

This Week at TBS!

Dear Parents,

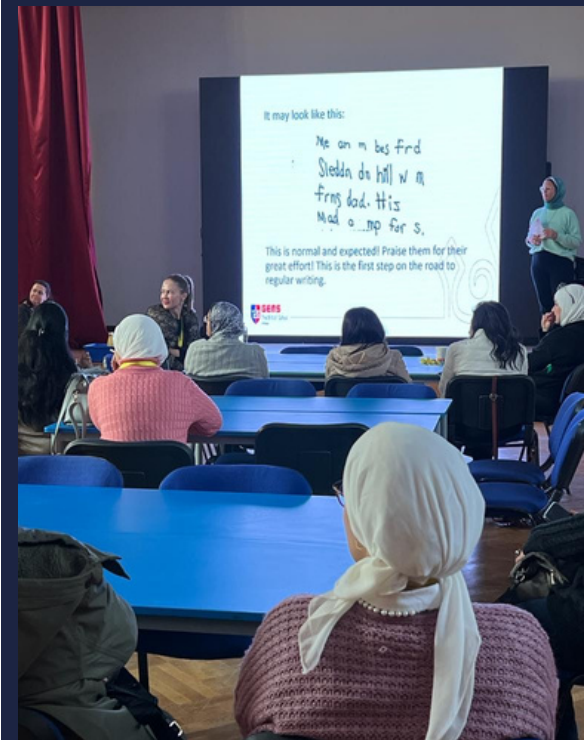
Welcome to our first newsletter of 2023. I hope that you all had a restful holiday and that the new year has started well for you and your families. I travelled back to my home town of Glasgow, Scotland to be greeted by icy roads and pavements making the drive home from the airport challenging. Thankfully the wet and cold weather did not stop me from enjoying time with my friends and family.

Last week we welcomed some colleagues from our GEMS family in the UAE. Last year we had a similar visit when, acting as support partners, we received valuable feedback about learning and teaching at TBS. This feedback was very useful when we were writing our Strategic Improvement Plan which I shared with you at the start of this academic year. In addition to visiting classrooms to see learning in action in areas across the school and curriculum, our visitors also found out more about our health and safety procedures, the care and protection for all students and our use of assessment data. Although they were with us for only two days they had a pack schedule. For some of the visiting team it was their first time in Egypt so you can be sure that we gave them a warm TBS welcome.

We are delighted to have launched our GEMS Scholarship Programme for the next academic year and to announce that this has now been extended to Year 9 students. The Scholarships are a unique opportunity to celebrate not only academic achievement but also extra-curricular achievements. In addition to a range of in-school Scholarships we also offer Scholarships for students who will be graduating and moving to the top universities around the world. If you have a child currently in Year 8 or above you should already have received information on the range of opportunities and how to apply.

Many of our students are taking part in Arabic examinations throughout the first weeks of this term. We know this is a challenging time but also appreciate how hard they have worked last term in preparation to share their learning.

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend Coffee Mornings last term. Many of you have suggested that we run Coffee Mornings every second week which I am happy to do. Our next coffee morning will be Thursday, 2nd of February so please come and join us.



Parent Satisfaction Survey

Thank you to everyone who brought a jumper to share with a child in need last week. We were quite overwhelmed by the jumper and monetary donations we received. If you would still like to donate a jumper or any gently used clothes that your children have grown out of, there are many children out there who would benefit greatly from your generosity.

TBS is a No Nut school

Please note that we have students who have a severe allergy to nuts. We ask that you avoid sending any snacks to school with nuts and that any birthday cakes are nut free. This is vital as students can have a reaction to nuts even without eating them. If you have any questions, please contact Doctor Marwa.

TBS Updated Assessment Policy

Please click here

(https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YIS5WSPL0FWAsSP9wb4YwqtCFtcxD5F0/view?usp=share_link) to read our updated TBS Assessment Policy which outlines the many

different assessments used throughout the school, how we feedback to you, how we use data to inform learning and our target setting process.

Attendance Policy Reminders

Thank you to everyone in supporting TBS in prioritising the need for all students to be On Time In School everyday. To continue to focus on this we have updated our Attendance Policy which you can read in full [here](#) (Attendance Policy- updated Nov 2022 Final.pdf - Google Drive)

Updates from around the school!

Fly into Space or Dive into the Oceans!

As we begin a new term and a new year, Year 5 students will be embarking on a new journey. This term we are looking at Earth and Space in depth. Students will get a chance to explore the different planets and stars around us, we will be creating different projects and digging deeper into scientific discoveries. As we get a chance to fly into space, we will also be diving into the deep waters of our oceans. Part of this term's unit is our Water World topic, during which we will understand the different sources of water around the world, as well as create projects based on the research we will be conducting. This is an exciting term, full of new discoveries and we are thrilled to be learning new topics about our universe and planet.

