



Welcome to Year 4

2017-2018

Learn together, live together and laugh together

Meet the Primary Leadership Team...



Mrs. Lewkowicz
Head of Primary



Mr. Iqbal
Assistant Headteacher



Mrs. Foster
Assistant Headteacher

Meet the Year 4 Teachers and Teaching Assistants...



Mrs. Saiil

Mrs. van der Merwe

Mr. Morgan

Mr. Davies

Mrs. Hakim

Mrs. Rafiya

Miss. Maham

Mrs. Jenny

Mrs. Singh

Mrs. Rina

Mission and Vision

Mission

DES aims to inspire and empower our students to prepare them for the future with an innovative and globally relevant education. In order to achieve this Mission, we have a Vision which feeds into and compliments our Mission.

Vision

Every Student maximizing their potential

Every Teacher an expert Manager of Learning

Every learning programme inspiration and innovative

The Four Cs of 21st Century Skills



Curriculum and 21st Century Competencies

At DES, we aim for our curriculum to be innovative and cutting edge. As a consequence of this, you should expect your child to be stretched and challenged to the best of their ability, in a safe and supportive environment. As a result of our dedication to providing a world class curriculum, one of our key focuses this term will involve ensuring your child develops the key "21st Century Competencies". These are designed to equip all children with the necessary skills to thrive in the future and to keep pace with the rapid technological change the world is experiencing. A solid grounding in this skills will mean that your child is ready to face the challenges of the future. These competencies aim to improve both interpersonal and cognitive abilities, and as such complement our dedication to improving the whole child.

The 21st Century Competencies are interlinked, and are often complimentary - for example, if you have a fantastic, innovative idea but lack the communication skills to explain that idea then your innovation will have a much reduced impact. The skills are as follows:

Critical thinking - the ability to solve problems and make decisions using a variety of tools and resources

Communication - communicating effectively orally, in writing and with a range of tools as well as digital literacy and listening skills

What your child needs for school

<p>A healthy lunch</p> 	<p>Water bottle</p> 
<p>Sun hat</p> 	<p>Pencil case</p> 

Uniform requirements

DES has high expectations for personal presentation, as we believe this is an important life lesson for the children in our care. As such, our uniform policy is as follows:

Boys wear a white shirt with navy trousers or shorts and black leather school shoes

Girls wear a white blouse with navy skirt, dress or trousers and black leather school shoes

PE kit is a white polo shirt, black or navy shorts or track suit bottoms and trainers

Boys and Girls are allowed to wear watches but these must be removed during PE lessons. Girls are allowed to wear one pair of stud earrings which must also be removed during PE lessons

Lifestyle choices

In order to ensure your child can reach their potential, it is important that their lives are structured in such a way as to ensure high levels of energy and mental acuity. As such, it is important for children to receive a minimum of eight hours sleep a day, and for them to be provided with healthy snacks and drinks - for example fruit and water. We also ask that you provide your child with sun cream. If your child has any other medication,



Headlice

If a child is found to have head lice, we will send them to the School Nurse. You will be contacted and asked to take them to the QP Medical Centre for further treatment. Once the QP medical Centre provides you with a clearance certificate, please show this to the nurse who will then authorize your child's return to school.

Transport Arrangements



Please inform your child's class teacher in writing if there is a change to the arrangements for your child travelling home. Your child will otherwise go on the allocated bus and be dropped off at the nearest bus stop to their house.

School Website



The school website contains an up-to-date calendar of school events, trips and other important dates. There is also a 'Parent Zone' section containing lots of helpful information.

The school website is at the following location: <http://www.des.com.qa>

School Organisation

Primary Timetable	
Time	Activity
07:00	Registration including SO-DA
07:15	Lesson 1
08:15	Lesson 2
09:15	First Break
09:45	Lesson 3
10:45	Lesson 4
11:45	Second Break
12:00	Lesson 5
1:00 (Home Time KS1)	
12:50	Lesson 6
1:40 (Home Time KS2)	
1:15 – 2:15 (KS2)	After School Activities (Year 4 - Wednesday)



Assessment



Assessment opportunities will be ongoing throughout the year with feedback given on a regular basis. 'Target Tracker' will be used as an assessment tool to monitor the progress of your child. There will be a range of assessments carried out to ensure pupils are meeting their expected targets and support can be identified

Specialist Lessons



DES is dedicated to a holistic approach to education. As such, we value all subjects equally. To this end, DES have a number of teachers with up-to-date, specialist knowledge in a variety of curriculum areas. This year, the

Arabic Speakers

DES values the cultural heritage of all our children. As part of our offering, we ensure that all Arabic children

Parent Volunteers

DES values the impact of parents and understands that it is only when schools and parents work together that children can reach their full potential. As such, we are eager to involve parents with as many aspects of the school as possible. If you are interested in spending some time in school in any capacity, please get in touch with us and arrange an appointment to discuss how you can help us maximise learning outcomes for our children.

