



WELCOME TO

FS2, Year 1 & 2

at

DBS Emirates Hills

Islands Campus

2025/26

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Welcome from the Primary Headteacher

Dear Parents,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Dubai British School, Emirates Hills. You are about to join a school community that is truly unique - one defined by its warmth, strong relationships and shared commitment to every child's success.

With four classes per year group (and five in Years 3 & 4), our school maintains a close-knit, family feel. This scale allows students, parents and staff to build strong connections that ensure each child feels known, valued, and supported throughout their learning journey.

We understand that starting a new school can be a big step for both children and parents. Feeling confident and informed helps you to support your child in feeling the same way. That's why this Welcome Handbook is designed to give you everything you need to know from Day One.

At the heart of our approach to learning are the 6Cs: Creativity, Courage, Care, Cooperation, Communication and Critical Thinking. These core skills are developed explicitly through lessons and implicitly through the broader learning experience. They are celebrated through classroom displays, assemblies, books and awards, helping children grow into confident, capable learners - ready to thrive both in and beyond the classroom.

We are passionate about recognising and nurturing every child's unique interests and talents. Our Extra-Curricular Activities (ECA) programme offers a wide variety of opportunities in areas such as leadership, entrepreneurship, performing arts and sport. It is a vital part of school life that excites and inspires our students - keep an eye out for further details once term begins!

With strong relationships and a clear focus on the 6Cs, we create an environment where children feel safe, secure and empowered to achieve. Coupled with the expertise of our dedicated teaching team, this leads to exceptional outcomes, year after year.

We are committed to helping you and your child feel settled and welcomed from the very beginning. In the first few weeks of term, we host several opportunities for you to meet your child's teacher and members of the Senior Leadership Team. We hope to see you there!

I look forward to meeting you and welcoming your family into the DBS Emirates Hills community.

Kind regards,



Yvonne Wallace
Primary Headteacher



Mission, Vision and Values

Enjoy • Aspire • Achieve

MISSION STATEMENT

Dubai British School Emirates Hills is a safe and happy community where achievement and effort are celebrated. Embracing local and modern British values, we strive to inspire and challenge young minds in a supportive and tolerant international environment. We believe in supporting all members of the community to develop the necessary life and learning skills to thrive in an ever-changing global world.



Integrity • Respect • Kindness • Fairness • Tolerance

VALUES

At DBS Emirates Hills we believe that people who have high levels of emotional, behavioural and social wellbeing live happy, purposeful and productive lives. Our approach is to develop a learning community which is positive, engaged and connected in line with our school's values of: Tolerance, Integrity, Respect, Kindness and Fairness. We also aim to develop from an early age the key characteristics of effective learning by encouraging students to engage with the UNESCO bespoke 21st Century Learning Skills, or 6C's - Caring, Creative, Critical Thinking, Communicators, Courageous and Cooperative. More information about our 6Cs can be found in our Learning and Teaching Policy.



- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1.Cooperation | 2.Critical Thinking | 3.Courage |
| 4.Creativity | 5.Communication | 6.Caring |

Meet the Leadership Team

Here are the names, faces and contact details of the Leadership Team relevant to you and your child. Although your child's Class Teacher will always be your first point of contact, you can also contact our leaders if teachers are unable to answer your query.



Brett Girven
Principal
principalPA@dubaibritishschool.ae



Yvonne Wallace
Primary Headteacher
headspa@dubaibritishschool.ae



Lisa Smith
Deputy Headteacher
lsmith@dubaibritishschool.ae



Alice James
Deputy Headteacher - Islands
ajames@dubaibritishschool.ae



Hilary Murphy
Assistant Headteacher
Foundation Stage Leader
hmurphy@dubaibritishschool.ae



Amanda Davidson
Assistant Headteacher
Pastoral & Wellbeing Leader
astrachan@dubaibritishschool.ae



Jacqueline Baxter
Inclusion Leader
jbaxter@dubaibritishschool.ae



Natasha Jackson
FS2 Year Leader
njackson@dubaibritishschool.ae



Christie Knox
Year 1 Year Leader
cknox@dubaibritishschool.ae



Ciara Jamieson
Year 2 Year Leader
cjamieson@dubaibritishschool.ae

Inclusion Department

INCLUSION SUPPORT

Our vision 'Enjoy, Aspire, Achieve' applies to every student who attends DBS Emirates Hills.

