



Joseph

**Dedicated to delivering
AMAZING LEARNING**

Weekly Update
Term 1, Wk 1 3rd September 2020



Dear Aspen Heights families,

As I reflect on our first week of this unique academic year, I am incredibly proud of how we have already started to come together as a community of supportive learners.



All families have been patient and appreciative of the processes and routines we have implemented to ensure your children are safe in school, and our community stays healthy.



Your children have been absolutely remarkable; resilient, happy and positive and pleased to be at school once again with their friends and teachers.

I am sure you will join me in commending our incredible staff team; teachers, teaching assistants and administrative pastoral team for their remarkable support, communication and dedication.



Our whole community of children, staff and families make Aspen such a unique and special place to work and learn and I thank and applaud you all for such a positive and successful week.

بينما أفكر في الأسبوع الأول من هذا العام الدراسي الفريد ، فأنا فخورة للغاية بالطريقة التي بدأنا بها بالفعل في العمل كمجتمع من المتعلمين الداعمين.

لقد تحلت جميع العائلات بالصبر وتقدير العمليات والإجراءات الاجتزائية التي نفذناها لضمان سلامة أطفالك في المدرسة ، والحفاظ على مجتمعنا بصحة جيدة.

لقد كان أطفالكم رائعين تماماً ؛ مرنين وسعيددين وإيجابيين وسعداء بالعوده إلى المدرسة مرة أخرى مع أصدقائهم ومعلميهم.

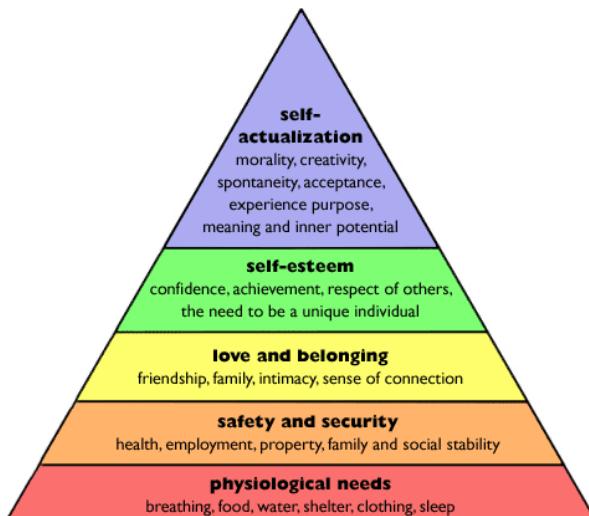
أنا متأكدة من أنكم ستنتضمون إليني في الإشادة بفريقنا الرائع ؛ المدرسون ومساعدو التدريس والفريق الإداري لدعمهم الرائع وتواصلهم وتفانيهم.



إن مجتمعنا الكامل من الأطفال والموظفين والعائلات يجعل من آسبين مكاناً فريداً ومميراً للعمل والتعلم ، وأشكركم جميعاً وأشيد بكم على هذا الأسبوع الإيجابي والناجح.

Creating a new community of learners:

During staff training sessions this week I have reflected with staff on Maslow's hierarchy of needs.



Due to the nature of returning to school during a global pandemic, naturally the biggest focus has been on safety and health. We have worked exceptionally hard to meet the high standards set out by the ADEk compliance team, and we submit a daily report to confirm our adherence to these high standards of health and safety. All of these measures have reassured our community; we feel safe and confident in our school environment.

With these measures in place, we are now developing our community's sense of belonging- becoming part of the Aspen Heights learning community. In class your child's teacher will be working on ensuring your child feels part of their class, is getting to know their classmates and feels secure and confident. This is essential in ensuring their learning is as effective as possible- happy children learn more!

As a community school, ensuring families and staff feel part of the 'Aspen family' is crucial to our unique atmosphere at Aspen. In the coming weeks you will see various community events, family workshops to support your child's learning, and Friends of Aspen meetings in our 'family dates' sent every Sunday.

Family Fun with Numbers- Wednesday 9th September- 3pm- Facebook live

The first of these community events will take place next Wednesday- Family Fun with numbers. This is a regular September calendar event for Aspen, and often proves to be hugely popular with 150 families attending last year! This year we will be hosting the event on facebook live- please look out for details next week. We hope you are all ready to have fun with your teachers and families with numbers!

Class reps:

At Aspen we have volunteer Class representatives who coordinate a whatsapp group for each class. This is to pass on reminders about specific school activities; communication regarding an activity will always come from the school first. We will send our class reps policy for families on Sunday 6th September. If you would like to be a class representative for your child's class, please contact your child's class teacher.

Communication at Aspen:

We know that you have been swamped with communication from our school in recent weeks as we try to keep you up to date with changes that are happening in our provision, and ensuring our logistics and processes are clear. In a usual week, please expect communication on the parent portal on these days:

Sundays	Family dates (a rolling calendar of what's going on in our busy school!)
Tuesdays	Occasional update from SLT
Thursdays	Newsletter and learning summary of the week. Distance Learning communication and links for the following week for distance learning children.

Seesaw guides:

You have all been sent a guide to the Seesaw platform we use to support home learning and distance learning at Aspen. Please contact your child's class teacher if you have any questions or queries.

Family and carer passes:

The family and carer passes are being printed for those families who have completed the necessary forms. Our receptionist will contact you when it is ready to collect from reception. Please sign in at the gate to receive a temporary pass if your pass is not yet ready. Any families who have not completed the family pass forms please email Miss Sandy Saadeh our registrar at registrar@ahbs.ae and she will send you the forms.

Transportation:

Our bus company Shanawaz will be in touch with families who have requested a bus service today or Saturday. Please contact our school administrator drayyan@ahbs.ae if you need more information.

Final Distance Learning Survey:

On Tuesday 8th September you will receive a final survey asking you to select onsite or distance learning for the remainder of Term 1. Please only complete this survey if your choice has changed.

Finally, I hope you enjoy some time with your family this weekend- I hope your children have lots to tell you about their first week back at school!

Kind regards,

Emma Shanahan
Principal Aspen Heights British School



Back to school!



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