



# **Emirates International School Meadows**

## **Early Years**

# Emirates International School – Meadows

## Early Years



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### **EISM Vision**

To enable our students to excel and thrive in a happy, safe and successful environment whilst providing substantial academic rigour.

### **EISM Mission**

EIS – Meadows is a learning community where students are ready, respectful and safe in all they do. Students are empowered to think critically and creatively and to show resilience in their search for success. Our inclusive environment and innovative enquiry based international education fully prepares students for their future.

### **EISM Philosophy**

Our Philosophy at EIS Meadows, we foster a love of life-long learning through an innovative, inspiring IB curriculum that allows students to be leaders of their own learning journey. We nurture open-minded, principled, independent learners who exhibit self-awareness and grow to be responsible global citizens. We foster inter-cultural sensitivity and personal responsibility to encourage internationally minded young adults who are fully prepared for our future world.

## Head Teacher's Welcome

Dear Parents,

It is with great excitement and genuine honour that I welcome you to the new academic year, 2025-26, at Emirates International School, Meadows. As I embark on my first year as the Head of Primary at EISM, I am both proud and humbled to join such a dynamic and inclusive learning community- one that places student well-being, academic excellence, and personal growth at the heart of everything we do.

At EIS Meadows, our vision is to enable students to excel and thrive in a happy, safe and successful environment; a goal that resonates deeply with me as an educator. This vision will guide our decisions, our relationships, and the learning experiences we create across your child's learning journey.

As an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School, EIS Meadows delivers the Primary Years Programme (PYP), an engaging, inquiry-based curriculum that empowers students to be critical thinkers, caring communicators, and lifelong learners. Our Philosophy celebrates students as leaders of their own learning journey, encouraging them to develop independence, open-mindedness and intercultural understanding in preparation for a complex and rapidly evolving world.

Our Mission underpins our approach to teaching and learning: to nurture a community where every child is ready, respectful and safe in all they do. Our staff are dedicated to fostering a learning environment that promotes creativity, resilience, and academic rigour, helping each student to grow in confidence and character. In partnership with you, our parents, we aim to guide and challenge every learner to be well-prepared for success, both now and in the future. We want your child to flourish.

The strength of EIS Meadows lies in its community. We are committed to building meaningful partnerships with our families, rooted in trust, transparency and mutual respect. I warmly encourage you to take an active role in your child's educational journey and to connect with us throughout the year.

I look forward to the year ahead as we work together to create an outstanding year of learning and growth. I am especially excited about getting to know the families at EIS Meadows and working alongside you in support of your child's success and well-being.

Warm regards,

Sarah Marshall



Ms Sarah Marshall  
Head Teacher of Primary School

## Assistant Head - Early Learners Welcome

Welcome to the Early Years at Emirates International School – Meadows. It is with great pleasure that we welcome you and your child into our nurturing Early Years community. We believe that a strong and positive beginning sets the foundation for lifelong learning and development.

The Early Years is a crucial phase in a child's social, emotional, physical and cognitive growth. Rooted in the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP), our approach is transdisciplinary, inquiry-driven, and child-centred. We honour each child's natural curiosity and encourage them to explore, be curious and make connections in a safe, stimulating and inclusive environment.

At the heart of our pedagogy is play – an essential medium through which young learners develop their agency, build relationships and make meaning of the world around them. At EISM, the safety, well-being, and happiness of every child is our highest priority.

Our learning community promotes the IB Learner Profile attributes, nurturing compassionate, reflective and principled learners who are empowered to engage meaningfully with their communities.

We value our strong partnerships with families and believe that working together is key to every child's success. We look forward to the year ahead and to being part of your child's joyful learning journey.



**Ms. Kavya Gojer**  
Assistant Head – Early Learners



### The Senior Leadership Team



**Ian Ward**

School Principal

ian@eischools.ae



**Sarah Marshall**

Head of Primary School

marshalls@eischools.ae



**Dionne McKinstry**

Deputy Head  
Primary School

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**Kavya Gojer**

Assistant Head  
Early Learners

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**Chris Blackwood**

Assistant Head  
Coaching, Learning and  
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**Louise Lee**

Assistant Head  
Curriculum- PYP

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**Kimberly Vanske**

Assistant Head  
Pastoral Care & support

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**Michelle Higgins**

Head of Inclusion

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# Emirates International School – Meadows

## Early Years



### School Calendar 2025 - 2026

<b>Term 1 Aug - Dec 2025</b>		<b>Important Start and End Days</b>
August	25 <sup>th</sup> Monday	EY Stay and Play
	26 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	First Day of School
October	13 <sup>th</sup> Monday – 15 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	Mid – Term Break, School Closed
December	12 <sup>th</sup> Friday	End of Term 1

<b>Term 2 Jan - Mar 2026</b>		<b>Important Start and End Days</b>
January	5 <sup>th</sup> Monday	First Day of Term 2
February	16 <sup>th</sup> Monday – 17 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	Mid – Term Break, School Closed
March	18 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday	End of Term 2

<b>Term 3 Apr - Jun 2026</b>		<b>Important Start and End Days</b>
April	6 <sup>th</sup> Monday	First Day of Term 3
May	26 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday – 29 <sup>th</sup> Friday	Eid Al Adha, School Closed
June	30 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday	End of School Year

This calendar is approved by KHDA, but subject to changes following Government directives.  
Please refrain from booking any holidays until dates have been confirmed by the school.





