



## **Welcome to The Nursery**

We are delighted to introduce you to the Nursery at The British School- Muscat. The aim of the Nursery is to provide your children with the essential skills and experiences upon which they will build throughout their school lives. We hope that the information included in this leaflet will be of assistance to you. Each class is led by a U.K. trained teacher and all teaching assistants have experience of working with young children. The Nursery day starts at 7:35am and ends at 12:30pm.

### **Nursery Admission Procedure**

We encourage all parents and children to visit the Nursery before registration. The Registrar will arrange a time for this visit to ensure that your child can spend time in the Nursery with the staff and children. We hold an Open Afternoon in the Summer Term to provide children with a further opportunity to spend time in the Nursery and to meet their peers and for parents to meet each other.

The admission of children to the Nursery in September is staggered over several days to ensure that all children are settled with care in a calm environment. We encourage parents to stay with their children until they are settled. You will receive details of the arrangements for your child during June and August if you register during the summer.

### **Nursery Uniform**

Nursery children wear uniform which consists of sensible clothing that they can easily cope with in the toilet and which does not restrict their movement when playing. The uniform consists of a white "T" shirt with the school badge for all children, navy blue elastic waisted shorts for the boys and blue and white elastic waisted shorts for the girls. In addition to this your child will require a white bag which they use to bring things home that they have made each day, along with letters from school. Each bag is printed with your child's name and unique picture that they will recognise. All of these items can be ordered through the school office.

The children should wear shoes with either buckles or velcro that they are able to fasten themselves. All the children are requested to wear sunscreen and bring a sunhat to school to protect them from the sun. Each child has a hat hook outside the Nursery rooms and we advise that the children wear a hat to and from school. The children can leave their hats in their white bag during the day. They do not wear hats when playing in the outdoor area as this is shaded and hats could restrict movement and pose a health and safety risk. We also request that all the child's belongings and clothes are clearly labelled with their name.



## **Home School Links**

A successful partnership between home and school provides a strong base for your child's development through school. This partnership is developed in several ways in the Nursery. Each term you will receive a Nursery newsletter which gives a brief outline of the curriculum for the term. To provide you with more detail there is a Home Links board in the Nursery which gives you information on enjoyable ways to support your child's learning at home. This board also includes information about activities outside school which are suitable for young children and ideas for interesting places to visit with your child. Finally, the important link between home and school is further supported by the role of 'class link'. Two parents are requested to volunteer for this role which involves welcoming newcomers to the Nursery, organising coffee mornings and organising help with Nursery events. Class links also provide an important role in contacting parents should we have to close the school at short notice, in the event of a holiday being declared for example.

Each term you will have the opportunity to meet with the Nursery teacher to discuss the progress of your child. We appreciate that you may feel it necessary to relay information about your child to the teacher at other times during the year and you are very welcome to approach the staff at the end of any Nursery session to arrange a meeting. On certain occasions parents are invited to come and see their children taking part in special events such as Christmas productions and our sports morning. We regularly request parents to help with both our cookery and swimming sessions and parents have the opportunity to accompany their child to the library on a weekly basis.



# The Nursery Curriculum

The aim of the Curriculum is to provide structured learning opportunities based upon the different starting points from which children develop their learning, building on what they can already do. The poem included below provides a good description of the broad curriculum which is offered to the children within the Nursery.

I like to look and listen.  
I need to touch and try.  
I want to smell and sample.  
And ask the question why.  
Give me time to wonder.  
To imagine and pretend.  
Space to run and bend and stretch.  
Share secrets with a friend.  
I want to hold and handle.  
I must play to understand.  
For I need to know so many things.  
To find out who I am.

In line with current U.K. practice the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is organised into six main areas. This curriculum is used across Nursery and Reception and children are assessed against the six areas of learning at the end of the Reception year. Many activities the children engage in develop skills in more than one of these areas at a time, however the activities are planned to ensure that the children receive a broad and balanced curriculum. This curriculum is delivered through carefully structured play activities which enable all the children to develop their knowledge and skills.

The six areas of the curriculum are listed below.

## **Personal and Social and Emotional Development**

This area covers important personal and social skills which children need to develop. We develop the child's confidence in meeting new people and new situations, their ability to focus, concentrate and meet challenges. We enable them to become independent in all their activities within the unit, help them to play, co-operate and share with their peers. We develop their ability to understand and express their feelings and to respect the beliefs and traditions of different cultures.



