



# Primary Newsletter

September 2021



Welcome to the start of another exciting academic year at AAESS and the first primary newsletter of the year! It has been lovely to see all the children physically back in school during the last few weeks. They have made a brilliant start to the year and impressed us with how well they have settled into their new classes and the new routines. This is also the perfect opportunity to extend a warm welcome all our new students and their families.

Thank you so much for returning all the Health Declaration Forms and COVID-19 test results prior to the children starting school. We have also been very grateful for your support during drop off and pick up times in maintaining the social distancing requirements as well as the need to drop off or collect children from different entrances and exits reflective of their Macro-Bubbles. You will be pleased to know that if you have already given consent for the in-school PCR testing this form will be valid throughout the 2021-22 Academic Year. Further details about testing dates will be emailed to you.



It is impossible to get the home-school communication balance right to suit everyone. However, the use of email is our main form of communication with parents. All letters, newsletters, forms etc are sent by email as we try to reduce paper usage as much as possible. It is therefore crucial that the registration department and class teachers have the correct email address for you.



All class teachers have a school email address for contact. The learning pathways are published each week on the school website and provide links to their email addresses.

When contacting staff please remember they have family time outside of school too. Staff are expected to read emails daily (Sunday - Thursday) and respond within 24 hours. They may choose to read or respond outside of school hours but please do not expect it. Please also bear in mind that they will be teaching or in meetings during the school day (7.30am - 3.00pm) so will not be able to respond straight away.



# News from Nursery



It has been wonderful to welcome our Nursery children back into school during the last two weeks. We have been both amazed and impressed by how well they have settled into AAESS school life.

In each of the Nursery classes the children have access to both indoor and outdoor provision. Independent learning is encouraged through play and the children are beginning to form good relationships with their class friends, Learning Support Assistants and teachers.



As part of their daily phonics lessons, the children have been developing their listening skills. During their maths learning, they have also been learning about size and discovering the numbers all around us.



# News from Foundation Stage



FS2 have enjoyed settling into their classrooms, meeting new friends and exploring their learning environments.



The children have really loved playing in the outdoor areas and being creative.





News from

# Foundation Stage



During this week, the children have been reading the story 'Owl Babies' and learning about families. They have also continued to recognise and understand numbers up to 5 by counting forwards and backwards.



## Meet the Teacher

### **A little bit about Ms Denise (Director of Early Years):**

I have travelled to Al Ain from Hampshire, England. I am here with my Husband and 2 children, who have joined AAESS secondary school. I have been a nursery and foundation stage teacher for nearly 10 years and am very excited to be part of a fantastic team of early years teachers.

### **One of my best memories of school:**

Arranging a colour run fundraiser at my old school.

### **Five of my favourite things:**

1. Spending time with my family
2. Visiting new places
3. Going out with friends
4. Watching my children achieve in their favourite sports
5. Going out for nice meal

### **A fact about me that few people know:**

I lived in Austria and Jamaica before living in Hampshire.





# News from Year 1



It has been really lovely to see the smiling faces of the Year 1 children during the last few weeks as they have enjoyed playing with their friends and settling into their daily routines.

Each 'Bubble' has its own indoor and outdoor learning space and the children have been extremely creative in some of their learning tasks.



In their maths lessons, the children have been practising counting to 10 and sorting objects into groups depending on their size, colour or shape.

During their daily phonics lessons the children have been revising their phase 2 sounds. They have also been keen to show their new teachers their writing skills and have been creating simple sentences.

For 'Thrilling Thursdays' the children have used their handprints to create their family trees.



# News from Year 1



The children have been extremely creative in creating fantastic portraits of themselves and have also enjoyed telling each other about their families including how many brothers and sisters they have.



## Meet the Teacher

### **A little bit about Ms Michelle (Head of Year 1):**

A little bit about me: I am delighted to have joined the team at Al Ain English Speaking school in Year 1. I am looking forward to a fun-filled year ahead, making memories and celebrating all of your achievements. This is my 3rd year in the UAE but my first in Al Ain. I spent the past 2 years teaching in Fujairah and enjoyed exploring all 7 Emirates with my husband. Prior to this I had the pleasure of teaching for 12 years in Nottinghamshire, England.

### **One of my best memories of school:**

Is enjoying the outdoors and having lots of new experiences during residentials including a sleepover next to sharks!

(Residentials are just as fantastic as a teacher too!)

