

This email is for parents of pupils in Preschool and Reception.

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am looking forward to welcoming you all back to Pre School and Reception and hope you have had an enjoyable break. Since we broke up for Summer, we have been working tirelessly to ensure the school is a safe, enjoyable environment for all our children. I wanted to get in touch to explain what you can expect from us in EYFS, and what we will expect from all our parents and carers.

As you are aware, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) recently redefined our reopening strategy. This decision has meant that phase 1, where no more than a third of pupils attend school each day, will continue for the term. However, by no means is this absolute and we are prepared for any further changes in the future. The children in EYFS will be returning to school slightly differently than the rest of the school. Our reopening strategy will begin with an initial first 3 days in school, beginning on 1st September. On these 3 days, children in each class will be split into 3 groups and come in on one day.

Tuesday (1 st September)	Wednesday (2 nd September)	Thursday (3 rd September)
Group A	Group B	Group C
7am -10am	7am -10am	7am -10am

The pick-up and drop areas are detailed [here](#).

From Sunday 6th September we will resume learning using the staggered start format which you are already aware of. We have come to this decision as it is very important for the children in EYFS to have as normal a routine as possible to allow them to develop relationships with their peers and staff and be able to access their learning as independently as possible. **I strongly encourage you to send your child to school during this time and promote a positive mind-set when speaking to your child about returning to school.**

The first group of children will be in from 7:00 am – 9:30 am and the second group will be in from 10:30 am – 1:00 pm. Your child will be in the group that was sent out with the original staggered start letter. Children will need to bring a refillable water bottle (no disposable plastic bottles please) and a healthy, nut-free snack to eat during the sessions.

Thank you for all your questions over the summer, I have summarised the answers under the following headings:

Transportation

Transportation is not provided by the school and parents are expected to make their own travel arrangements for the children.

Uniform

Please see the welcome pack which has the DBS school uniform policy.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RTjPikxiUnlQGPA2XKSDcAhL217ZWqjy/view?usp=sharing>

It is important that the children are able to open and close their school bag/packed lunch box independently, so please think about this when choosing one. Assistance will be provided if needed, but we want the children to be as independent as possible.

Please provide a change of clothes for your child in case they have an accident. This should include underwear/socks and please make sure that it is the school uniform. It is extremely important that ALL items of uniform are labelled with your child's name and their class.

Toilets

The toilets are an appropriate height and there are steps for the toilets and sinks if required. At the beginning of the year, children are taken to the toilets regularly by the teaching assistants but they are expected to be able to clean and wipe themselves. The assistants will provide advice, direction and support if needed. We would expect that most children will be able to go to the toilet independently using the toilet pass system by the winter break.

Languages

Children who speak Arabic as a first language are offered Arabic lessons starting in Preschool. The other children will receive Spanish lessons starting in Year 1.

Break and Lunch

Children will have access to the adventure playground at break times and lunch times, if the weather is too hot, they will have their breaks in the classroom. Children should bring a water bottle (which can be refilled in school), a small morning snack and a packed lunch for lunch time. During staggered starts they only require a water bottle and a small snack.

Face Masks, Temperature Checking and Ehteraz App

Children in primary are not required to produce the Ehteraz app, however all parents entering the school site are required to show the green status on the Ehteraz app. Children in primary school are not required to wear a mask but are encouraged to, as per MoEHE guidance. Parents **must** wear a mask at all times and staff will be wearing masks and visors. We encourage you to check your child's temperature at home and your child's temperature will be checked in school.

Pastoral Support

We are aware that the lockdown has been a difficult time for many of us, including our pupils. Please let us know if you think your child might need extra support when returning to school, such as if they feel anxious about coming back or they're experiencing bereavement. You can get in touch with myself, Jennifer McClelland (our school counsellor) or your child's teacher to do this. We are planning to have a strong focus on PSHE and reintegration. Teachers will have training on recognising anxiety in pupils and the small class sizes will allow teachers to really focus on helping children settle.

We understand that at this time some of you will be feeling anxious and worried about sending your children back to school. Many parents around the world have felt the same as schools have reopened. I can assure you we would not reopen the school if we did not believe it was safe to do so; we believe we have put everything in place to minimize the risk of transmission. If any of you would like further reassurance, please contact a member of the senior leadership team.

I want to assure you that we will be encouraging the children to wash their hands frequently and hand sanitizer and tissues will be readily available. Classrooms will be stocked with cleaning materials and surfaces and resources will be wiped down when a child moves activities. It is important that the children in early years are still able to access and enjoy their learning in an appropriate play based environment.

Finally, we are extremely grateful for all the support we've received so far from the school community. We'll continue to keep in touch if there are any updates to our plans or if we need to make changes due to new or updated government advice.

We are really excited about seeing your children return to school. Please do encourage them to attend each lesson on offer.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at emily.byars@dohabritishschool.com.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Byars
Assistant Head: Early Years Foundation Stage