



August 2024

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to all our students and families in Rainforest 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. Please ensure that you regularly visit the DBIS Hub as important information will be posted here.

The Seaside Team

My name is Deirdre McCarthy and I have been teaching at DBIS for twenty wonderful years. I am originally from Manchester UK with Irish culture being at the heart of my upbringing. I obtained a BA (Hons) Early Years teaching qualification in 1995 and before coming to Hong Kong I taught in the UK in a variety of Early Years settings. I have been living in Hong Kong since 2001; my children, Alban and Adilah, are now working in London. I am very much looking forward to getting to know our Seaside families and having an exciting and memorable year of teaching and learning in Seaside Class.

My name is Roshini Ramalingam. I am from Sri Lanka. A mother of 2 daughters, who are 7 and 3 years old. Born in Abu Dhabi, lived most of my life in Sri Lanka, moved to India and now I'm settled in Hong Kong with my family in 2021. I've been working at DBIS for two years now. I've obtained my bachelor's degree in Business Management from the University of Coventry (UK) and a passed finalist of Chartered Institute of Management Accounts (CIMA- UK). I have also obtained a licentiate in PianoForte from Trinity College London. I started my career as a music teacher and taught in early years and primary for 3 years in Sri Lanka and gravitated towards the banking industry for almost a decade. I am a teacher at heart and banker by profession and I'm excited to get to know our Seaside students and look forward to a year full of fun and learning.

Communication:

When the bell rings at the start of the day, the children are our first priority and continuity is extremely important for a smooth transition into school each morning. With this in mind, Ms Roshi and I will be able to take quick messages at the door in the morning, however if you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's learning and development in greater detail, it is kindly asked that you make an appointment at a mutually convenient time so that we can focus on settling the children into their day. We ask that when waiting for the bell to ring, your child is encouraged to independently put their water bottle and lunch box into the appropriate boxes found outside the classroom and then waits with their carer to be greeted at the door when the bell rings.

Your child will be encouraged to independently come into the classroom and begin their morning challenges. We have exciting plans for the year ahead and we will keep you updated through the Parent Hub, Seesaw and the Communication boards near the door of the classroom. Please be sure to check these regularly, as key information will always be displayed here. If you wish to contact your child's classroom teacher or notify the school of absences please send all emails through Ms Angel at our Early Years office: dbiseyfs@dbis.edu.hk.

Key Dates

Please refer to this [document](#) for Key Events in Term 1. More information about these events will be posted on the Hub closer to the event time.

School Uniform:

School uniform is an important part of children feeling a sense of belonging and pride in our school; it is also a compulsory requirement. Apart from small stud earrings and a simple watch, jewellery should not be worn to school. We will ask children to remove necklaces, bracelets and other accessories as they do not form part of the school uniform and can risk their safety. Please be aware that smartwatches (or equivalent) are not permitted at school. Any accessories will be returned to parents and carers at the end of the school day. Please find a link to the uniform here: [Compulsory uniform - Foundation Stage.pdf](#)

Parent and Teacher Conferences

Your first FS-1 Parent Teacher Conference will take place from 12:30 pm on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th August. Please refer to the Hub post for further information about booking an appointment if you haven't already done so.

Hats & Water Bottles:

Due to the climate in Hong Kong, it is very important that children wear sun hats when exploring outside and drink lots of water throughout the day. Therefore, we ask that every child brings a clearly labelled school hat and water bottle to school every day. During the week we will keep hats in classroom baskets, these will be placed outside classroom doors on Fridays if you wish to take them home to wash.

Health & Self Care:

We expect all children to be toilet trained, (not wearing nappies or pull-ups) however we understand that accidents happen therefore please ensure spare clothes are labelled and kept in your child's school bag. Please contact your class teacher if you have any concerns regarding toileting for your child. We encourage you to take your child to the toilet before your child starts the school day.

Outdoor & Experiential Learning Experiences:

During a typical school day the children will have opportunities to engage in experiential learning experiences. Please keep an eye out on the DBIS Hub for parent coffee mornings where more information will be shared about experiential learning at DBIS. We encourage children to take off their shoes in the sensory outdoor provision (such as water & sand play) therefore please clearly label your child's footwear and practice putting socks on and taking them off. We encourage the children to engage with water play and sometimes this might mean they need a change of clothes, therefore please keep a spare set of clearly labelled uniform, underwear and socks in their school bag.

The children will frequently visit our forest, where they will often come into contact with mud and water. With this in mind, we kindly ask you to provide a clearly labelled pair of wellington/gumboots so that they are always available for any exploratory adventures outside.