### **Five of my favourite things:**

1. Exploring new places.
2. Spending time with my family and friends.
3. Taking my 2 dogs for a walk.
4. Watching a musical.
5. Chilling in my comfy's.

### **A fact about me that few people know:**

I completed the Tough Mudder UK course with my former work colleagues and friends.



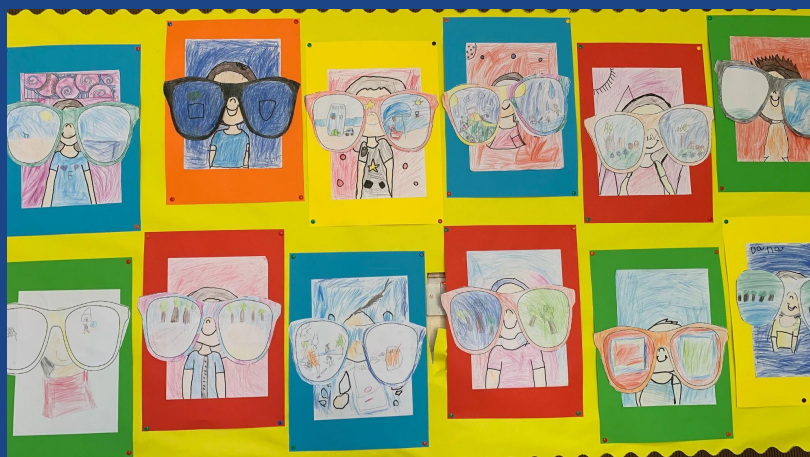


# News from Year 2



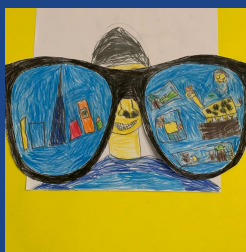
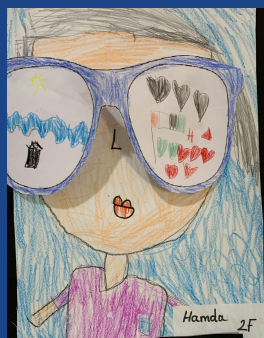
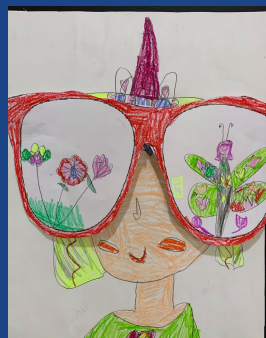
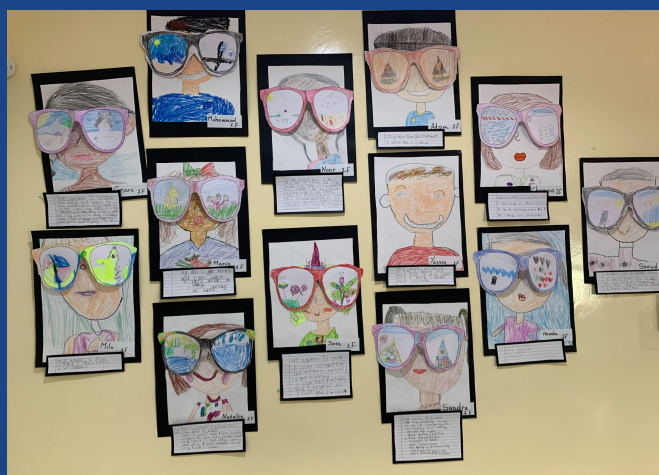
These cute worry monsters have gobbled up any concerns or questions the children had in the first few days to ensure that only positive and helpful thoughts remain.

Year 2 has had a very imaginative and creative start to the year. The walls of the Year 2 building are boasting some impressive displays of the children's designs and completed pieces of artwork.



In their maths lessons, Y2 have been developing their place value skills by counting and representing numbers up to 100.

In their writing lessons, the children have started to learn their model text based on the Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch. In addition to this, Y2 have excitedly started their 'We could be Heroes' topic and have begun by discussing super hero qualities. They have also started to critically think about which superhero is most deserving of their title!



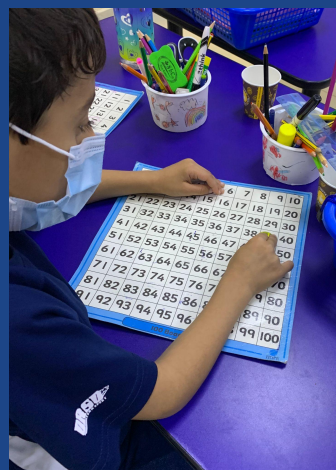


# News from Year 2



We are incredibly proud of these desert camel pieces of artwork which are not only colourful but beautifully created.

