

Newsletter

29th August, 2025

Term 1, Issue 2



Photos courtesy of Ishaan Nolten in Year 6, who climbed Kilimanjaro as part of his summer adventures, a tremendous achievement! Please do share any other incredible achievements with me, as I love hearing about these moments from our community.



Head of Primary's Message

Arthur wondering when he will start getting bottle fed food on the sofa.

Dear DIA families,

Back with a Buzz 🐝

The first week back has been full of energy and the school is positively buzzing! The campus looks fantastic, and it has been wonderful to see students settling so quickly into new routines, friendships and experiences.

Firstly, a strong but gentle reminder

ONLY KG2 (and Year 1B, C, D & E) collect from classrooms and ONLY via the kiss and drop gate. Please go directly to your year group collection point to avoid unnecessary efforts from the team to remind parents of where to be. This is for safety and logistical reasons and not because we don't love you dearly.

Devices: Setting the Standard 📱 and reinforcing it!

One of my key focuses this week has been reinforcing expectations around devices in Years 4, 5, and 6. I visited every class to talk through rules and answer questions. So far, only eight devices have been confiscated. Thank you to students for respecting the guidelines and to parents for your strong support. Next week parents will need to collect if they are confiscated.

A quick recap:

- No smart watches or smart phones in Primary. This may require some adjustments and careful planning in collection routines.
- I have been shown some child-friendly call-and-text ONLY watches which I have mostly approved, but only if kept in bags and only if children actually need them.
- AirTags are allowed to track children walking home alone.
- No iPads while waiting for pick-up.
- No iMessaging on iPads. The office and staff are available for communication support if needed. Let us remember there was life before instant messaging.

At present, these rules apply only on school premises. All parents must digitally sign the Acceptable Use Policy, and app restrictions during the day are essential. It takes time to learn, but investing in this now will help you feel confident navigating your child's digital world.

Welcoming New Faces 🌍

A huge shout-out to our new teachers and students, who have settled in wonderfully. Each one of you brings valuable experiences that enrich our culture and learning environment.

Hopes and Dreams ✨

Once again, our Hopes and Dreams sessions were a highlight. This special tradition in DIA Education gives teachers deep insights into each child while helping ease first-day nerves.

Keeping It Neat and Safe ✂️ No Loose Ends

This week we have also been busy handing out hairbands to make sure all students with long hair have it tied up. This expectation is not gender specific; it applies equally to boys and girls. Keeping hair tied back isn't just about looking neat; it's also important for safety and focus during PE, Science, and day-to-day learning.

Class Reps: The Power of The Village 🙌

Thank you to all parents who have stepped forward as class reps! Currently, 42 of our 56 classes have at least one rep, with a total of 57 across the school. Some classes have more than one rep, and as the saying goes, "many hands make light work." I'll generally have one point of contact, but all those keen on supporting are welcome to contribute in forums and discussions. We are still looking for 14 more reps to complete the roster, so if you're on the fence, now is a great time to join.

Kind regards,
Tom

Statutory Assessments

As part of KHDA statutory requirements, our students will be undertaking a series of standardised assessments to help us better understand their learning profiles and ensure we are supporting them effectively. We will carry out these assessments between the 1st and the 12th September.

CAT4 Assessments

All children in Years 2 and 3, as well as any new students in Years 4-6, have to sit a CAT4 test every two years. This assessment is designed to support schools in understanding students' abilities, likely academic potential and learning preferences. We will use the results from CAT4 to set targets for future attainment and to monitor the progress of each child.

The Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4) assesses a student's ability to think across 4 different batteries:

- Verbal Reasoning- Thinking with words
- Non-Verbal Reasoning- Thinking with shapes
- Quantitative Reasoning- Thinking with numbers
- Spatial Reasoning- Thinking with shapes and space

This is a test of ability and not attainment, so no revision or pre-learning is necessary as we would like our students to be relaxed and calm when they take these tests.

NGRT Assessments

Children in Year 2-6 will sit the NGRT reading test 3 times per year. The first assessment will take place in classrooms over the course of next week. The New Group Reading Test (NGRT) is a standardised assessment to measure reading skills of students aged 5-16 years against the UK national average. Through a variety of exercises, NGRT can assess students' knowledge of phonics, comprehension, decoding ability, vocabulary, grammatical knowledge, deduction and inference skills, authorial intent, and ability to deal with figurative and idiomatic language (depending on the age of the student and test selected). Tasks include sentence completion, passage comprehension and phonic exercises. NGRT tests not just the ability of students to decode what they read, but also to comprehend and apply meaning.

Please note:

- Year 4-6 students will be taking the assessment on their own iPad and should bring a set of headphones.
- Year 2 and 3 will use school iPads but please send your child with a set of wired headphones with a 3.5mm jack similar to [these](#). Please do not send Bluetooth headphones.
- CAT4 reports will be sent to parents at the end of September. NGRT do not produce parent reports so results will not be shared in the same way. This can however be discussed at Parent Teacher Conferences or any other subsequent meetings with you child's teacher.

Kind regards,
Ms. Stephanie

EXTRA EXTRA! EXTRA!