### Communication

<b>PA to the Head of Primary</b>	Mrs. Rasha El Mohamedy	<a href="mailto:rasha@eischools.ae">rasha@eischools.ae</a>
<b>Primary School Receptionist</b>	Mrs. Marichu Lontoc	<a href="mailto:marichu@eischools.ae">marichu@eischools.ae</a>
<b>Assistant Head - Early Learners</b>	Ms. Kavya Gojer	<a href="mailto:kgojer@eischools.ae">kgojer@eischools.ae</a>
<b>Primary School Counselor</b>	Mrs. Sumatee Sahni	<a href="mailto:sahnis@eischools.ae">sahnis@eischools.ae</a>
<b>Registrar</b>	Ms. Rosine Labaki	<a href="mailto:rosine@eischools.ae">rosine@eischools.ae</a>
<b>Assistant Registrar</b>	Mr. Kiran Radhakrishnan	<a href="mailto:kiran@eischools.ae">kiran@eischools.ae</a>
<b>Finance and Accounts</b>	Mr. Manoj Maniyil	<a href="mailto:manoj@eischools.ae">manoj@eischools.ae</a>
<b>Cashier</b>	Mr. Marcos	<a href="mailto:marcos@eischools.ae">marcos@eischools.ae</a>

It is important that we have your most up-to-date contact details at all times. In case of an emergency, we must be able to reach you quickly. If your phone number, email address, or any other contact information changes, please inform the school as soon as possible so that we can update it on our end.





### Communication

At EISM, strong communication between parents and the school is a top priority. Throughout the academic year, parents are kept informed through various channels, including digital platforms, the regular newsletter, and a wide range of social media highlights.

We also offer numerous opportunities for parental involvement, such as exhibitions, cultural and UAE national celebrations, coffee mornings, competitions, sports events, and both parent learning workshops and information sessions.

We believe that parental engagement plays a vital role in supporting and enhancing a child's learning. Parents are valued partners in the educational journey, and by working together, we aim to develop every child's knowledge, skills, and understanding to the highest possible standard.

### Who to Contact

We encourage open communication—whether it's something big or small. While we love hearing about the positive moments, we also welcome your suggestions to help make your child's learning journey at EISM as successful as possible. Your feedback is truly valued.

Your child's class teacher will always be your first point of contact. This year, we've made reaching out even easier with the chat function on our Toddle platform. Please refer to the instructions below for guidance on how to use it. Alternatively, teachers are available for quick queries at pick-up time.

We always prefer to address concerns early, no matter how small, before they potentially escalate. If you'd like a more in-depth conversation, feel free to book an appointment directly with the class teacher—they'll be more than happy to accommodate you. Alternatively you can book an appointment via our Primary School Secretary (rasha@eischools.ae). To ensure uninterrupted learning, teachers are not available during lesson times. For everyone's safety and to help us plan effectively, we kindly ask that all visits to the campus are arranged by appointment in advance.

