phone to contact parents or get a school staff to contact parents.

If a student is unwell, they must, subsequent to obtaining permission from their teacher, visit the school nurse. If the nurse feels that it is necessary for the student to go home, they will contact their parents and arrange for the student to be collected from the clinic.

The school accepts no responsibility for electronic equipment brought to school. For security purposes, it is recommended that the parents make a record of the child's phone model, serial number and other details and such items are covered by home insurance.

Due to health and safety reasons we especially ask parents to support this by NOT calling children during school hours.

The wearing of headphones is not permitted around the school or within lessons, unless they are needed as part of that lesson. The school cannot take any responsibility for damage to or loss of such items which should be insured by the home and identifying numbers recorded and kept safely.

Home Learning/ Homework

At RWA we focus on the holistic development of our students. As a part of developing our approach to homework, we have focused on ensuring students have this holistic balance in their life at home, having time to be physically active, spending time with friends and family and having time to relax. Co-Curricular activities and time for constructive play are

as important to children's development as home learning activities and therefore provision should be made to accommodate all three of these general areas during the school week.

Children should spend at least 20 minutes each afternoon reading, preferably aloud and to an audience (parent, sibling, even pets). Any other time spent on home learning should be carefully monitored. A parent information session about home learning will take place at the start of the year, to share our approach to this very talked about topic.

What parents can do:

- Talk about school work at home with your child
- Show an interest in your child's work and give regular encouragement be active on Toddle
- Give feedback on work, via Toddle, as requested
- Provide a quiet place at home for study
- Monitor use of the home computer have clear rules about this in your home and model them too

Keeping in the line of the above home learning policy, from Pre KG – Grade 2 students only mandatory homework each week is reading. The rest of the assignments are encouraged practice to support classroom learning. This changes slightly in grades 3-5; while we still want them to have this balance, we also recognize that students need to develop key self-management skills at home such as organization, research and time management. This reading (at least 20 minutes each day) can be done with the students using RAZ Kids (online resource) and physical books. As a part of this, we encourage parents to work with the school in developing a 'love of reading' in our children, doing things such as family 'Drop Everything and Read' times (all family members read at the same time) and having discussions at the dinner table about what books each family member has read lately.

Students' homework in G3-5 will be focused on two key areas *reading* (which is compulsory across the whole primary school – <u>at least 20 minutes each day</u>) and *inquiry projects*. These independent inquiry projects to be set bi-weekly to allow students time to inquire deeply into the topics, as well as allowing them and their parents flexibility in managing their time (i.e. some weeks may be busy with sport, family commitments etc. and students may not do any of these this week but can always catch up the following week). Teachers will set clear expectations for these independent inquiry projects through rubrics or checklists as well as scrutinize and provide effective feedback in the form of next steps.

We expect our teachers to be flexible with parents who demand more drill sort of homework for mathematics or reading comprehension for their child. Teachers will provide website links or materials to parents who need, with the understanding that this will only benefit our students. *Homework template will be provided via email.*

More information about homework and these inquiry tasks are given in the parent information sessions.

Library

RWA's library is a multi-media resource centre with an age/grade appropriate lending policy. We encourage the children to take their books home to share with their parents.

Parents are encouraged to reinforce the care of loaned books by:

- taking care of loaned books, to be returned in the same condition it was lent;
- food and drink should be kept away from books;
- pages should be turned carefully and not bent over; and
- books should be kept out of the reach of pets, babies, etc.

In the case of loss or damaged books, a charge relative to the cost of replacing the book will be issued.

Stationery

Educational material that includes textbooks will be given to the student in the classroom by the concerned teacher. **This** does not include stationary. All students from Pre-KG-G5 will be expected to bring in their basic stationary for their

personal use. A list of items recommended by the teachers for each grade is given below. All other materials will be provided by the school.

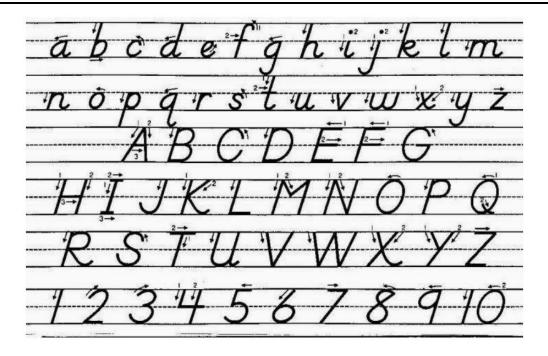
Please include the following stationery items in a pencil case and replenish when they are running low. Please label all items clearly with your child's name. The pencil case will remain in your child's tray and not be shared with anyone.

Pre-KG - KG2 stationery list	Grade 1 &2 stationery list	Grade 3-5 stationery list
1 pack No. 2 chubby grey writing pencils	2 HB writing pencils	2 HB writing pencils
1 pack No. 2 chubby colouring pencils	1 pack of twistable crayons/ colouring pencils	1 pack of coloured markers
1 pack of Crayola crayons	1 pack of felt pens (markers)	1 pack of colour pencils
1 pencil sharpener (one which holds the	Pencil sharpener (one which holds the	Pencil sharpener (one which holds the
shavings) for chubby pencils	shavings)	shavings)
1 pack washable markers	2 x Erasers	2 x Erasers
1 blunt tipped scissor	2 x large glue sticks	2 x large glue sticks
2 Staedtler erasers	3 x white board markers	3 x white board markers
2UHU glue sticks	1 white board easer	1 white board easer
2 Chubby paint brushes	A4 size whiteboard	A4 size whiteboard
2 thin paint brushes	30cm plastic ruler	30cm plastic ruler
2 thick white board markers and white	2 x plastic folders with button (hard	1 geometry box set (set square, protractor,
board earser	plastic)	compass)
Extra pair of clothes and underwear to		Blue and black rollerball/ fountain pen (onl
change in case of an accident	Old large t-shirt or apron for art	if your child is in G5)
Reusable, refillable water bottle (avoid	Reusable, refillable large water bottle	Reusable, refillable large water bottle (avo
sending disposable plastic water	(avoid sending disposable plastic water	sending disposable plastic water bottles
Hat for playtime and outdoor PE	RWA hat for playtime and outdoor PE	RWA hat for playtime and outdoor PE
Art smock		Old large t-shirt or apron for art
Tissue		2 x plastic folders with button (hard plastic)
		one pair of scissors
		iPad (apple product only) (see specification
		in separate document) Headphones for
		iPad/Device use (Labelled clearly with
		student's name)
		3-inch Yamaha Soprano/Descant recorder in
		the key of C, easily disassembles into three
		parts. (if your child doesn't have one)

Student IDs Upon admission all students are issued with the RWA student ID card. These must be worn at all times. Students are to swipe in to register their attendance upon arrival each day. Lost or damaged ID cards are to be replaced at the student's expense.

Handwriting

It is the aim at our school that every child should be enabled to develop a fluent, legible style of handwriting. Capital and lower-case letters should be used appropriately, and the letter size should be consistent. We will provide opportunities for children to develop, practice and perfect skills and provide targeted support to any child having trouble. We follow the Nelsons Handwriting scheme at RWA. Students use pencils and are promoted to using a pen, by being awarded a pen license. We are mindful that students changing curriculum and/or country, might have a different style of writing.



Section 4: Nutrition

Snack

All children are asked to bring a healthy and nutritious snack or drink to school each day for the break period. All classes are chocolate and nut free environments. This includes food items with traces of nuts or nut oils. Please do not send your child to school with any items that require refrigeration or heating. Candy, lollipop, chewing gum, chocolate or chocolate covered cookies of any kind are not permitted. Due to storage constraints, we ask that children only bring snack bags and not bulky backpacks to school. Parents are requested to make sure that items storing the snack/meal can be accessed by the student. Monitor how much they eat – this way you can be sure that you are packing in enough food. There is NO SHARING of food allowed.

We also have a cafeteria from which hot or cold healthy meals and snacks may be bought and is open until 3pm. Daily menus are available on our school website.

