



Dear Sea Otter Parents,

A very warm welcome to all our students and families in Y1 Sea Otter 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 Sea Otter Team**

Hello! My name is Chloë Gerrard and I will be the Sea Otters class teacher. I'm originally from Ireland but was born and grew up in Hong Kong, attending international schools on Hong Kong side. I went to Nottingham Trent University in the UK where I completed a BA(Hons) degree in Textile Design then, after a number of years away, I returned to Hong Kong working for 15 years in interior design in the hotel industry, completing projects such as The Venetian Macao, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore and Pudong Shangri La. In more recent years, after having my two daughters, Iona and Skye, I joined DBIS not only as a parent but also as an Educational Assistant in Reception which led me to discover a passion for teaching. I have now been a part of the DBIS staff for six years and three years ago I completed a PGCE through the University of Sunderland, England. Being a part of your children's school journey will be an absolute privilege and one I am very much looking forward to.

My name is Janet Escueta and I am the Educational Assistant for Sea Otters. I have been living in Hong Kong for 30 years. My husband and I have two adult children. I have worked in DBIS Early Years Campus as an Educational Assistant for both FS1 and FS2 classes. Before joining DBIS, I worked as a Primary Educational Assistant at Christian Alliance International School. I love children and I am passionate in supporting them as they explore and make new discoveries in their learning journey. I am looking forward to welcoming our Sea Otters friends in August!

Hello, my name is Miss Isabella Grella and I am Head of Year One and also class teacher in Snow Leopard class. I am responsible for the overall learning and pastoral care of our Year 1 children and will communicate with you regularly regarding updates about what is happening in Year 1. I am also available to support you with any questions and enquiries.

### Communication

It is extremely important to all the Y1 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 Miss Isabella Grella (Head of Year 1) 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](mailto:dbis@dbis.edu.hk)

### The School Day

Our classroom doors open from **8.25am** 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 Y1 children at **3.10pm**. Y1 families can enter campus via the Y1 side 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

Y1 Snack occurs at 10am during the outdoor break and Lunch at 11:55am. If you would like your child to eat lunch in the cafeteria, please contact [dbis@dbis.edu.hk](mailto: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. **In Year 1, we have a child with a severe nut allergy so vigilance is the utmost priority to ensure there are no nuts within the school.**

### 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. Y1 students have multiple opportunities to explore outside learning areas, it is helpful to apply sunscreen and insect repellent before school.

### Timetable:

Sea Otter Class	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
What do I need to wear to school?	School Uniform	PE Kit	School Uniform	PE Kit	School Uniform
What's happening today?	Mandarin Learning Technologies	PE	Mandarin Music Forest School/Woodwork	PE Mandarin	Library Assembly
What do I need to bring today?	<i>Please bring a <b>hat, water bottle, snack, lunch (if packed lunch)</b> to school each day.</i>				
			Wellies & raincoat for Forest School (these can be left at school).	Return school home link book, home reader and library book.	New library book and home reader books to go home.

We are looking forward to getting to know all our Sea Otter 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 Grella, Mrs Escueta & Mrs Gerrard