### Lines of Communication

**1. Teacher**

**2. Assistant Head**

**3. Deputy Head**

**Head of  
Primary**

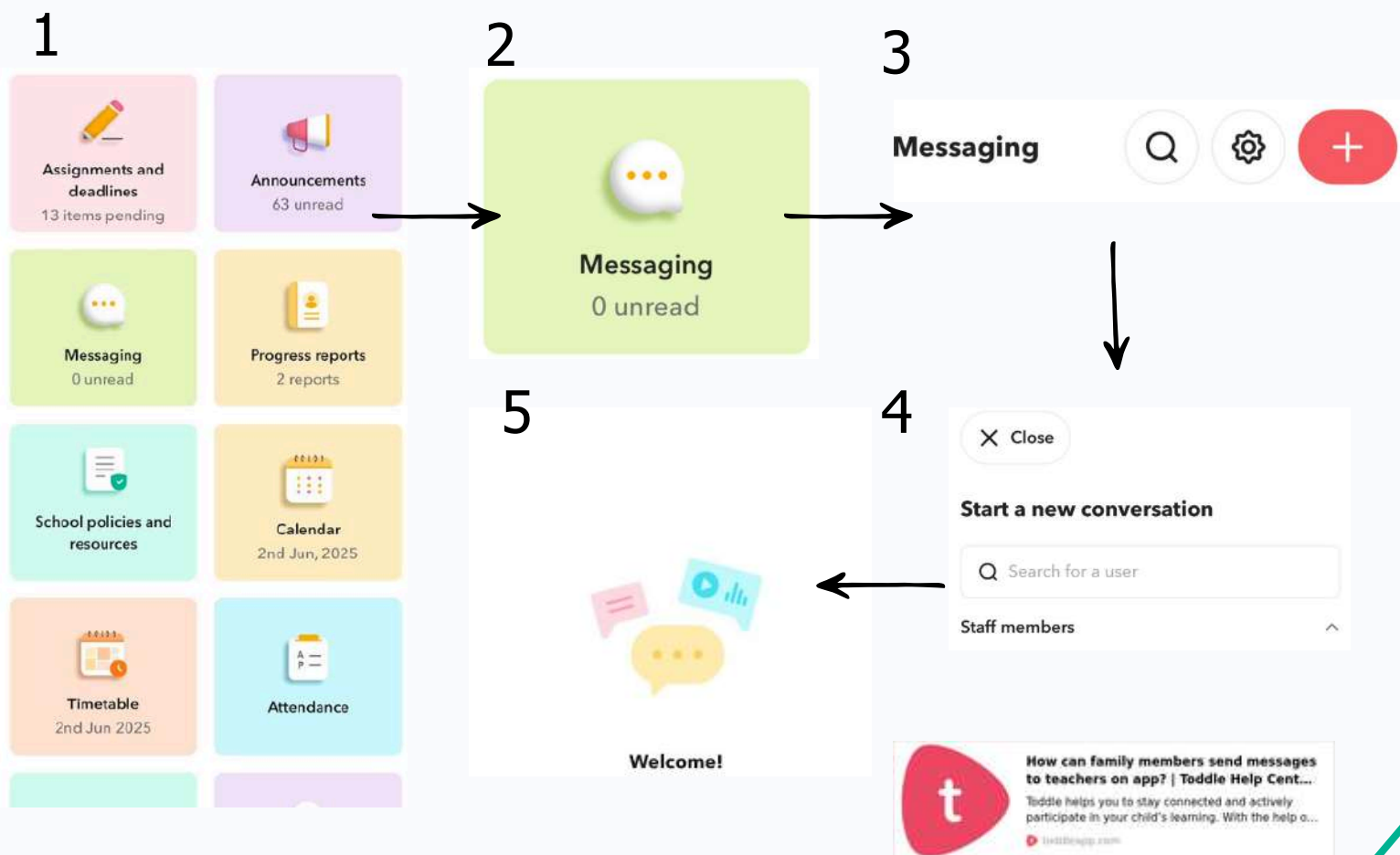
## Using Toddle to communicate with your child's class teacher

Please note that we do not share the email contacts of our class teachers. All written communication with your child's class teacher is via the platform. Class teachers will respond to messages at their earliest convenience within the working week. Please look out for announcements, reminders and calendar events.

### Getting started on Toddle



Follow the steps below to message the class teacher



### Uniform

#### Girls



#### Boys



#### Layers



#### Blue Bag



#### Hats:

To ensure your child's safety in the sun, especially during the warmer months, students must wear a hat to be allowed to play outdoors.

#### Hair:

Hair that is shoulder-length or longer must be tied back neatly.

#### Blue Bag:

This is a requirement for library books, reading material and homework to be taken to and from school safely. The blue bag is available in the uniform shop.

#### Accessories:

We kindly ask parents not to send children to school wearing valuable jewellery, as these can be misplaced, lost or damaged during the day.

- Earrings should be limited to simple studs only.
- Students should not wear nail polish or highly decorated hair accessories.

#### Footwear:

Plain black formal shoes with plain white socks are to be worn with the school uniform. For safety and independence, all children must wear shoes with velcro fastenings only. Lace-up shoes are not permitted.



### PE Kit

#### Girls



#### Boys



Students are required to wear trainers for all sports activities. These must have non-marking soles, especially when using the Sports Hall, to help maintain the condition of the flooring. For health and safety reasons, football boots or studded shoes are not permitted at school.

### Personal Presentation

We are all proud to be part of the EISM community, and our uniform is a symbol of that pride. It reflects the high standards we uphold each day and promotes positive attitudes towards learning and one another. Learning to dress smartly and professionally from a young age helps students develop habits that will serve them well beyond school, particularly in the workplace. Additionally, wearing a uniform reduces social pressures related to fashion trends, creating a more inclusive and focused environment. For these reasons, we place great importance on wearing the school uniform correctly and consistently. We thank you for your continued support in helping our students reach their full potential.

### Uniform Shop

Our school uniforms are available for purchase at: **Right Fit Readymade Garments Trading Co.**  
Located at Emirates International School – Jumeirah, Primary School Building (Side Entrance)



Tel: +971 50 903 4694



Email: [rightfituniforms@eischools.ae](mailto:rightfituniforms@eischools.ae)

#### Opening hours:



Monday to Saturday: 9:00am – 6:00pm



Closed for lunch: 12:30pm – 1:15pm



Closed on Sundays



## Our First Week of School

### Day 1 at EISM:

We understand that the first few days of school can be a difficult transition for children and parents. We hope that by providing this booklet, we can answer some of the questions you have before students begin school.

Our first day will be **Monday, 25 August 2025**. On this day, **EY1 and EY2** parents will be invited to stay with children in class for a one-hour session as a **'Stay and Play'** opportunity. This session will take place in a small group and will allow your child to familiarise themselves with the classroom while you are with them. You would've received your time slot from Ms. Kavya Gojer via email.

### EY1 students:

If your child is joining EY1, they will begin school with a staggered start to help them settle in. From Tuesday, 26 August to Thursday, 28 August, children will attend school in small groups for up to two hours each day. These short sessions give your child the chance to meet their teacher and a few, new classmates in a calm and supportive environment. Having a smaller group allows the teacher to spend more time with each child and helps children feel more comfortable as they explore their new classroom.