Keeping in line with the Islamic policy, parents are also requested not to include pork products in their child's snack or lunch box.

Lunch

If lunch is provided by the parent it should be packed in a lunch box, separate from the book bag that is clearly labelled with the child's name. A healthy beverage of milk (plain, not flavored), juice or water should accompany the lunch. No candy (including cough drops), gum, chocolate or soda is permitted. Parents are welcome to share their healthy nutrition tips as part of our drive to encourage healthy living choices.

Water bottles

All students are required to bring their own reusable water bottles from home. Plastic water bottles can be bought from vending machines when this reusable bottle has been finished however, as an eco-school we are seeking to reduce the use of plastic so large, reusable water bottles are preferable. Our advice, have spare dirham coins in your child's bag, so that it can be used if necessary. Water dispensers are available across the school.

Section 5: School management

RWA houses

There are four houses (Yellow- wasp) (Blue -spider) (Green -viper) and Red -scorpion) (to which all staff and children from Grade 1 and above belong to. These houses are established to ensure the children have a sense of belonging to groups while in the school and to establish a healthy manner of development and competition within the school. As much as possible siblings are placed in the same house.

All students participate in the annual inter-house trophy competitions. Points are given for sporting events, good work and positive aspects of social/personal behaviour during the year.

Students and classroom management

Our method of classroom management is based on respect. Respect for self, respect for others and respect for our environment. Our classrooms have three common goals for all students:

- **Self-Direction**: we want children to learn for the joy of it not to please adults. Our mission is to spark the natural curiosity within each individual child, creating enthusiastic learners.
- **Feeling of Community**: our students are encouraged to express themselves politely and confidently and to display excellent interpersonal skills. We assist and teach them to solve problems and conflicts, so that eventually they work with minimum assistance from adults.
- **Independence:** Children want and need to experience the world on their own. We give them the necessary tools, guidance and opportunities to develop independence and self-reliance in a supportive, caring environment.

These complement the school's Core Values, (see *Guiding Statements* above), and the *IB Learner Profile* which applies throughout the school and across programmes.

Educational material management

We kindly ask for all toys to remain at home. At school, toys may detract from the well-prepared special learning environments, especially in early years and the lower primary school. A lot of young children have not yet fully developed the social skill of sharing personal belongings.

Materials are carefully selected and prepared by the teachers to suit many purposes. When your child is in the classroom, they are surrounded by a wide array of materials, experiences, sights and sounds, objects to manipulate in a variety of ways, exercises which will challenge, soothe, inspire, and inform. The richness of the classroom cannot be duplicated at home nor can the home environment be duplicated at school. They are two related, but distinct environments.

Celebrating birthdays

The school aims at developing students and could be looked at as an avenue to celebrate events related to the child. We do encourage the sense of sharing among our students. However, we also acknowledge that children may prefer to exclude other students which can be potentially upsetting.

The school acknowledges the importance of key personal events such as a student's birthday. However, rather than see students excluded from celebrations, we request that birthday parties or similar events, as well as the distribution of invitations and gifts are organised outside the school.

If a parent is wanting to send cupcakes for students to celebrate their child's birthday, as per KHDA requirements, please ensure the food items are bought from a reputable supplier, and <u>not homemade</u>, in line with health and safety regulations.

School special event management

The school holds special events during the course of the school year such as sports day, field trips, fun days, parent - teacher meetings, national and international days and assemblies etc. The calendar, newsletters and emails as well as notices in reception will provide parents with details in advance. While we endeavor to provide as much notice as possible for each event the school tries to take advantage of opportunities made available at short notice. The school will give at

least one week's notice for any trip or event unless circumstances beyond our control prevent this. The cooperation and understanding of parents is greatly appreciated.

Field trips

RWA is fortunate to be located in a uniquely innovative city, and this offers our students additional educational enhancement beyond the classroom.

We encourage our teachers to seek opportunities for their classes to actively engage in educational experiences that support class learning. Within the clear curricular objectives, field trips provide an authentic and real context to units of inquiry and extend and stimulate student interest by connecting classroom-based learning with the world outside. Our Grade 4 and 5 students attend an annual camp. A parent information session is usually held to share details of the 3 days/2 nights trip.

Prior to a field trip, all parents will be sent a letter from the school, requesting their consent for their child to attend, further information on the trip and an indication of cost. Consent forms must be completed and returned to the teacher before the field trip, together with any required payment.

No student is allowed to go on a field trip without a signed permission slip. We cannot accept phone permission

Section 6 - Assessments and Reports

Assessment is the gathering and analysis of information about student performance. Assessment at RWA is an integral tool that we use to drive teaching and learning. Assessment helps to identify what students know, understand, can do and feel at various stages in the learning process. The purpose of assessment is to promote student learning, to provide information about student learning and to contribute to the efficacy of the programme.

We assess for the following reasons:

- determine prior knowledge;
- promote self-reflection and goal setting;
- reflect student growth, development and learning;
- provide valid measures of student performance;
- identify strengths and areas for development;
- differentiate instruction to meet the individual learning needs of all students;
- evaluate the curriculum (and inform necessary changes); and
- provide specific information and relevant feedback to parents.

Standardised Assessments:

We use various internally benchmarked assessments to ensure that our assessment systems at the school are robust, as well as ensure that our students are meeting the required standards and continually making progress. As a school, we use the following standardized assessments in the primary school:

Name of Assessment	Grade Levels	Timing	Description
Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS)	Grade 4	Every 4 years	The Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study provides reliable and timely data on the mathematics and science achievement of U.A.E. students compared to that of students in other countries.
Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS)	Grade 4	Every 5 years	PIRLS documents worldwide trends in the reading knowledge of 4th-graders as well as school and teacher practices related to instruction

PTE- (Progress Test in English)	G1-G5	June Annually	This assessment measures attainment and progress in English (reading, spelling, grammar and punctuation, etc.). It is completed each June; from grade one it is completed online. The results from this assessment are used to triangulate our internal data to ensure there is accuracy. Additionally, it is used for reporting purposes to KHDA for external attainment results.
PTM (Progress Test in Math)	G1 – G5	June Annually	This assessment measures attainment and progress in all areas of math. This test is completed each June; from grade one it is completed online. The results from this assessment are used to triangulate our internal data to ensure there is accuracy. Additionally, it is used for reporting purposes to KHDA for external attainment results.
PTS (Progress Test in Science)	G2- G5	June Annually	This assessment measures attainment and progress in all areas of science. This test is completed each June. This test is only completed from grade 2 with all of these grades doing it online. The results from this assessment are used to triangulate our internal data to ensure there is accuracy. Additionally, it is used for reporting purposes to KHDA for external attainment results.
CAT4 (Cognitive Ability Test)	G2-5	October annually	The Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) is a diagnostic assessment that is designed to help students and their teachers understand how they learn and what their academic potential might be. The CAT4 assess students in four different 'batteries' (areas): shapes and patterns (Non-Verbal Reasoning), words (Verbal Reasoning), numbers (Quantitative Reasoning); and mentally generating and transforming visual images (Spatial Ability). All students from grade 2 undertake this assessment (not annually); new students joining the school after September take this test during admissions process.
New Group Reading Test (NGRT)	G1-5	Thrice during the academic year	The NGRT reading tests allows schools to drill down into pupil's reading and comprehension skills (including phonics where necessary), helping us to reveal exactly where support is required. The NGRT allows teachers to assess reading and comprehension skills benchmarked against the national average, and monitor progress.
Pupils Attitudes to Self and School (PASS)			A psychometric assessment specifically designed to spot attitudinal or emotional issues in children before they affect school performance.

Primary school Reporting

A student's academic, social, emotional, cognitive/intellectual and physical progress is observed, recorded and assessed throughout the year. This information is conveyed to parents during parent-teacher meetings or conferences (PTCs). In addition, students will receive four progress assessment reports over the course of the academic year. (November, February, April and June) Two of these will be comprehensive written reports, one at the end of semester one in February, and the other at the end of semester two in June/ July depending when school ends.

