



Dear Families,

We have had a wonderful first week back! I hope you all enjoyed your mid-term break and were able to get outside in the cooler weather. I have been in and out of many classrooms this week, looking at the learning that your children have been taking part in. I have been so delighted to see such high levels of independence, and some remarkably resilient learners who are really challenging themselves in different areas of learning. Our staff work very hard to ensure each lesson has sufficient challenges for all learners, and I have seen the impact of this during my learning walks this week.



Flag day- 3rd November

As every year, flag day will be celebrated at Aspen Heights with the raising of the flag and singing the national anthem at 11am. Please can families support this by sending your child to school with a UAE flag to wave during the occasion. As we are planning our school national day celebrations on Thursday 25th November, please send your child in school uniform for flag day, as we will ask all to wear traditional dress/colours of the UAE flag on Thursday 25th. Thank you for your support.

Due to covid restrictions, classes will join the courtyard flag raising on zoom, with our school council representatives joining to observe the recitation of the oath, followed by the flag raising. Families who have a negative PCR test of less than 96 hours may join at 11am in the courtyard to observe the occasion if you wish.

يوم العلم - 3 نوفمبر

كما هو الحال في كل عام ، يتم الاحتفال بيوم العلم في آسبن هايتس مع رفع العلم وغناء النشيد الوطني عند الساعة 11 صباحاً. يرجى من جميع أولياء الأمور دعم هذا الحدث من خلال إرسال الطالب إلى المدرسة مرتدياً الزي المدرسي وحاملاً علم الإمارات العربية المتحدة ليروح به خلال المناسبة. بما أننا نخطط لاحتفالات اليوم الوطني الواقع يوم الخميس 25 نوفمبر ، سنطلب من الجميع ارتداء الزي التقليدي / ألوان علم الإمارات العربية المتحدة يوم الخميس 25. شكراً لدعمكم.

ونظراً للقيود المفروضة ، ستنضم الفصول إلى الساحة حيث سيرفع العلم - على تطبيق زووم ، سينضم ممثلو مجلس مدرستنا لمشاهدة تلاوة القسم ، يليها رفع العلم. يمكن لأولياء الأمور الذين لديهم فحص PCR سلبي أقل من 96 ساعة الانضمام عند الساعة 11 صباحاً في الساحة لمشاهدة الحدث إذا كانت لديهم الرغبة في ذلك.

NPS Survey

Our termly NPS survey is currently live; please can you complete the survey if you haven't already by clicking the link [here](#). Many thanks for your support with this.



Staff Twilight training

One of the reasons our Aspen staff are so highly skilled is due to the emphasis we place on CPD-staff training. Every week staff undertake professional training that directly impacts on their classroom practice- we are always trying to improve and get better. Once a term we have an extended training until 6pm; having an extended time with colleagues really enables us to cover a lot of material, and gives important time for discussion and collaboration. Thank you to all the staff who contributed to delivering training, and to our teachers and teaching assistants who engaged so well with this.

Family workshop

Thank you to the 30+ families who attended the Arabic family workshop on reading this week. All family workshops are recorded and are available to view from the parent portal. Next week we have a family workshop on phonics that I encourage all families to attend. We have implemented a new phonics programme this term; it would be helpful to families to learn more about our practice in school and how you can support at home. Please see the zoom link here: Monday 1st November- 3pm

<https://zoom.us/j/97469647968?pwd=RWRRZ1pUZ1d6RldCOFk4K090QnlZZz09>

Meeting ID: 974 6964 7968

Passcode: 6QxgQn

ورشة عمل أولياء الأمور

شكراً لأكثر من 30 عائلة حضرت ورشة الأسرة العربية حول القراءة هذا الأسبوع. لقد تم تسجيل جميع ورش عمل أولياء الأمور وهي متاحة للعرض على بوابة الطالب. في الأسبوع المقبل ستبدأ ورشة عمل حول الصوتيات، حيث أشجع جميع أولياء الأمور على حضورها. لقد قمنا في هذا الفصل الدراسي بتنفيذ برنامج جديد للصوتيات؛ وسيكون من المفيد لأولياء الأمور معرفة المزيد عن أدائنا في المدرسة وكيف يمكنك تقديم الدعم في المنزل. يرجى الاطلاع على رابط تطبيق زووم هنا:
الاثنين 1 نوفمبر - 3 مساءً -

<https://zoom.us/j/97469647968?pwd=RWRRZ1pUZ1d6RldCOFk4K090QnlZZz09>

Meeting ID: 974 6964 7968

Governors Meeting

Yesterday we held our first Governors meeting of the academic year, and welcomed a new governor to the group- Ailsa Bernard. We shared our progress against our school improvement priorities already this academic year, and each area of the school gave an overview of the baseline attainment of pupils and action planning. It was a useful and thorough overview, and reassured us that we have already achieved much progress towards our SIP objectives. As a reminder to families, the areas we are developing this year are below:

PS1- To continue to raise achievement (attainment and progress) in core subjects- English- Maths- Science- Non-Native Arabic.

