



# Primary Newsletter

October 2021

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the Primary School newsletter. Please take time to read the newsletter which serves to share the learning experiences for each year group and primary departments as well as provide you with updates, news and useful reminders.

If you have any suggestions about what you would like to see in future editions of the newsletter, please don't hesitate to email Mrs Carolyn Bavister who will be happy to listen and respond to your requests. [cbavister@aaess.sch.ae](mailto:cbavister@aaess.sch.ae) For example: There has been a request to share information about local and national events with our school community so this will be featured in the next newsletter.

## Communicating with School



Please be reminded that all class teachers can be contacted on their school email address. The learning pathways are published each week on the school website and provide links to their email addresses.

[Primary Learning Pathways](#)

When contacting staff please remember 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 and have family time outside of school too. Therefore, staff are expected to read emails daily and respond within 24 hours (Sunday - Thursday). They may choose to read or respond outside of school hours but this should not be an expectation.

## Parent Meetings

Thank you to all the parents who attended the virtual 'Meet the Teacher' meetings last week. Feedback from both teachers and parents was very positive.

In addition to these meetings, the first Parent - Teacher consultations of the year will be held during the week beginning Sunday 10th October. Once again these will be conducted online in a Google Meet. You should have received an email from the class teacher stating the dates and times of appointments available along with a sign up sheet for you to complete. The meetings usually last for 10 minutes and provide you with the opportunity to discuss your child's progress.



Mid-Term  
Break

The Mid-term break starts at 2.30pm on Thursday 14th October. School will resume on Sunday 24th October.

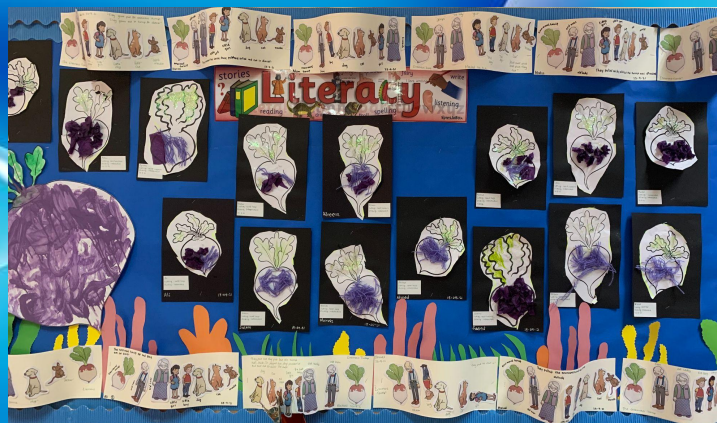


# News from Nursery



The nursery children have enjoyed discussing how the characters in the story of the Enormous Turnip, Humpty Dumpty and a Squash and a Squeeze help each other.

In their Literacy lessons, they have been discussing what they would do to help Humpty and who else could help by engaging in lots of conversations.



The children had great fun creating their very own enormous turnips with different materials. This fabulous display that was created to showcase their masterpieces.

The nursery students continue to enjoy their outdoor learning environments and had

great fun this week dropping different 'Humpty' eggs to see what was inside and how they broke. As each egg was dropped, the children eagerly practised singing the nursery rhyme 'Humpty Dumpty'.





# News from Nursery



As well as learning about how different people can help them, the nursery students have discovered how they can help the seeds they have planted grow well. They have shown great responsibility and care by watering and measuring the plants each day to make sure they stay healthy.

In maths, the nursery children have been focusing on sequencing the events of the stories; what happens first and next. They have also been looking at the shapes and sizes of the different characters and animals in the stories.

## Meet the Teacher

### **A little bit about Ms Lynda (Nursery Teacher):**

I am from a little town in the north of Scotland called Elgin. I moved to the UAE in 2012 with my husband and two children and I have been working as a nursery teacher at Al Ain English Speaking School for six years.

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

Students that I have taught previously coming back to see me.

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

1. My family & spending time with them
2. Animals
3. Cooking
4. Watching Liverpool FC games and Anthony Joshua boxing matches
5. Travelling

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

I met Prince Charles when I was in primary school, I have lived in four different countries and moved house eighteen times.





# News from Foundation Stage



Physical development is a prime area of learning in the Foundation Stage Curriculum so it is extremely important that the children are given plenty of opportunities to move confidently and imaginatively in their indoor and outdoor areas.

We are really impressed that they are already developing their balance and awareness of space on both the large and small equipment available.



Imaginative and creative play are also encouraged daily in FS2 so there is plenty of opportunities for digging, filling, emptying and moving both sand and water.