Primary Library



Due to the importance of reading (especially reading at home), DES has a well-stocked library with a highly trained Librarian. As well as this, the DRC and the JRC have libraries which you can visit with your children. You and your child will have access to the library to take books home, and our Librarian can help you select

After School Clubs



As part of our extended offering, your child will be able to participate in a range of extra-curricular activities which will enhance their learning and development in a number of key areas. Clubs will be either creative, knowledge based or sport based. A full timetable of activities will be sent out shortly. Your child's clubs will

The Importance of Reading



Reading is a critical skill, and it is foundational to academic and social success. It is a key underpinning of all the 21st century competencies, and reading with your child at home is one of the most valuable activities your child will undertake within a day.

It is important to realise that reading is not just about the skill of being able to decode words. Vitally, a child must understand what they are writing and be able to deconstruct and understand a text. This is especially important in the modern world, when children are bombarded with adverts and messages from a wide variety of sources. The ability to critically evaluate and consider the messages they are receiving in order to become educated and informed citizens is one of the key outcomes required for your child to be a successful in developing their 21st Century Competencies.



How We Read With Our Children

In school, we teach reading through a number of different ways. These include understanding the meaning of different words in different contexts, finding information from a text, identifying the main idea of a text, sequencing events, predicting future events, finding similarities and differences, concluding, inferring and finding fact and opinion.

In Year 4, children will be taught all of the above skills through a combination of small reading group work and whole class teaching. In small groups, children will read an appropriate level text together with either a teacher or TA, and follow this up with a discussion about it, using many of the comprehension skills outlined above. During class reading lessons, the teaching will be more comprehension based and will focus on individual comprehension skills. While reading with your child, it is important to check that they understand fully what is happening. You can do this by asking questions that make the children show they understand the way characters are written and the likely direction a story will move in. When reading non-fiction stories you could ask some of the following questions:

What do you think will happen next?

How will this make character x feel?

How do you think character x will react when they find out?

Do you think this is fair?

How has character x developed over the story?

Homework

In Year 4 homework will be set weekly. Children will be expected to complete Maths, Spellings with associated sentence and grammar tasks on a weekly basis. Spelling homework will be set each week., Maths set on a Thursday and due for completion and handed in on the following Tuesday. Children may complete extra learning through the online Abacus, MyMaths and Mathletics websites. Children will be expected to read on a daily basis.



Behaviour

At DES, we operate a House Points system to help develop a sense of belonging and to celebrate achievement. House Points are given for achievements in learning, behavior and for demonstrating a positive attitude around school. Golden Time is another way of rewarding those children who have followed the Golden Rules of the class. We operate using the six "Golden Promises", which outline the expectations we have in how both adults and children behave. We aim to manage our children with positive reinforcement and an emphasis on learning and per-



Roles and Responsibilities

At DES we dedicate time for our School Council to make a difference to systems and processes at the school. The School Council consists of representatives from across the school. At the beginning of each year candidates in each class are elected to represent the on the School Council. The School Council meets regularly



Birthdays

Celebrating birthdays is always a happy occasion. When it is a child's birthday, we encourage children to come to school wearing clothing of their own choice. Food and treats are allowed to be brought into school if the children wish to share it with their peers and teachers. However, please check to ensure you do not bring in any food that contains nuts and peanuts. Staff are not permitted to cut large cakes therefore if your child wishes

How Can You Help At Home?

It is important for your child to be reading regularly at home. This should be on a daily basis and with a wide range of materials. You can support your child in this by encouraging them to read independently, as well as hear them read to you.

After they have read, ask them to summarise what they have read to you. Discuss the characters of the book, what is happening in the plot, what they have found interesting and discuss what they think will happen next. You

Communication with Parents

In light of the huge impact parents have on their progress and learning of their child, we wish to maintain strong communication links. Here are a few of the ways in which you can get in touch:

Home School Diaries

This is the easiest and quickest way to communicate. Diaries will be checked daily with any questions or comments responded to, and is a quick and easy way to pass on messages about your child.

Email

Parents can email teachers using the QP email system. The QP number of your child's teacher is included in this document.

Parent Consultation Meeting

These are held during Term 1 and Term 2, with an end of year report and final meeting being held in Term 3.

Parental Curriculum Meetings

These will be organized throughout the year as a way for you to experience the methods we use to teach your child and involve you more deeply in their learning.

Mums Coffee Mornings

These are held monthly, on the last Monday of every month and aim to give you a full understanding of the work we are doing with your child in order to enhance the level of support available to your child as they work to-

Contact and Communication

We welcome regular communication and involvement with parents to support your child's learning. If you need to contact any member of the Year 4 team, we encourage you to email the individual teachers directly or write a short note in your child's diary.

QP Staff numbers

Mr. Davies (Year Group Leader) — 37233

Mrs. van der Merwe — 37238

Mrs. Hakhim — 36813

Mrs. Singh — 36809

Mr. Morgan — 36823