Students are continually assessed throughout the school year using a wide range of strategies and assessment tools. Effort is commented upon through the attributes of the IB Learner Profile.

Besides the assessment reports, parents will be kept informed about how their child is progressing through the Three-Way Conference, Parent Teacher Conferences and the Student Led Conference.

For more information on the Reporting Cycle, please see below.

PYP Unit of Inquiry	Reporting Method	Timeframe
1	Parent Information Sessions	August/ September
2	Three -way Goal Setting Conferences	October
2	Interim Report Card	November
3	Semester 1 Report Card	February

	Reporting to Parents (Science Fair; KG2 – G5)	
	Parent Teacher Conferences	
4	Interim Report Card	April
г	Student Led Conferences	May
5	Semester 2 Report Card	June

Grade descriptors

The RWA grading system uses a 1 to 7 scale (see below). This level is given according to their performance in a range of different assessments (i.e. the grade is not based on one final test).

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Attainment of students is measured using a 1-7 scale. 1-3 is classified as 'emerging'; 4 is defined as 'expected'; and 5-7 is defined as 'exceeding'. (see below descriptors)

Progress is a key measure that we use at RWA to ensure that our students are continually growing in their learning journey. We measure our students progress at our various assessment points in the year, to ensure that they are at least maintaining (or exceeding) their expected level of attainment.

Developmental Learning Continuum			
N/A	Emerging (1-3)	Expected (4)	Exceeding (5-7)
Not applicable at this time	The student is beginning to develop the knowledge, skills and concepts in this subject	The student is independently achieving the standards expected at	The student is constantly and independently achieving above the
This particular strand has not been taught yet or the student was absent when this particular strand or	area and is working towards the grade level expectations.	this time of the year and is working within the expected grade level band.	standards and the grade level expectations at this time of the year.

Grade level expectations

- Exceeding The child is working above the grade level expectations
- **Expected** The child is working within the expected grade level
- **Emerging** The child is working towards grade level expectations

Transdisciplinary Skills and Personal Social Emotional (PSE) Development indicators

In our written reports, we also report on how our students are developing on their Trans disciplinary skills and personally, socially, emotionally through the given indicators below. These Indicators measure students' engagement with and attitudes towards learning and our PSE indicators show how students are developing personally, socially and emotionally. The grading for these is different, using the following scale:

INDICATOR	DESCRIPTORS
WT Working Towards	Demonstrates a readiness to learn and some of the key elements of learning in this area, but still needs to be more confident in displaying them consistently.
ME	
Meets expectations	Confidently displays the chosen aspects within the skill.
EE Exceeds expectations	Confidently displays all elements of the skill on a consistent basis. Students who receive an 'EE' indicate that they routinely and independently exceed expectations in this skill.

Learner profile self- assessment

In addition to reporting on the core subject areas, as an IBPYP school we place continual emphasis on how your child is demonstrating the attributes of the IB Learner Profile which is the heart of our curriculum and underpins everything we do. Your child will be completing his/her learner profile reflection that will be shared during the parent teacher conferences.

Grade 5 PYP Exhibition

In the final year of the PYP, students participate in the culminating project, the PYP exhibition. This requires that each student demonstrates engagement with the five essential elements of the programme: knowledge, content, skills, attitude and action. It is a transdisciplinary inquiry conducted in the spirit of personal and shared responsibility, as well as a summative assessment activity that is a celebration as students move from the PYP into the middle years of schooling. The exhibition represents a significant event in the life of a PYP school and student, synthesizing the essential elements of the PYP, and sharing them with the whole school community. It is an opportunity for students to exhibit the attributes of the learner profile that have been developing throughout their engagement with the PYP.

As a part of the Exhibition, students are required to engage in a collaborative, transdisciplinary inquiry process that involved them in identifying, investigating and offering solutions to real-life issues and problems. The central idea selected must be of sufficient scope and significance to warrant a detailed investigation by all students.

The PYP exhibition has a number of key purposes including the following:

- > students engage in an in-depth, collaborative inquiry
- > to provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate independence and responsibility for their own learning
- > to provide students with an opportunity to explore multiple perspectives
- For students to synthesize and apply their learning of previous years, and to reflect on their journey through the PYP
- to provide an authentic process for accessing student understanding
- to demonstrate how students can take actions as a result of their learning
- > to unite the students, teachers, parents and other members of the school community in a collaborative experience that incorporates the essential elements of the PYP
- > to celebrate the transition of learners from primary to secondary education

The Exhibition also involves assessment. The assessment takes two forms: ongoing assessment of each individual student's contribution to and understanding of the exhibition; a summative assessment and reflection on the event itself. Assessment of the exhibition takes place within the school. It should take place throughout the whole process of the exhibition and should be rigorous.

Promotion in the PYP

The Primary homeroom teachers, can, in consultation with the Student Support Team, mutually agree for a student to be retained for academic or social/emotional/behavioural issues. This decision needs to be backed up in writing with a signed parental copy of the KHDA retention form.

Section 7: Behaviour Management Policy

At Raffles World Academy (RWA) we have a comprehensive Behaviour Management Policy and Procedures. The aim of this policy and procedures is to encourage positive interactions and behaviour by all of our students. In promoting positive behaviour at our school, we focus on developing strong relationships in our community, particularly between teachers, students and parents. As a part of this, ongoing and positive conversations between all of these parties are one of the key components to these positive and strong relationships.

In the primary school we have a number of systems for identifying and rewarding positive behavior in our students. These include in-class rewards systems, Learner Profile certificates in assemblies and class awards focused on promoting certain desired positive behaviours in our students. We also use the PYP Learner Profile Attributes across the school to discuss desired and positive behaviours of all of our students. Along with this, we also have measures in place to discourage antisocial and disruptive behaviour, through the application of sanctions in relation to the 'level' of a particular behaviour. The levelling of behaviours is set out in our policy to ensure that all key stakeholders (i.e. parents, students, teachers and administration) have a clear understanding of how the school view particular behaviours and how they will be dealt with.

As a school we believe that it is important to have a common understanding and approach towards the behavioural expectations of our students across the school.

The aim of the Behaviour Management policy is to:

- provide a safe, secure and positive learning environment, where all students may develop their full potential across the curriculum; and
- develop a clear understanding of behavioural expectations by all members of the school community.

Sanctions

At times it is necessary to employ sanctions when behavioural expectations are not met. Students have the right to expect fair and consistently applied sanctions that make a clear distinction between serious and minor infringements and, ensure that each case is dealt with on its merits. An appropriate sanction is one which is designed to address the particular behaviour, as well as encourage more positive behaviour in the future.

The following table shows examples of offences according to the school's new levelled behavioural approach (this is not an all- encompassing list). This approach is in line with the UAE Ministry of Education's Student Conduct Disciplinary By law in School Community document. The table of offences will be recognized if the student attends school, on a school authorized field trip or outside the school premises in uniform. As students near the school premises are often recognized to be RWA students, they are still seen to be representing the school so disciplinary measures will also ensue for such offences directly proximate to the school.

Our philosophy of student behaviour management or discipline is based on the understanding that this should be a positive, internally motivating force. When allowed and encouraged to develop within a child, self-discipline is one of the single most important means that a student has towards making appropriate and correct decisions in his or her life. Our behaviour management procedures are therefore designed to encourage and assist children in developing self-discipline. Staff members are responsible for providing children with information about the choices that are available to them, both in general and in specific situations. Staff members are also responsible for creating an environment and a relationship with students which exemplify consistency and firmness and also set clear boundaries. Consistency and the clearly stated boundaries provide the parameters that students need to make appropriate choices.

Teachers and other staff are encouraged to recognize and reward positive behaviour. Praise is shown to be more effective in promoting desirable behaviours than punitive sanctions are in deterring negative behaviours.

Primary School Behavioural Procedures



- •Level 1 behaviours are dealt with by the teacher using an in-class behaviour managment system.
- Multiple Level 1 behaviours will be dealt with by Level 2 consequences.
- Possible sanctions for Level 1 behaviours include redirection by teachers, referring to classroom Essential Agreements, individual reflection discusion with the teacher or an in-class written reflection.

