



المدرسة الإنجليزية الحديثة THE ENGLISH MODERN SCHOOL

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Message from Head of School



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14.06.2020

Dear parents,

I hope this email finds you all well as we continue to adapt to the current global crisis and the uncertainties that come with COVID-19. We are in uncharted waters, and all we can do is to maintain consistency and stability amid these challenges with the hope that the world returns to normal soon. It takes a lot of courage, perseverance, and patience to handle these challenges. For sure we are all missing life as it used to be and having the freedom to do the things we take for granted.

Even working from home, we are still delivering strong online learning experiences to our students. Thank you for working in partnership with us as we navigate this paradigm shift in education. We much appreciate your support and collaboration to ensure your children receive the best education possible during this uncertain time.

Special thanks to our faculty and staff for their hard work ensuring that we continue to provide education to our students against all the odds.

Thank you for your positive responses to all virtual parents meeting and face to face interactions this year; it's nice to hear all about your experiences, ideas and suggestions about our online learning and school processes in general. The online learning education for your children is new to all of us and together,

Transition to Online Learning

While our campus is closed temporarily, we engage students with learning experiences that continue the planned learning program and help them to stay connected with teachers and classmates. They emphasize interaction and creativity and involve a balance of on-screen and off-screen tasks that help connect to previous learning and the current curriculum. There is a daily schedule for lessons, which involve activities in line with the long/mid-term plan for Term3. The activities planned are familiar to the children and parents and with the step-by-step guide on seesaw and Google Classroom or with the teacher's instructions using video and audio . Audio comments and feedback from the teacher and the Principal are happening daily. We have maintained the activities of a varied and stimulating, ensuring that the children can learn independently and still being creative and using their imagination. Activities are either explained using audio or video. The sessions also involve a PE active session as well as Arabic, and Islamic lessons included each week. The activities involve the children to record what they are saying as they complete the activity, or draw and describe a picture relating to the theme, listening to a story and then explaining their favorite part of the story or drawing a picture from the story.

I miss not seeing you, our students and the school community, I am looking forward to having everyone back on campus for the next academic year, God willing.

Thank you all.

Sincerely,
Omolola Wright-Odusoga
Head of School

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The teachers in the ECE department have been working hard to continue with the children to enhance their learning. The classes participated in the Qatar National Day celebration practicing their song presentation for the parents and families. Both the KG1 and KG2 were combined to sing a song about Qatar. After the performance, students enjoyed different activities including face painting and henna while visiting with their friends.

After returning from Winter Break, the students began working on Understanding of the World, exploring plants and animals and how they grow. The classes chose to plant bean seeds and watched the beans to see if they would grow. The students also learned more about the life cycle of a butterfly. They demonstrated their knowledge of the life cycle through stories read to them and through their artwork.

During February, the students were introduced to the theme of Being Healthy. The students learned about the importance of being active and how to compete in activities, being either a gracious winner or how to not win while competing in the ECE Sports Day. The students also worked on the importance of Healthy Eating and had been preparing for an activity that includes a picnic for eating healthy foods including fruits and vegetables. The students were to help their teachers prepare the fruits and vegetables for the event.

The students worked with their Arabic teachers to prepare for the annual school production. This year's production was presented in Arabic. The students in KG2 classes from EMSW and EMKG practiced for two songs about the letters they have been learning. The KG1 students from both EMSW and EMKG sang a song about farm animals.

The students enjoyed visits from the primary students during World Read Aloud Day. The students were treated to stories read by different primary students in English and Arabic. The ECE students were encouraged to participate in the stories asking questions and discuss what they had seen in the pictures.

Unfortunately, at the beginning of Term 3, the Coronavirus caused the school to close and online learning was introduced. The ECE department began using the Seesaw online program to deliver instruction and activities so the students could continue their learning in the last term. It has been a tough journey for the teachers and the families but the teachers are working hard to make sure the students are continuing their learning.

Patti Tatum

KG Leader

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Primary Assistant Principal

What an amazing term we have had, from World Book Day with children from different ages reading together and the children were dressing up as their favorite book character. We also want to mention the importance of reading with the children on a daily basis at home. The learning within the class from the children has been amazing. The children are showing such excitement and joy with Active learning taking place in the lessons. I would like to congratulate the Green House for winning 1st place on the Sports Day and well done to our parents for winning both Tug of War matches against the teachers on Sports Day.