# News from Foundation Stage

In their Literacy lessons FS2 have been learning the story of 'The Little Red Hen'. The children have started to sequence the story, discuss who the characters of the story are and think about where the story is set.



In their maths tasks, the children have been busy recognising and creating simple patterns.

## Meet the Teacher

### **A little bit about Ms Yolande (FS2 Teacher):**

I was born in the coastal town of Swakopmund in Namibia and after finishing school in Windhoek (the capital city of Namibia), moved to Cape Town to pursue my studies. I have taught tiny humans in Namibia, South Africa, Oman and in the UAE! Oh yes, and not so tiny humans in China as well!) I have two children, Luke and Lara, and two cats, Boy Cat and Girl Cat.

**One of my best memories of school:** All of them! I loved school!

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

1. The ocean
2. A hot bath with lots of bubbles
3. A good book
4. Music I can sing to.
5. Grey's Anatomy

**A fact about me that few people know:** I was on national television in South Africa - TWICE! I used to be a ballet dancer and I wrote for the school and university papers.





# News from Year 1



In Year 1 there is a continued emphasis on learning through play. Resources and areas laid out in classrooms are designed to provoke learning through play and exploration.

Opportunities for challenge and tasks designed to promote critical thinking and problem solving are key features in both their outdoor and indoor environments.

The children have loved spending time with their friends at playtime.



As part of their English learning and as an introduction to their TFW text, 'Lost and Found', Year 2 made a thrilling discovery in the playground when they found an enormous egg. Meanwhile, in their maths lessons, they have been focusing on counting forwards and backwards as well as finding one more than a given number.





# News from Year 1



The Year 1 students have really enjoyed playing collaborative and competitive team games in their PE lessons this week thanks to our specialist PE teachers, Mr Grant and Ms Noelle.



## Meet the Teacher

### **A little bit about Mrs Ebbinkhuysen (Year 1 Teacher):**

I am from the beautiful country, South Africa. I have been teaching for 8 years at AAESS in Year 1. Both my husband and I as well as our two children (my son is currently studying abroad) are part of the AAESS-family.

**One of my best memories of school:** My friends and all the fun sports days and school events we took part in!

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

1. Spending time with my family
2. Cats, cats and ...cats
3. Taking care/feeding stray animals in my neighbourhood
4. Reading
5. Travelling and seeing new places

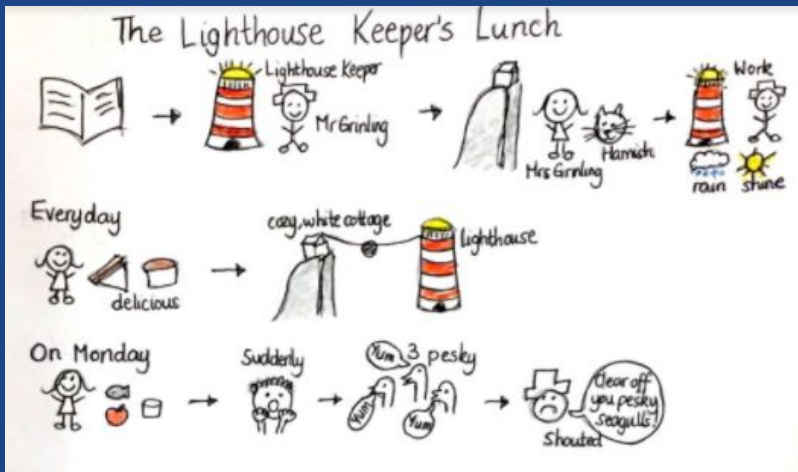
### **A fact about me that few people know:**

Back in my home country, I was doing fundraisers and helped underprivileged children in my school and community. It was a huge passion of mine!





# News from Year 2



In English, Year 2 have continued their 'Talk for Writing' sessions based around the story of 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch'. The children have been role playing characters from the text and using carefully chosen adjectives to describe the story setting.

The children have used their text map as a 'memory trigger' to recall and retell each part of the story.



They have also enjoyed spending time with their friends and playing on the equipment during their break times.





# News from Year 2



In maths, Year 2 have continued to build up their knowledge and understanding of 'Place Value' by comparing objects and numbers using the language 'more than', 'less than' and 'equal to'.

In science, the children have been learning about the sense of taste before taking part in a senses scavenger hunt to recap what they have discovered about senses so far.



## Meet the Teacher

### **A little bit about Mrs Van Den Worm (Year 2 Teacher):**

I am from the beautiful city of Cape Town in South Africa. I moved to the UAE with my husband and two boys and have been working at AAESS for three years. We love spending time outdoors, in the cooler Winter months, and exploring the lesser known areas of the UAE.

