



أكاديميات الدار ALDAR ACADEMIES

AL MUNA المنى

FS1 and FS2
Parent Information Handbook
September 2016



EYFS Curriculum

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which is the time in your child's life between birth and age 5. This is a very important stage as it helps your child get ready for their future learning and successes. From when your child is born up until the age of 5, their early years' experience should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs.

At Al Muna we believe that children should be actively involved in their learning and aim to do so by teaching in a creative and thematic way. As a result of this learning is cross-curricular and all subjects are taught in a fun and engaging way. Each half term (or when the topic changes) topic overviews are sent home introducing the new thematic unit alongside the key skills delivered through each subject area.

The EYFS curriculum is broken down into 7 main areas which are explained in more detail below.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This is one of the most important areas of learning in FS and one which we have a large focus on at the beginning of the year. This is where the children are taught the life skills that will help them; make relationships with their peers and adults, become self-confident individuals, become aware of their own feeling, know how to manage these feelings and how to adapt their own behaviour.

Communication and Language

This is another key area and one which we spend lots of time teaching. In this area children will develop the skills they need to become proficient listeners and speakers who can maintain their own concentration when they are listening, can understand what is being said to them and can use speech to communicate their needs, wants and interests.

Physical Development

This area is broken down into two main parts. The first is movement and handling, this is where we teach the children how to use their bodies to make large movements for example; climbing up play equipment or kicking a ball, and how to make small more precise movements for example; making snips with scissors, holding and using a pencil to form recognisable letters. The second area is health and self-care and this is where we support the learning that has gone at home with regards to healthy eating, being able to dress independently and using objects and equipment safely.

English

In this area we initially teach a range of pre-reading and writing skills, for example; making marks, listening to stories, handling books carefully, enjoying rhyming activities. By the end of FS2 we would hope that the children have developed the skills to write their own name, write simple sentences, use their phonic knowledge to write words which match the way they are spoken and to read and understand simple sentences.

During the year there will be family workshops on pre-writing and mark making which will support you with helping your child at home.

Maths

In this area we teach the children about numbers, shapes and measures. When we teach the children about numbers we want them to be able to count, recognise, order, compare and eventually write numbers. We teach the children numbers in a very fun and exciting way, which often involves a song and some acting.

When learning about shape and measure, we initially look at recognising and naming colours and 2D shapes. The children will also learn about 3D shapes and begin to order different objects by height, weight, length or capacity.

During the year there will be family workshops on number and shapes, which will support you with helping your child at home.

Understanding the World

This area is split into 3 main ideas; learning about people and communities, the world around us and technology.

Expressive Arts and Design

In this area the children will have lots of opportunities to be creative and use their imaginations to create songs, dances, pictures, paintings, construction models and role plays.

In FS the children will also have the following lessons-

Arabic

Children have a daily Arabic session with our Arabic teacher Mrs Rana. These sessions closely match the sessions the children have with their class teacher and help our native and non-native children develop a love of the Arabic language.

PE

In FS1 we focus on fundamental skills throughout all of our work in PE. This broadly incorporates movement, co-ordination, balance, throwing, catching and kicking. The emphasis is on fun and participation while encouraging students to recognise space, boundaries and rules of various games. We will encourage students to work in small teams, as well as on their own, while at the same time reinforcing the values and concepts that they are learning in their academic lessons.

In FS2 we take their development a little further having experienced some of the basic concepts from FS1. We still focus on fundamentals such as movement, co-ordination, balance, throwing, catching and kicking but we start to develop these in more recognisable playground games and activities. We will encourage students to work in small teams, as well as on their own, while at the same time reinforcing the values and concepts that they are learning in their academic lessons. We will attempt to cover a wide variety of sporting concepts to build their basic skill level and prepare them for greater skill acquisition in the coming years.

Swimming

In FS2, the main priority is for all children to enjoy swimming & be self-confident in the water. They learn how to enter the water independently & safely and how to take part in fun games. Children experience under water activities and learn the basic breathing techniques. A great opportunity for them is to learn through play, for

example by propelling a ball pushing it with their chest/head/nose/hands. The basic leg kick for front and back crawl is regularly practised and children love to make different floating shapes in the water. Later in the year, children are introduced to the basic arm actions for front and back crawl.

FS1 children start swimming in term 3. They are usually split into 2 groups and mainly work on travelling around the pool. Children learn how to do a swivel entry into the water, how to submerge through a hoop and how to lift their legs off the pool floor and kick. Lessons are mainly play based with added fun skills each week.

Music

Music is broken down into three main elements; performance, practical and theory. Through these three elements the children will have a chance to experience a wide variety of music. Every week the children will come to music and have fun learning through singing, dancing and playing music games.

What does a typical day in FS look like?

The children will have the opportunity to:

- Choose what they want to play with – in the classroom, shared area and outdoor areas.
- Participate in a group activity led by an adult - do time
- Participate in whole class activities led by an adult
- Participate in an activity with the whole of FS2

How we encourage independence and how you can support your child

Independence is key in the foundation stage and we encourage our children to be as independent as possible right from the start. At school we encourage the children to-

- Say goodbye to mum and dad at the classroom door and come in by themselves
- Put their own bags and water bottles away
- Get their own lunchboxes at snack and lunchtime and be able to open them by themselves
- Eat their snack and lunches all by themselves
- Be able to take themselves to the toilet, this includes taking clothes on and off and washing hands
- Be able to get changed by themselves for PE and swimming
- Put their own shoes on and doing them up (velcro shoes really help with this)
- Pack their own bags at the end of the day
- Carry their own bags
- Ask an adult for help when they really need it

You can help your child at home by practicing all of these things with them so they are more confident doing them in school.