The children in Y2 have really settled into their daily routines and adapted well to their socially distanced classroom settings. They have also enjoyed their playtimes and the opportunity to use the play equipment.



## Meet the Teacher

### **A little bit about Ms Pellegrotti (Head of Year 2):**

I am brand new to Al Ain but have been living and teaching in Dubai for the last three years. Prior to this, I was a teacher in Suffolk, England for five years. I haven't always worked in education though, as I actually used to be a journalist many years ago! I am really happy to be the teacher of 2A at Al Ain English Speaking School and to be working with such a fantastic team in Year 2.

### **One of my best memories of school:**

I have many wonderful memories as a teacher, but one of my favourite moments from when I was in primary school was when I got to take the school rabbits Salt and Pepper home for the weekend!

### **Five of my favourite things:**

1. Spending time with my friends and family
2. Travelling to new places
3. Watching football
4. Reading a good book
5. Going to gigs and concerts

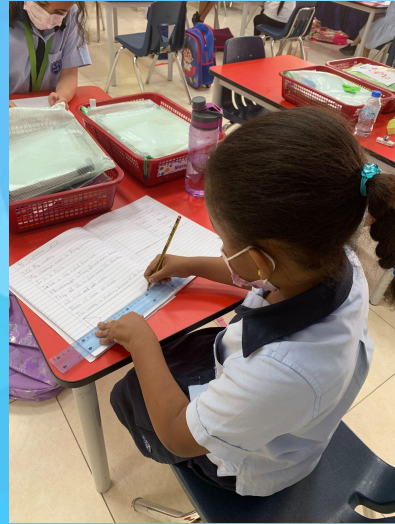
### **A fact about me that few people know:**

When I was a teenager, I represented my county at sprint hurdles and won several medals and trophies.



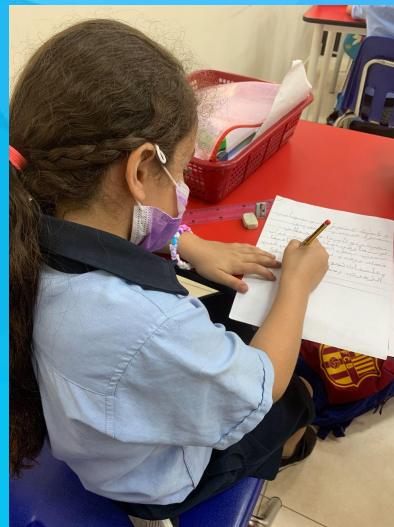
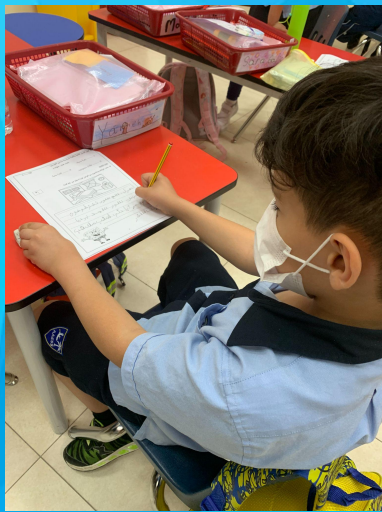


# News from Year 3



All change for the Year 3 children this year as they have moved into the KS2 building! We are very proud of the maturity and confidence they have shown in settling into their new classes and exploring their new environment.

They also enjoyed sharing their holiday news and imaginatively writing about the AAESS bear's adventures in the UAE.



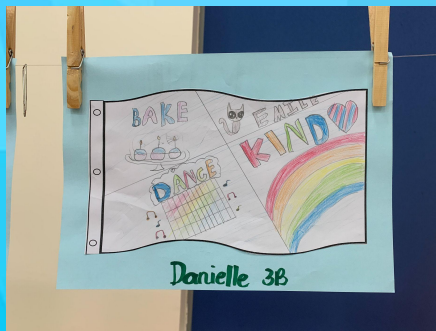
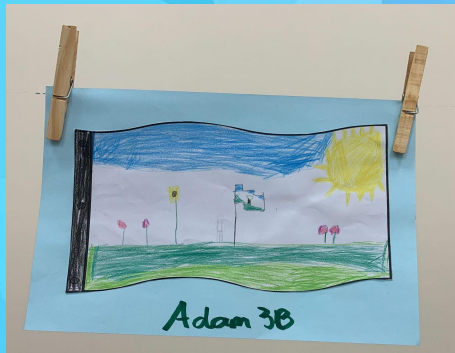
In maths, the children have been developing their place value skills in maths by recognising the value of each digit in a 3 digit number and ordering these numbers by size.