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

I loved playing field hockey for my school and enjoyed competing in Eisteddfods with my High School orchestra.

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

1. My boys
2. Coffee
3. Desert sunsets
4. The ocean
5. Reading

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

I have dived with Great White sharks and held a lion cub. Also, I can play five musical instruments.

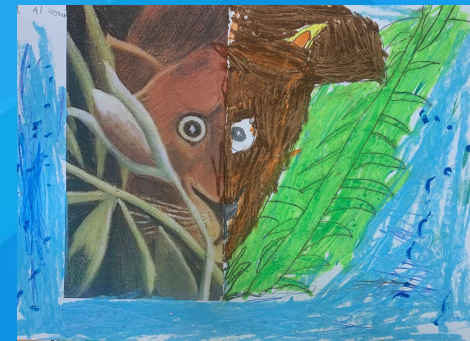
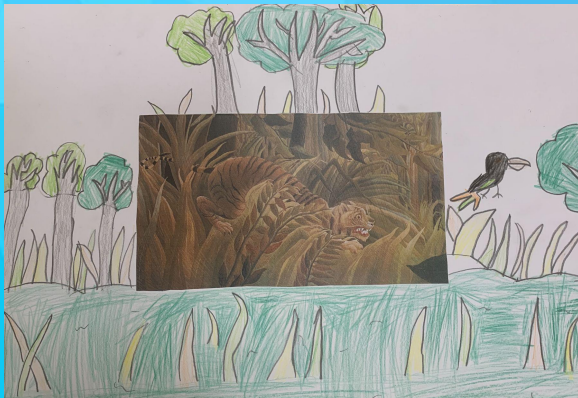




# News from Year 3

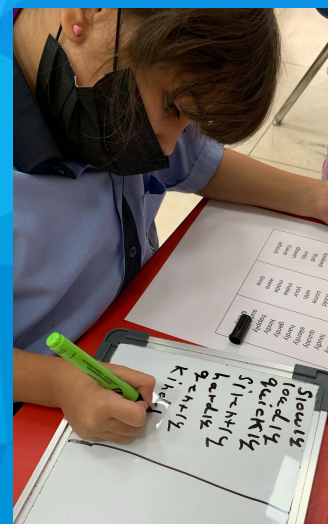
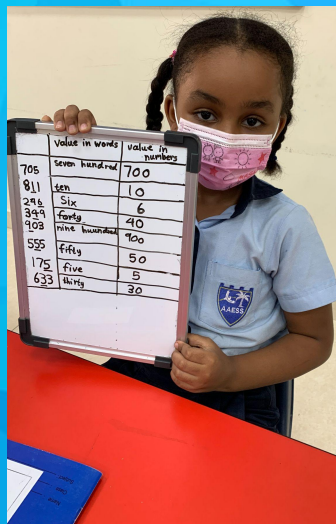


As part of their topic, "The Green Ship", Year 3 have started compare the similarities and differences between deserts and rainforests. In their art lessons, the children have been finding out about the artist, Henri Rousseau. They have had great fun recreating some of his pieces with pastels. We think they are amazing and they have certainly made a stunning display.



During their English writing lessons, Year 3 have used the knowledge and skills they learnt during their 'GreenShip letter writing' Talk For Writing to innovate writing their own letter. While reading, they have started predicting what might happen from details stated.

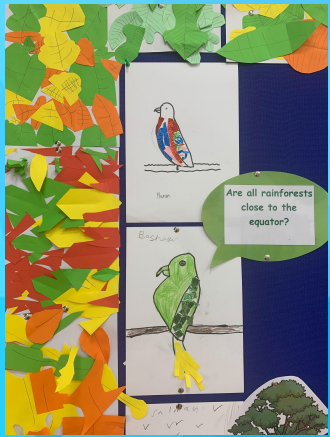
In their maths lessons, the children have continued their place value learning by solving number problems and practical problems to deepen their understanding.





# News from Year 3

While learning about the different layers of the rainforest, Year 3 have discovered that the plants provide food and shelter for a huge variety of animals. They were particularly fond of the parrots and sloths so decided to learn more about the different types of parrots and how to draw a sloth clinging to a tree.



## Meet the Teacher

### **A little bit about Ms Ryan (Year 3 Teacher):**

I am from a town in Ireland called Shannon. It is in the south of Ireland. I come from a big family so moving abroad was something new to my family. I moved to Al Ain this summer and have been really enjoying myself.

**One of my best memories of school:** I have lots of memories of going on exciting school trips and meeting new people. My best friends are those that I met in school so it was a great time for me.

