

The Early Learner Parent Handbook

2023-2024

Guidance for families of children aged 3-6 years old



Emirates International School – Jumeirah

Dear Parents,



Welcome to our Early Learners at Emirates International School Jumeirah. We are very excited to welcome you and your child into our nurturing community. Having a strong start to the learning journey in the Early Learner phase is an important factor in lifelong learning.

This year our main aim is to ensure, as a school community, we work together to keep our children as safe and healthy as possible while returning to a more atypical learning environment

The Early Learner phase is a special and important stage in the development of a child's social, emotional, physical and academic learning journey. The Early Learner phase at EISJ starts from the age of 3-6 years old. Through the PYP curriculum, we enthuse the children to question and evaluate the world around them. We provide a safe and supportive environment, where teachers facilitate learning in an exciting and inclusive manner.

Our high quality teaching encourages the development of balanced and open-minded learners, who understand their role in the local and global community.

Working alongside our parents, we build a supportive community which is constantly striving for the best for our children.

Please read the following guidance carefully with regards to your children in the Early Learner phase, to ensure you and your family are ready to join us in school in September.

Ayesha O'Dea
Early Learning Leader

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday *Shorter Day
28 AUGUST New EY2 students New Year 1 students New Y2-6 Students Drop off: 8-8:30AM Pick up: 11-11:30AM	29 AUGUST EY1 Group 1 7:30am - 9 :30am EY1 Group 2 10:30am - 12:30pm All EY2 students 7:45 am - 1pm Year 1 and primary students 7:45am - 2:40pm Buses begin for EY2 -Y6 students	30 AUGUST EY1 Group 1 7:30am - 9 :30am EY1 Group 2 10:30am - 12:30pm	31 AUGUST EY1 Group 1 7:30am - 9 :30am EY1 Group 2 10:30am - 12:30pm	1 SEPTEMBER EY1 Group 1 7:30am - 9 :30am EY1 Group 2 9:30am - 11:30am All EY2, Year 1 and primary students 7:30am - 11:30am
4 SEPTEMBER EY1 Group 1 7:30am - 9 :30am EY1 Group 2 10:30am - 12:30pm	5 SEPTEMBER EY1 Group 1 7:30am - 9 :30am EY1 Group 2 10:30am - 12:30pm	6 SEPTEMBER EY1 Group 1 7:30am - 9 :30am EY1 Group 2 10:30am - 12:30pm	7 SEPTEMBER EY1 Group 1 7:30am - 9 :30am EY1 Group 2 10:30am - 12:30pm	8 SEPTEMBER All EY1 students Group 1 & 2 7:30am - 11:30am All EY2, Year 1 and primary students 7:30am - 11:30am Buses begin for EY1 students
From 11 September All EY1 students will attend for a full school day 7:30AM - 1PM Extended Hours begins for EY2 Students 1PM - 2:40PM	12	13	14	15 All EY, Year 1 and primary students 7:30am - 11:30am

18 September Extended Hours begins for EY1 Students 1PM - 2:40PM	19	20	21	22 All EY, Year 1 and primary students 7:30am - 11:30am
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Beginning school:

- The information regarding your child's class teacher will be communicated to you in August before the school year begins. You will receive a video introduction which you can share with your child to ensure they are familiar with their teacher's face and voice.
- The EY1 classes will each be split into two smaller groups and EY1 teachers will communicate with you which group your child will be in along with the teacher information.
- We follow this staggered schedule to allow EY1 students time to adapt and transition to the new school environment.

-Group 1 : 7:30am -9:30am

-Group 2 : 10:30am - 12:30pm

On arrival to school

- Parents will be allowed to take their child to the **external** door of the classroom in Early Years (In the EY play area). **Parents are not permitted inside the classroom.**
- In Year 1, parents will be allowed to bring their child to the external classroom door
- All EY1, EY2 and Year 1 classrooms are located on the ground floor.
- EY1 and EY2 students will enter through the main front door, through reception and through the door to the outdoor area. Students will enter classrooms through the outside doors in the playground.
- Year 1 students will enter classrooms by turning right at the front entrance of the school , through the blue gates and following the path around the corner, or using the blue side gate . Students will enter classrooms through the outside doors.
- All class doors will have class names clearly displayed in black lettering.
- Each child must only have the following items on them: a water bottle, a small lunch bag.
- **No wheelie school bags are permitted in school.**

The school day

- The classrooms will be open from 7:20 am onwards.
- Registration: 8am.

- If you arrive after 8am, your child will be marked as late. Please ensure if you arrive after 8am, you collect a clock from our school reception. This will indicate to the class teacher your child has now been accounted for on the class register.
- On the first day of school you will be made aware of who your class teacher and teaching assistant are, and which room you will need to go to.
- All classroom toilets will be cleaned on a regular daily cleaning rota and sanitised after each child's use.