Since our establishment, we have prided ourselves on being an inclusive school supporting a diverse range of pupil needs. We are proud to have a strong inclusion team of Teachers and Learning Assistants, with a wide range of expertise, skills and qualifications to ensure that every student's needs can be identified swiftly and supported appropriately.

Early intervention is a key factor in determining student success. This, alongside strong parent partnerships, are essential components of our support strategy. Therefore, if you have a concern regarding your child's learning please do speak to your child's teacher in the first instance. Our staff will be able to best advise you on how to take your concern forward. Equally if our staff have any concerns about your child they will raise them directly with you before proceeding with any intervention.

Where students do need an additional layer of support, we ensure that parents' queries and concerns about their child's development are discussed openly and thoroughly before putting a support plan in place. Once these conversations have happened together, the school and parents collaborate to devise a personalised educational plan for their child, which meets both the child's academic and pastoral needs.

The nature and level of the support we offer depends on the needs of your child and can be short or long term, individual or group, within the classroom or outside of the classroom. We tailor support for every child differently. Rigorous monitoring procedures around every intervention ensure that however we are supporting your child, we know that it is making an impact. Additionally, the traditional curriculum is not always suited to all. Consequently we can also offer bespoke curriculum pathways to meet every student's needs.

If more specialised intervention is required we liaise closely with outside agencies including educational psychologists, occupational therapists and speech therapists. These agencies work in partnership with both the teachers and parents, offering advice and guidance on adaptations that may be required.

We are committed to nurturing every pupil and empower successful, well rounded individuals, equipping them with the skills essential for life-long learning.

Jackie Baxter
Head of Inclusion



Getting ready to start

2025/26 IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our calendar of key dates for the upcoming academic year will be published on our website and sent closer to the start of the new academic year.

OPEN DAY - MONDAY 25TH AUGUST

All new students and their families from FS2 to Year 2 are invited to come to school to find their classrooms and meet their Class Teachers.

Morning Session (9.00-11.00AM): **New** students to Islands

Afternoon Session (12.00-14.00PM): **Returning** students to Islands



Ready ... Set ... Go!

For our students in FS2, Year 1 and Year 2, we tailor the beginning of the term quite carefully to facilitate a smooth and successful start, ensuring that our younger learners feel happy and confident coming to school for the rest of the year. The following dates are for our **Foundation Stage 2, Year 1 and Year 2 students only**. (Year 3 to Year 13 timings are shared in their respective Parent Handbooks).

MONDAY 25TH AUGUST

We are planning an OPEN MORNING for families on the first day of the new academic year.

AM (9-11am): New students to Islands

PM (12-2pm): Returning students to islands

TUESDAY 26TH AUGUST 2025

Year 1 (8-10AM): Morning session with the Teacher

FS2 and Year 2 (12-2PM): Afternoon session with the Teacher

WEDNESDAY 27TH AUGUST- FRIDAY 29TH AUGUST

Students will have a full school day with a staggered pickup:

Monday - Thursday:

- FS2 – 1:00 - 1:30
- Y1 – 1:45 – 2:15
- Y2 – 2:20

Friday:

Students will have a full school day with regular pickup timings at 11.45am.

MONDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER

REGULAR SCHOOL TIMINGS BEGIN

Monday to Thursday

- FS2: 7:40-8.00am to 1.45pm
- Year 1: 7:20-7.40am to 2.15pm
- Year 2: 7.20-7.40am to 2.20pm

Friday

- FS2: 7:40-8.00am to 11.45am
- Year 1: 7:20-7.40am to 11.45am
- Year 2: 7.20-7.40am to 11.45am

Please follow your school calendar from here as there are professional development days and other holidays on which your child will not have school.

Attendance



LATE ARRIVALS:

Students in Year 1 and 2 are required to be in class by 7.40am. If arriving late, parents must report to Reception. Students will not be able to access classes without first visiting Reception and collecting a 'Late' slip.