PS2- To further develop opportunities for our students to engage in the wider community and see themselves as global citizens.

PS3- To further raise the quality of teaching to that of the best in our school.

PS4- To further evolve cross-curricular links to ensure breadth and depth of the curriculum, enabling students to transfer learning between different subjects.

PS5- To further develop support for student wellbeing.

PS6- To further develop governance and accountability.



Open evening

As we are now more able to have families in school with the relevant 96 hour PCR test validity we are holding open evenings for families monthly on both zoom and face-to-face. The first of these was yesterday, and we had families attending on both zoom and in school.

Topic overviews

In order to enable you to support your children's learning at home, and know what they are learning in school, you will receive the topic overview for this second half term today. We hope this is helpful and enables you to know what themes your children are learning over the half term.

Bring a man to (virtual) school day

This annual event in our school calendar is always popular and well- supported! This year the events will take place via zoom on Thursday 4th November; we hope many of you will be able to participate in some way.

Please see details on the link attached:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ufoUQm7PRgyTUxFdIndORI2slia7I-noi11g5wf-ZM8/edit?usp=sharing>

We hope that male family members will be able to attend virtually to share their school experiences.

Have a wonderful weekend with your family,

Mrs Emma Shanahan
Principal, Aspen Heights British School

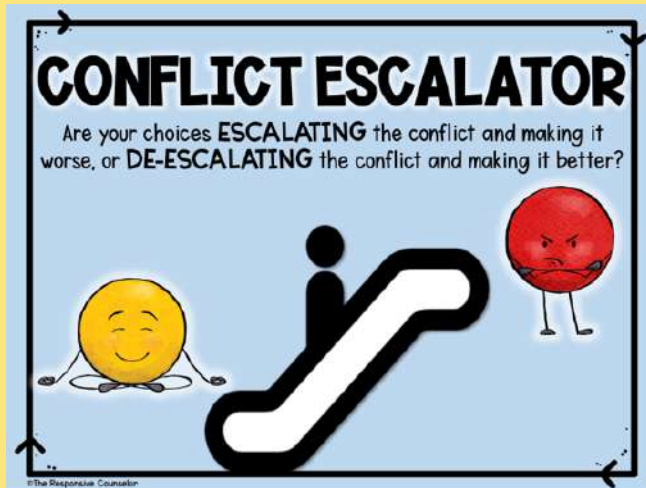


Well-being at Aspen Heights

Hope everyone had a wonderful mid-week break! This week as part of our Social Emotional Learning Year 5 and Year 6 classes learnt all about the Conflict Escalator!



Kids will always have some sort of conflict, whether big or small. The conflict between kids can be anything, whether they're fighting over a toy or pushing another student at recess.



The concept of conflicts having an escalator helps children understand that people involved in a conflict are not powerless, both all parties can make choices. Their choices can either 'escalate' (make worse) or 'de-escalate' (make better) the situation that they are facing.

We talked about the different types of choices they can make to 'de-escalate' and resolve their conflicts in a peaceful manner and also take responsibility for their role in conflict. Conflict resolution is an important skill that students need to learn – beneficial to them within the classroom as well as in everyday life.

- Ignore
- Talk it Out
- Share and Take Turns
- Walk Away
- Wait and Cool Off
- Go To Another Game
- Tell Them to Stop
- Apologize

We talked about the importance of giving yourself a few seconds to calm yourself by counting to ten and thinking through what choices you might make.

The following options were presented and usually work really well in school settings.

Modelling and role playing are the best ways to teach children how to resolve conflict. Please take the time to go through these with your children and discuss any scenarios where you think these have been an appropriate strategy for them to utilise in their daily lives.

Here are some scenarios you may wish to use as examples.

Someone keeps whispering to you in the hall, when the teacher is talking, and other times you're supposed to be quiet.

What can you do?