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

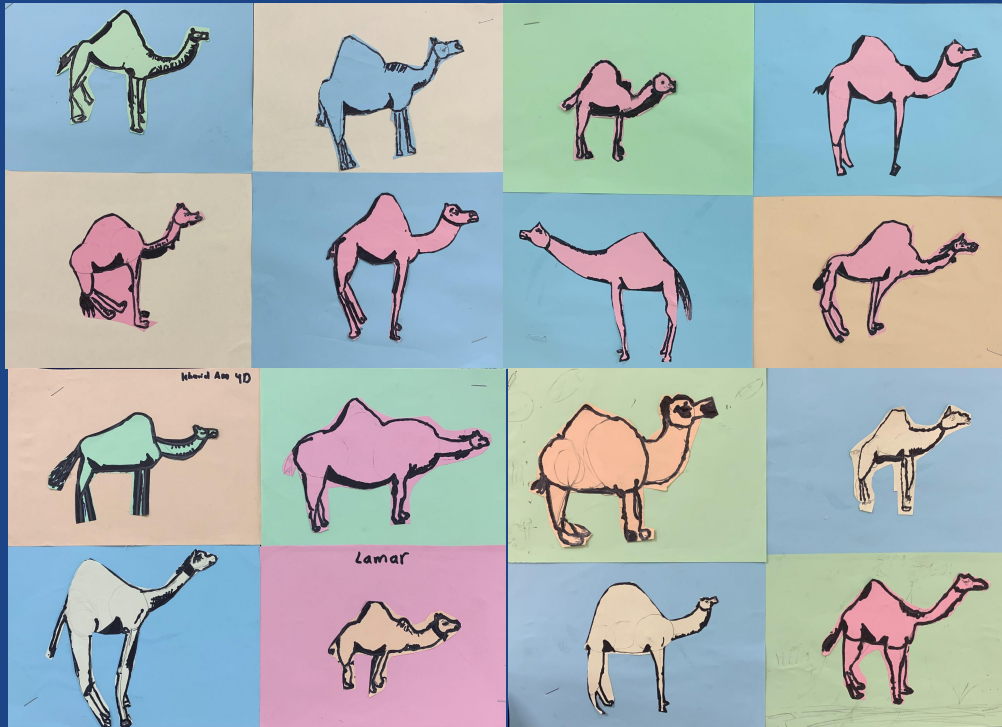
1. Gym
2. Travelling
3. Reading
4. Spending time with friends and family.
5. Movies.

**A fact about me that few people know:** I have specialised in PSHCE so I feel really strongly about children's wellbeing and the importance of social and emotional wellbeing in the classroom.





# News from Year 4

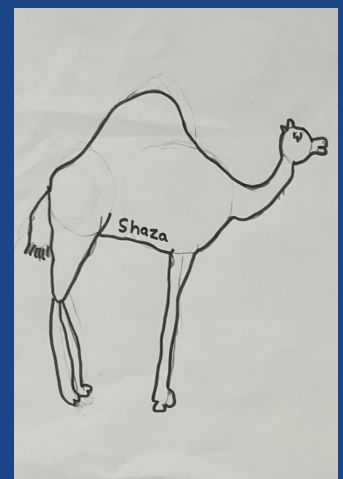
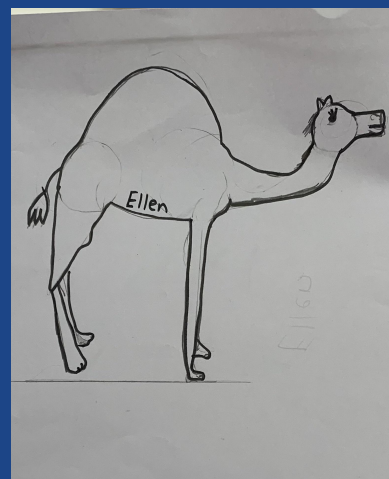
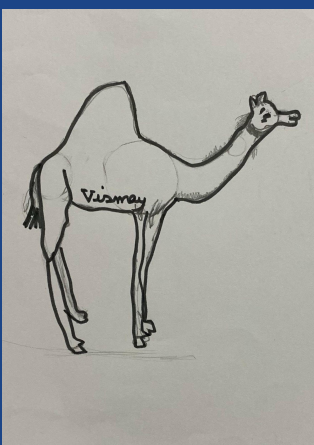
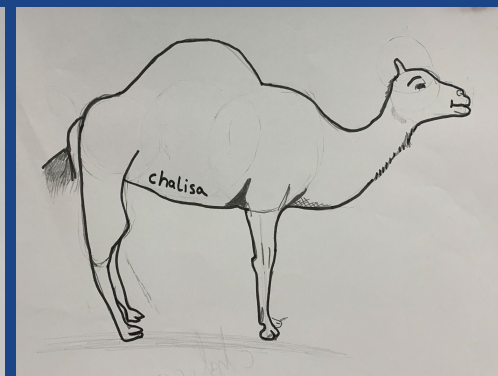


Year 4 have continued with their Place Value learning by rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. They have also been learning how to solve word problems related to this.