Parents will receive an email before school starts with details of their child's group and session timings. On Friday, 29 August, all EY1 children will attend together as a full class for the first time. Your child's teacher will share more information about this day closer to the date.

### EY2 students:

The first full day of school will be on Tuesday, 26 August, 2025. On this day, children will attend from 7:50 AM to 1 PM. All children are expected to wear their school uniform (please see page 9 for more details). They should also bring a healthy snack, a full water bottle and a set of spare clothes in case of any toilet accidents.

On the first day, staff members will be ready at the Early Years entrance to welcome you and help your child find their classroom safely.



### Our School Day

#### Morning Drop-off Timings:

Classrooms open from **7:15 AM**, and all children are expected to be in school by **7:50 AM**. The attendance is taken at **8:00 AM**, following which the Early Learners entrance doors are closed for safety reasons. If parents arrive late, please bring your child to the Primary School reception. An Early Years classroom assistant will meet you at the reception and safely accompany your child to their respective classroom. A record will be maintained of all children arriving late – after 8 AM.

#### Snack Time:

There are two snack times during the school day, usually between 8:30 AM and 12 noon. Children will have the opportunity to eat in both the classroom and the school canteen.

- The first snack is a shorter break, usually in the classroom.
- The second snack is longer, with up to 30 minutes allocated for children to eat alongside their classmates in the canteen.

To help students manage their food easily, we recommend sending two separate snack boxes, clearly labelled “First Snack” and “Second Snack”. This supports both children and teachers in ensuring snacks are eaten at the right time, without overwhelming the child with too many options at once. Teachers carefully monitor lunch boxes and keep track of students who may not have eaten, gently encouraging them throughout the day. We also strongly recommend that children eat a healthy breakfast at home each morning to help them focus and engage in learning.

#### Afternoon Pick-up Timings:

##### Monday to Thursday:

- EY1 pick-up time: **12:45 PM**
- EY2 pick-up time: **1:00 PM**

##### Fridays:

We have an early finish on Fridays for all Early Years students.

- EY1 and EY2 pick-up time on Friday: **11:30 AM**

#### After-School Enrichment Programme:

Our Early Years Enrichment Programme will begin on Monday, 8 September. It runs from 1 PM to 2:30 PM, and is led by our Early Years teachers and teaching assistants. Children attending enrichment should be collected between **2:30 PM** and **2:50 PM**. For more information, please refer to the After-School Enrichment Programme section.





## Absence, Late Arrival or Early Withdrawal Guidelines

### Attendance and Absences

To make the most of their learning experience at EISM, students should arrive on time and attend school every day. While we understand that family-related absences may occasionally occur, we kindly ask that these be kept to a minimum to reduce any disruption to your child's education.

### Planned Absences

The KHDA requires all students to attend 182 school days each year. If you are aware of an upcoming absence, please notify the School Principal in writing, clearly stating the dates your child will be absent and the expected return date.

### Unexpected Absences

If your child is absent due to illness or any other reason, please email your child's class teacher by 8 AM. This is an essential part of our child protection procedures. Please also copy our Attendance Officer, Ms. Marichu Lontoc, on all absence emails. She can be reached at [marichu@eischools.ae](mailto:marichu@eischools.ae) or by phone at 04-3629009. If the school has not been informed of your child's absence, the School Office will contact parents directly to find out the reason for the absence.

### Late Arrival

If your child arrives after the Early Years doors have been locked, please take them to the Primary School Reception, where they must register as 'late' with one of the school secretaries. As mentioned previously in Our School Day, an Early Years classroom assistant will be available to walk your child to their classroom to ensure they arrive safely.

### Late Pick-Ups

We understand that delays can occasionally occur. If you are running late to collect your child, please inform both your class teacher and Ms. Kavya Gojer via email. Repeated late pick-ups over a two-week period will be monitored, and reminder emails will be sent to parents. EY1 and EY2 students cannot wait in the enrichment club unless the additional club fee for the term has been paid. It is essential that EY1 children are collected by 12:45 PM and EY2 children by 1 PM.

### Withdrawal During the School Day

If your child needs to leave during the school day for an appointment, please email the class teacher by 8 AM, copying Mrs. Rasha Mohamedy ([rasha@eischools.ae](mailto:rasha@eischools.ae)) and Ms. Kavya Gojer. Your child will be brought to you from the classroom. You will be given a form signed by the class teacher. This form must be handed to the security guard when exiting the school. If your child returns to school later the same day, please inform their class teacher so attendance records can be updated.



## Health and Wellbeing

### School Bags:

In the Early Years, we promote independence and self-management skills. To support this, we ask that you do not send large wheeled school bags or oversized rucksacks. Bags with wheels not only hinder independence but also pose a significant trip hazard in our busy Early Years environment. A small lunch bag with a simple handle, no larger than 30cm, is ideal for your child's snacks and water bottle. These bags are easier for children to manage on their own and help foster confidence and responsibility. If an unsuitable bag is brought to school, your child's class teacher may kindly ask for it to be replaced with something more appropriate. Children may also bring a separate smaller bag containing spare clothes, which will be kept at school in case of toilet accidents. This bag will be sent home when the clothes need to be replaced. All other learning materials will be provided in class. Below are some helpful examples of school bags that meet our Early Years requirements.