Level 2

- Level 2 behaviours are referred to the Team Leader through the reflection room.
- Multiple Level 2 behaviours will be dealt with by Level 3 consequences.
- Possible sanctions may include reflection room and/or correspondence with the student's parents, partial loss of breaktime privileges/football privileges.

Level 3

- Level 3 behaviours are dealt with by the Deputy Head.
- Multiple Level 3 behaviours will be dealt with by Level 4 consequences.
- Possible sanctions may inlcude a meeting with the student's parents, a written apology, and/or an internal suspension.

Level 4

- Level 4 behaviours are dealt with by the Vice Principal and/or the School Principal.
- Possible sanctions may include internal or external suspension, or exclusion.

Behaviour levels

The below is not a complete list of behaviours and any behaviours not listed above will be categorized according to their nature, intent, etc.

LEVEL 1	LEVEL 2	LEVEL 3	LEVEL 4
Dealt with by: Teacher	Dealt with by: Team leader	Dealt with by: Deputy Head	Dealt with by: Principal
 Late for class/registration without reason Failure to comply with RWA dress code Eating in class without permission Using electronic devices at inappropriate times (e.g. using mobile phone during school hours or using a device at break time in the PS) Distracting others in class Compulsory homework not submitted Disruptive behaviour moving between classes Not working during class 	 Major disruption to a lesson Repeated lying Use of inappropriate language or gestures (could be classified as level 3 depending on content and intent) Refusal to hand in electronic device including mobile phones when confiscated Defying teacher instruction or direction. Breaking cyber safety policy Public displays of affection 	 #Bullying, (verbal, cyber or physical) Physically fighting Deliberate abuse or misuse of the school's computers or email access (see IT Policy) Abuse or vandalism of school property including school buses Unexcused absences from lessons (skipping) Academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism) 	 Use or possession of illegal drugs or alcohol Actual or intended injury to another person Smoking or bringing tobacco related products on school premises Possession of weapons or replicas of weapons Intimate behaviour on school premises Theft

Bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.

Health and Safety

For health, safety, environmental and legal reasons the following are not permitted in school:

- cigarettes (including e-cigarettes, tobacco or other smoking materials or paraphernalia)
- pipes
- matches
- aerosols (including antiperspirant)
- lighter or flammable materials
- solvents
- chewing gum
- dangerous instruments including pen knives, laser pens, etc.
- nail varnish

These items will be confiscated or students will be asked to remove them and, in certain circumstances, will be suspended from school, as the items may present a danger to themselves and others or cause damage to the environment. Any items taken by staff from students will be returned to the students at the end of the day. Students wanting to bring antiperspirant to school must only bring the roll-on variety.

Harassment and Bullying

RWA has a zero-tolerance policy with regard to bullying of members of the school community at any time. This includes on or off school premises, threats, intimidation and abuse whether physically, verbally or in writing or through the internet ('cyber bullying').

All students involved in bullying will be disciplined and will receive appropriate counseling and support from the school. Repeated offences may result in suspension or eventual expulsion. RWA also has a zero tolerance for abusive language and actions or communications in any medium which promotes intolerance, prejudice and disrespect for a person's gender, ethnic origin, faith community and human rights. Any form of Internet 'cyber' bullying is not tolerated.

Conduct on school buses

Whether the students have paid to use the daily school bus service to and from school, or whether they are using them for transportation to an afterschool activity, sports events, excursion or field trip, the expectations detailed in the RWA Code of Conduct and Behavioural Expectations section apply. In addition, students must ensure that:

- A seatbelt is worn at all times (one belt per student)
- They follow all instructions given by the driver and/or bus monitor
- They are considerate and respectful towards other students, the staff and driver on the bus
- Food and drink (except bottled water) is not consumed on the bus
- Only approach the bus once it has stopped and the bus driver or monitor has given permission to board
- Litter is removed from the bus when they leave, and then properly disposed of
- They are aware that they are financially liable for any damage to the bus they have caused

Failure to abide by these guidelines, after written warning has been issued, may result in a student being banned from using the school bus service. In such an event, there will be no reimbursement of paid bus fees.

School transportation is provided by Arab Falcon, and their supervisor for RWA is: Mrs. Mamata Naik, mobile number 055 343 1529.

Academic Honesty

Honesty in school work requires that students do their own work. Students are expected to give credit to ideas, language or thoughts which are not their own. To take ideas, thoughts or writing from someone else and pass them off as one's own is called plagiarism and is a violation of academic honesty. This can occur with print or non-print sources such as the Internet. RWA regards acts of academic dishonesty as a serious violation of the community's trust.

Students who commit academic dishonesty will face serious consequences. If the offense is repeated, a student could be asked to leave the school. Any violation or suspicion of violation will be reported to the principal immediately.

Exclusion of students

Under the Private Education Law, any student registered in the school shall be excluded in the following cases:

For disciplinary reasons

- a. If they are being sentenced a final judgment for a crime or misdemeanor which is against honour or honesty and if they assail one of the personnel working in the school or in the Ministry.
- b. If they commit deeds against honour and honesty or religious values inside the school.
- c. If they deliberately damage school property.

Provided that the cases referred to in the above items should be proved by an official investigation. The judgment in the previous cases shall be made by a decision from the Director of Education Area, and the judgment decision shall be notified to the parents, school and the competent department. Such matters should comply with stated procedures in the regulation of student conduct, and guidance in the school society.

For non-disciplinary reasons

- a. If the student is absent from school for no reason or for unacceptable reason for twenty (20) consecutive days or twenty five (25) non-consecutive days.
- b. If they exceed the maximum age as per school guidelines.

The judgment in the previous cases shall be made by the school principal in consultation with Innoventures Education and shall be notified to the parents and the Education Area Department of KHDA.

Suspension of students

The school reserves the right to suspend students if the required tuition fee is not paid in accordance to the Ministry of Education rules and regulations.

Suspension may be for an agreed period and may be 'internal' i.e. supervised isolation within school, or 'external', where the student spends the agreed period at home or at another place as agreed with the parents, e.g. to provide a period of intensive counseling or assessment to help determine the next steps.

Withdrawal of students

For students leaving the school, prior notice in writing must be received by the school. The withdrawal form must be completed and returned. This is available at Reception. The school will only issue the Transfer Certificate (TC) upon payment of the required tuition fee and all other clearances.

All requests for withdrawal are to be submitted to the School Reception

In cases of where there is a serious breach of the behaviour policy where permanent exclusion may be a recommendation of the school to KHDA, parents may be advised to consider withdrawing the student to enable full and immediate support for the student and parents in seeking a smooth transfer to another school.

Counseling

At RWA we believe in encouraging the all-round development of our students academically, physically and emotionally. Students and parents may, at times, wish to discuss more general matters concerning their child's progress, wellbeing, emotional development and future beyond school. Led by our Deputy Head Pastoral our student welfare team can help children with:

- Settling into their new school
- Adjusting to a new environment and a multi-cultural setting
- Suggesting strategies for developing positive friendships and peer relationships

- Dealing with emotional adjustments or upheavals
- Helping identify learning and emotional support needs
- Recommending outside therapists or specialists where the school is unable to cater for the needs of the child internally
- Developing anti-bullying strategies
- Liaising with students, parents and teachers, and working in consultation with all parties
- Parents are very welcome to contact the Primary School leadership team to discuss any issues.

Section 8: 21st Century Classrooms Programme

At RWA technology is seen as something that can enhance our current approaches and practices at the school, rather than something that replaces everything that has come before. Technology is seen as a tool in the classroom, which can enhance engagement and effectively personalize learning experiences. We firmly believe that technology is not the driver of learning experiences; rather it is something that supports them.

At the center of our approach to technology, we have our **21st Century Classrooms programme**. The goal of implementing this programme is to better develop our students as successful and responsible 21st Century learners, developing in them the skills and attitudes they will need to thrive as tomorrow's leaders, workers, and citizens. This programme will focus on four key areas: innovation; 21st century skills; healthy technology habits; and personalized learning.