As part of their topic, the children have been carefully sketching camels. We love these 'Pop-Art' inspired camels which are currently on display in the Year 4 corridor.

In addition to this, they have also been finding out about all of the different types of bridges found in Abu Dhabi.





# News from Year 4

In other news, the seedlings Y4 have been growing for the garden have started to take shoot.



The Year 4 students have enjoyed developing their throwing, catching, hand eye coordination and ball skills during their PE lessons this week.



## Meet the Teacher

### **A little bit about Mr Dobson (Year 4 Teacher):**

I grew up in a city called Nottingham and was a teacher there for 2 years before I moved to Al Ain this summer. I spent both of those years teaching in Year 3 so am very excited about the new challenge of teaching in Year 4. I have so far enjoyed my experiences here in Al Ain and at AAESS.

**One of my best memories of school:** During my first year teaching, I ran a 3 day residential with the children in my class and had a total of about 10 hours sleep! I hope that one day I can create similar memories here in the UAE.

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

1. Football
2. Golf
3. Water and theme parks
4. Food
5. Travelling

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

I have a big passion for children's mental health and hope to complete a masters one day to understand more about it.





# News from Year 5

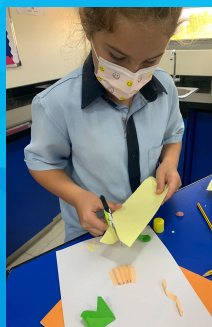
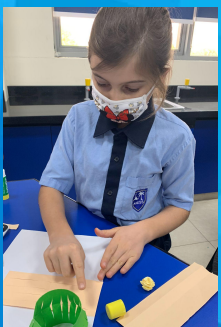
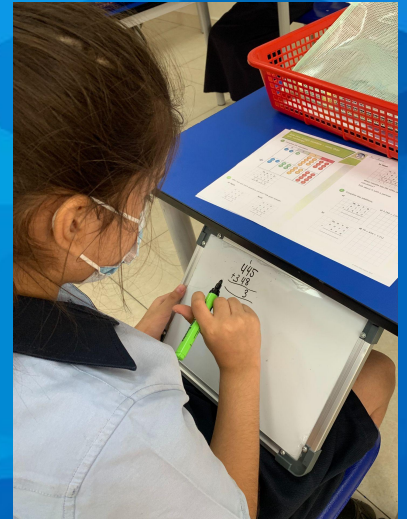
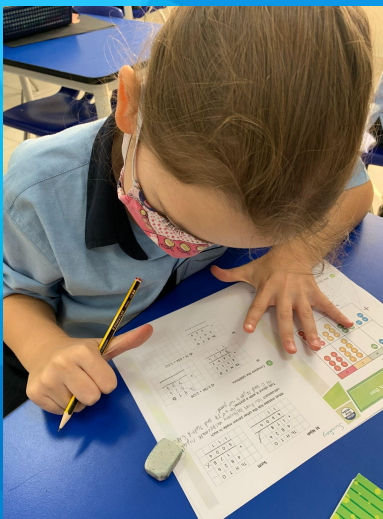
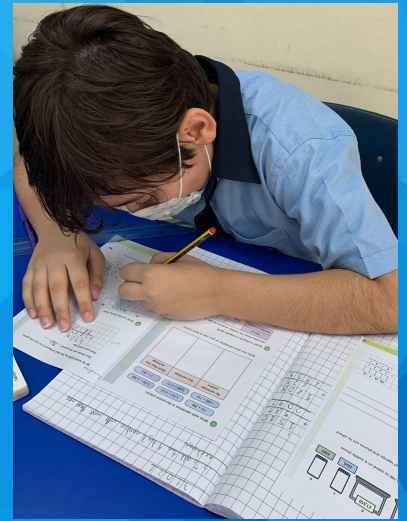
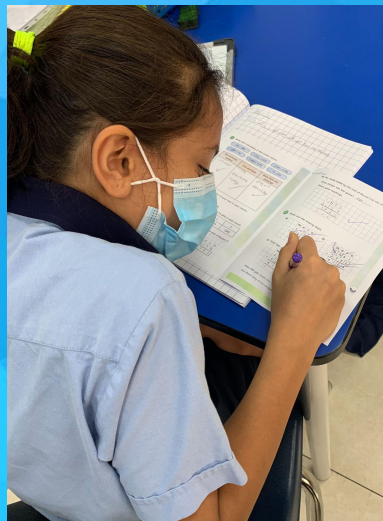


As part of their 'Guide to the Emirates' topic, and prior to making their own videos, the Year 5 students have been critically evaluating the effectiveness of previous guide to the Emirates videos.