We are aware that a number of parents are concerned with the ongoing Coronavirus. Please be assured we are doing everything we can with the Continuous Learning Platform to help the children while they are at home. The teachers are currently meeting with your children several times a week and they will continue to interact as much as possible through various conference calls and lesson schedules. We are also setting up Q&A sessions with teachers for parents to ask any questions they may have about the lessons being taught and technical issues they may be facing with their children at home. We would like to emphasise the importance of their children logging onto the Continuous Learning Platform and completing their assigned work. We are taking attendance based on their completion of work and their interactions with the teachers via various online conference calls. We want to put you at ease and we will keep you informed of any developments through communications directly from the school. If you have any questions or queries please feel free to contact the school office and we will get the answers you need. Take care and stay safe.

Year 1

Term 2 for our young learners was full of exciting activities. We have continued to encourage independence, innovativeness and engagement using fun learning opportunities. In English, the students have been working on their expressive language, reading, and critical thinking through different topics. 'On the Farm', 'My Five Senses' and 'How we travel' were some of the themes we have been covering, while providing ongoing support for phonics. In Math, the students have enjoyed working on different subtraction activities, as well as grasping the comparative language for measure and have begun to learn to tell time. In Science, the students have been discussing what makes us similar and what makes us different. They have enjoyed the lessons on the 'Senses', and especially the activities where they were asked to sort and identify different material. We will continue with engaging activities which will support their learning and monitor their progress through Term 3.

Year 2

In Term 2, the students learned to identify and name 2D and 3D shapes and symmetry in the environment, in maths. They also carried out active learning activities, inside and outside the classroom, while using manipulatives to solve multiplication and division sentences and word problems and learned about fractions.

In English, the students have been focusing on reading with the implementation of guided reading lessons to develop their skills in comprehension, and continue their enthusiasm for reading. They also enjoyed reading to other classes on World Read Aloud Day.

There have also been cross curricular activities which link English with social studies on topics such as the importance and the role of the family, the heritage of Qatar and the names of the continents of Arabic countries. In linking English with science, the students enjoyed carrying out practical experiments, after making predictions. They tested rocks to discover which ones absorbed the most water and tested materials that change when heated or cooled. The materials used were chocolate and ice which are always favourites to handle. We hope to continue the un in Term 3.

Year 3

In the second term, Year 3 students had fun participating in a range of different activities. A highlight for English this term was Read Aloud Day, when the Year 3 classes paired up with the Year 4 classes for a lesson and had a go at reading to each other. Although shy at first, the students made some new friends and enjoyed their reading and agreed they would like to do more reading with other classes. In Maths, the highlight was definitely all the bar charts, Venn diagrams and pictograms that students made themselves from data they collected with their peers. Many students were excited about working together asking questions of their peers and creating a large graph that they presented. In Science, students were fascinated with magnets and enjoyed experimenting with different kinds to discover what they could do. In Social Studies, students have been learning about protecting the environment through reducing, reusing and recycling. They were very creative with their project of reusing water bottles as pencil pots; some made several pots and used them in the class. Students also enjoyed learning about the process of recycling paper and attempting to make their own bowls out of used paper. We hope our students took away many lessons from their Term 2 learning experiences and look forward to more to come in Term 3.

Year 4

Term 2 for the students in Year 4 was full of interesting and engaging topics with many learning opportunities. The students demonstrated enthusiasm regarding the topics which were planned and introduced. As teachers, we encourage our students to work independently, be creative and strive for excellence. In science, the students learned about the states of matter and sound. During the social studies the students were fully engaged with topics which included family values, customs and culture and also health and wellbeing. In Maths, the students studied 2D and 3D shapes, fractions and decimals. The students working in the English lessons practiced the correct usage of punctuations and key spellings. We continued to practice with our students to accurately use the language. The students also practised public speaking skills by presenting their projects to their peers. The students are continuously encouraged to complete their classwork and assessments with care and responsibility.

Year 5

Year 5 had a terrific and fun-filled Term 2. In English classes, they explored the lives and the activities of famous people. The students also learned about different types of stories including myths, fables, proverbs, and short stories. They also discussed the influence ancient people have on the current cultures. The students explored many structures which were built in the past, and are still standing. They investigated the lives of the ancient peoples of Egypt along with the pharaohs, Incas, Mayas, Aztecs and the Greeks. The students also were given the task of creating and presenting their own mythical creature. This project was one of their favorite class activities which showcased their creativity and imagination. In maths, the sessions included fractions, decimals, and percentages. They were also challenged to solve real life word problems about time, perimeter and area. In social studies, they learned to work together to create a useful society and how countries in the region worked together. The students also learned from each other by creating presentations about government, its structure and function. Our Science lessons involved learning about states of matter, and the movement of the Earth. The students learned more about these topics through different experiments. We know that we will have an awesome Term 3 because we believe that learning is the work together.