Snack time

- **We strongly advise your child to have some breakfast before coming to school in the mornings to help them to focus and engage with our morning learning time.**

Lunchboxes

We are a 'Healthy Eating School' which means all children must bring healthy food for their snack and lunch.



- Sweets and chocolate are not allowed, and will be kept by the class teacher and returned to you by the end of the day.
- **We are a 'nut free school', this means no nuts of any variety are allowed, and this includes nut spreads like Nutella. We have several children who have severe allergies to nuts.**



- Please send a full water bottle with your child and avoid fruit juices in their lunchboxes. Fruit juices and flavoured milks are not permitted and will be placed back in students bags and returned to you at the end of the day. Please ensure your child has a spare water bottle with them each day.
- We will celebrate birthdays in class in our own special way but **will not** be hosting regular weekly birthday parties in classrooms. All classes will have class party days or celebration days towards the end of each month and during this time all birthdays from the month will be celebrated.

General Information

Medical information

If your child has any medical needs, please inform the class teacher and the school nurse on the first day of school. All medication will be kept with the school nurse. We also have a doctor on site for any medical emergencies.

Communication

We openly encourage communication between all members of the school community. Due to timetable constraints and meetings, we advise our parents to make appointments after school. Parents are asked to refrain from interrupting the school day, as this disturbs the education of your children. Please ensure you email your class teacher to set up a meeting time with them. You will be provided with your class teacher's email within the first week of school. **'Meet the teacher' parent meetings will be set up via Zoom within the first three weeks, your class teacher will provide you with more details on this.**

SeeSaw - as a school we use the application SeeSaw to document children's learning and to communicate with parents. Your child's teacher will send you login information when the class account has been created.

Counsellor

We have a dedicated School Counsellor, Miss Shaista, who offers welfare and positive behaviour management support to our children. She provides support and practical activities to support any children who are struggling with the transition into school. sansari@eischools.ae

School Transport

Diamond Lease operates a school bus system which services the EIS catchment area. All enquiries regarding the school bus service should be made directly to the Team Leader – Operations, Sajjad Khan (Email: operationsmanager@diamondlease.com Tel: 04 885 2111). An assistant will be present on all buses to accompany your child.

Buses will begin on Tuesday 29th August for students in EY2 and above.

We recommend that students who are new to the Early Learner Phase are brought to school by parents/carers until they have settled.

EY1 students can begin to use buses from Friday 8th of September when they begin full school days.

School Uniform

All items of school uniform are available at our school uniform shop Right Fit. There may be limited sizes at the beginning of the school year due to demand, we will allow up to 2 weeks for you to purchase a complete uniform, if it is not available. **Please make sure you write your child's name in all items of their uniform, to help us return any lost items to their owner.**

Early Years

The children will need:

Girls: Navy blue school skirt with shorts attached/light blue polo t-shirt
White socks and black velcro school shoes.

Boys: Light blue polo t-shirt
Navy blue shorts
White socks and black velcro school shoes.

P.E. for boys & girls: Red, white and black polo shirt
Red, white and black shorts
White socks and white velcro trainers

Year 1

Girls: Striped blue shirt with school logo

Navy blue school skirt with shorts attached/Navy blue trousers

White socks and black school shoes.

Boys: Striped blue shirt with school logo
Navy blue school shorts/Navy blue trousers

White socks and black school shoes.

P.E. for boys & girls: Red, white and navy polo shirt
Red, white and navy shorts
White socks and white trainers

All students will need a navy book bag which is available in the uniform shop.

A Navy blue jumper and navy blue fleece are also available with the school logo and may be required for the cooler months. A school cap is essential, particularly during the hotter months.

Children must bring a full spare set of clothing in a plastic bag, clearly labelled with their name, on their first day at school in case of any accidents.

Jewellery

Please refrain from sending your child to school wearing any valuable pieces of jewellery. Whilst I am sure many children would like the chance to wear something so special, things can get easily damaged and even lost in a school day.

No dangling earrings. If your child has got their ears pierced, please make sure they wear small studs which are fastened securely.

No colourful hair ties. Please ensure the colour of hair accessories match the colour of our school uniform. Hair accessories can be: navy (dark blue), black, red or white in colour.

Please make sure you write your child's name in all items of their uniform, to help us return any lost items to their owner.

Velcro shoes - no laces please!

The teacher will inform you in the first week which days your child needs to wear their PE kit.

Our learning expectations

Overview of our units of inquiry

The Units of Inquiry originate from our IB PYP curriculum framework and are aligned throughout the Primary School. These are themes on which the classes will focus for a period of up to 7-8 weeks. During this time the learning will be centered around these themes and the children will be actively involved in inquiring and finding out more about them. Classrooms will often be transformed, with learning areas relating to the current Unit of Inquiry, to provide more relevance and excitement during learning time. The Units of Inquiry cover aspects of all core and non-core subjects.