With the launch of Dubai Expo that is mainly focused on the sustainable development of countries, communities, families, Year 5 have been fascinated during their research of the development of the UAE in the last 50 years. They enjoyed discussing the changes that have already taken place and considering future developments which could be equally impressive.

This week in English we are continuing with our 'Talk4Writing' unit on newspaper reports. Topics include- reporting eyewitness statements, reviewing direct and indirect speech, planning our reports and writing the headline and introduction.

In science, we will recap separating solutions and complete an investigation into filtering.





# News from Year 5

In their maths lessons, after completing their place value assessment, Year 5 have been impressing teachers with their addition, subtraction and reasoning skills. They have been developing their spoken and written responses to a range of problem solving questions.

Complete the calculations.

a) 

Th	H	T	O
2	2	7	0
-	1	3	2
<hr/>			
1	9	5	0

b) 

Th	H	T	O
8	4	5	
-	1	9	2
<hr/>			
7	9	2	4

6 Annie is calculating  $3,467 - 2,148$

Here are her workings.

	Th	H	T	O
	3	4	6	7
-	2	1	4	8
	1	3	2	1

Do you agree with Annie? NO

Explain your answer.

*because in the one it shows that 7-8 and it can not be done so you have to cross out 6 and make it a five and add the seven.*

8 Jack is thinking of two 4-digit numbers.



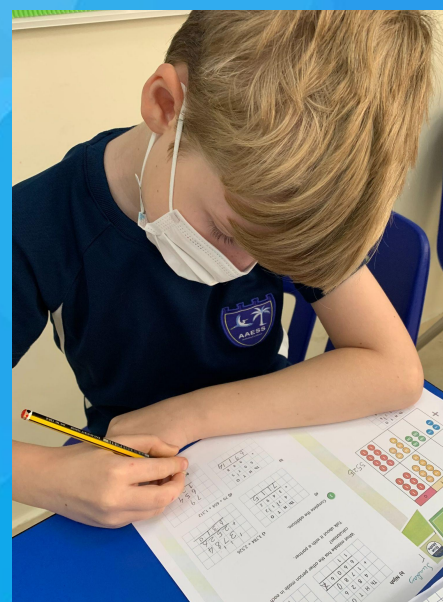
The greater number is 6,410  
The difference between the two numbers is 3,107

What is the sum of the two numbers?

$$\begin{array}{r} 6410 \\ + 3303 \\ \hline 9713 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 6410 \\ 3107 \\ \hline 3303 \end{array}$$

9713



## Meet the Teacher

**A little bit about Mr Jordan (Year 5 Teacher):** I am in my fifth year as a teacher in Year 5 at AAESS. The school is a family affair for me; my wife and daughter are both in Year 1. I have taught on four different continents and my students have come from over 120 different countries! For fun, I play rugby for the Al Ain Amblers, as well as running a darts league.

**One of my best memories of school:** Bumping into the students from my first class at AAESS four years ago - it is fantastic to see how mature they have become.

**Five of my favourite things:**

- 1, My children
2. Curry
3. Watching films
4. Playing rugby
5. Travelling

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

In my first week as a teacher, I broke my foot.





# News from Year 6



The art work currently on display in Year 6 would not look out of place in the Louvre, Abu Dhabi! The students have been brimming with pride as their pieces have been appreciated by other students.