### **Communication, Language and Literacy**

Included here are the important pre-reading, pre-writing, listening and speaking skills which children need. Here we develop each child's book handling skills, enjoyment of sharing books and ability to listen and reflect on stories. We develop emergent writing and the ability to listen to others and to talk with others.

### **Mathematical Knowledge and Understanding**

There are important concepts, skills and language the children need to develop before they are ready to begin formal mathematics. In the Nursery we give the children a wide range of practical activities to develop understanding of number, mathematical language of shape, size and position and introduce simple problem solving.

### **Knowledge and Understanding of the World**

This area focuses on the understanding of natural materials, the environment of the child, information technology skills and the ability to plan and design. Here we provide the children with experiences handling natural materials such as sand, water and clay. We develop their awareness of their environment. We give them opportunities to use computers, programmable toys and cassette recorders. They use construction kits and reclaimed materials to make models.

### **Creative Development**

In this area children experience a variety of art activities. These include creating pictures, collages and models and experimenting with colour mixing. They also experience a range of musical activities, using instruments, singing and responding to music through movement. In this area we provide the children with a wide range of media with which to experiment. We develop their ability to handle and control tools or instruments in an appropriate manner.

### **Physical Development**

Children must develop their strength and skills to learn to control their bodies in both large and fine movement. Here we increase their agility, through our PE lessons. We also develop their water confidence in our swimming lessons in the third term. We develop their fine motor skills through handling equipment and toys which require control and strength to manipulate. Through this curriculum each child develops skills and understanding, meets challenges and grows in self esteem and independence to be ready to make the transition to the Reception year.



## Transition to Reception

During the childrens' final term in the Nursery a strong emphasis is put upon ensuring a smooth transition into the Reception classes. Within the Nursery unit the children are introduced to some of the reception class routines and one of the Nursery role play areas becomes a Reception classroom.

The Nursery staff spend time discussing each child with the Reception staff. Detailed information on all Foundation Stage children is recorded on a series of profile sheets which are used to create play and learning plans on an individualised basis. These profiles are handed onto Reception staff who continue to use them until the final term of the Reception year. Once the children have moved to Reception the Nursery staff visit them in their new classes and the children are encouraged to visit the Nursery staff to show them work which they are particularly proud of. The staff throughout the Foundation Stage work closely together to provide a happy and secure environment for all the children.

Thank you once again for your interest in the Nursery. We are confident that your child will receive the best possible start to their education at the British School and look forward to welcoming you and your child.



## **Foundation Stage Lunch Box Suggestions**

We recommend that your child's lunch box contains the following: - 4 different items to eat and 2 drinks of a good size. We advise that each child has one carton of juice and in addition to that a large water bottle. These can then be refilled to enable your child to remain hydrated particularly in the hot weather. Children are not allowed to share items from their lunch boxes as we have some children who suffer from food allergies.

Below are some suggestions to help you.

- ❖ Sandwiches: brown / white bread / rolls / arabic bread.
- ❖ Fillings: egg / cheese / cold meats / cheese and tomato / cream cheese / cold meats and salad / pate / salad / tuna / tuna and mayonnaise.
- ❖ Small tomatoes / cucumber / peppers / lettuce.
- ❖ Cooked vegetables: beans / broccoli / carrots / potatoes / sweetcorn / cauliflower.
- ❖ Chicken pieces / sausages / quiche/ falafel/ samosas / spring rolls / pizza slices/ cold pasta / rice salads.
- ❖ Fruit: banana / apple / small oranges/ grapes/ melon / kiwi fruit / pineapple / strawberries.
- ❖ Yoghurt/ Desserts: individual fromage frais / fruit mousse / prepared custards / jelly/ fruit / yoghurt.
- ❖ Cheese pieces / cheese slices / cream cheese triangles / hard boiled eggs.
- ❖ Granola bars / individual packs of raisins / a slice of cake or a biscuit, none of these should be chocolate covered.

**Please do not include nuts, fruit with stones which could be a choking hazard, sweets, chocolate or any canned or tinned drinks.**

We look forward to celebrating your child's birthday at some point during the year. We are not able to hold parties for your child or give out party bags. Parents are invited to send in a cake that can be shared between the children. Please ensure that this is nut free. We make provision for children with any food allergy so that they are also included in these celebrations.