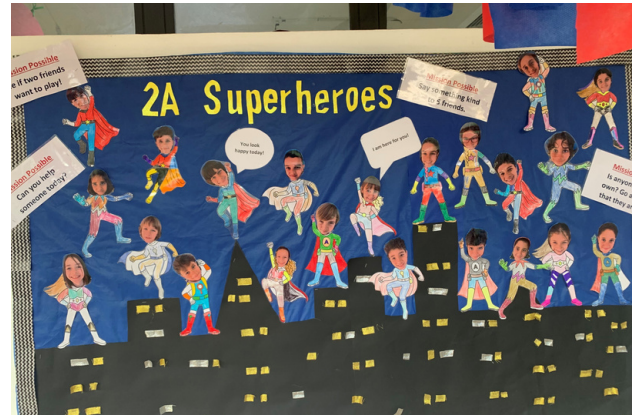


An update from Ms Rachel Hardwick, Head of Primary

This week, I have enjoyed dropping into classrooms to see the learning opportunities for our Primary students. In Early Years Arabic, children have been exploring Arabic characters using creativity, painting and modelling. Year 2 have begun learning about comic books in English and reading the story of 'Traction Man', linked to the topic 'Superheroes'. Children in Year 2 recognise that they can all be superheroes with everyday acts of kindness. In Year 6, children are reading plays by William Shakespeare and have shown fantastic enquiry and curiosity skills in creating their own Wonder Tree. I am looking forward to seeing how all year groups are going to demonstrate their understanding of these interesting themes.

ASAs have also started this week. We continued to adapt the ASA programme from Term 1 to design clubs and activities which can enrich the learning within the classroom. FS2 have joined the clubs and are participating very maturely.

We have also welcomed parents into Early Years this week to play with their children in classes. Our TBS parent partnership is something we are very proud of and I thank you for always being supportive and involved.



لغتنا العربية

على خير أدى طلابنا اختبارات الفصل الدراسي الأول ونحن الآن بصدد الاستعداد للتصحيح وإعلان النتائج إن شاء الله والدخول في مناهج الفصل الدراسي الثاني داعين الله عز وجل أن يجعله فصلا دراسيا يوفق فيه أبناءنا الطلاب ويحققون أعلى الدرجات وعلى التوازي استمرت الحصص والأنشطة



EYFS

Recently FS2 were reading 'Cinderella' and talking about how unfair it was that she did all the housework and got no thanks at all.

Well as we know she was the one who got the happy ending and the others didn't.

Some believe that

Children who do chores are more successful as adults.

I feel as a teacher and a parent that it is not just about doing the chores, but the benefits that getting children involved in the household jobs can have.

1. Chores help to teach life skills.
2. Chores help children to learn responsibility and self-reliance.
3. Chores help to teach teamwork.
4. Chores help to reinforce respect.
5. Chores help to build a strong work ethic.
6. Chores help to improve planning and time management skills.
7. Chores give families a chance to bond.

You can read more detail on the following websites

<https://www.momentumlife.co.nz/stories/why-kids-should-have-chores>

<https://www.bellybelly.com.au/child/should-children-do-chores/>

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An update from Mr Nigel Wilsonlock, Head of Secondary

At least one in seven of the world's people will be celebrating Chinese New Year on 22 January. As an international school we celebrate global cultures and covered it in our assemblies. Celebrating 'new years' is not unique; all cultures have a new year to celebrate the old and be hopeful about the future. This holiday will begin the biggest annual migration in history with 2.1 billion individual journeys in the next two weeks. We will be saying goodbye to the year of the tiger and welcoming in the rabbit. Here is a BBC link to the story and the meaning of the animals of the Chinese zodiac. If you want to wish someone 'happiness and prosperity' for 2023 in Mandarin, please try "gōng xǐ fā cái" (gong-sshee faa-tseye). The attribute of 'reflection' is a key skill for our students to develop and these events allow us to show it in a globally cultural way.

Post-COVID Academic shortfall: We are often asked how to support students after the challenges of COVID and I thought it would be worthwhile sharing some of our recommendations that we have brought together from our SEND department and wider research.

- Embedding routines: attendance and punctuality to school, as well as sleep patterns and meal times at home. Students become more focused and more effective in the use of their time if they have routines that reinforce learning
- Reading: encourage daily reading in both native and English language from a physical book. Reading patterns underpin learning in all subjects and is one of the most important skills we teach in school
- General knowledge coverage: encourage screen time on documentaries, natural history and news programmes. Students may have been overly engaged on 'Netflix' and the like which favour fiction and screen time.
- Physical: encourage exercise routines and good diet/nutrition. These are often the first things to go when workloads increase but become more important in managing stress.

As a school we are also keen to be reflective. Part of that process is for us to welcome our GEMS school improvement partners as critical friends to review both our direction and implementation of our school improvement plans. These are well run and offer lots of opportunities to celebrate what we do well and have fresh eyes look at the areas we need most support in. They have been in for the last few days and we are eagerly awaiting their feedback so that we can continue to improve and focus our efforts where they are needed.

Have a happy and a reflective weekend - "gōng xǐ fā cái"