



AL SHOHUB PRIVATE SCHOOL
مدرسة الشهب الخاصة
SINCE 1999

22 November 2021

Dear Parents

As we approach the end of the first term, Claire and I would like to share some important dates and information with you.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesday, 23 – Thursday, 25 November	ADEK Inspection Visit
Monday, 29 November	National Day celebrations
Tuesday, 30 November	Deadline for Parent nominations to Board of Governors
Sunday, 05 December	Term 1 reports made available to Parents
	Parent voting for Parent Governor
Monday, 06 – Thursday, 09 December	Parent-Teacher Meetings – FS/Primary/Secondary
Thursday, 09 December	Announcement of Parent Governors
12 December to 01 January 2022	Winter Holiday
Sunday, 02 January 2022	Back to School – Term 2

GENERAL NEWS

1. ADEK INSPECTION

Now that COVID restrictions are easing and most children are back in school, ADEK has started school inspection visits again. We were informed last week that Al Shohub will receive an inspection visit this week, from Tuesday, 23 November to Thursday, 25 November.

The last time Al Shohub was inspected was in 2017, which is quite a long time ago. That report identified certain areas for the School to focus on moving forward to this upcoming inspection. This term, and especially this week, the whole staff has been focused on ensuring we showcase the best of our school, our students, and our teachers.

A parent survey was sent out as part of the inspection visit. I hope that all of you will complete the survey telling us what we have done well and what we need to work on moving forward.

LEADERS OF TOMORROW

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2. BOARD OF GOVERNOR NOMINATIONS

Can you please help shape the future of our school?

We currently have a vacancy for TWO parent governors on Al Shohub Private School's governing body.

Governing Boards have four core functions:

- i) Setting strategic direction within the context of a clearly stated vision and ethos
- ii) Holding the senior leadership team accountable for the achievement of strategy and running of the school
- iii) Overseeing the overall educational performance of the school and suggesting ways for improvement
- iv) Overseeing the financial performance of the school - this includes setting fees, budget oversight, and achieving financial targets

Please nominate yourself by clicking [here](#) and completing the attached form.

Please ensure that your self-nomination form is submitted by 12pm on Tuesday, 30 November 2021. Any nominations received after this deadline will not be accepted.

All nominations will be reviewed, and shortlisted candidates will be presented for parent voting on Sunday, 05 December 2021.

The announcement for the two selected Parent Governors will be made on Thursday, 09 December 2021.

3. NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

As we look forward to celebrating the UAE's 50th National Day, we are mindful that we are still constrained by Covid compliance guidelines. ADEK has released National Day celebration rules for schools, and they are limited.

In line with these rules, and as per ADEK recommendations, we have decided that our National Day celebrations will be virtual. With the constraints of social distancing and maintaining bubbles of children, it will be difficult for us to maintain compliance if we open the school up to parents and visitors.

We will celebrate National Day on Monday, 29 November. Students will perform with their classes, share food, games and activities and we will celebrate the great successes of this wonderful country. All performances will be Zoomed into your homes so you can participate

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virtually with your children. We will also record all performances and make a whole school recording to share with our families.

We will share the schedule of events in more detail later this week, along with suggestions of what your child can bring in to support the celebrations. We thank you in advance for your understanding as we prioritise the health and safety of your children.

4. END OF TERM REPORTS

End of term reports for all students will be made available to parents on Sunday, 05 November.

Reports will be available on iSAMS – we will send out login information and a guide to logging on, early next week.

Reports will detail your child's attainment and progress across all core subjects, attitude to learning, and attendance.

5. PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS

Parent-Teacher Meetings will be held online again this year. They will be held in the last week of term from 06-09 November. There will be opportunity for parents to meet with class teacher, subject specialists and MOE staff.

Teachers from all phases of the school, FS, Primary and Secondary, will be available for meetings.

This year we will use a school bookings website to ensure all parents are able to book times convenient to them and meet with as many teachers as required. FS and Primary appointments will be 10 minutes, Secondary meetings will be 15 minutes. Login information and guide will be sent out at the beginning of next week.

Any parent who would like a longer appointment is welcome to email teachers after the meetings and arrange an additional meeting at a later date.

