



September 2020

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to be welcoming our students to the Early Years campus to continue their Nursery learning journey in person. To all our new students and families a very warm welcome to Farm. We are excited to build upon our home learning experiences thus far and continue to build relationships between all our students. We look forward to encouraging your child to blossom, grow and make friends with children from around the world. Please ensure that you regularly visit the Parent Hub as important information will be posted here.

The Farm Team

Hello, my name is Ruth Brislen and I am the Farm Class Teacher. This is my fifth year teaching at DBIS Early Years. I am originally from Cheshire, in the UK. I initially studied for a degree in Education Studies and Psychology at the University of Wales Institute Cardiff. I then qualified as a Teacher in 2014, obtaining a School Direct PGCE, specialised in ages 3 to 7 from the University of Derby. Before teaching at DBIS I worked in the UK as a Reception Class Teacher for two years. I have since taught both Reception and Nursery at DBIS. I look forward to getting to know all the new Farm class families for a fantastic year full of fun, discovery and learning.

Our wonderful Educational Assistant in Farm is Analyn Hepper. This is Analyn's fourth year at DBIS. Originally from the Philippines, Analyn has lived in Hong Kong for 10+ years. She has two children, Peter who currently attends DBIS and Patrick who attends Island School. Analyn brings a fun loving and caring nature to our team.

Communication

We ask you to understand that we would like to stay and chat when the bell rings, but the children are our first concern and continuity is extremely important for a smooth transition into Nursery. Therefore we will greet you with a welcome smile and would like to encourage your child to wait by the door when the bell rings. After the initial settling in routine, your child will then independently come into the classroom, put their belongings away and begin their learning. A key part of Early Childhood development is incorporating what they learn at home and within their familiar environment. If your child does something exceptional and you would like to share the proud moment please share these moments with us, we would love to hear about these and share them within the DBIS Early Years community. We have exciting plans for the year and we will let you know what they are through the DBIS Parent Hub, and our classroom communication boards, so please keep checking all the communications regularly.

Birthdays

We like to celebrate each child's special day. When it is your child's birthday you are invited to bring in 20 small individually wrapped items like a cupcake or biscuit for your child to share with his or her friends. Due to current restrictions these can not be consumed in class and will need to be taken home. We are aware that some children in our class have food allergies and are mindful of this matter. If necessary, we will inform you of those allergies. Please be reminded that our school is also a **nut free** environment.

Party Invitations

If there is an invitation for every child, we will be happy to hand them out at the end of the day. Class lists of names will also be available on request to help your child to write their invitations.

Hats & Water Bottles

Due to the climate in Hong Kong, it is very important that children wear sun hats when outside and drink lots of water throughout the day. Therefore, we ask that every child bring a clearly labelled hat and water bottle to school. Due to the covid restrictions Hats must be kept separate in your child's backpack. As we encourage children to take off their shoes in the sensory outdoor provision (such as water play) please clearly label your child's footwear and practice putting on and off socks.

Health & Self Care

We expect all children to be toilet trained when starting Nursery, (no pull-ups to be worn) however we understand that accidents happen therefore please can you ensure spare clothes are labeled and are kept in your child's school bag. In line with our school Safeguarding & Intimate care policy if you feel your child may need additional support with toileting please contact your class teacher. We encourage you to send your child to the toilet before your child starts the school day (Nursery toilets found next to Rainforest class).

Covid Precautions

Children are required to wear a mask whilst at school, we recommend that spare masks are kept in your child's school bag. If you feel your child may struggle to wear a mask during the school day please discuss this with your child's class teacher. Hand washing and temperature taking will become part of our everyday routine, please ensure you have filled out your child's temperature card before coming to school. Children will be asked to sanitize their hands before entering the classroom. To support social distancing inside the classroom environment Learning Leaf symbols will be placed around the classroom showing where each child can play at a safe distance. When children return to school class teachers will clearly explain this system to them.

Morning Tea

Due to current restrictions school will be providing a substantial snack, for example a small bowl of pasta with a portion of fruit. We strongly encourage that your child eats a big breakfast before coming to school. If your child has any dietary requirements that you have not listed on your profile or communicated to your class teacher, please let us know.

Seesaw

Teachers will now be using Seesaw to document your child's learning journey in class. Monthly observations will be added to your child's journal giving you a window into the classroom to see their learning progress. We will continue to use Seesaw to support online learning in the afternoons. To access the afternoon online provision you will need to go into Activities where you will find your Virtual Classroom and link to your afternoon learning.

Online Afternoon Learning Through Seesaw

| (R)=Recorded (L)= Live | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| | Mandarin (R) | Mandarin (R) | LT (R) | Music (R) | PE (L) 2:20pm |

Home Time

Please collect your child from your classroom door, any children going home with a friend or different grown up will need to be confirmed through Ms Angel in our office (atang@dbis.edu.hk). We kindly ask that once you have

collected your child you vacate the school premises and do not play on the school grounds, many thanks for your support with this.

Please follow the link to watch our 'Welcome to school' video for the children:

<https://www.wevideo.com/view/1844075685>

It is a very exciting time for all of us and Analyn and I are really looking forward to getting to know all our Farm families. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Thank you for your support and we look forward to working in partnership with you.

Kind Regards,

Ms Ruth Brislen and Mrs Analyn Hepper

Staggered Start Information

| Week 8 | Tuesday 29th September | Wednesday 30th September |
|--|---|--|
| 8:45 - 10am | Enrolled Children, Stay & Play (adult to accompany) Jessica Anderson Jakey Burkland Audrey Chung Aaron Clark Rupert Clothier Willow Hine Darcey Jones Neev Lalwani Elisabetta Romagnoli Matthew Tchestnov | Enrolled Children, Drop Off Jessica Anderson Jakey Burkland Audrey Chung Aaron Clark Rupert Clothier Willow Hine Darcey Jones Neev Lalwani Elisabetta Romagnoli Matthew Tchestnov |
| <i>Enrolled Children Afternoon Learning: Virtual Classroom Via Seesaw & Activity Packs</i> | | |
| 11:45am - 12:45 Stay & Play (adult to accompany) | Group 1 - New Intake Olivia Dekoning Heidi Hillman Mason Homer Sze Maxi Mak | Group 2 - New Intake Matilda Mullens Finn Murphy Charlotte Tinker Avalyn Yu |
| Initial Parent Teacher Conferences (PTCs). Please sign up for a time on your allocated day for New Intake https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code?code=2pzt9 Event Code: 2pzt9 | | |
| | Online PTCs for the parents of the new intake (Group 1) | Online PTCs for the parents of the new intake (Group 2) |

| Week 9 | Monday 5th | Tuesday 6th | Wednesday 7th | Thursday 8th | Friday 9th |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------------|--|--------------|------------|
| 8:45 - 11:45 Drop - Off | Enrolled Children | Enrolled Children & Group 1 | Enrolled Children, Group 1 & 2, Drop Off | | |

During Week 2 children will be provided with a learning pack of challenges and resources which they can use throughout the week in the afternoons at home. Specialist lessons will also take place either in live time via Google Meet or as recorded sessions on Seesaw.

[Week 10](#)

Week beginning Monday 12th October

All children to be in school for the 'full day' 8:45am - 12:45pm with specialist lessons in the afternoon available from home via Seesaw "Virtual Classroom"