### Spare Clothes:

Please send two full sets of spare clothes, including underwear and socks, in a clearly labelled carrier bag. These will be kept at school in case your child has a toilet accident or needs a change during the day. We also ask that you provide a spare pair of sandals with a backstrap, clearly labelled, to be used if your child's shoes become wet and need replacing during the day. If your child's uniform is soiled, it will be sent home in a labelled bag to be washed. Please ensure a fresh set of spare clothes and shoes are returned within 24 hours, so we always have what your child needs at school.

### The Zones of Regulation:

We encourage our students to reflect on how they are feeling and aim for them to develop an understanding that all feelings are okay; that it is how we process and manage these feelings which is important. This is taught through The Zones of Regulation to support positive mental health and wellbeing amongst our students.

BLUE	GREEN	YELLOW	RED
			
Sick Sad Tired Bored Moving Slowly	Happy Calm Good to Go Focused Ready to learn	Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Anxious Excited	Mad/Angry Mean Yelling/Shouting Out of Control I Need Time and Space

## Health and Wellbeing

### Healthy Eating:

At EISM, we actively promote healthy eating. Our staff are committed to encouraging students to make nutritious food choices in line with our Healthy Eating Policy. Please ensure your child brings a healthy snack or packed lunch that does **not** include nuts, fizzy drinks, candy, chocolate, chips, potato crisps, or other junk food. Students are not allowed to share food for both health and allergy-related reasons.

**Please Note:** EISM is a nut-free school. All forms of nuts are strictly banned, as some students have severe allergies. This includes nut products such as peanut butter, Nutella, almond butter, etc.

To support healthy habits and independence, we request that children bring two clearly labelled snack boxes:

- **First snack:** Items such as a banana, chopped vegetables, fruit or crackers. This will be eaten during a short snack time in the morning.
- **Second snack:** A more substantial meal for the longer break later in the day.

Example for  
first snack



Example for  
second snack



### Birthday Celebrations:

As a healthy school, we ask that no cakes, treats or party bags be brought into school for birthdays. Celebrations can still take place in meaningful ways without food, allowing the class to acknowledge the birthday in a special manner. There are a large number of students with differing types of food allergies and this puts these students in difficult, awkward and potentially dangerous situations.

### Health Facilities:

The school has two medical clinics:

- The Primary School Clinic is staffed by Nurse Princy Lazar.
- Our School Doctor, Dr. Vinitha Gopan, is based in the Main School Building.

If your child is treated by the nurse or doctor during the school day, you will be contacted by phone. Medical records, including vaccinations, are securely kept on file. Parents are kindly requested to keep the School Doctor informed of any medical updates, vaccinations or new health concerns. It is essential that the school is aware of any medical conditions or allergies your child may have. Please ensure that the school always has your most up-to-date contact details so we can reach you in case of an emergency or a health-related concern.



## Health and Wellbeing

### Toileting Independence in the Early Years:

Starting school is an important milestone in a child's life. We recognise that children develop at different rates. One key aspect of independence at this stage is toileting, as it plays a significant role in a child's confidence and well-being.

At Emirates International School – Meadows, we expect children entering the Early Years to be fully toilet-trained and able to communicate their need to use the toilet – either verbally or through clear actions – so that an adult can support them appropriately.

We understand that some children may require help in the early weeks. A trained adult will always be nearby to assist with verbal instructions and, when necessary, guide the child in using the toilet. However, staff will not physically wipe children, in line with school policy.

On the first day of school, parents are asked to provide a clearly labelled set of spare clothes to be used in case of toilet accidents, as well as a pack flushable wipes, for children to use for themselves. These will be stored at school for use when needed. If these are used during the day, a replacement should be sent in the following morning. If spare clothes are not available, parents will be contacted to bring in appropriate items. In the meantime, school-provided clothing will be offered.

In the event of a toileting accident:

- For a first wet accident: the child will be changed and parents informed at pick-up or via email.
- For a second wet accident: parents will be contacted by phone and email.
- If accidents become frequent, parents will be asked to collect their child and keep them at home until they are fully toilet-trained. A return plan will be discussed.
- In the case of soiling, the child will be cleaned to the best of our ability in line with the EISM toileting policy, and parents will be asked to collect them for a full clean at home.

If a child has a medical or developmental condition affecting toileting, a Health Care Plan or Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be created in collaboration with families.

Supporting toileting independence is a shared responsibility between home and school. At EISM, we are committed to creating a respectful, supportive environment. We work closely with parents to ensure every child's needs are met with care and dignity.

## Campus Safety

### Parents and Visitors:

Our students' safety and security are the School's first and foremost priorities. To maximise security, all parents have been issued with lanyards and these must be worn at all times when entering the campus. All those not wearing a lanyard will be asked to sign in at the Security Guard's desk before entering, and to wear a Visitor ID Pass. Please see our lanyard poster to guide on this.

Parents/Visitors on campus must wait in the main reception of High School if they have a scheduled appointment before the staff member they are visiting joins them. There are regulations and school-wide policies regarding adults on campus and it is important these are adhered to at all times.