Meanwhile, in their English writing lessons, the children have been learning their TFW model text - an informal letter based on the 'Green Ship' by Quentin Blake.

Year 3 have also excitedly started their first main topic and are considering if they can create their very own version of Dubai's Green Planet in Al Ain by learning about rainforests.



# News from Year 3



Year 3 enjoyed creatively creating their own personal flags after learning about the different flags belonging to their respective home countries.



## Meet the Teacher

### **A little bit about Mrs Matthee (Head of Year 3):**

I arrived in Al Ain in July after spending over 5 years teaching in Saudi Arabia. Before that I taught in South Africa and the UK. I am married to Mr Matthee the HOY in Year 6. I have two daughters, Mia in Year 7 and Matilda in Year 5 at AAESS. I am enjoying getting to know my Year 3 class and am working with such a wonderful Year 3 team. I am sure this is going to be a great year and I look forward to all of the fun things we will be doing in school.

### **One of my best memories of school:**

My best memories are always the great children I have taught and the lovely staff I have worked with.

### **Five of my favourite things:**

1. My family
2. My dog Moi
3. Having a lovely meal
4. My memories of all of the fantastic places I have visited
5. Reading a book

### **A fact about me that few people know:**

I bungee jumped in New Zealand!





# News from Year 4



Year 4 have settled straight into their new routines and seemed genuinely pleased to be back in school with their new teachers as well as catching up with their friends.

In their maths learning, the children have been developing their skills and understanding of place value by focusing on number representation, recognising the value of each digit in a 4 digit number and rounding numbers to the nearest 10 and 100.

In English the children have started learning their TFW model text, 'The Sandhorse', to support their language development and writing skills.

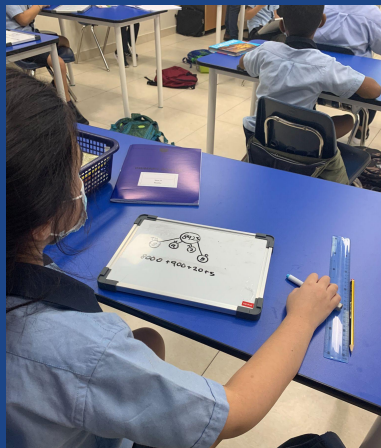


These self portraits have created some lovely displays, while the jigsaw designs below have emphasised team spirit in Year 4 of supporting each other.





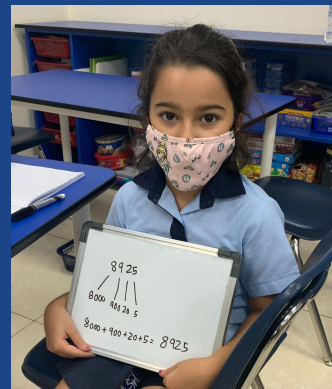
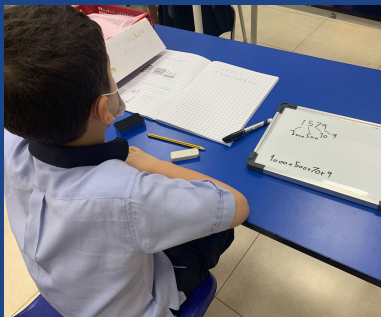
# News from Year 4



'Grand Designs' is the first topic for Year 4 and the children have started it by considering why Abu Dhabi has so many long and large bridges.

During the topic, they will compare the buildings and physical features of Abu Dhabi with Al Ain.

Maintaining concentration and focus during lessons in Year 4 has been very impressive.



## Meet the Teacher

### A little bit about Mr Jenks (Head of Year 4):

This is my 3rd year living in Al Ain and working at AAESS. I moved here from Shropshire in England and have loved every minute of my time here. Since working at AAESS, I have worked in both Year 3 and Year 4. Last year, I became Head of Year 4. It has been lovely seeing so many familiar faces coming back to school this year and I can not wait for an exciting and fun year!

### One of my best memories of school:

Dancing in the corridor with my class during the school's birthday celebrations in my first year at AAESS.

### Five of my favourite things:

1. Rubber Ducks
2. Wearing Odd Socks
3. My 4 Nephews and 1 Niece
4. Going to Yas WaterWorld
5. Spending Time With My Friends

### A fact about me that few people know:

I couldn't speak properly until I was 5 years old.

