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Thursday, 4th April 2019

## Head of Primary's End of Term 2 Letter

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your support at the events, activities and meetings that have taken place over the past twelve weeks, bringing to a close another busy term in the Primary Campus. In addition to this, your feedback regarding curriculum developments has been both positive and useful, as we continue to set high expectations for the learning experiences of all our children.

This term we have seen further investment in staff professional development. This has varied from individuals attending courses at other schools as part of the British Schools in the Middle East network, through Shaping Learning consultants working with QP Schools and through QPs investment in developing leaders across all departments within the company. Staff have been involved in gaining a deeper understanding of leading and delivering training in core subject areas, the importance of language development for all children and in developing a consistent understanding of high quality teaching and learning .

Mr. Howard has settled into his leadership role as Science Coordinator for Primary, concluding this term with a rather exciting 'Mars Day'. This day has given many of our Y6 children leadership opportunities, to share their learning with younger children, following their work with one of our parents, Mr. Foster.

Mrs. Bauhador, recently welcomed a baby son and is on maternity leave and Mrs. Washer has been employed to cover her teaching commitments in FS1. She is a welcome addition to our team and spent many weeks working with Mrs. Bauhador prior to her departure in order to get to know the children and make the handover seamless. I would also like to congratulate one of our TAs, Mrs. El Saheb on the recent birth of her baby son and she too is currently on maternity leave.

Over the last 3 months, there have been many activities and events where our children's various skills and tenacity have been showcased, including Sports Days, QPPSSA and BISQ PE Competitions. Their dedication to perform to the best of their abilities, team ethic and ambition are to be commended. The children in Year 6 gave a stellar performance in February for their interpretation of the famous story of 'Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits'. The humor, acting and choreography were akin to those of a professional theatrical performance. We have some very talented children! Our Y5 and Y6 Descant Choir performed under the exceptional direction of Mr. Young to win first place in the QPSCoY competition. What an accomplished musical achievement for our oldest children. Some of our children also chose to represent the school and themselves in the Quran Competition with some good results. We are all so proud to work with our children and support them in all areas of their school life.

A variety of trips have taken learning outside the classroom; Y6 visited MIA, Y4 participated in a drumming and STEM Explorers workshop, Y3 attended the Engineering for Kids Centre and Y2 visited Eataly in MoQ. These invaluable experiences and opportunities enhance and extend the learning that takes place in school on a daily basis.

Thank you to those parents who gave feedback regarding the Knowledge Organisers. These were originally trialed in Y2 and Y3 and are now being used across all year groups in the Lower School (Years 1 - 3). Plans are in place to roll these out for children in Upper School for next term. We continue to strive to support the learning opportunities for all children in Primary and this initiative has been well received to date.

It is always great to see parents in school and we are thankful of the level of support you give. Community groups, Community Play Scheme, Little Habibi's and the Community library are all well attended and very important to the development of what our school can offer the broader community. Thank you to those who have attended recent meetings, including changes to the teaching of mathematics; over 100 parents participated in a successful afternoon of active learning.

Perhaps our most memorable event this term was Book Week. Pyjama Day was a huge hit as was the vocabulary parade. Reading in the Park for all year groups was enjoyed by many and the DEAR (drop everything and read) times proved highly popular. The children were engaged in many fun activities to develop their reading skills throughout the week and staff and children alike thoroughly enjoyed the whole week. Well done everybody!

I would like to wish you all a great holiday and safe travels for those who will be leaving Dukhan. I look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 22nd April.

Together we are making a difference for all our children here at DES and I look forward to working on our future successes.

Kind regards,

*Sarah Lewkowicz*

Mrs S Lewkowicz  
Head of Primary