The children have multiple opportunities to explore our outdoor learning areas. It is useful to apply sunscreen and insect repellent before school. We will reapply sunscreen and insect repellent as necessary, if you do not wish for your child to use the school sunscreen or insect repellent (RID) please speak to your child's class teacher.

Specialist Lessons & Teachers: PE, Music, Library and Mandarin:

On PE (Physical Education) days, children should wear the DBIS PE kit, white socks and running shoes. Please label all items with your child's name. For library, children will need a library book bag/folder, e.g. an A3 clear zippy folder. These will need to be large enough to fit your child's chosen story books.

PE	Mandarin	Library	Music	Learning Technology
Mrs Fashade	Luo Laoshi	Mrs Thotawatte	Ms Lau	Mr McNerney
Tuesday Thursday	Monday Wednesday	Friday	Tuesday	Tuesday

Rest Time:

As stipulated by the Education Bureau (EdB), for those of FS-1 age, students are required to have a thirty minute rest to prepare them for afternoon learning. Your child may bring in a small soft toy (no bigger than 20 cm in length) and a small blanket (no bigger than 50cmx100cm). Again, please label all items with your child's name.

Birthdays:

We love to celebrate each child's special day at our school. When it's your child's birthday, the class will celebrate them with their own special traditions, such as singing birthday songs or letting them wear the class birthday crown or hat. To ensure all children can fully participate, we ask that you refrain from sending in any food items or party bags due to potential allergies and dietary restrictions. Our focus is on making every birthday celebration inclusive and enjoyable for the whole class.

Morning Tea & Lunch:

As part of our daily routine your child will have Morning Tea. Morning Tea is provided by school, which includes fresh fruit & vegetables alongside a choice of a breadstick, cracker or rice cake. We often find the children are happy to explore new tastes and textures as they see their friends eat their snacks and try new things.

Lunch will take place in the dining hall. We kindly request that children bring in their own lunch at the start of the school day and place it in the boxes provided. It is extremely useful to label your child's lunch box and all containers with their name and class. It is also important that your child can open their own lunch box independently and portion sizes are appropriate for the designated eating time. In line with our healthy eating policy, we request that your child's lunch box does not contain sweets and chocolate. Please also be aware that we are a Nut Aware school and we kindly ask that no products containing nuts or that may contain traces of nuts are brought onto the school premises.

Seesaw:

Teachers will be using Seesaw to document your child's learning journey. Observations will be added to your child's journal giving you a window into our learning environments. You will be sent an email with instructions on how to access Seesaw. You can download the Seesaw Family App and multiple family members can have access to your child's Learning Journey so if you have additional family members such as Grandparents, Aunties & Uncles they can also download the Family App.

Pick-Up Procedures - Photo ID Cards

During dismissal, our prime concern is to ensure every child gets collected by the right adult and returns home safely and happily. Therefore, we have a system that must be adhered to.

Please inform your child's class teacher of the adults who might collect your child during your initial PTC. Please ensure all of these adults have a DBIS photo ID card. If you have not registered for these, please contact helpdesk@dbis.edu.hk to register.

Please collect your child from your classroom door. When you collect your child, you must show your DBIS photo ID. We will check your ID against the list of named adults that you have provided us with. This process might take longer than normal in the initial weeks as class teachers get used to faces; thank you for your patience.

If your child is going on a playdate after school, please inform class teachers before midday of the name of the adult collecting them; this is best communicated through the Early Years campus office, using dbiseyfs@dbis.edu.hk. Upon arrival, your child's class teacher will check the named adult's photo ID before releasing your child.

Teaching and Learning

Please familiarise yourself with the following documents on the DBIS Hub. This will enable you to understand the curriculum and the transition into Foundation Stage 1:

Welcome to FS-1 Booklet

EYFS Curriculum Handbook

Class Parents

Class parents are important in Discovery Bay International School's community and culture. This role greatly benefits everyone within a class and assists the teacher in various ways throughout the year. Class parents are parent volunteers who take on the role at the beginning of each new school year. This role is not limited to one person; ideally, each class should have two class parents.

Some of the suggested activities that class parents may wish to be involved in are:

- Communicating with the other parents in the class
- Welcoming new families and saying farewell to those leaving
- Organising social gatherings for their class

Please speak to your class teacher if you are interested in this role. The class teachers genuinely appreciate the support from class parents throughout the year.

It is a very exciting time for all of us and we are really looking forward to getting to know all our Rainforest 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,
Mrs McCarthy and Ms Roshi