Someone keeps taking your stuff without asking you first.

What can you do?

You told your friend a big secret and then they told some other kids.

What can you do?

Together we can teach our children to be more resilient, effectively resolve conflict and also take personal responsibility for their own actions. Have a lovely weekend!

Redah Khan
School Counsellor



Primary Update



It has been an amazing first week back after the holidays! This week I have loved watching lots of lessons across primary as part of our 'looking for learning' focus. I am very impressed with how the children's level of independence is developing and it was lovely to hear so many children confidently talking about what they are doing. All the classes have been encouraging the children to demonstrate their learning by asking the children to be 'mini-teachers' and explain the tasks.

This week we were really pleased to open our new Year 1 Herons class. All the children have thoroughly enjoyed settling in, getting to know their new classmates and loved learning about 'The Rainbow Fish'. I loved seeing the children's version of the fish with all of its sparkly scales which are on display in their classroom.

At Aspen Heights we pride ourselves on developing as professionals and this week we had our 'Twilight CPD' session. During the session we shared lots of good practice in relation to our new phonics and spelling schemes that we are rolling out. We are really excited about developing these areas further, as the teachers have already seen a positive impact on the children's learning after just one half term!

We welcomed back Mrs Stevens, our Head of Primary, this week who has returned from her maternity leave. We are all very excited to have her back and the children loved updating her on everything that they have learned.

Have a lovely weekend all!

Miss Charlotte Clark
Assistant Head of Primary



EYFS Update

The start of a new half term and the start of a new exciting topic. In Nursery, the children were introduced to the story 'Hooray For Fish' and started to learn about their new topic 'Under the Sea'. In phonics the children have been adapting the song 'Old MacDonald Had a Farm' to 'Old MacDonald went to the beach'. The children thought of great actions and sounds to add to the song.



In FS2, the children were very surprised to walk into their classrooms to find porridge oats and footprints all over the room. There were lots of brilliant guesses about who caused the mess such as a bear, giant and dragon. It turns out that the Gruffalo had visited each class and caused a mess. Once the Gruffalo story had been introduced, the children enjoyed making masks of the characters to use in the 'Role Play' area.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Rose Akachi
Head of Foundation Stage



Secondary Update



This week I have seen some amazing learning during my lesson observations. From Ohm's Law calculations in Physics, to Tim Burton style drawing in Art, analysis of their IGCSE level novel in English and skill development in PE, specifically badminton and shot put. Overall, I was impressed by the level of pupil independence and ownership of their learning which has developed hugely during the first half term along with the amazing progress demonstrated through their teachers' skillful approaches.

On Tuesday this week we had a twilight training session, with a huge focus on personalisation of learning even further within secondary. Teachers discussed the many variables that influence effective learning and how this linked with McCoomb's Domains of learner centred practices, which in effect links learning styles with pupil-teacher rapport.

I am delighted to announce that in a few weeks time we will be taking all of our secondary pupils to Expo 2020 Dubai! In line with UAE 50 celebrations we are incorporating parallel thematic learning within our Humanities lessons, which we are supporting with the Expo visit to Sustainability, World Opportunities and The UAE Pavillion.

Class	Day	Date
10F	Monday	8th November
10Y	Monday	8th November
9S	Wednesday	10th November
9M	Wednesday	10th November
8A	Monday	15th November
8D	Monday	15th November
7S	Wednesday	17th November
7R	Wednesday	17th November
7D	Wednesday	17th November

Please look out for more Expo information on your email next week.

Wishing you all a safe weekend.

Dr. Kate Plumb
Head of Secondary



Inclusion Update



Welcome back. I hope you all had an enjoyable half term holiday. This week has been very busy in the Oasis class and for the inclusion team. The Oasis class started their new class story "The Rainbow Fish". This has linked, cross-curricularly to the topic of Under the Sea. The children have really enjoyed singing songs about under the sea, making their own rainbow fish, engaging in number work linked to fish and learning about sea turtle life cycles.

