



Dear Panda Parents,

A very warm welcome to all our students and families in Y2 Panda class!

It is going to be an exciting year, filled with interesting and fun learning opportunities that will encourage your child to blossom, grow and make friends with children from around the world. Please ensure that you regularly visit the DBIS Hub & Parent Portal as important information will be posted here.

The Panda Team

Hello, my name is Radhika Gidwani and I am the class teacher in Panda Class. I joined DBIS as an Educational Assistant in FS2 in 2017 and studied my PGDE in Early Childhood Education at the University of Hong Kong to become a full-time teacher. I have been a class teacher for 4 years now. I attended DBIS as a student from Nursery to Y6, so it is lovely to return as a teacher.

I am excited to embark upon this year's learning journey with the children. My role is to facilitate growth and development, providing the guidance, resources and support that each child needs in order to reach their full potential. Together, we will explore new concepts, tackle challenging problems and discover innovative ways of thinking. This will be a collaborative process where curiosity, engagement and willingness to learn will be at the forefront. My aim is to create a dynamic, interactive classroom environment that inspires children to enquire, think critically, and apply newfound skills to real-world scenarios.

Hello, my name Karen Mason and I am the Educational Assistant in Panda Class. I arrived in Hong Kong over 11 years ago after relocating from Scotland. This is my second year as a Primary EA in Discovery Bay International School, although I am now in my fourth year having held another role in Secondary.

My aim is to create a welcoming, supportive and nurturing classroom environment which allows all our wonderful students to thrive and feel confident to challenge themselves. I have a particular passion for science and all STEAM subjects and I look forward to working alongside our Panda students to further develop their curiosity and enquiry skills.

Communication

It is extremely important to all the Y2 teachers that we establish a positive home-school partnership. We have exciting plans for the year and we will let you know what they are through the DBIS Parent Hub and classroom communication boards, so please keep checking all the communications regularly. Should you wish to discuss your child's learning or any sensitive issues in greater detail, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or Mrs Georgina Clothier (Y2 Year Group Leader) to arrange a meeting at a mutually agreed time. If you wish to use email, then please send any communication for the attention of the appropriate teacher through the school office: dbis@dbis.edu.hk

The School Day

Our classroom doors open from **8.25 am** each morning. We encourage parents and carers to say goodbye to their child at the door. We expect children to come into the classroom independently, put their belongings away and begin their learning. The school day will finish for Y2 children at **3.10 pm**. Y2 families can enter campus via the main gate, please remember to bring your Parent ID Card with you for pick-up time. Any parents and carers without a Parent ID card will be required to sign children out. If your child is unwell, please communicate absences through the DBIS Hub Jotform: <https://form.jotform.me/72201104115435>

What your child needs:

- DBIS School Bag (Please keep spare underwear and clothes in case of accidents)
- DBIS School Hat - clearly labelled with your child's name and class
- Named Wellington Boots & Rain Coat for Outdoor Learning
- Water Bottle (Clearly labelled with name. No metal water bottles to be brought to school.)
- 1 named A3 plastic folders for home reader books and Library books
- A small snack e.g apple (in a container they can open independently labelled with your child's name and class)
- Named lunch box (labelled with your child's name and class - *unless your child is eating at the cafeteria*)
- Snack and Lunches must be packed separately.

Healthy Lunches and Snacks

Y2 Snack occurs at 10 am during the outdoor break and Lunch at 11:55 am. If you would like your child to eat lunch in the cafeteria, please contact dbis@dbis.edu.hk If your child is having a packed lunch, this should be placed in the boxes provided outside each class. To promote health and well-being, we encourage all students to make healthy choices for snacks and lunches. Sweets, candy, fizzy soda pop/soft drinks and chewing gum are not allowed at school. Please also be aware that we are a **Nut Aware** school and we kindly ask that **no products containing nuts or traces of nuts** be brought onto the school premises. **(This includes**

Nutella and store-bought pesto: pine nuts) If your child has an allergy that concerns their safety, please speak with your child's class teacher.

Outdoor & Experiential Learning Experiences

We value the importance of Outdoor and Experiential learning opportunities at DBIS. In the coming weeks, we will communicate further information about your child's Forest School and Woodwork opportunities. In preparation for this, we kindly ask you to bring rain boots and a raincoat to be kept in school. Y2 students have multiple opportunities to explore outside learning areas, it is helpful to apply sunscreen and insect repellent before school.

We are looking forward to getting to know all our Panda 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,

Radhika Gidwani & Karen Mason