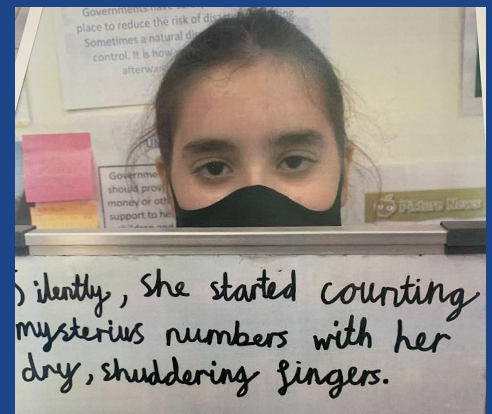
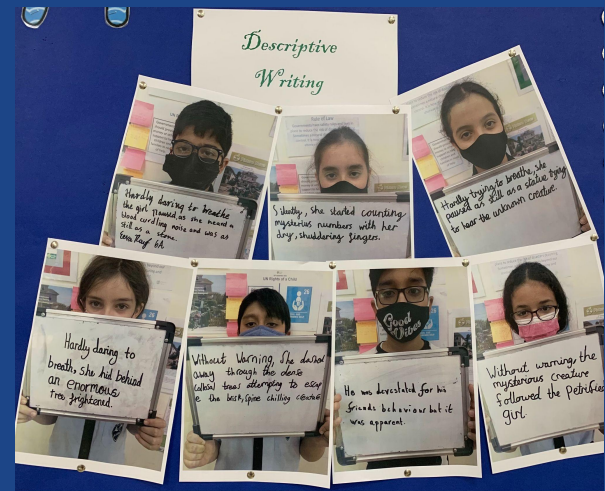
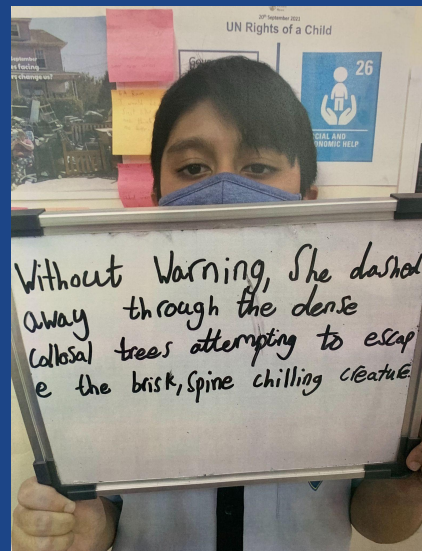
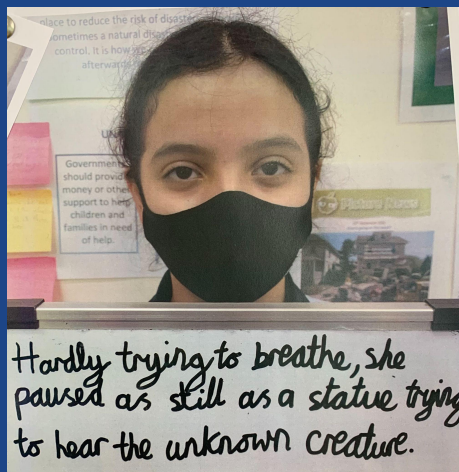
In maths, the students have completed their place value learning and with a secure understanding have now started to apply this to addition, subtraction, multiplication and division calculations and problem solving tasks.

In science, Year 6 have been developing an understanding of dichotomous keys when classifying animals.



# News from Year 6

During their Talk for Writing topic, the students have been identifying the features of suspense writing using a range of texts. They have then been writing their own descriptive suspense pieces using the features they identified.



## Meet the Teacher

### A little bit about Mr Pietersen (Year 6 Teacher):

I am from a small town called Fish Hoek. It used to be known as a fishing village in Cape Town, South Africa. I have been teaching for 10 years now and this is my 5th year in the UAE, 3rd at AAESS. I enjoy sports and try my best to be active, while also having family time which is important to me.

### One of my best memories of school:

Having the opportunity to play a large variety of sports.

### Five of my favourite things:

1. Spending time with my family and making everlasting memories.
2. Playing golf
3. Playing music
4. Watching my kids grow and thrive in what they enjoy.
5. Having the opportunity to travel and see parts of the world.

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

I have never broken a bone in my body.





News from

# The Clinic



## Ongoing COVID-19 Protective Measures

During this term, AAESS is still required by ADEK to track all student absence so that guidance letters can be appropriately sent to parents when their child is ill or absent from school. Please be reminded that if your child has the following suspected Covid 19 Flu symptoms they should remain at home:

1. Cough
2. Fever above 37.5
3. Shortness of breath
4. Loss of taste or smell
5. Diarrhoea & vomiting
6. Headache & muscle aches
7. Fatigue & chills
8. Congestion, runny nose & sore throat

AAESS will email you a letter with instructions to follow or give this to your child if they are sent home from school.