### School Alarms:

If the Fire Alarm goes off while you are on school premises, follow the instructions of our security guards or the teachers. You will not be able to leave the campus until the 'All Clear' is given. You will be asked to go to the safe Collection Point on the field. If a school alarm happens within the school day, you will be emailed and notified of why this has occurred.

### Videos and Photographs:

To safeguard the privacy of all students at the school, parents/visitors are not permitted to take any video or photographs in the classrooms or around the school at any time. There will be occasions where this is permissible (i.e. school productions or school events) and you will be advised at such time.

### Lost and Found:

We do ask that you ensure all items of clothing and other belongings are clearly labelled with your child's full name to avoid the inconvenience of them becoming lost. We will return all named items to their owners. All unclaimed and unnamed items will be disposed of at the end of each term for health and safety reasons. Valuable items such as mobile phones, spectacles, money etc. are generally held by the Primary School Receptionist, Ms. Marichu Lontoc, [marichu@eischools.ae](mailto:marichu@eischools.ae) until claimed.

### Toys:

While we understand that children love bringing toys to school, these items are often misplaced, lost or broken during the day. To avoid any disappointment, we kindly ask that toys be kept at home, especially those that are precious to your child.













### Curriculum

Emirates International School, Meadows is a through school, offering a continuous educational journey from Early Years through to the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB DP). Our Primary Years Programme (PYP), which spans from Early Years to Year 6 (Grade 5), lays the foundation for lifelong learning by nurturing curiosity, critical thinking, and international-mindedness.

The PYP at EISM is an inquiry-led, concept-driven curriculum that is closely connected to real-life experiences and the context in which we live and as global citizens. This makes learning purposeful and relevant, ensuring that children see the value and application of their learning in the world around them.

At EISM, we follow the mission of the IB by helping children grow into kind, caring and open-minded individuals who understand that we all share one world and have a responsibility to look after it.

This goal is shared by our students, staff and parents. Together, we work to show the qualities of the IB Learner Profile by aiming to be:

<b>INQUIRING IGUANA</b> 	<b>Inquirers</b> We nurture our curiosity, developing skills for inquiry and research. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.	<b>OPEN-MINDED OCTOPUS</b> 
<b>THINKING TURTLE</b> 	<b>Knowledgeable</b> We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.	<b>COMMUNICATING CROCODILE</b> 
<b>KNOWLEDGEABLE NARVAL</b> 	<b>Thinkers</b> We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.	<b>CARING CAMEL</b> 
<b>PRINCIPLED PEACOCK</b> 	<b>Communicators</b> We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.	<b>RISK-TAKING RACCOON</b> 
<b>BALANCED BEAR</b> 	<b>Principled</b> We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.	<b>REFLECTIVE RABBIT</b> 
	<b>Open-Minded</b> We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view, and we are willing to grow from the experience.	
	<b>Caring</b> We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service, and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.	
	<b>Risk-Takers</b> We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.	
	<b>Balanced</b> We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives – intellectual, physical and emotional – to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognize our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.	
	<b>Reflective</b> We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and personal development.	

Each week in Early Years, we focus on a specific IB Learner Profile attribute, represented by a Learner Profile Animal. This helps our young learners connect with these important qualities in a fun and meaningful way. Children who demonstrate the week's focus attribute will be recognised in our weekly assemblies with a special certificate celebrating their efforts.

### Our Learning Expectations

#### Overview of Our Units of Inquiry:

In the Early Years, we learn through special themes called Units of Inquiry, which come from the IB PYP curriculum. Each unit lasts for about 7 to 8 weeks and helps guide what we learn and do in class. During each unit, children explore, ask questions, and discover new concepts through stories, play, activities, and discussions. Classrooms are often changed to match the theme, making learning fun, meaningful, and exciting. These units bring together learning from all areas – such as language, maths, art, music and more – so children can make real-life connections in several different ways.

#### Early Years 1 Units of Inquiry

##### Unit 1 Who We Are



Understanding ourselves.

##### Unit 2 Sharing the Planet



Learning to care for the world.

##### Unit 3 How We Organise Ourselves



Our community and how people help us.



#### Year Long Unit: How We Express Ourselves

Expressing our feelings and ideas through stories, play, art and music.



#### Early Years 2 Units of Inquiry

##### Unit 1 Who We Are



All about families

##### Unit 2 How the World Works



Learning about space and our planet.

##### Unit 3 Where We Are In Place and Time



Animals in the past and present

##### Unit 4 How We Express Ourselves



Bringing stories to life



## Our Learning Expectations

### Our Play-Based Learning Spaces:

In the Early Years at EISM, we believe that play is a powerful tool for learning. Through play, children explore, experiment and develop a deep understanding of the world around them. Our environment is carefully designed to promote independence, curiosity and a love for learning. We create engaging spaces inspired by the children's own interests. Teachers set up learning areas alongside the students, using their ideas to guide the planning and ensure meaningful learning happens through play.

Rather than stopping play, our teachers join in – facilitating, observing, and extending learning in the moment. This approach allows children to take ownership of their learning, make choices and build confidence. Student voice and agency are central to everything we do, helping children grow into capable, confident inquirers. More details about our Early Years curriculum will be shared during our Welcome to Early Years Afternoon at the start of the school year. We look forward to seeing you there.