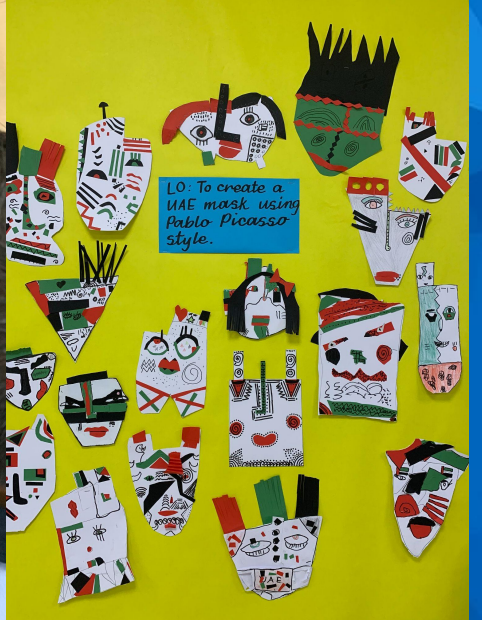




# News from Year 5



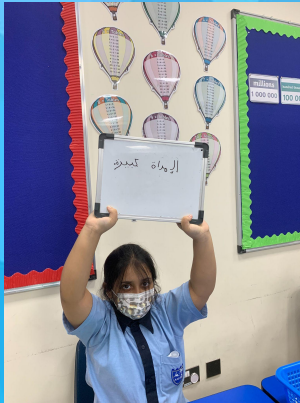
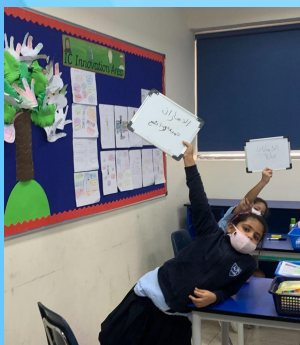
In their first week back at school this term, not only did Year 5 students impress the teachers with how well they settled back into routines, they also showed great creativity in creating these UAE themed masks in the style of the famous European artist, Pablo Picasso.



LO. To create a UAE mask using Pablo Picasso style.



# News from Year 5



In their maths lessons, the Y5 students have been focusing on developing their understanding of place value by reading and writing numbers as well as rounding them to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000.

In their written English lessons, they have been learning about newspaper reports; paying particular attention to the differences and uses of direct and reported speech.

The students have also made an excellent start to their topic, 'Guide to the Emirates', where they try to consider what each emirate has to offer to any visiting tourists.

## Meet the Teacher

### **A little bit about Ms Carter (Head of Year 5):**

I am from a place called Devon on the coast of the UK. I have been teaching for 9 years and previously taught in a small school in Taunton where I taught in lots of different year groups and was the Science lead. I moved to AAESS in 2020 and started as Head of Year 5 in my first year here. I am looking forward to working in year 5 again this year with all of our new Year 5s!

### **One of my best memories of school:**

Going on lots of exciting school trips and residential with my friends and taking part in fantastic activities like water sports, abseiling and rock climbing.

### **Five of my favourite things:**

1. Walking in the countryside
2. Water sports
3. My little niece
4. Baking delicious cakes
5. Reading

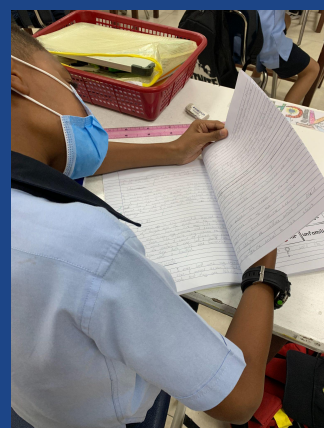
### **A fact about me that few people know:**

I did a skydive raising lots of money for charity when I was 17.