For further details of the return to school requirements following a period of absence and useful information regarding travel please click on the following:

[Covid - Absence Guidance](#)

### Useful Contacts:

Clinic Manager: [gthomas@aaess.sch.ae](mailto:gthomas@aaess.sch.ae)

School Nurse: [schoolnurse@aaess.sch.ae](mailto:schoolnurse@aaess.sch.ae)

COVID Documents Coordinator: [markwellz@aaess.sch.ae](mailto:markwellz@aaess.sch.ae)

Attendance Officer: [csmith@aaess.sch.ae](mailto:csmith@aaess.sch.ae)

## Meet the Team

**A little bit about Ms Faye Pagulayan (School Nurse):** I am from the province of Cagayan in the northern part of the Philippines. Our province is known for its beautiful white sand beaches and small islands. I was a registered nurse in the Philippines for 5 years before I came to the UAE in 2013. It's my 6th year at AAESS.

**One of my best memories of school:** Seeing the growth milestones of our students.

**Five of my favourite things:**

1. Reading books
2. Video Call with family
3. Gardening
4. Baking
5. Asian food

**A fact about me that few people know:** I specialised in emergency care for Pediatrics and Adult.





More  
news from

# The Clinic



## Primary Vaccination Programme

AAESS fully supports the Health Authorities childhood Immunisation programme in providing vaccinations to protect the health of our young people, the school community and the wider population in the UAE

On the 27th September 2021, all Year 1 parents were emailed by the Clinic regarding the planned SEHA vaccination programme for Year 1 this academic year.

### Useful Websites:

[Health Authority  
Abu Dhabi](#)

[UAE Department  
of Health](#)

[SEHA](#)

For further details of the school's Y1 Vaccination Programme please click on the following:

[AAESS Primary  
Vaccination  
programme  
2021-2022](#)

### WHAT VACCINATIONS WILL BE GIVEN?

- *Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR)*
- *Varicella (Chicken Pox),*
- *Tetanus Diphtheria Pertussis (Dtap),*
- *Polio vaccine*

### WHO WILL THEY BE GIVEN TO?

- All year 1 students where parents have consented to this for their children

### WHERE WILL THEY BE GIVEN?-

- SEHA have not confirmed where these vaccinations will take place this year.

### WHEN WILL THEY BE GIVEN?

- The date of the vaccinations and other details relating to this process have not yet been confirmed.

**For any further queries regarding vaccinations please contact:**

School Nurse: [schoolnurse@aaess.sch.ae](mailto:schoolnurse@aaess.sch.ae)



Supporting

# Well-being

## Student Well-being



Students success in and outside of school is predominantly dependent on their health and happiness. Since well-being has many dimensions, AAESS focuses on supporting students with their emotional, social and physical well-being.

As a school we believe that a whole school approach in partnership with our parents is key to supporting students make healthy lifestyle choices and understand the effects of their choices have on their health and well-being.

## Student Counselling Service

We all have times where we need some help and our children are no different. Although your child's class teacher, who knows your child best, should always be the first person you contact if you have worries or concerns about your child; there are a number of other people who can offer additional advice and support.

In addition to the Class Teacher, Primary Pastoral Manager, Heads of Year and Primary Senior Leadership Team, our School Counsellor, Mrs Nicholette Sigamoney provides counselling support at the school. She is a professionally qualified counsellor.



For further details of the school's counselling service please click on the following:

[AAESS Counselling Service](#)

## Healthy Eating



A healthy diet can help both concentration and learning. Promoting healthy lifestyles and good eating habits are an essential part of our work as a school.

All packed lunches should be kept in non-breakable containers and no glass bottles should be used. It is advisable to place small ice packs in the lunch boxes.

For easy to prepare healthy lunch box ideas please click on the following:

[Healthier Lunch box Recipes](#)



*In other*

# News @ AAESS



## Attendance 2021-22

At Al Ain English Speaking School, we want all children to have a positive experience of school life and to reach their full potential. Regular and punctual attendance are key to helping our students have the best possible start in life and develop good habits and routines for the future.

To achieve 100% attendance, students have to attend school for 186 days. As there are 365 days in a year, that still leaves students and their families with 179 days to enjoy and achieve in other life experiences. However, if for any reason your child is going to be absent from , please contact the Attendance Officer, preferably by email [csmith@aaess.sch.ae](mailto:csmith@aaess.sch.ae)

### Key Dates:

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



186 school days

- 100% Attendance
- Perfect!



177 school days

- 95% Attendance
- Excellent



167 school days

- 90% Attendance
- 19 days not in school - that's nearly 4 weeks of absence!



158 school days

- 85% Attendance
- 28 days of missed school!



149 school days

- 80% Attendance
- 37 missed school days



140 school days

- 75% attendance
- 46 days of missed schooling - that's over 9 weeks!

## House Points 2021-22



In the next edition, the House Point totals for this first half term will be shared. The scores are very close at the moment so it will be interesting to see which house emerges to take the lead over the next few weeks!