### Phonics and Reading in the Early Years:

At EISM, we place a strong emphasis on phonics as a key foundation for developing reading, writing and communication skills in the Early Years. Phonics is an essential building block in your child's literacy journey.

We follow the Read Write Inc. phonics programme, which supports children in learning letter sounds and pick up early reading strategies in a fun and structured way.

- In EY1, phonics is taught daily within the classroom as part of the regular learning routine.
- In EY2, children attend a daily phonics group tailored to their stage of development, helping them build confidence and progress at their own pace.

To support reading at home, your child will be provided with a carefully levelled reading book/sheets each week. These are designed to reinforce the skills taught at school and build fluency and understanding. Please ensure that you read regularly with your child at home and return their reading folders on time each week so it can be exchanged for a new one.

By the end of EY2, most children will confidently using their decoding skills to read words and simple sentences within age-appropriate books.

At the start of the academic year, we will also offer parent phonics workshops to give you a closer look at how phonics is taught in the classroom and how you can support this learning at home. Further details about this will be shared soon.





## Our Learning Expectations

### Core Subjects in the Early Years:

In the Early Years at EISM, core subjects such as mathematics, language, science and social studies are thoughtfully integrated into our transdisciplinary Units of Inquiry (UOI). These units are built around student interests and support learning through a play-based approach.

We do not teach these subjects in isolation. Instead, children explore key concepts and skills through meaningful, hands-on experiences that connect across different areas of learning. This approach encourages curiosity, inquiry and a deeper understanding of the world around them.

As discussed previously in Our Learning Expectations section, core learning is guided by the central themes of each Unit of Inquiry. For example, if the class is learning about space, learning across all areas will be connected to that theme. Similarly, if the focus is on people who help us, experiences in maths, language, science and social studies will reflect and support that central idea. This makes learning more relevant and engaging for young children. Teachers observe children closely, using their interests to plan experiences that align with curriculum goals. This ensures that learning is developmentally appropriate, connected and enjoyable for each child.

### Specialist Subjects in the Early Years:

In addition to their core learning experiences, children in the Early Years take part in a variety of specialist subjects that enrich their development and broaden their learning.

Each week, students enjoy:

- One music lesson to explore rhythm, movement, and expression through sound.
- One physical education (PE) lesson to support physical development, coordination as well as gross motor skills.
- Three Arabic lessons to build early language awareness and cultural understanding.
- One library session, where they develop a love of books and build important early research skills.

### Library:

The library plays an important role in our PYP school, helping students become confident, curious readers and researchers. Every class visits the library weekly. Children are supported by our Librarian and Assistant Librarian as each child selects a book to take home. Books must be returned at the next library session so that a new one can be issued. If a book is overdue, lost or damaged, students will not be able to borrow a new book until the issue is resolved. Lost or damaged books must be paid for at the school cashier, and a copy of the receipt should be sent with the student to the library.

## Meadows House System

All students from Early Years 1 to Year 6 are part of our whole-school House system.

The four Houses are:

- Camels
- Falcons
- Khanjars
- Dhows

The House system encourages teamwork, school spirit and a sense of belonging. Students take part in a wide range of fun and engaging activities such as sports, music, drama, art and public speaking – all while working together to earn House Points.

Children are asked to wear their House T-shirts during House events and on Sports Days. These T-shirts are available for purchase at the school uniform shop.

House Points are collected during the week and celebrated through our weekly newsletter and school loudspeaker announcements. This keeps our students motivated and proud of their House achievements.

If you don't yet know your child's House, this information will be shared by the class teacher early in the term.

If your child has an older sibling, please let the teacher know their House so we can make sure siblings are placed in the same House.





### School Buses

The Diamondlease company provides the bus transportation service for Emirates International School – Meadows. Parents must register at the beginning of the academic year if they wish to use this service. Diamondlease operates a temporary office next to the Finance Office on the Ground Floor.

All buses are RTA compliant and equipped with seat belts, a qualified driver and a female bus supervisor. Please note that only registered students are permitted to travel on the school bus.

#### **Bus Safety Rules:**

The safety of all students is our highest priority. To ensure a safe journey, students must follow these rules at all times:

- Wear your seatbelt.
- Stay seated in your assigned seat while the bus is in motion.
- No eating or drinking on the bus. Children are permitted to drink only water on the bus.
- Keep noise to a minimum and speak quietly.
- Always show respect to other children, the bus supervisor and the driver.
- Follow all instructions given by the bus supervisor and driver.

#### **Consequences for Misconduct:**

Unacceptable behaviour such as using inappropriate language, being rude, standing or moving while the bus is moving, eating or drinking (other than water), damaging the bus, or not following instructions will be reported to the Head of Pastoral Care and Support, and Ms. Kavya Gojer, who will investigate the incident.

The following steps will be taken:

1. First incident – Verbal warning to parents and the children.
2. Second Incident – Written warning sent to the parents.
3. Third Incident – Written warning and one-day suspension from the bus service
  - Parents will be invited to meet with the Head of Primary to discuss further consequences.

If further incidents occur, the student will be permanently suspended from using the bus service.