In our focus on developing healthy technology habits, we promote balanced and healthy approaches towards technology in our students. This includes increasing their awareness of key health and safety issues including managing screen time, online safety, digital citizenship, digital footprints and cyberbullying. In regards to Innovation, we strive to develop a culture at our school where innovative and creative thinking is valued and widely promoted. In regards to 21st century skills, we look to integrate and explicitly develop key '21st Century Skills' including creativity, collaboration and communication, research and information fluency, critical thinking and digital citizenship. Finally, in regards to personalized learning we look to enhance our approaches in the classroom to better identify and support our student's individual learning needs.

As a part of the 21st Century Classrooms programme, students in Grades 2 – 12 are required to bring their own a device to school to use as a part of their learning. For our younger students in KG1 – Grade 1 they will have access to technology through devices provided at school. Over the past few years we have been transitioning to a model where each child from Grade 2 has their own device, with our 1:1 iPad and BYOD programmes running successfully since 2013. In this time, we have closely monitored, evaluated (including regularly survey parents, students and teachers) and enhanced our approach.

In Grades 2-5 students will be required to bring their own tablet device which they will be using in the classroom for various tasks such as researching, accessing personalized learning resources on Toddle including Mathletics, TT Rockstars, and Raz kids undertaking online assessments and creating products such as movies and presentations. For this device we strongly recommend an Apple iPad, which we have been successfully using in classrooms at the school for the past three years. On these devices' students will need a small number of apps that they will use in class to support their learning (e.g. movie making apps); we will endeavor to keep this app list as short as possible and with minimal cost to parents.

Technology is a key part of education at Raffles World Academy (RWA). Digital technologies provide unique potential to dynamically transform our students' learning experience by helping them to become engaged thinkers, global citizens, and active learning participants in collaborative social learning environments. Today's digital technologies enable students not only to do things differently, but to do things that would otherwise not be possible inside classrooms using traditional learning tools.

What research was done by RWA to make the decision to develop this programme?

Before implementing the 21st Century Classrooms programme, we carefully researched what is happening in schools around the world, as well as slowly rolling our own approach out over the past few years. In 2013 -14 we started with a pilot 1:1 (iPad) class. In 2014-15 we expanded this programme to nine (9) classes in the primary school, as well as starting to trial Bring Your Own Device (BYOD). In 2015-16 we further expanded our 1:1 programme with 12 classes in the primary school. We extended our BYOD approach to the secondary school, as well as all non-1:1 classes in the primary school.

Over the past few years as we have enhanced our use of technology, we have surveyed our student and parent community regularly, with modifications to our approach being made based on this feedback. One of the major changes is the increased focus on developing healthier technology habits in our students, a cornerstone of our new approach. We will continue to seek input from our community as we do in many areas of the school, with parent voice being crucial in school development.

How much will the technology be used in classes?

It is difficult to give a specific amount of time, as each class and grade/year level will differ slightly. However, it should be noted that when planning their lessons, teachers consider issues such as managing screen time, ensuring their students are not using devices for too long consecutively (or in one day). As an 'on average figure', the devices may be used between 2 – 4 lessons in a day. However, it is important to note that in these lessons, the students will not be using their device all of the time (i.e. much of the work may involve them working in a book and using the device to get information, share their work with classmates, etc.).

Will having these devices allow the students to be on the internet to browse sites they should not be on?

While on the RWA campus, the devices will be protected behind our firewall, with the filter system will keep students from accessing inappropriate or blocked web sites. We do not recommend purchasing 3G/4G enabled devices as you will be enabling your child to have connectivity via a cell phone plan, which will allow them to bypass the campus network, firewall and website filters. If your child brings a 3G/4G enabled device to school, we will require that this is turned off and that only the wifi is used while on campus.

Will the students still get the opportunity to develop their handwriting skills and do work in books?

At RWA our approach is to use the technology as a tool that supports learning rather than the replacement of everything that has come before it. A well-recognized model in education for technology integration is the SAMR (Substitution—Augmentation— Modification-Redefinition) model. This model identifies that getting value out of technology in education means that you use the technology in learning experiences where the technology allows the students to do tasks which are significantly different with the technology, or were not possible before. This is as opposed to using the technology to simply do what they could do before (e.g. typing notes on their device rather than writing them in their book).

Will the introduction of technology take the students away from the habit of referring to books for research and using their own thinking?

Students will still use a variety of references (including physical books) for research tasks. We will also promote the development of higher order thinking skills, including creating, evaluating and analyzing. Sometimes these will be developed with technology, while sometimes they will be developed without technology. We firmly believe that for students to develop and nurture these skills they need numerous opportunities (in different settings/contexts) in which they are developing these skills.

How will the technology be used in the classroom environment?

In our classrooms we view technology as a tool which can enhance and much more effectively personalize the learning experience. Technology at RWA is not seen as something which replaces all previous approaches. We still firmly believe in developing key skills such as handwriting and bookwork, just as we believe in developing 21st Century Skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity.

One component of the programme is these 21st Century Skills. What are these?

21st Century Skills include creativity, collaboration and communication, research and information fluency, critical thinking and digital citizenship. While many of these are not new skills, what they mean in the modern-day context have changed. For example, communicating and collaborating in the 21st century looks very different compared to ten, fifteen or twenty years ago. We have these as a focus point as a part of our approach as we want to ensure that our students are best prepared to live and work in the modern day, which includes being proficient in all of these areas.

How can parents help develop a healthy and balanced approach towards technology in children? Will the school do anything concerning this?

There are many different ways that parents can help in developing healthy technology habits in their children. At RWA we definitely see that we have a role to play in this and want to work with parents in partnership to help with this. For the past year and a half, we have introduced the Healthy Technology Habits programme and are continually looking to expand this. As a part of this, throughout the year the school hosts various workshops for parents, along with producing materials (as well as sharing existing materials in the field) that can help parents.

In helping parents ensure that there is a healthy and balanced approach towards technology use in the home, some key points/strategies are:

- To create a technology essential agreement for your home. We use these at school with these agreements governing how we act at school. It is important that these are developed collaboratively as a family.
- To enforce rules for the whole family such as 'no technology at mealtime'.
- To model the same healthy technology habits that you want your children to adopt as they grow into full-fledged digital citizens. If balance is what you want, it's important to show them what it looks like.
- To have no-tech days for the whole family where there are no phones, tablets, TV etc.
- To implement a digital curfew: Two hours before bed, turn off all electronic devices. This simple lifestyle change has been known to improve sleep, mood, anxiety, weight loss and productivity.
- To avoid having laptops and mobile devices (phones/tablets) charging in bedrooms at night.
- To have access to your child's social media accounts so that you can ensure that they are being safe and responsible.

It is important when enforcing these kinds of strategies that as parents, you are also modelling the desired behaviours. For example, if there is a 'no-tech day' and you are checking your phone regularly, then children will see this and think that this rule is not important and they can do the same.

Please note, keeping in line with our healthy technology habit, the **last Friday of each month will be a NO TECH DAY**. Students and staff will not be allowed to bring their device on this day. High school or secondary school students sitting for an exam on a Friday, will be exempted from this rule.

What are the minimum specifications for devices?

The following table will help you in selecting and purchasing a device for your child to use while they are at RWA.

Device Type	Recommended - Apple iPad (iPad Air 2 recommended if you are purchasing a new device)
Screen Size	Recommended 8 inches or greater
Hard Drive	Recommended 32 GB or Higher
Other requirements	Students will require a set of headphones/earphones. We also strongly recommend that they have a screen protector and protective case for their device.

Does the tablet device need to be an Apple iPad?

While we strongly recommend an Apple iPad for a tablet device, this is not mandatory. The reason that we recommend the iPad is that we have been working successfully with these over the past few years. Additionally, we find that the apps

available on the Apple store in education are a little better than other options. We also find the iPad to be the most user-friendly device for our students. However, if you have a different type of tablet device (e.g. Samsung Galaxy) and it fits the minimum specifications they may bring this device.