Early Years 1 Units of Inquiry

Uol 1	Uol 2	Uol 3	Uol 4
Who We Are	Sharing the Planet	How We Organise Ourselves	How We Express Ourselves

Early Years 2 Units of Inquiry

Uol 1	Uol 2	Uol 3	Uol 4	Uol 5
Who We Are	Sharing the Planet	Where we are in Place and Time	How the World Works	How We Express Ourselves

Year 1 Units of Inquiry

Uol 1	Uol 2	Uol 3	Uol 4	Uol 5
Who We Are	How the World Works	Sharing the Planet	How We Express Ourselves	How We Organise Ourselves

Phonics and reading

We value phonics extremely highly within Early Years and Year 1, as a crucial stepping stone to embed reading, writing and general communication skills with our children. Your child will take part in a focused phonics session following the Read, Write, Ink phonics teaching methods. To monitor your child's reading at home, you will be sent a home reading book which is appropriately levelled to help practise key reading skills.

Please make sure you read with your child at home as regularly as possible and return the books to school on time each week to ensure they can be renewed for a new one. By the end of EY2, once all the foundations of reading have been set, we encourage our children to read words using their decoding skills and even read sentences within stories of their level. At the start of the year, we will be holding phonics sessions for our parents to experience how phonics is taught to our children (date and times to be confirmed).

Our learning environment

Our learning environment is something in which we take great pride, to ensure it provides our children with enough opportunity to become independent learners. Play is a crucial element to a child's development and learning at this stage, and our indoor and outdoor learning environment recently has been highly commended by the KHDA for its play based focus.

When teaching within the classrooms, the teachers will set up learning areas alongside the children, using their interests as a key focus. They will collaborate and work together to achieve specific learning goals. The teachers will not pull the children away from their play, but rather facilitate play and learning opportunities within each learning area set up.

Further information regarding the Early Years curriculum will be shared with you during our Welcome to Early Years afternoon at the start of the academic year.

Frequently Asked Questions

What sort of activities will my child be doing when they come to school?

At the beginning of term, the emphasis is on the teachers getting to know the children and on helping the children to get to know each other, the routines and expectations of school. This is the main focus for the first few weeks. During this time, the children will partake in many learning activities, promoting social and communication skills. We will be sharing books about starting school, and the class teacher and support staff will help them develop confidence amongst their new friends.

What does my child need to bring to school with them?

You need to make sure your child has a sufficient amount of food and a drink with them every day. Their snack box is kept inside the classroom in their 'cubby' – their own space on the shelf.

EY students will have one main snack time for 30 mins between the hours of 9:30am - 10:30am .

If students are continuing on to the Early Years Extended Hours Programme they will have another dedicated snack time for 30 mins between the hours of 1pm - 2:40pm

Year 1 students have dedicated eating times at break (9:50am) and lunch (12:05pm)

How will I know what my child is learning in class?

SeeSaw

When starting the school year your child will be given a SeeSaw account. This is an online app which allows you to see regular updates of your child's learning across all subjects. Each child will have their own personalised profile with specific subject folders which you can access to see their latest developments. Please be advised teachers will not be able to update SeeSaw every day for every child in class, but there will be updates available as regularly as possible.

Weekly Newsletters

Every teacher will send a weekly newsletter to you via email, with lots of details about what they are doing in class with the children and also with ideas for activities you can do at home to support this learning. Therefore, please make sure we have your most up to date email address so you receive this information.

When will my child start their Arabic lessons?

Arabic lessons will start from the beginning of the first term. The Arabic teachers will send home information about what the children are learning at this time. They will also send information about how to support your child if Arabic is a new language to them.

What do I do if I am worried about something or have a question for the teacher?

During the first few weeks of term, you will probably have some questions for your child's teacher. Please be aware the beginning of the school day is a very busy time, with teachers needing to keep their eyes peeled on the students. Teachers are always happy to speak with you, however an appointment is advisable should you need more time. You will also be connected to Seesaw where you can send direct messages, please allow teachers 24 hours to respond. You could also use the email system and your teacher will respond to you as soon as they can.

You can also contact our Early Learning Leader, Miss Ayesha O'Dea, who will be happy to help you. At the beginning of the year we will have an information session for all parents, dates and times to follow.

What after school activities are available for EY1 and EY2 children?

The Early Year Extended Hours program is predicted to start on 11th of September 2023. You can find more information at this link.

We recommend that our EY1 students and students who are new to EY2 attend school for a week of full time days, particularly those who have not attended nursery or school settings previously, before joining the Extended Hours Programme. This will allow them to adapt to school day timings.

[Early Year Extended Hours Programme](#)

What after school activities are available for Year 1 children?

Year 1 after school activities will run on Tuesdays , Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3-4pm.

More information regarding ASA's will be sent out by the primary ASA coordinator, Mr Dan Conolly, in early September.



Let's work together...Let's stay safe

Outside agencies will also be facilitating after school activities of EY1, EY2 and Year 1 children this year e.g. gymnastics, karate , ballet - more information will follow in September.

Please read your weekly newsletter sent by teachers for this information.