Year 6

A buzz of activity has been echoing through the Year 6 classrooms as the students busily collate all of their hard work onto the much-awaited student-led conference. The process would be a great challenge and certainly a learning curve in planning, time management and presentation. This term in English, we continued studying a range of short texts to link in within our social studies topic on World War I and II, using them as a stimulus for writing a variety of genres.

We also continued with regular grammar and punctuation work, handwriting and spelling work. Extended writing sessions also took place regularly to ensure that we had a wide range of evidence to support the assessments. In maths, our sessions included the long multiplication and division, finding the mean, median, mode, angles at a point, 2D and 3D shapes. We also completed investigative and problem-solving activities, sessions on fractions, decimals and percentages. In science, the students learned about evolution and inheritance. They learnt about fossils and how they provided information about living things that inhabited millions of years ago and how animals adapted to suit their habitats. They also explored why metals were used for cables and wires and why plastics were used to cover wires and as covers for plugs and switches. Here's to lots of hard work ahead but we hope there will be a great festive Term 3.

Year 6 Virtual Graduation Ceremony

Wow! What a year. The 2019-2020 academic year will definitely go down in history as being one of the most memorable for all of us. In the midst of all that is going on in our world right now, Year 6 students were very overwhelmed to celebrate their Virtual Graduation via Google meet last 1st of June 2020. We appreciate their resourcefulness, earnestness, and the valuable contributions they have made to the EMSW community. As our students make their way to secondary school, we hope that they take the time to reflect and congratulate themselves on their success. Graduation day is a very special milestone in a person's life; it's a way of celebrating an individual's hard work and dedication while also recognising and acknowledging the support received from friends, family and classmates. Congratulations to the EMSW Class of 2020. We're very proud of you!



* Full video of the Virtual Graduation Ceremony is available in our school's Facebook page: "The English Modern School- Al Wakra"

Sean O'Rourke
Primary Assistant Principal

QATAR NATIONAL CURRICULUM DEPARTMENT

Welcome to our school newsletter Volume 2. Term 2 and the beginning of Term 3 were chocked full of events. The school participated in a number of competitions, including the National Future Writers Competition which was held at Al Maha School, and the Reading Olympics competition held in Educational City. The students enjoyed participating and gained experience by competing against other schools. Our school held an internal Arabic Spelling Bee competition. The students demonstrated great skill in spelling. Many thanks to parents for supporting, encouraging and working with their children. Our school spelling bee team participated in the external spelling competition which was held at EMS Al Khor. Our students earned second place in the lower primary group and third place in the upper primary group. Our students also participated in the National Holy Quran Competition and the results were impressive with 96 students passing the test, 41 of them received excellent, 22 scored very good, 33 received good. Well done, our young heroes.

The students enjoyed many of the school trips which were good educational experiences. The students from the Year 4 classes were able to visit the Sheikh Faisal Museum, while the students from Year 2 visited the Dhow festival at Katara. They were able to see traditional fishing boats and learned more about marine life in Qatar. Students from Year 4 through Year 6 visited Darb Al-Saai, and the students in Year 3 visited the International Book Fair. The KG2 students visited Qatar National Theatre to view a puppet show presented in Arabic.

The school held events including the Qatar National Day celebration. Each grade level presented songs about Qatar while dressed in the colors of the country or traditional dress. Students enjoyed participating in various activities including No Book Day in January. Students from EMKG and EMSW KG1 and KG2 worked together on the annual school production. The students in ECE, Years 1 through 5 demonstrated coordination and teamwork skills, and represented positive values and attitudes towards the Arabic language. The students were able to participate in a book fair where they were able to purchase books in either Arabic or English.

On March 11th, the school moved to a continuous learning program. The concept was new for many of the students, families and teachers. The teachers have seen good work from the students, ranging from writing, videos, pictures and beautiful drawings. Not only are the students using their knowledge skills with continuous learning, but they are also increasing their skills of using technology, identifying file types and how to utilize the different files. Keep on working, and prove that this virus will not stand in the way of our learning and our success.

Mr. Azam Rihan

Arabic Department Leader

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**ECE**

During this term, KG1 students focused on balance and activities that incorporate the ability to stretch, bend, twist, turn, push, and pull. Balance is an especially valuable skill, requiring both strength and concentration, and children can improve their balance by trying creative new poses. They also started to explore different ways of moving such as running, jumping and hopping..