Phonics

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skillfully. They are taught how to:

- recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes;
- identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make - such as 'sh' or 'oo'; and
- blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

The teaching of phonics is divided into different phases

FS1-phase 1	FS2-phase 2, 3
Environmental sounds Instrumental sounds Body percussion Rhythm and rhyme Alliteration Voice sounds Oral blending and segmenting* (if the children are ready)	Phase 2- Learning the letter sounds- s a t p i n m d g o c k e u r l h b ll ff ss Blending and segmenting Learning to read high frequency words
	Phase 3- Learning the remaining 7 sounds-j, v, w, x, y, z/zz, qu, ch, sh Learning to read and write high frequency words

*Blending- saying the individual letter sounds quickly to read a word

*Segmenting- saying the word slowly to hear the individual sounds in order to write them

Correct Letter Formation: Handwriting

Children will be taught to write their letters using cursive script.

There will be a family workshop on this during the year to support you with this.

a b c d e f g h i
j k l m n o p q r
s t u v w x y z

Home learning in FS2

You can support your child at home by:

- Talking to them about their day
- Sharing their reading/library book with them
- Helping them to learn their high frequency words (FS2)
- Completing their learning journey with them.

Reading with your child at home

We strongly believe that reading is instrumental to the progression of writing. Children have the opportunity to read regularly within the classroom. We hope that you will take an active role in your child's development of reading and will support your child at home to become a confident reader. You can do this by reading with them on a regular basis and talking to them about the text.

When should I read with my child?

Ideally reading should be at a quiet time when it will be a pleasurable experience for both of you. 5 minutes of quality time every day is better than 20 minutes of interruption. Children love to hear the same story over and over again. However bored you get with the story remember that the repetition is helping your child's memory skills.

But if they don't want to read...

Then don't read at that time. Find a time when they do want to read, often at bedtime.

I'm not confident in reading in English

Talk to your child about the pictures; tell them the story based on the illustrations. Do also tell the story in your home language and read books to them in your home language. It is also quite easy to get stories on CD and tapes.

Help your child to understand that reading is useful in everyday life by:

- * Making a shopping list together and reading it again
- * Reading captions in the supermarket to find out where things are
- * Spotting signs all around and reading them together
- * Reading a recipe together and then making it
- * Reading the labels on food packaging as they are put away
- * Read instructions together

Every week your child will have the opportunity to choose a book to share with you.

You can help your child love reading by:

- * Reading with your child everyday
- * Reading the books your child loves over and over again
- * Having fun and laughing about the pictures
- * Using different voices for wicked characters
- * Finding toys in a magazine or catalogue and reading about them

Themes for FS1

THEME
Nursery Rhymes
Food Glorious Food
The Jungle and Mini-beasts
Dinosaurs Roar!
Once upon a time ...

Themes for FS2

THEME
Up, up and away
Jungles
Pirates
Superheroes
Once upon a time

Getting in Contact

At Al Muna we strongly believe that your child's education evolves through home and school working closely together. If you have any further questions or require any additional information please do not hesitate to ask. We are all available on the playground before school and after school which is an ideal time to catch us. However, probably the best way to get in contact with your child's teacher is through email.

Any concerns about any aspect of your child's life in school or education should initially be raised with the class teacher. Such regular contact usually allows a happy resolution. If a matter is not resolved, it can then be escalated – in this order – to firstly the Head of Year, then the leadership of the school and then to the management of Aldar Academies.

Keeping in Contact with you!

We aim to keep you informed about everything that goes on at Al Muna. Every week we will write an article in the school newsletter telling you all about what we have been up to in our year group that week. All families have access to our parent portal, a one stop shop to help keep tabs on what is happening in our busy school- please check it regularly; the calendar, notices and document sections. You can also find out specific information about your child for example accessing their reports. If we need to talk to you regarding your child, we will either try to catch you on the playground, email you or give you a phone call. As our topics change, you will receive a topic overview.

Here are the email addresses of key people in our team

Miss Kylie Darker- Assistant Principal and FS Leader	kdarker@almunapprimary.sch.ae
Miss Tiffany Lydon- Class teacher- FS2 Owls	TLydon@almunapprimary.sch.ae
Miss Deirdre Murphy- Class teacher- FS2 Bulbuls	DMurphy@almunapprimary.sch.ae
Miss Leanne Gaetano- Class teacher- FS2 Doves	lgaetano@almunapprimary.sch.ae
Mrs Aisha Chaudry- Class teacher- FS1 Butterflies	achaudry@almunapprimary.sch.ae
Mrs Beata Klisiak- Class teacher- FS1 Mice	bklisiak@almunapprimary.sch.ae
Mrs Julie Churm- Class teacher- FS1 Geckoes	JChurm@almunapprimary.sch.ae

Useful Educational Websites

A website full of education games on; initial sounds, colours, comparing and ordering, matching and mouse skills.
<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html>

A website full of fun educational games and activities.
<http://www.busythings.co.uk/>

More games for children to practice the skills of blending and segmenting. Resources such as flashcards for sounds and high frequency words can be downloaded here
<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>

Fabulous interactive games for learning HFWs and recognising phonemes.
<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

Sound, letter formation, word and spellings games
<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/literacy.html>

Useful Educational Apps

Twinkle- great for phonics, letter formations, high frequency word games

This website contains lots of education apps which are suitable for children in the foundation stage.
<http://www.educationalappstore.com/app-by-age/earlyyears>