ABSENCES AND SICKNESS

If a student is absent, please phone the Reception team on: **04 361 9361** before 8:00am and the reason will be recorded. Alternatively please email your child's Class Teacher and copy in the nurses: nurseclinic@dubaibritishschool.ae.

If your child is seriously unwell, please keep your child at home until they are fit to attend school.

Children must be fever-free and free from diarrhoea and vomiting for a full 24 hours before returning to school after illness. After 3 consecutive days of absence, a doctor's note will need to be provided.

EMERGENCY LEAVE or DOCTOR APPOINTMENTS:

Medical appointments should be arranged after school. However, we understand that this is not always possible and where this is the case please inform the Class Teacher and Reception on: **04 361 9361** or email: reception@dubaibritishschool.ae.

School Life at DBSEH

LUNCHES, SNACKS AND BREAKS

Students can bring their own packed lunches and snacks. We encourage a healthy eating policy, therefore please do not include chocolate, sweets, carbonated or caffeinated drinks as part of your child's packed lunch or snacks. Students will have a morning break of 15 minutes and lunch break of 40 minutes. Please ensure your child has a labelled water bottle which they are able to refill in school.

Please note that we have students on site with fatal nut and sesame seed allergies. Nuts and sesame seed products, such as Nutella and hummus, must not be included in packed lunches. We are also a pork free school.



BACKPACKS

Students must bring their own backpack. Please note the 'wheelie' luggage type bags on wheels are **not** permitted due to space in cubbies.

CUBBIES

FS and Primary students each have an open cubby where they can place their belongings during the day.

All belongings including backpack, lunch bag, hat, water bottle etc must fit in their allocated cubby, to keep the hallways clear, as a matter of health and safety.

STATIONERY

Stationery is provided at no extra cost, but children may wish to bring their own pencil cases and stationery in Years 1-6.

School Life at DBSEH

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

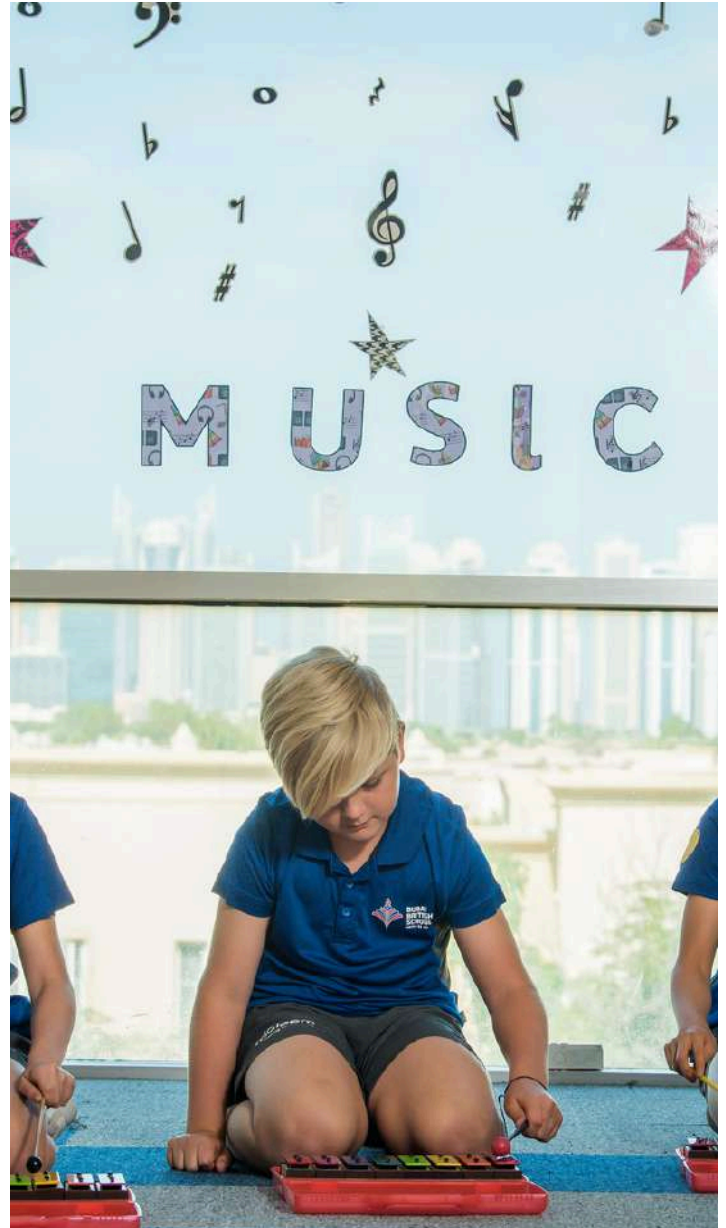
Foundation and Primary have PE twice weekly and will wear PE kits to school on their designated day - your child's class teacher will inform you of these.