KG2 students had fun experimenting new ways of moving, whether it was galloping, hopping, walking, running, jumping, leaping, skipping or sliding. Children enjoy practicing these movements and also improving increasing their control over an object through throwing, catching, kicking, and pushing.

At the end of the term, the children were expected to follow the rules and procedures involving various games and activities, including how to share and take turns. The children were taught about safety including how to look out for themselves and how to safely use and take care of the equipment used in the physical education class.

Isabelle Villaran

PE Teacher

PRIMARY

Hello parents the PE department has been in full swing this term both in and out of school. Ms Abel and I have been working with the children on various activities which are lead up games and skills which result in fun learning. We have seen all of the children taking part in the planned activities for PE and are always eager to participate.

The upper primary have been engaged in Decathlon athletics and invasion games. Decathlon Athletics is a series of individual sports ranging from javelin throw, balance beam and the triple jump. The children will record their attempts to determine if they have beaten their previous scores and compare their scores with the other students. This builds togetherness and team spirit even though they are competing individually. This has proved to be a success, with most children improving from their first attempt. The highlight in terms of fun and achievement of all the activities seems to be the Long jump and Triple jump. Goes to show what a big smile and a little confidence can do! The invasion games have been used as warm up activities so these have included bowling and hitting a target as a team and learning compass points with a speed reaction game.

The students in Year 3 have been particularly active and engaging as they have been learning different techniques of Benchball. Learning how to catch, pass, pivot, pass when moving, attacking and defending. We have tried to combine different skills of basketball and incorporate it within Benchball. This has made it fun and exciting for the children and for us as educators.

Teaching these activities at the right time has helped us achieve success within the school and outside of school where the children have been performing at a higher level. During Term 2, several children have attended the QPPSSA Athletics and have brought home medals and certificates.

A mixed team of girls and boys from Year 3 took part in the first ever QPPSSA Bench ball tournament. They also came home with medals after finishing up as runners up only playing together for the first time. QPPSSA tournaments are played against some of the biggest schools in Qatar which means what the students of EMS Wakra are achieving, is a massive success. Well done to all the children.

Captain Islam from 'Generation Amazing' has continued to work with the children coaching at school two days a week. He is coaching and teaching the children life skills including communication and sportsmanship through the use of sport.

Thank you parents for your continued support!

Andrew Palmer

PE Teacher

TEACHING AND LEARNING

This term has seen us move forward with Reading in fun and interesting new ways. There's such a rich discussion amongst the staff about what works well and about diversifying strategies we use with our students. We encourage parents to read with their children for a minimum of 20 minutes every day and engage in conversations about the material. Children can read in any language and use text from any source that is appropriate, so please be sure to give them choices and allow them to make decisions about the texts they read.

We have made an informed decision to move up the timeline for the use of Chromebooks, as well as the available online tools. The strategy to support our students to become digitally literate has been underway for months. We feel that our students should be supported to develop all of the 21st Century Skills, which include, but are not limited to, being technologically savvy. By bringing up the timeline over the past weeks our aim has been to prepare our teachers and support learners and families in a time of uncertainty by providing a quality alternative built on a sound plan, should we need it.

We have continued our work on creating engaging activities and experiences for our students in order to nurture their natural curiosity and ability to learn. We will be inviting you soon to our campus to experience first hand what active learning looks like in our classrooms. I am very much looking forward to discussing your thoughts and ideas after you have had a chance to do this.

Marwah Elghobashy
Curriculum Coordinator

LIBRARY

During these unprecedented times of school closures, the Library would like to support you and your child(ren) in their reading and learning journey. The Library is collaborating with the teachers to expand curated and quality online resources for "classroom instruction" and leisure reading for your child(ren). Kindly note as well that check-out periods for Library books borrowed are extended and will be due when school opens again.

As you are all spending more time with your child(ren), it is recommended that this is the perfect opportunity to read with them or encourage them to read for at least 20 minutes a day. Reading can take them on adventures and broaden their experiences.

If you need any help in accessing online resources for your son/daughter, please don't hesitate to email the librarian at ken.calipjo@emswakra.net.

Ken Calipjo
Librarian

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT

The school counsellor works with students, parents, teachers and administrators to help make your child's online learning experience a success. Students are more successful when parents and teachers work together. We encourage our students to continue to focus on being confident, responsible, reflective, innovative and engaged (CLA) during continuous learning online.