# News from Year 6



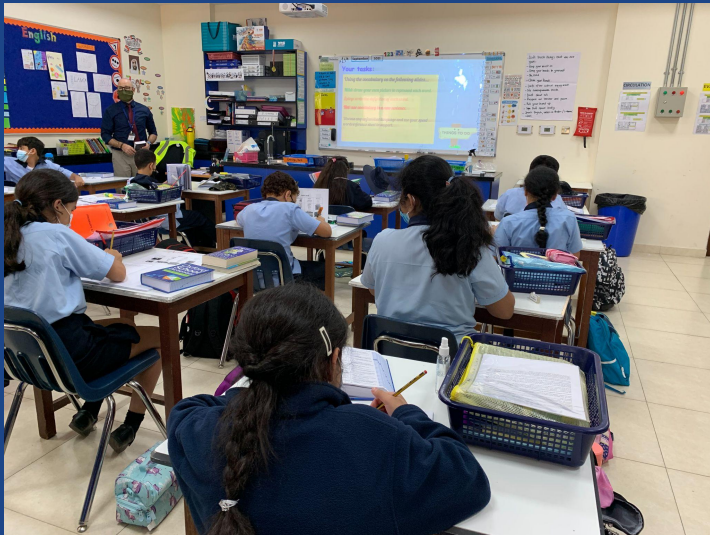
Starting their final year of primary, the Year 6 students have had a great couple of weeks. They have been busy sharing information about themselves when writing their own autobiography and creating colourful portraits in the style of the artist Romero Britto.

In maths, Y6 have been revising their understanding of place value by partitioning and representing numbers. They have also started extending this with numbers up to 10 million.



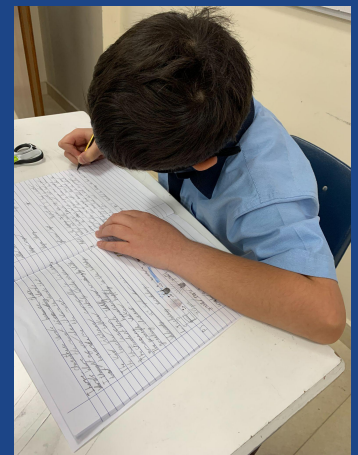
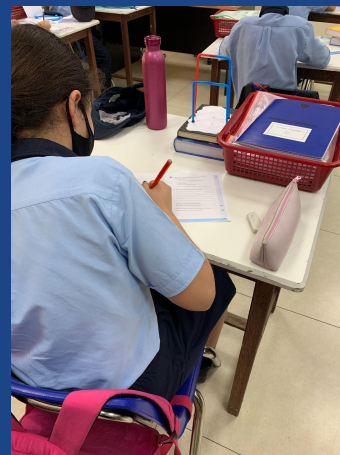


# News from Year 6



Y6 have inquisitively started their new topic, 'Building for the future' where they have been excitedly considering future developments in the UAE. During the topic, they will consider the belief of the nation's founding father, Sheikh Zayed, that, 'Nothing is impossible and man can achieve anything.'

In their English lessons, the students have started exploring the vocabulary of their TFW model text, 'Zelda Claw' by creating synonyms and definitions for unfamiliar language.



## Meet the Teacher

### **A little bit about Mr Matthee (Head of Year 6):**

I am from South Africa. For the last five years I was a teacher in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia. I have taught in South Africa, UK, Saudi Arabia and this year I started at Al Ain English Speaking School. I am very excited to be in Year 6 with some great and experienced teachers.

### **One of my best memories of school:**

I used to be part of the Secondary school Drama club and always enjoyed the excitement before and during week performances.

### **Five of my favourite things:**

1. Table Mountain
2. Rugby
3. Braai (BBQ)
4. Reading
5. Golf

### **A fact about me that few people know:**

In 1995, I looked after the Pakistan cricket team when they were touring South Africa, in Cape Town.





*In other*

# News @ AAESS



## House Points 2021-22



All children in the primary school belong to a House and can earn house points. These could be awarded for: outstanding work or behaviour, exceeding expectations or earned during House competitions. At the end of each term, special certificates and prizes are awarded to celebrate student achievements.

## ECAs 2021-22 - Coming Soon!

We are very pleased to announce that our much loved Extra Curricular programme will be re-launched very soon! We can't wait!

## Times Tables Rock Stars

Students from Years 2 to 6 will shortly be issued with their Times Tables Rock Stars login which will support them in learning and securing their multiplication facts.



### Key Dates:

Meet the Teacher Meetings (Virtually) - Week beginning: 26th September 2021

Parent - Teacher Consultations - Week beginning: 10th October 2021

Mid -Term Break - Friday 15th - Sunday 23rd October 2021

National Day Public Holiday - Wednesday 1st & Thursday 2nd December \*TBC

End of Term - Thursday 9th December 2021

## Reading4Pleasure 2021-22

As a school, we value reading for enjoyment and as such will be aiming to share our recommendations for different year groups in each newsletter edition. In the meantime, why not check out some of the books available on the [Oxford Owl website](#).