TERM 2

1. ADMISSIONS FOR 2022-23 ARE OPEN

We have now opened admissions for the next academic year, and I would like to introduce our new School Registrar, Ms. Heba Taha, who joined us last week. Heba has many years of experience in Abu Dhabi schools, and we look forward to her contributions.

If you or your friends and family would like to register children for next year, please contact Heba at registrar@alshohub.org

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2. RECRUITMENT

Please join us in welcoming more new staff in Term 2 to enrich our provision at Al Shohub.

Sarah Forde joins us as a whole school PE Teacher. Sarah will work alongside Ms. Mary to provide PE across the school, at every level.

Leny Abrahams joins us in the Clinic as our second School Nurse. She will work alongside Ms. Bissy to ensure the health and safety of all children.

We will also welcome a new IT Manager and HR Manager to streamline our admin processes.

3. TERM 2 FOCUS

As we look forward to Term 2, we would like to invite parents to partner with us to focus on four key areas for our students

- Attendance & Punctuality

ADEK stipulates a 96% attendance rate for all students across the school. In Term 2, we will be putting in place reward systems to recognize children who attend regularly. We will also be following up, on a daily basis, with children who are absent and requesting formal medical notes for all absences.

Research tells us that students who attend school consistently perform better academically and are generally happier.

Punctuality also impacts academic success. Starting in Term 2, the **FS and Primary/Middle school gates will be closed at 7.45am**. Learning starts each day at 7.40am so our expectation is that all children will be in school by 7.30am ready to start learning at 7.40am.

Any child who arrives after 7.45am will have to enter the school via Reception and will be marked as late.

- Behaviour

In Term 2, we will share our updated Behaviour policy with all parents.

It is a primary aim of Al Shohub School that every member of the school community feels valued and respected, and that each person is treated fairly and well. The school's behaviour policy is designed to support the way in which all members of the school can work together in a supportive way. It aims to promote an environment in which everyone feels happy, safe and secure.

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The school expects every member of the school community to behave in a considerate and respectful way towards others. We treat all children fairly and apply this behaviour policy in a consistent way.

This policy aims to help children grow in a safe and secure environment, and to become positive, responsible and increasingly independent members of the school community.

The school recognises and promotes good behaviour, as it believes that this will develop an ethos of kindness and cooperation. This policy is designed to encourage good behaviour, rather than merely deter anti-social behaviour.

- Uniform

We will also be sharing our Uniform Policy with parents at the end of this term.

Our uniform is an important feature of our school as students are the representatives of Al Shohub's high expectations and standards. Our students' appearance reflects the respect for the education offered, the school community and also the respect they have for themselves.

Our uniform policy reflects the high standard that we aim to maintain and every student is required to wear a school uniform. Students should be well-groomed, with a neat appearance and a well-maintained school uniform.

Please label all uniforms items clearly with your child/ren's name. The school uniform can be purchased through Zaks.

- Healthy Snacks

Al Shohub School is a healthy school, and this is reflected in our school snack policy which will be shared with parents at the end of the term. We encourage all children to bring in a healthy snack for morning break. The snack can consist of fresh fruit or vegetables, dried fruit or snack bar with no added sugar.

We recognise the importance of a healthy lifestyle and diet and understand that establishing a balanced diet in childhood helps to promote healthy eating habits for life.

We believe that healthy children are best able to take full advantage of the educational opportunities that the school provides. Our school community encourages pupils to develop the skills and attitudes that will help them make informed healthy choices both in and out of school.

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Healthy eating is explicitly addressed within the Science, , PE, and Food & Nutrition curriculum. Each curriculum subject will be developing a range of skills and understanding that will contribute towards these areas.

4. NEWS

EXPO

Al Shohub is signed up to the Expo Schools Programme. We will be taking all Primary and Secondary students on trips to Expo in Term 2.

More information will be shared at the start of Term 2.

Canteen

We will be opening our canteen in the second week of Term 2. We are currently in discussions with a new catering vendor to provide a selection of healthy, culturally appropriate snacks and meals. All meals will be prepared and served in accordance with Covid guidelines.

We will share menus and price lists at the start of Term 2.