What apps does my child need to have on their tablet for school?

On these devices' students will need a small number of apps that they will use in class to support their learning (e.g. movie making apps); we will endeavour to keep this app list as short as possible and with minimal cost to parents. Some of these apps may be sent to parents at the start of the academic year by teachers and some may be requested over the academic year as they are needed.

FAQ - Use of iPads and technology in classrooms

1. What is RWA's philosophy on technology use?

At RWA, technology is seen as a tool that, when used effectively, can enhance and personalise learning experiences for our students. We also believe that technology exposure and use better prepares students for the future in line with our mission statement; 'to empower our students for success in an ever-changing world.' Having a good understanding of common technological devices and their uses will benefit students for both aspects such as safety and competency when using technology, both now and in the future.

2. How do devices help to facilitate personalised learning in RWA?

Based on the ongoing formative assessments that are done on a daily and weekly basis, the devices and the Toddle platform ensure that all of the necessary resources are quickly available for each child. Having Toddle allows teachers to provide students with a wide variety of resources to address all levels of learning at any point in the lesson or during the week. Therefore, if a teacher recognizes that a child has made progress, all resources to further challenge that child at the correct level, is available immediately for them via Toddle.

3. How much are devices used in the classroom?

As mentioned in question 1, technology is only used where it can enhance or personalise the learning for our students. We do not simply see technology as a substitute for traditional pencil and paper. The specific amount of use is dependent on the lesson content and concepts being covered. However, moving away from Covid protocols, we have as a whole school we have consciously transitioned to less use of iPads, as we reintroduce our normal practice of hands on manipulatives, experiments, investigations, and practical math inquiries.

4. Does technology replace written work in books?

No. All our bookwork tasks remain the same. And as we transition out of Covid protocols, teachers are able to physically mark the books, so there is already a reduction in the amount of Toddle uploads done for completed tasks.

5. Is the internet the only medium used for research and inquiries?

No. We have a variety of ways of students accessing content, depending on the concept or topic. Teachers source classroom displays, articles and various types of reading material for students to use as a part of their research and inquiries. They also facilitate hands on and practical investigations as a part of the inquiry process. Additionally, we also work with our Library team, who provide unit related books to support inquiry and research for all grade levels, and these are distributed to classrooms for students to access. The internet is **one of the many ways** that the students will research and inquire into topics.

6. How are the use of platforms such as YouTube and open research platforms monitored?

A list of 'kid-safe' websites are shared with the students on Toddle for them to use for research and open inquiry. Additionally, teachers have vetted all videos that are posted as a support resource, when they are planning their lessons.

7. Are our children informed and educated on safe internet use and topics such as cyberbullying?

Yes, we cover these topics in three ways:

- In our curriculum: From Grade 1 to Grade 5 we open the academic year by covering the topic 'Becoming Responsible Digital Citizens' in Unit 1. This unit covers topics such as what cyberbullying looks like, what to do if you encounter cyberbullying, the explanation and impact of our digital footprints, how to protect our private and personal information when using the internet, password safety and how to create strong passwords, to name a few.
- In our whole grade assemblies: Grade/age level appropriate information sessions are run by the primary school deputies in assemblies at specific points in the year, to remind students about online safety and digital citizenship.
- In the day-to-day use of technology in the classrooms: Teachers are constantly guiding students on the correct use of technology and online safety as and when needed in their classrooms.

8. What are the expectations for technology use in homework tasks?

As we transition out of Covid protocols, we are moving back to **more bookwork-based homework** tasks. We also have online platforms that support these tasks, and **can be used** as an extension of the bookwork, but <u>are not mandatory</u>. In some instances, there may be answer keys or supporting documents that can be accessed on Toddle, and the bookwork tasks for Grade 2-5 can be photographed and uploaded on Toddle. However, the bookwork is still the actual task. (*Homework templates per grade level will have a breakdown in more detail of the aforementioned points, as it differs slightly from grade to grade*.)

9. Is teacher marking and feedback given on Toddle?

As we transition out of Covid protocols, more book-based feedback is given. However, if there is an online task completed on Toddle, then the teacher is able to give feedback on the platform as well. We have the advantage of both options, with bookwork being the major medium for feedback.

10. What does the Toddle Family App provide me a as parent?

It provides you with the quarterly achievement reports across the academic year. It also provides you with access to the student journals, which give you as a parent, snapshots of tasks and activities undertaken in the classroom, allowing you to have better conversations with your child at home about their learning.

11. Are iPads allowed to be used at snack and lunch times?

No. We have a long-standing and strict policy regarding this, and the students are well aware of this rule. Additionally, all the teachers on duty enforce this during snack and lunch times.

12. Are iPads used for 'free time' or as a reward in class?

No. At times, as part of our rewards systems in class (grade dependent) we may have a reward where students can access one of the educational platforms that are fun and engaging, but serve and educational benefit, such as practicing their times tables on TT Rockstars. However, this aforementioned example is **one of many rewards that we have in place, most of which are not technology-based.**

13. What do I say to my child when they see apps on their friend's/classmates iPads that I do not allow my child to have?

Each family will have their own set of rules related to technology, like they do in all facets of their home life. As we follow the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) approach at RWA, as a school cannot dictate which games the students are allowed to have on their iPads, as these are their personal devices. We do however enforce that if a child has any personal games on their device, these are not played while at school.

14. How can I ensure online safety for my child?

As a school work with parents to support them in regards to this, such as running parent sessions on various technology-related topics. These will continue in the 2022-23 academic year, with the school communicating these at

the start of next academic year. We also publish a number of parent guides related to these topics, which are available on our school website.

15. Is my child's use of his/her iPad outside of school hours, the school's responsibility?

No. It is your responsibility as a parent to monitor your child's iPad/technology usage outside of school. However, as a school we are always here to help in these instances as a triangulation between home and school, when support is needed. Additionally, as mentioned above, we run regular parent sessions to help educate you on related topics.

Section 9: Communication

We encourage regular communication between home and school, both with direct regard to your child but also for more general feedback or suggestions you may have. Contact details for the primary school are provided in this document in the 'Important RWA Contacts' section.

We have several ways of communicating with our parents. Although we are happy to say we have an open-door policy and we are accessible, talking to teachers for an extended period of time during drop off and pick up is not recommended as we would like to minimise disruption to the start of the day and maximise teachers' attentiveness on the learning. If a meeting is needed, please send an email to the teacher and book an appointment.

The main form of communication from the school to parents will be through the following:

- iSAMS Parent Portal
- Toddle (sharing of work and uploading of work, marking and feedback)
- School Website
- foRWArd Newsletter (monthly)
- SMS for important notifications
- Email- weekly between teachers and parents
- Regular emails and letters from head of primary and principal
- Face to Face meeting or Team meeting (virtual meetings) during COVID

iSAMS

All reports and school letters will be circulated to parents via the **iSAMS parent portal**. RWA will be sending circulars to parents when a major change or announcement takes place. All circulars will be placed on the iSAMS Parent Portal. Please take time to read this information as it is both advisory and instructive.

Toddle

Toddle is used for our planning, student portfolios, sharing work of students, uploading of work for assessments and feedback and reports - all from one intuitive interface!

The RWA Website

<u>www.rwadubai.com</u> is for general information about the school, important announcements, calendars and whole school notifications.

Newsletter: foRWArd

A newsletter 'foRWArd' is produced monthly and available on our website. The newsletter contains reports on activities and events in which the school and students participated during the month and may also contain information about future events. There are also articles written by the principal, head of sections and dedicated pages from the library, clinic and PARWA.

Short-Messaging-System (SMS)

On occasion of emergency the school will also send SMS notifications to parents so please ensure that the school has your correct mobile number.

Emails

Emails will continue to be used by staff to respond to personal enquiries from individual parents. We encourage the use of email communications rather than paper communications being sent home in school bags, so please remember to notify us of any changes to your contact details and email address. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure that the school has up-to-date email addresses and contact details.