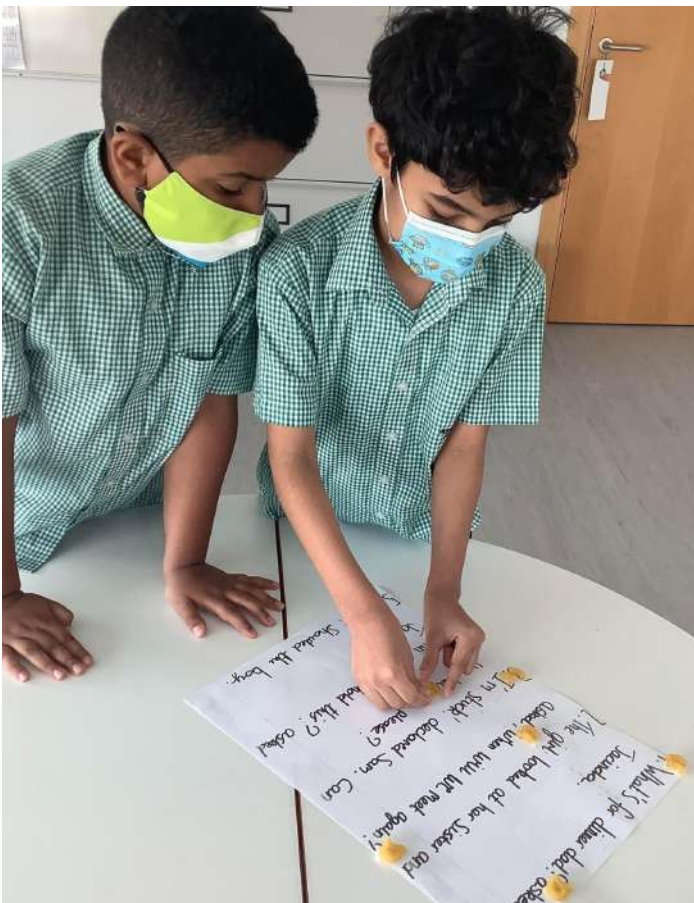
The Oasis children have continued to enjoy developing their gross motor skills through outdoor play, in the sensory circuit room and during daily in class activities. This week, the children had PE in the hall. This really supported the children with participation within the lesson and gave them more freedom and independence.

This week was a library visit week for the Oasis children. The children's confidence and independence of choosing books and following the rules of the school library have really progressed. Every child continues to enjoy the experience of spending time in the library and engaging in books of their choice. This has also led to more interaction between the children as they share interests in books together.

Mr Wyndham, our speech and language specialist, has really enjoyed getting to know more of the children in the school, spending time in more of the Foundation Stage classes supporting both students and teachers with speech and language strategies. The upper primary and secondary inclusion team have been supporting the implementation of a new programme: Fresh Start, to support the students develop their reading and spelling skills.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend.

Miss Katrina Morgan
Head of Inclusion



Arabic Update



After spending a wonderful time during the half term break, our students returned to school with lots of positive energy and enthusiasm ready for another amazing half term.

We celebrated prophet's Mohamed's birth anniversary in Islamic lessons through various activities and learning more about the prophet's life.

In addition, our school planned and prepared the celebration of the 50th National day of UAE. Coinciding with the approaching national celebrations of the United Arab Emirates, care was taken to integrate the culture of the country and work to promote the values of national identity during lessons. Secondary students learned the concept of positive citizenship, which carries many meanings, values and behaviors, as well as discussing their role as positive citizens.

The learning journey is still going on with Arabic language in our school, as this week focused on activities that help develop reading and writing skills in guided reading sessions, in addition to providing them with the necessary standards for writing various sentences and even paragraphs.

The Arabic Department held a training workshop for parents entitled "How can I help my child develop their reading skills?" I was very pleased to meet a large number of parents, as the workshop dealt with an important Arabic skill which is reading. It was a wonderful meeting characterized by the interaction of parents through an interesting discussion, which included valuable inquiries and suggestions in order to develop student reading skills at school and at home. Therefore, I would like to thank everyone who attended the workshop, and we look forward to organizing other workshops in the upcoming days related to Arabic subjects.

Mrs Ouassila Knani
Head of Arabic & Islamic

بعد الاستمتاع بأجمل الأوقات خلال إجازة نهاية النصف الأول من الفصل، عاد طلاب آسبن هذا الأسبوع بكل نشاط و همة لإحياء مولد النبي صلى الله عليه و سلم بحصص التربية الإسلامية من جهة و الاستعداد للاحتفال بالعيد الوطني لدولة الإمارات بحصص التربية الوطنية من جهة أخرى. فقد احتفلت المدرسة بذكرى عطرة على قلوبنا جميعاً وهي مولد سيد الخلق محمد بن عبدالله صلى الله عليه وسلم، وقد قام طلابنا بمجموعة من الأنشطة المتنوعة تعبيراً منهم عن حبهم لنبينا محمد صلى الله عليه وسلم.