Swimming

Swimming is back in Term 2! Our maintenance team is working on preparing the pool for use in the second week of Term 2. We have recruited a second PE teacher and a lifeguard who will support with swimming. This means every single child at Al Shohub, from FS to Year 13 will be able to have time in the pool.

Ms. Mary, our Head of PE, will send out more information in the next two weeks.

Buses

As per ADEK and the DoT, school buses will return to 100% capacity in January. Please expect some correspondence from our transportation supervisor, Grace, as we refine the bus arrangements.

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INTRODUCING AL SHOHUB TEACHERS

As the school has grown, so has our staff. We now have several new staff who are contributing to our lovely school community.

You will meet all your child's teachers at the Parent-Teacher meetings. Below is a brief overview of all the teachers at Al Shohub, their roles and which part of the school they teach in.

FS1 / NURSERY		
Andrea Burns	Class Teacher	FS1 Angelfish
Catherine Hansen	Head of FS1	FS1 Rainbowfish
Courage Mutanha	Class Teacher	FS1 Bluefish
Jane Mhende	Class Teacher	FS1 Parrotfish
Deirdre Heslin	Class Teacher	FS1 Dragonfish
FS2		
Rachel Murphy	Head of FS2	FS2 Jellyfish
Zahra Sunabara	Class Teacher	FS2 Goldfish
Janize Atterbury	Class Teacher	FS2 Starfish
Eadaoin Hickey	Head of FS	FS2 Clownfish
Michelle Dillon	Class Teacher	FS2 Butterflyfish
KEY STAGE 1		
Marjan Afrooznia	RWI Lead	Year 1 Seahorses
Jessica Thompson	Class Teacher	Year 1 Sealions
Lisa McInerney	Class Teacher	Year 1 Turtles
Lisa Brennan	Class Teacher	Year 2 Corals
Aimee Flear	Class Teacher	Year 2 Waves
LOWER KEY STAGE 2		
Claire Butler	Head of Science (Primary)	Year 3 Seals
Jessica O'Connor	Head of Pastoral (Primary)	Year 3 Dolphins
Haaniyah Azam	Class Teacher	Year 3 Whales
Sithra Jahangir	Class Teacher	Year 4 Swordfish
Maira Khalid	Head of English (Primary)	Year 4 Rayfish
UPPER KEY STAGE 2		
Stephanie Bull	Head of Humanities (Primary)	Year 5 Puffins
Sarah Haynes	Head of Maths (Primary)	Year 5 Pelicans
Madhushree Marathe	Class Teacher	Year 5 Penguins

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Lalitha Sadasivan	Class Teacher	Year 6 Polar Bears
Megan Sotheron	Class Teacher	Year 6 Walruses
MOE SUBJECTS		
Fouzieh Lazek	Head of MOE Subjects	Arabic
Manal Zakieh	Teacher	Arabic
Siham Babiker	Teacher	Islamic
Khitam Imreizeeq	Teacher	Arabic
Amira Ali	Teacher	UAE Social Studies
Alaa Saanon	Teacher	Arabic
Fatima Haithm	Teacher	Islamic
Dina Naser	Teacher	Arabic & Islamic
Nada Mohammed	Teacher	UAE Social Studies
Ayat Alghoul	Teacher	Arabic - FS
Inas Alharfouch	Teacher	Arabic
SECONDARY		
Claudia Anderson	Head of English (Secondary)	English
Cindy Mpollo	Teacher	English
Claire Masters	Head of Maths (Secondary)	Maths
Iveta Rickwood	Teacher	Maths
Megan Kirwan	Head of Science (Secondary)	Science
Safia Sultan	Teacher	Science
Priscilla Joseph-Cooper	Head of Foundation Subjects/ Head of KS3	Humanities/ History/ Geography
Helen Morris	Head of KS4	Food & Nutrition
Aliya Shakil	Head of Sixth Form	Business Studies
Velthy Fernandes	Teacher	IT
Faiza Saeed	Teacher	Art
Ouaiba Belahcene	Teacher	French
SPECIALISTS		
Mary Lynam	Head of PE	PE
Samantha Herman	Teacher	Music
Del Gina	Teacher	Primary Art
Hafidah Othmane	Teacher	Primary French

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