



GARDEN CITY
BRITISH SCHOOL

March/April
2018



Welcome to GCBS Term 3 Newsletter

Term 2 was a very successful term with lots of key Parent Association events. We had Family Picnic Evening with a focus on My Identity, Arabic Reading and storytelling. The timing of the event coincided with an ADEK inspection on 'My identity' which is a new curriculum initiative which ADEK is currently rolling out in all schools in the Emirate. We passed the inspection with flying colours and were in line with ADEK expectations regarding our students understanding of what it means to have an identity and how important it is for our students to celebrate both their own and the UAE culture and heritage. Arabic history and storytelling will also continue remain a major focus in the student's curriculum this term.

Highlights of Term Two were a visit from The Civil Defense and our school trips. Our students enjoyed a trip to the Al Ain Palace Museum and to the Zoo. Term 3 also promises more trips which will enrich the curriculum. All trips out of school are linked to the topics the students are studying in class.



In Term 2 there was a major change to the after school extra-curricular programme. In order to give all students access and equal opportunity to take part in extra-curricular activities, we trialed an innovative change within the timetable. We lengthened our current **Golden time** on Thursday afternoon so as to accommodate inclusion of the activities held after school. The exciting news regarding this is that one of our parents who is an International football coach has been given ADEK approval and will be joining us on Thursday afternoons to give 1 to 1 professional football coaching sessions.

Term 2 saw the start of our preparations for Sports Day. Students in their houses have been taking part in heats. This was to allow students to take part in events in the cooler weather. Sports Day will be on **10th May** and you will be able to see these heats through video footage. Sports Day will be a fun morning of family events culminating with the finals. More information regarding Sports day will be sent to you a week before the event. The House Captains have been actively involved in the organisation of Sports Day.

S.T.E.M. DAY

To enrich the STEM aspect of our curriculum, we will be having two STEM-focus days on aeromodeling and robotics.

Curriculum and Academic Matters in Term 3.

In Term 3, students and teachers will collaborate to set targets to ensure that the learning outcomes outlined in the curriculum letters are achieved. For us to share the targets for your child we will be holding a **Target Setting Evening** on **Wednesday 18th April for from 5 pm to 8 pm.** During the evening your child's targets will be shared with you and you can discuss with the teacher how you can work with your child to achieve these targets. Homeroom teachers will contact you before the evening with an appointment schedule so you may book an appointment at your convenience. Each appointment will be scheduled for 10 mins.

On the evening, parents will be provided with an Assessment Circular on the Cambridge assessment procedures. We will share with you a student's progress report and explain how they will be used to track and report your child's progress. During the Target Setting Evening, I will give a Progress Target Book information session lasting 40 minutes which will be repeated twice for your convenience at 5 pm and 6 pm. Please join us promptly to learn more about this important area of your child's educational journey.

Core Focus

Regarding our students' social and personal development, our focus this term is on **"Caring is Sharing"**. As the Holy Month of Ramadan approaches, our aim is to provide 'care' packages for the local workers. Miss Amal will be speaking to the students regarding this and you will receive a circular before the end of April outlining how you as parents can help with this initiative.

International Day

International Day will take place on **Sunday 22nd April**. This will be celebrated by an assembly followed by an international breakfast for all students and parents. Students will be encouraged to wear their national dress and we will have a parade. A huge focus this term will be British history with the celebration of the HM Queen Elizabeth's birthday. Did you know she has two birthdays?

Staffing News

Sadly, Mr Alex has left us. It is very difficult as you can imagine to replace someone so late in the year but we are delighted to have new highly-qualified and experienced teacher Miss Lekha for Grade 4 until the end of the term. We have appointed a teacher for Grade 5 from the UK who will join us in August.

Website

We have been updating the webpage in response to parent feedback. Please share any ideas for improvements with my PA.

Improved Security Protocols for all Visitors

We have introduced improved security measures at reception with any visitor or parent passing beyond reception being required to submit their photo ID and sign in with a visitor's badge. The badge should be worn whilst they are in school and we will also be issuing all visitors with an information leaflet. Copies of this leaflet will also be available in reception for interested parents.

Parent Communication

Currently we are using the contact details you have given us so it is very important that we have the correct contact details. If your details are not correct you will not receive our text messages or emails. Please contact - reception@gardencityschool.ae with your email address and mobile phone number if you are not receiving text messages or emails so that we can check and update your contact details.

OR

Send your updated contact information through the Student Diary. The contact details of your child's homeroom teacher and the KS coordinators are available for you as the main channel of information. The website will be updated regularly so please remember to check this useful site.

Parent Association

The 3rd Parent Association Meeting will take place on Sunday 15th April from 8 to 10 am. Please join us to help plan a full programme of events for Term 3.

Attendance / Punctuality

Our target is to exceed 96% attendance which is equivalent to 8 days absence per year. You can expect to receive a phone call from Miss Faseela, the Social Worker linked to attendance if your child is absent for 3 consecutive days without notifying us of a reason for absence. She will also be calling the parents of children with less than 90% attendance over the coming weeks to discuss the impact of absence on your child’s learning and development. Phone calls will also be made to parents of children with a large number of late or early pickups.

You received a leaflet last term with the report card. We cannot stress enough the seriousness of time lost from the curriculum if your child is late, absent or has an early pick up. Please reread the leaflet and help support us in giving your child the best opportunity to be the best they can be.

Best attendance (Term 2): Grade 2

Thank you for your continued support. We welcome your feedback at all times so we can work together to be the best we can be.

Best wishes,



Caroline Peel

Key Dates for Term 3

APRIL 2018	
8 th Sunday	Students return after the spring break (Term 3 begins)
15 th – 19 th	History/Geography Week
18 th Wednesday	Target Setting Evening (from 5 pm to 8 pm)
22 nd Sunday	Queen’s Birthday International Day
MAY 2018	
6 th - 9 th	Assessment Week (1 st Checkpoint)
10 th Thursday	Sports Day
13 th -16 th	Sharing and Caring Week
17 th	Ramadan begins
JUNE 2018	
21 st	KG 1 Graduation (last day for EYFS) Issue of the Term End Report Cards
24- 28	Assessment week – End of Term
July 2018	
5 th	Last working day for students & staff & issue of Term End Report Cards