When your child's PE group is doing swimming, your child will wear his or her PE kit to school and change into swimwear at school. Swimming blocks will be announced via email. Please remind your child to wear their PE kit on the relevant day, as lessons will begin on the first day of the new term.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (ECAS)

DBS offers a wide variety of ECAs for Year 1 and 2. You will receive the ECA options for each term by email after the term starts, along with instructions on how to sign up. Many of our ECAs are run by staff and there is no fee for these but we also offer ECAs run by external companies who require a fee for participation. Further information on ECAs will be released in due course.



DUBAI PERFORMING ARTS

We are also proud partners of the DPA Academy and can offer peripatetic vocal lessons to students. Just as with CMA, these are charged termly and take place on a rotating timetable throughout the school day. For more information, please email info@dubaiperformingarts.com

DPA also offer a rich range of after school activities on site, the details of which will be emailed to parents prior to the start of the term.

Medical Team

WELCOME FROM THE MEDICAL TEAM

Dear Parents,

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all students and their parents. We are looking forward to working with you and your children here at Dubai British School Emirates Hills. To ensure your child's health and safety we would like to share a few points with you.

We shall be present at all times during the school day to administer first aid as required. Children who are taken ill at school will be cared for by us until they are fit enough to return to class or a parent/guardian can be contacted and arrangements made for them to be collected and taken home.

Please also be aware that children are not allowed to go home via taxi unless escorted by a parent/guardian. The expected pick up time is 15-20 minutes.

If your child has a persistent condition, allergy or medical condition that the school should be aware of, please specify in detail the nature of the condition, the signs and symptoms and any medication that may need to be administered.

If you have not completed the school's medical form, please ensure that this is completed and returned, along with a copy of all childhood vaccinations, prior to schools commencement.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to a safe and healthy school year. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Kind regards,

School Medical Team

nurseclinic@dubaibritishschool.ae

doctor@dubaibritishschool.ae

House Allocation

YEAR 1 & 2 HOUSE ALLOCATION

A large part of our community spirit is rooted in our House System. Every student is allocated to a school 'House' upon accepting a place. Please purchase the relevant House badge from Magrudy's and iron onto the sleeve of your child's PE shirt. Along with this Handbook, you should receive your child's House. Please refer to the email you will receive from Admissions.

Students will be encouraged to wear their house colours during competitions throughout the year.

- **Falcons** - Blue
- **Vipers** - Red
- **Scorpions** - Green
- **Wildcats** - Yellow

PRIMARY HOUSE SYSTEM:

The DBSEH house system provides a sense of shared identity and community between our students in different classes and year groups.

The school's reward system builds upon the house system allowing the students to earn merit points which have value both for themselves and for their house.

As students move through the school they are open to take part in regular house events, which could be academic (reading, spelling bees, writing competitions); sporting (athletics, swimming galas, cross country), extra curricular (bake-offs, designing, musical performances) and allow each student to be recognised and celebrated for their unique interests, skills and talents.



Parent Involvement

PARENT PARTNERSHIP

At DBS Emirates Hills, we work hard to create a community, family-feel environment within our school, welcoming parents as equal partners in their children's education and encourage strong links between home and school.