وتزامناً مع قرب الاحتفالات الوطنية لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة، تم الحرص على ضرورة دمج ثقافة الدولة والعمل على تعزيز قيم الهوية الوطنية أثناء الحصص الدراسية، حيث تعلم طلاب المرحلة الثانوية هذا الأسبوع مفهوم المواطنة الإيجابية التي تحمل الكثير من المعاني والقيم والسلوكيات، وكذلك ناقشوا دورهم كمواطنين إيجابيين في خدمة هذا الوطن.

ومازالت رحلة التعلم مستمرة مع مادة اللغة العربية في مدرستنا، حيث تم التركيز خلال هذا الأسبوع من خلال الأنشطة والوسائل التي تساعد على تنمية مهارات القراءة والكتابة في حصص القراءة الموجهة، بالإضافة تزويدهم بالمعايير اللازمة لكتابة جمل وفقرات متنوعة. أما في المرحلة الثانوية فقد تنوعت الموضوعات ما بين قصائد شعرية، ونصوص معلوماتية، ونصوص سردية، من خلال أنشطة متنوعة تركز على تنمية مهارات اللغة الأربع، بالإضافة لتفعيل منصة ألف التعليمية.

قام قسم اللغة العربية بعقد ورشة تدريبية لأولياء الأمور بعنوان "كيف أساعد طفلي على تنمية مهارة القراءة" و قد سعدت كثيراً بلقاء عدد كبير من أولياء الأمور، حيث تناولت الورشة موضوعاً هاماً وهو القراءة حيث تم عرض بعض النقاط الهامة مثل: أهمية وفوائد القراءة، بعض الإرشادات والاستراتيجيات الفعالة.

لقد كان لقاءً رائعاً تميّز بتفاعل أولياء الأمور من خلال النقاش الشيق والذي تضمن استفسارات و اقتراحات قيّمة من أجل تطوير مهارة القراءة لدى طلابنا بالمدرسة والبيت. لذلك أود أن أشكر كل من حضر الورشة و خصص وقتاً لذلك، و نتطلع لتنظيم ورش عمل أخرى في الأيام القادمة تخص مواد اللغة العربية.

وسيلة الكناني
رئيسة قسم اللغة العربية



Amazing Learning

Click the links below to see what our children have been doing this week!

EYFS

Nursery (FS1)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IgGiUaEh1eRaFaqehgzXu3D3asaWN1sy/view?usp=sharing>

FS2

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1I9ZccfBxLhZ3x2yIY0IWvWAWbXc9uWlp/view?usp=sharing>

Inclusion and Oasis

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Hfh2pkBQFv1OfUj5MyW4T7tbO6el0xtE/view?usp=sharing>

Primary

Year 1

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HbDM0X4xfoBGWI5B0Jvtg8P4X1liTVSJ/view?usp=sharing>

Year 2

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Hcu0PBFWBytvaWWy4jegHyanwEZdLrbk/view?usp=sharing>

Year 3

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1I3VdinoIHw5LSc95NUofgBmrRIK70diV/view?usp=sharing>

Year 4

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

Year 5

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IAWq3oNVeg2MHsKLOQcy1LGHCi88TzOh/view?usp=sharing>

Year 6

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HzVZjjhG_xqsae3L6E9IzdyE1ln8NIQ/view?usp=sharing



Secondary

Art

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1I5hKiyfh0x6HfABRvJJ_3gdptJD9zAGQ/view?usp=sharing

Computer Science

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HdT5eZktSQIkldqUaeC5D-TQBcwE03Rn/view?usp=sharing>

English

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HibYkLwaD39M5XrYesevviZ47DFNNO4d/view?usp=sharing>

French

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IBjIIHWA5MLkmNq4wOjYv-UA4U3n_jma/view?usp=sharing

Humanities

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IPB_yjDsbCnC6T6iamP3aktWx0GIP_5F/view?usp=sharing

Maths

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1I7ej0BuOnRm-Qz_peG0sbNIAIAqdhVMS/view?usp=sharing

Science

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IbyUITCvZRfUbTNVdoC4PNtQw1LKr-Vb/view?usp=sharing>

Arabic

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HjHAtcDb1Fyy-_5aROr4R5S1TWrPBPrd/view?usp=sharing

PE

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IkSnKv3mu-SKXlvGcY4HSF4nVWHmKu-7/view?usp=sharing>