For any questions or concerns, please email the Diamondlease Supervisor, Mr. Amir, at [school@diamondlease.com](mailto:school@diamondlease.com), or speak to our Head of Pastoral Care and Support, Ms. Kimberly Vanske.

## Early Years Enrichment Programme



Dear Parents,

We are very excited to be offering our Early Years Extended hours programme for the next academic year. The children will be taking part in a wide variety of activities covered over our specific themed days:



Should you wish for your child to be part of the programme, please ensure you have made payment for the programme no later than 29th August 2025. We need to have secure numbers of children for us to arrange staffing and rooms. The enrichment club will be starting from Monday 8th September 2025.

### Terms and Conditions:



- The termly fees are as follows:
  - Term 1 = 1500 AED per term per child due 29-08-2025
  - Term 2 = 1000 AED per term per child due by 05-12-2025
  - Term 3 = 1500 AED per term per child due 16-03-2026
- The yearly fee for the programme is 4,000 AED.
- If you choose to pay termly, payment will be due on the dates listed above.
- If payment is made after the due date, you must allow a minimum of 1 school day for students to be added to the Extended Hours Programme. Children may not attend if the fee has not been paid in advance.
- The Programme will be open from Monday to Thursday, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm. Collection time is from 2:30-2:50pm.
- Parents will need to provide a healthy snack which will be eaten during the afternoon's activities. Sharing of food between children is strictly prohibited.
- The programme has been recognised by KHDA as an Early Years enrichment programme.
- Students, who wish to cancel/drop out of the programme, need to inform the respective teacher at least one week in advance.
- Numbers are limited.** Should you wish to secure your child's place for the Extended Hours Programme next year, you can do so in the following ways:





## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What can I do at home to help with separation anxiety?**

It is normal for young children to feel nervous about separating from their parents in the early days of school. You can support your child by talking positively about school and helping them become familiar with their new environment. Watching their teacher's welcome videos together or reading storybooks about starting school can be very helpful. Reassure your child by reminding them how brave they are, and let them know how proud you are of them. You might also draw a parallel by saying, "Just like Mummy and Daddy go to work, now you're big enough to go to school, too."

### **Will I be informed if my child is crying or seems unhappy during the day?**

We have a highly experienced and compassionate Early Years team who are well-versed in supporting children as they transition from home to school. If your child is upset, they will receive individual attention and comfort to help them feel more secure. If your child remains unsettled for an extended period, a member of the team will contact you to discuss the best course of action, which may include an earlier pick-up or further support strategies.

### **What is the procedure if my child is unwell?**

If your child is showing signs of illness, we kindly request that you keep them at home to avoid spreading infections. Should your child become unwell during the school day, they will be taken to the school clinic, where the nurse or doctor will contact you immediately. If your child has been absent for a prolonged period, a medical clearance note is required before they return to class.

### **What sort of activities will my child be doing at school in the first few weeks?**

In the initial weeks, the focus is on helping children feel comfortable in their new environment. Teachers will support students as they become familiar with classroom routines, expectations and classmates. During this time, children will take part in a range of play-based learning experiences that build social and communication skills. Storybooks about starting school will be shared, and staff will support the children in developing confidence and independence.

### **What should I do if I have a concern or would like to speak with the teacher?**

We understand that you may have questions or concerns, especially at the beginning of the school year. While teachers are always happy to speak with parents, the start and the end of the school day can be very busy. We recommend scheduling an appointment if you would like a longer conversation. You are also welcome to contact your class teacher directly, and they will respond as soon as they are available. Alternatively, you may also contact our Head of Early Learners, Ms. Kavya Gojer, who will be happy to support you.

We will hold a Parent Information Session early in the term, with further details to follow.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **How will I know what my child is learning in class?**

You will receive regular updates through the Toddle app, where your child will have a personalised learning profile. Our teachers upload a minimum of three pieces of work per child every half term – and often share more than that. This gives you a lovely glimpse into your child's continuous learning journey. A weekly newsletter is also shared via Toddle with highlights from the week, upcoming events and simple ideas to support learning at home.

### **What should my child bring to school each day?**

Please ensure that your child brings a healthy snack and a water bottle every day. School bags are stored outside the classroom, so we kindly request that they be no larger than 30cm x 30cm to ensure they fit on the wall on their designated peg. Larger bags will not be permitted.

### **Will my child be supported in making friends?**

Yes, absolutely. Supporting your child's social development is at the heart of what we do in the Early Years. We understand that forming friendships is a big part of settling in and feeling happy at school. Through daily routines, small group activities and lots of shared play, our teachers gently guide children in learning how to take turns, cooperate, communicate with kindness and develop lasting friendships.

### **What if someone else is picking up my child?**

Your child's safety is our top priority. If someone new or unknown to the staff is picking up your child, please inform the your child's class teacher and Ms. Kavya Gojer in advance. We kindly ask that their Emirates ID is emailed to us before they pick up the child, and that the person brings the parent ID card along with them when they come to pick up your child. We will only hand over children to adults who have been authorised by you. If your child usually takes the school bus and there is a change in plan, please inform the bus driver directly and also send an email to the class teacher, making sure to copy Ms. Kavya Gojer in to the email. This ensures we are all aligned and your child gets home safely.