PARENTAL PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES MAY INCLUDE:

- Attendance at coffee mornings
- Attendance at school information sharing sessions and courses
- Membership of our School Advisory Board (SAB)
- Volunteering to help the PTA
- Volunteering to help with school excursions and events



Please keep an eye out for our newsletters and events to find out how you can get involved.

PARENT & TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Meet our PTA (Parents and Teachers Association) to learn more about what they do and to see how you can get involved. Whether you can volunteer an hour at an event, a few hours monthly or you would be interested in supporting the PTA through your business, please come along or get in touch with our PTA Chairperson at pta@dubaibritishschool.ae.

There are many PTA events run throughout the year for the students from FS, Primary through to Secondary (and some even, just for the adults!).

PTA MEET & GREET

Further information to follow regarding an opportunity to learn more about what they do and to see how you can get involved. Whether you can volunteer an hour at an event, a few hours monthly or you would be interested in supporting the PTA through your business, please come along or get in touch with our PTA Chairperson at pta@dubaibritishschool.ae.

Second hand uniform sale – Friday 22nd August 2025 from 9.00am – 12.00pm

PTA Meet & Greet – Wednesday 10th September 2025

Photo Permission

SOCIAL MEDIA PERMISSION

DBS Emirates Hills uses many social media platforms to communicate with our community. These are dedicated spaces for the marketing team and Class Teachers to share exciting photos and videos of the daily activities, different events, competitions and beautiful work, in and around our school.

If you do not wish for your child to be included in these photographs, please complete the opt out form found [here](#).

MAIN SCHOOL SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

- @DubaiBritishEH - For Facebook, Twitter and YouTube
- @dubaibritishsch - For Instagram
- @dbseh_sports - For our Sport and PE Instagram



School Calendar

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2025/2026

| TERM 1 | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Start of Academic Term | 25 August 2025 |
| Prophets Birthday | 04 September 2025* |
| Half Term Break | 13 - 17 October 2025 |
| Commemoration Day | 30 November 2025* |
| UAE National Day | 02- 03 December 2025* |
| Last Day of Term 1 | 12 December 2025 |
| Winter Break | 15 December - 2 January 2026 |

| TERM 2 | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| First day of Term 2 / Classes Resume | 05 January 2026 |
| Mid-Term Break | 09- 10 February 2026 |
| Start of Ramadan | 17 February 2026* |
| Last Day of Term 2 | 18 March 2026 |
| Spring Break | 23 March - 03 April 2026 |
| Eid Al Fitr | 19 March - 20 March 2026* |

| TERM 3 | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| First Day of Term 3 / Classes Resume | 06 April 2026 |
| Eid Al Adha | 26-29 May 2026* |
| Islamic New Year | 16 June 2026* |
| End of Academic Year | 02 July 2026 |

*Days of Islamic holidays and the start of Ramadan are subject to moon sightings and may differ from the date given.

Contact Us

Contact Us

Having read this *Welcome Handbook* we hope that you are starting to get a sense of our school community, and recognise a few key names and faces.

If anything has been unclear in this guide or you have questions about something not covered in these pages, please do contact us. Until your child's Class Teacher has been assigned and communicated to you, please direct all enquiries through our reception team who will find the right person to respond to you.

As a reminder, once term commences please contact your child's Class Teacher in the first instance. If, for whatever reason the Class Teacher is unable to resolve your query, please approach the next relevant leader. All contact details are listed below.

| Name | Contact |
|---|---|
| Reception | reception@dubaibritishschool.ae |
| Admissions <i>Virginia Santiago-McKeown</i> | admissionsislands@dubaibritishschool.ae |
| Principal <i>Mr Brett Girven</i> | principalPA@dubaibritishschool.ae |
| Head of Primary <i>Ms Yvonne Wallace</i> | headsPA@dubaibritishschool.ae |
| Assistant Head of Primary Head of Foundation <i>Mrs Hilary Murphy</i> | hmurphy@dubaibritishschool.ae |
| Head of Inclusion <i>Mrs Jackie Baxter</i> | jbaxter@dubaibritishschool.ae |
| Medical Clinic | nurseclinic@dubaibritishschool.ae |