While we encourage parents to send emails to our teachers for preferred communication, teachers are not always able to respond to emails immediately, especially when with the children throughout the day. If you need to convey an urgent message to the teacher, please call the school reception.

The Parents Association (PARWA) may also request an agreed email address from parents to share information with parents. While the school supports dissemination of information, it will not supply private email addresses without permission.

School yearbook

At the end of each academic year, a school yearbook is produced to capture images of the students in each class and record memories of major functions and events that took place during the year. Each family will receive the year book at the end of the academic year. The Year Book will be shared virtually rather than a hard copy.

Coffee mornings, SMT clinics and information sessions

The campus also ensures we are in close contact with parents who want to further develop their partnership with the school and enhance the learning experiences for students, teachers and other parents and help make RWA a real 'learning community'. The principal and heads of section conduct coffee mornings, SMT clinics every Monday morning to inform parents about events, programmes, curriculum matters and other items of interest or simply meet parents to discuss concerns they may have.

Curriculum evenings

Back to school events are organised regularly to update parents on the curriculum matters, teaching and assessment methods, workshops, and home-school initiatives for the respective grades throughout the school. The details of these curriculum events are sent to parents in advance and may also feature on the calendar. Parents are encouraged to attend and participate in these meetings.

Parent Teacher Conferences and classroom visits

The primary school schedules conference days within the school year. Online software called 'Pick-a-Time' is used to enable parents to schedule their preferred meeting times on these days, and to help coordinate meetings if they have more than one child in the primary school. An email is sent from the school to parents before the conference days and this will contain further instructions on how to make the appointments. This communication will also detail the format for the meetings and whether they will be student-led conferences or 3- way conferences.

Should you wish to speak to your child's teacher or any of the specialist teachers at any other time, please feel free to make an appointment directly with the teacher via email. Appointments may also be made through the primary school office. Any unscheduled visits to a classroom may interrupt the students and the teacher, and are to be avoided. Stopping in before or after school without an appointment creates an awkward situation, as many teachers have duties before and after classroom hours, as well as during the school day, and so may not be able to adequately prepare or give you the necessary time without prior arrangement being made. Deliveries such as lunches, PE clothes etc. should be brought to the primary school office to be delivered, unless previously arranged with the teacher.

Meeting the heads of school or principal (Senior Management Team)

Should you wish to speak with the school principal, head of primary or deputy head, please email, telephone or visit the primary school office to arrange an appointment. If it is a classroom matter, please schedule an appointment with the teacher concerned before contacting Senior Management. If in any doubt please speak with the primary school office about your concerns and they will be able to advise you. The heads of school and principal maintain an open-door policy

and are available to parents, students and visitors, usually in the morning and at pick up time although this should not be abused. Monday morning coffee morning/ SMT clinic is a great opportunity to meet the senior management team.

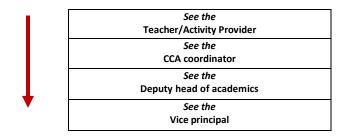
Communication protocol

In order to ensure effective communication throughout the school, we request that parents use the following channels of communication so that all those concerned with a child's learning and well-being are kept informed and can have their valued input to seeking clear and appropriate solutions to any problems or concerns.

For student development within the lesson:

See the	
Class/Subject Teacher	
See the	
Subject/Team Leader or	
Head of Department	
See the	
Primary Deputy Heads	
See the	
Vice principal	
See the	
School Principal	

For Co-Curricular Activities



Contact Information

We like to continually improve and streamline our communications both internally and with parents and other agencies outside the school. Should you wish to contact any of the management staff within RWA, please view the tables below:

Section/Campus	Contact Information
Corporate Office	Tel: (04) 4271200 Fax: (04) 4271201
RWA	Tel: (04) 4271351/1352 Fax: (04) 4271301
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 122900, Dubai, UAE
General Feedback	info@rwadubai.com
Web	www.rwadubai.com
Feedback	StudentservicesWC@rwadubai.com

RWA	Staff Name	Contact No.	Email
Principal	Mr. Timothy Roberts	04-4271355	timothyr@rwadubai.com
Vice principal and head of primary school (Pre-KG-G5)	Dr. Armeena Tabassum	04-4271341	armeenat@rwadubai.com
Deputy head (pastoral and admin G1-5)	Ms. Emily Hunton	04-4271378	emilyh@rwadubai.com
Deputy head academics lower primary (G1&2) & PYP Curriculum Coordinator	Ms Yolanda Maccallum	04-4271382	yolandam@rwadubai.com
Deputy head academics upper primary (Grades 3-5)	Mr. Daniel Allmark	04-4271359	daniela@rwadubai.com

Early Years Coordinator (Pre-KG-KG2)	Ms Ciske Louw	04-4271385	ciskel@rwadubai.com
PS Counselor (Pre -KG-G5)	Ms Desiree Carrasco	04-4271339	desireec@rwadubai.com
PS Co-curricular Coordinator	Ms Aisling Soffe		aislings@rwadubai.com
School's Facilities Manager	Mr Vikrant Sharma	04-4271308	vikrants@rwadubai.com
School secretary	Ms Mary Rizoriya Alexander	04-4271310	maryz@rwadubai.com
Primary school secretary (Pre-KG-G5)	Ms Raquel Santos	04-4271357	raquels@rwadubai.com
School Doctor/ clinic	Dr Vaneeta Ahuja	04-4271349	vaneetaa@rwadubai.com
		04-4271350	
Arab Falcon Bus Company Coordinator	Ms Mamata Naik	055 3431592	csr.rwa@arabfalcondubai.ae
RWA Admissions office	Front reception desk	04-4271302	rwaadmissions@rwadubai.com
	Front reception desk	04-4271303	
	Admissions Manager	04-4271304	
RWA Accounts	Ms Hydie Igual	04-427 1353	rwaaccounts@rwadubai.com

Subject/ area	Head of Department/Team leader	Email address
Arabic A	Ms Hanadi Mohamed Al Zaaby	hanadiz@rwadubai.com
Arabic B	Ms Narjess Youssef Ali	narjessa@rwadubai.com
Islamic Studies	Ms Tabassum Zahid	tabassumz@rwadubai.com
MFL (Spanish / French)	Ms Imene Zarouta	imenez@rwadubai.com
Arts (Music & Visual arts)	Ms Maria Sonia Jesuina Vieira Lopes	marial@rwadubai.com
PE	Mr Danny O Reilley	dannyr@rwadubai.com
PS Inclusion (SEND)	Ms Tessa Ann McGee	tessaam@rwadubai.com
EAL (English as an additional language)	Ms Rania Mazen Al Khatib	raniak@rwadubai.com

Section 10: RWA Facility and Services

Library and media

The purpose and intent of a library and media centre is to allow students to feel comfortable in gaining access to information in many forms. Whether it is through the use of books, magazines, newspapers, or the Internet, students can use these tools to accomplish many tasks. It is the goal of the RWA library/media centre that all students are able to access, find, and utilize the information they need. There are also dedicated areas in the library for higher education and career advice; Arabic and foreign language support and digital media.

Internet access and use

RWA is fully equipped with campus-wide internet access. This is available for use by students as an integral part of the school's curriculum. Students may be required to access the internet in a focused and directed manner to undertake research related to specific assigned projects. Inappropriate internet access by a student could result in suspension or exclusion. There is an Internet Use policy document available on the website.

Parent volunteers

We want our parents to be part of the school and participate in its growth and development. Parents have a wealth of experience, knowledge and ideas, which can be a huge asset to the school and its students.

The Parents Association (PARWA) is collective voice of parents. Please acquaint yourselves with the Executive Committee. Contact details and meeting dates, times and venues are published regularly in the school's main atrium and on social media. PARWA continues to welcome parents who wish to take on the role of primary or secondary school parent coordinator. Some parents may enjoy helping with school trips, sports clubs, games and other activities. Many will help

with our theatrical and musical programmes. A small number of parents may wish to help on a more regular basis, for example, in the school library. PARWA also has a number of focus groups and organises parental support workshops.

Parents are invited to offer their services to support careers counseling, mock interviews for university entrance and other possible areas of mutual interest, e.g. school development projects.

