



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 Starlight. 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 Starlight Team

Hello, my name is Philippa McIntosh and I am delighted to be the Starlight class teacher and in my second year working here at DBIS. I am originally from Devon in the UK and initially completed a BA in History from the University of York, followed by a Postgraduate Certificate in Education from UCL. I have been lucky enough to call both London and Bangkok home since completing my teacher training, but am very happy to now be able to call Hong Kong home! I am so looking forward to finally coming together as a class, getting to know all the new Starlight class families for what I'm sure will be a year full of fun, discovery and learning.

Hello, my name is Melissa Fuchs. I have lived in Hong Kong for over ten years and have been part of the DBIS community for almost as long - always in Early Years, where my heart belongs! I am a keen musician, watching and performing; I love to play the guitar in my free time. At the weekend, when the weather is right I enjoy playing golf. Every Sunday I train in Taekwondo, so far I have received a blue belt and am currently working towards my red belt.

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 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
	PE (L) 2:20pm	Mandarin (R)	LT (R)	Music (R)	Mandarin (R)

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 both myself and Melissa are really looking forward to getting to know our Starlight 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

Miss Phiippa McIntosh and Ms Melissa Fuchs

Staggered Start Information

Week 8	Tuesday 29th September	Wednesday 30th September
8:45 - 10am	Enrolled Children, Stay & Play (adult to accompany) Grace Pegoraro Yue Meng Sun Lana Van Westing Erin Worth Wai Ka Li	Enrolled Children, Drop Off Grace Pegoraro Yue Meng Sun Lana Van Westing Erin Worth Wai Ka Li
<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 Magnus Agerbak Ryan Clayton Josephine Colruyt Kyle Engelbrecht Charlie Martyn Sidney Koo	Group 2 - New Intake Elliot Fava Ruben Flach-Bajwa Alessia Maretti Huen Laam Pang Hudson Rae Kai Reinert George Summers
<p>Initial Parent Teacher Conferences (PTCs).</p> <p>Please sign up for a time on your allocated day for New Intake</p> <p>https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code?code=2pzt9</p> <p>Event Code: 2pzt9</p>		
	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	Enrolled Children	Enrolled Children &	Enrolled Children, Group 1 & 2, Drop Off		

Drop - Off		Group 1	
<p><i>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.</i></p>			

<u>Week 10</u>
<p>Week beginning Monday 12th October</p> <p>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"</p>