Parents

- Please use the second step Character Educational Program at home. Please visit www.secondstep.org and click tab/ Families.
- Please use the secondSTEP: Bullying Prevention Unit Program home link. Please login to www.secondstep.org and register.
- If you have not registered, please visit www.secondstep.org and register to do home link activities with your child. Home Links are simple, fun activities that encourage interaction between students and their parents. The activities give students a chance to practice Second Step skills outside of school and help families learn about those skills so they can use them at home. Parents' activation keys are found on the school's website at www.englishmodernschool.net. Click on the following tabs: Wakra/Parents/secondSTEP activation keys.

Thank you,

Dr. Mildred Stevenson
School Counselor

HEALTH & SAFETY

Good health will help your child's ability to learn and to achieve to his/her full potential not only at school but throughout his/her life. It is this fact that drives us to stress the importance of good nutrition, adequate sleep, good hygiene, and regular exercise. We encourage you to ensure that your child gets 7-8 hours of sleep each night and that he/she starts the day with a healthy breakfast. The school maintains health records on each child so that the best care and treatment can be given. Injured and ill children are assessed and treated accordingly.

Protect Yourself

- Follow the instructions of the Ministry Of Public Health by practicing physical distancing, staying home, avoiding crowds, parks and refraining from touching one another or surfaces.
- Personal hygiene is extremely important at this time of the virus outbreak. Wash your hands regularly with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based solution (60%) or a sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth (or ensure you wash your hands before and after).
- Refrain from having visitors Keep your distance from other people - maintain at least a 2 meter distance between yourself and anyone around you
- Avoid physical contact with others - refrain from shaking hands or hugging as a greeting

- Maintain a clean environment – regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces
- Ensure household staff follow good practices - if you employ household and/or private nursing staff, ensure they adhere to the strict hygiene protocols of hand washing and ask them to keep a mask on when near you.

For any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school nurse.

*Jovierose Banoy
School Nurse*

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL CASHIER

The Term 3 Tuition fee is 7,784 QAR will be due on the 8th of March 2020. The fee should be paid on or before the 8th of April 2020.

A list of all outstanding student fees will be sent to the Ministry of Education & Higher Education for their reference and the report card will not be released if the student has any outstanding fees.

The seat reservation fee for the 2020-2021 academic year is 2,275 QAR. The seat reservation will not be accepted from existing students unless all outstanding fees from the current academic year or previous academic year have been paid in full.

Thank you

*Jenson Chacko
School Cashier*

FRONT OFFICE

We are here to help the parents communicate with the school's personnel such as Head of School, Senior Leadership and Management Teams, Year Group Leaders and faculty members. If you need to schedule a meeting with the school's faculty and staff, please call or email us and we will schedule an appointment depending on the availability of various personnel. If you have any suggestions for the school please send us an email and mark the email a suggestion for the school.

If you have any other inquiries do not hesitate to contact us.

Tel: 44111911
Mobile: 70012906
Email: office@emswakra.net

Fathima Rakeeb

School Secretary

FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

The school has a continuous plan to improve its facilities, services and operations. Here are some of the updates in this regard:

1. School Bus Service - As of Term 2, we have accommodated several more students on our school bus which gives convenience to the stakeholders, especially students to come to and go home from school safely. (We will update you on the bus services for the next academic year one we have further information)
2. Primary Garden Area - We have built a special area for the primary students to plant their own garden with different vegetables. We have seen these plants grow and soon to be harvested by the students special thanks to Dr. Mildred and Ms. Lola for this wonderful initiative
3. School roads sign & safety measured installed - After some follow up and request from the school management, The Ministry of Municipality (Wakra) has been supportive and generous to install additional 'Speed Limit', 'School Zone', 'Student Crossing' signs around our school premises - specifically in front and back of school. They have also installed additional 'Speed Humps' to reinforce road safety of all stakeholders and road users in the premises.
4. Posters, Banners about the new 'Cambridge Learners Attribute' or CLA - The school has installed the CLA banners around the school for everyone to see and familiarize themselves with. These colorful and informative banners can be seen in the different blocks with the corresponding information for ECE and Primary students.

We will keep you updated on school improvement plans. We want to thank you dear parents and stakeholders for being part of our school improvement and development.

Please do not hesitate to send your comments, suggestions or questions about facilities and school operations to office@emswakra.net.

Thank you

Jonathan Molmisa

Campus Operations Officer

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Inevitably there will be some tech challenges as we move to continuous learning online. Below we have information on how to contact us for technical issues students and parents might be having. We thank you in advance for your patience to overcome technical issues and wait for our response to your queries.

IT Support team for:

Issues with student email addresses (passwords, resets)

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScGhhvxaA3tfbn39-AiYNFBSRr6yqm4ecp14NGPnhJq2v_KDg/viewform?hl=en

Thank you

Jabir C. Mannil

IT System Administrator