School doctor, nursing staff and medication

RWA has a resident doctor, and a small nursing team to attend to students who may feel unwell during the school hours. Students will be seen by the school doctor and/or nurses and when appropriate and possible, parents/guardian will be informed by phone and email.

The school doctor has a record of each student's medical form which is completed at the stage of admission and updated each year. This form specifies any illness/allergies a child may have and also the parent/carer consent form. RWA will maintain a written record of the administration of any medication given to each child. The completed form will be placed in the child's file. This information will be filed, for future reference by the school medical department. Any updates on the medical record of the student must be communicated to the School in a timely manner.

Parents are required to collect their children promptly as soon as being notified of an illness. If children are unwell, they will be provided with a quiet place to rest in the medical facility. A staff member will remain with the child until the parent(s) arrive. If for any reason your child's medical details change at any time throughout the year please communicate this to the school nurse.

Isolation room

The school has the provision of an appropriate separate Isolation Room adequately ventilated with separate bathroom, where a child/ teacher/ staff who begins to show symptoms of any communicable disease whilst at school will be isolated instantly until pick up has been arranged.

Responsibility of Parents related to communicable diseases

- Ensure that they keep their child home if they are unwell.
- Report to the school if the infection is diagnosed outside the school.
- Submit a medical certificate to the school clinic including diagnosis, recommended exclusion time from school and DHA clearance certificate upon returning back to school.
- Inform the school clinic of any health complications/treatment/special recommendations

Head Lice Prevention

From time to time, all schools experience cases of head lice. We ask that parents remain vigilant and take immediate action should head lice be identified in their child's hair. Further information on head lice may be shared by the school medical staff where necessary.

24-hour security guards

We have security guards on campus 24 hours a day. The front and back entrances will have someone around the clock to ensure the facility is taken care of. All visitors to the school are asked to sign in and will be asked to provide a valid ID in exchange for a visitor pass.

24-hour CCTV cameras

CCTV is used for surveillance to ensure the safety of our students and staff. In order to secure learning environment, the school:

- supervises play areas at break and lunchtimes
- maintains regular practice of emergency procedures
- · has high expectations of student behavior and self-discipline
- has external CCTV monitors
- has staff to supervise arrival and departure times

Some cameras have recording facilities so that 'footage' can be played back to determine what happened during any incidents recorded. The recording may be used as evidence. The recordings are the property of the school and can only be viewed on application to the school principal and at his/her discretion.

Personal possessions

iPods, MP3 players, mobile phones, handheld games, jewelry and other valuable items brought to school by students is done so entirely at the student's own risk. The school does not accept responsibility for any loss or damage that may be incurred. Where students are in 1:1 classes and iPads are required, these will be kept locked in their classroom when not in use. The care and security of these devices remains the student's responsibility.

Money

It is inadvisable for students to bring in large sums of money without good reason. Where payment has been requested from the school for some matter, the money should be lodged with the class teacher, primary school office or accounts office upon arrival at school.

Lost and Found services

Lost and found items are kept in the cafeteria on the ground floor. Students are encouraged to check these areas frequently. Watches, jewelry, and glasses are usually kept with the Principal's secretary for the first week. Any unclaimed items are donated to charity at the end of each trimester.

Personal electronic devices and phones

Break and lunchtimes are community social times and should be vibrant with positive interactions. The use of MP3s, iPods, gaming consoles or similar electronic devices during school hours is not permitted, and their presence in school is discouraged and may lead to confiscation.

The school understands that mobile phones provide both parents and students with security and there may be occasions when they are needed for communicating before or after school. During school hours the use of mobile phones is not permitted. Students seen using phones without permission during school hours may have them confiscated. If parents need to contact the school or their child urgently during the course of the school day, this should be done through the primary school office or the main reception.

Fire and Lockdown Drill

Keeping in line with the school health and safety policy we hold regular drills. If you are on campus when the fire alarm sounds (a long continuous ring) please follow the crowds in an orderly fashion and assemble with the staff on the side of the sports pitch. If the lockdown is sounded (smooth classical music played through the speaker system) please make your way to the nearest classroom.

Student Leadership

Students at RWA have a range of opportunities to play a role in the life of our school and develop their own leadership skills. Our school has a variety of student-driven councils or committee.

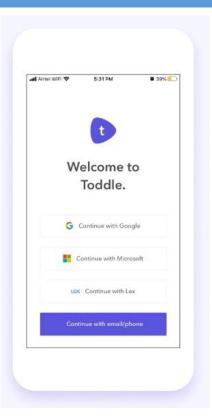
Each committee offers students the chance to voice their opinions and to create the change they wish to see at RWA. Below is a list of these committees and student leadership opportunities in the primary.

- President and Vice president of the student body (2 girls and 2 boys)
- Sports Captains / House Captains
- Wellbeing & Happiness Committee
- Student Council
- Learning Council
- Primary School Line Prefects
- Eco Committee
- Emirati Committee

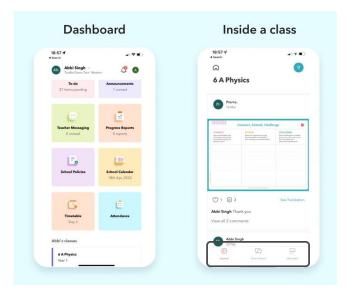
SECTION 11: GUIDE TO USING TODDLE FAMILY APP

HOW DO I SIGN IN TO MY FAMILY ACCOUNT ON THE APP?

- Toddle helps you stay connected with your child's learning journey.
 As a family member, there are multiple ways to sign in to your family account.
- Download the Toddle Family App from the Appstore (iOS users) or the Playstore (Android users) on your mobile device or iPad.
- Once you open the Toddle Family App, you can sign in using your Google, Microsoft, or any other email credentials, registered with Toddle.
 Alternately, you can sign-up to create a new account with Toddle.
- After successful verification, you will be prompted to scan the QR code or key in the family invite code, to add your child to your Toddle dashboard.
- You can find this information in the family invite copy received from the school.
- Please note that once you have added your child, this prompt will not show the next time you sign in and you will be directed to your Toddle dashboard, directly.

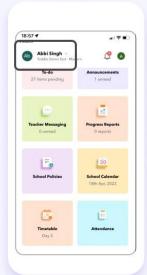


- After successful sign-in/sign-up, you will land on the Toddle dashboard where you can view school announcements, policies, calendar, attendance and progress report.
- You can have a peek into your child's learning by visiting their class to view the unit plans, class stream and class journal.

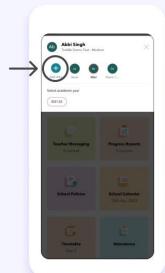


ADD ANOTHER CHILD

Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



CLASS JOURNAL

Toddle gives parents an authentic window into their child's learning journey.

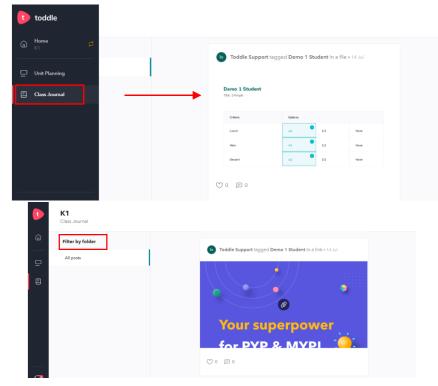
Step 1: Click on Class Journal from the navigation panel on the left within a class.

Step 2: All the beautiful masterpieces created by your child will be visible in the Journal.

Step 3: To organize and access specific posts, filter down the posts by classes and folders.

Step 4: Click on a post to see the details and download the evidence.

Step 5: You can leave encouraging comments and likes for your child in each post.



HOW TO ACCESS PROGRESS REPORTS FROM THE FAMILY APP?



- **Step 1:** Click on the Progress Reports tab to view the report of your child.
- **Step 2:** Click on the report to see the details of your child's learning.
- **Step 3:** You can download the progress summary by clicking on the Download icon on the bottom right corner of the page.