KG1

YEAR 3

STUDENT
LEADERSHIP

KG2

YEAR 4

YEAR 1

YEAR 5

YEAR 2

YEAR 6



NOTICES

Year Level WhatsApp Link

KG1 - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/FPcAS8itFTD5JjGnHPvcPm>

KG2 - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/DSpbeRmfEmhLmQCCHxEFcC>

Year 1 - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/ljl5Z6pvS61ChXJ9smTAtE>

Year 2 - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/LJg5XVAuohrLaNCZm2e1vn>

Year 3 - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/IJb8NEd39VP6wZi9m5pLG6>

Year 4 - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/BF2sxBmB2jP10L97WzK0P7>

Year 5 - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/KpC3vOjX0bJLUbrJQVp8Wt>

Year 6 - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/GbKJUQr64a9LUHuL11fvmw>



SEPTEMBER 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

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Dubai International Academy, Emirates Hills Calendar Outline 2025-2026 - UPDATED



NEW
UPDATE

SMT return to School for Orientation and Training	13 August 2025
HODs, Subject leaders, HOYs and Year level leaders return to School for Orientation and Training	14 August 2025
Teachers return to School for Orientation and Training	18 August 2025
Primary School 'Hopes & Dreams'	25 August 2025
Secondary School new students orientation All Year 7, 11 and 13 students orientation	25 August 2025
Lessons start for KG2 – Year 13 students	26 August 2025
KG1 settling in programme	25 – 29 August 2025
Prophet Mohammad's birthday* (No school for students and staff)	4 September 2025
Mid-term Break	13 – 17 October 2025
Parent Teacher Consultations KG1 – Year 6 (No school for PS students)	3 November 2025
Parent Teacher Online Consultations Year 7 – 13 (No school for SS students)	10 November 2025
Parent Teacher Consultations Year 7 – 13 (No school for SS students)	21 November 2025
UAE National Day (No school for students and staff)	2 – 3 December 2025
Winter Break	08 December 2025 – 2 January 2026
Lessons start for KG1 – Year 13 students	5 January 2026
Parent Teacher Online Consultations Year 11 – 13 (No school for SS students)	6 February 2026
Ramadan begins*	18 February 2026
Parent Teacher Consultations KG1 – Year 6 (No school for PS students)	12 March 2026
Spring Break	16 -27 March 2026
Parent Teacher Consultations Year 7 – 10 (No school for SS students)	22 April 2026
Eid Al Adha* (No school for students and staff)	26 – 29 May 2026
Hijri New Year* (No school for students and staff)	16 June 2026
End of Year for Students and Teachers	3 July 2026
Please note that all dates are correct at the time of writing and could be subject to change owing to the lunar calendar and government announcements for public holidays.	



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13 SMT RETURNS TO SCHOOL FOR ORIENTATION & TRAINING	14 HOD'S, SUBJECT LEADERS & YEAR LEADERS RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR ORIENTATION & TRAINING	15	16
17	18 TEACHERS RETURN FOR ORIENTATION & TRAINING	19 TEACHERS RETURN FOR ORIENTATION & TRAINING	20 TEACHERS RETURN FOR ORIENTATION & TRAINING	21 TEACHERS RETURN FOR ORIENTATION & TRAINING	22 TEACHERS RETURN FOR ORIENTATION & TRAINING	23
24	25 PS HOPES & DREAMS KG1-Y6 PADIA 2 ND HAND UNIFORM SALE, FOYER 8.00-10.00 AM	26 LESSON STARTS YEAR 1-6 KG1-2 SETTling IN PROGRAM 26-29 AUG VARIIOUS AUDITIONS - 26-28 AUG - REFER EMAIL COMMS	27 KG1-2 SETTling IN PROGRAM 26-29 AUG PADIA 2 ND HAND UNIFORM SALE, FOYER 8.00-10.00 AM VARIIOUS AUDITIONS - 26-28 AUG - REFER EMAIL COMMS	28 KG1-2 SETTling IN PROGRAM 26-29 AUG VARIIOUS AUDITIONS - 26-28 AUG - REFER EMAIL COMMS	29 KG1-2 SETTling IN PROGRAM 26-29 AUG KENYA TRIP 2ND PAYMENT DEADLINE 29.08 AUDITION RESULTS	30 CCA Term 1 - socs link opens to indicate preferences

09 SEPTEMBER 2025

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24	25 PS HOPES & DREAMS KG1-Y6 PADIA 2 ND HAND UNIFORM SALE; FOYER 8:00-10:00 AM	26 LESSON STARTS YEAR 1-6 KG1-2 SETTTLING IN PROGRAM 26-29 AUG VARIIOUS AUDITIONS - 26-28 AUG - REFER EMAIL COMMS	27 KG1-2 SETTTLING IN PROGRAM 26-29 AUG PADIA 2 ND HAND UNIFORM SALE, FOYER 8:00-10:00 AM VARIIOUS AUDITIONS - 26-28 AUG - REFER EMAIL COMMS	28 KG1-2 SETTTLING IN PROGRAM 26-29 AUG VARIIOUS AUDITIONS - 26-28 AUG - REFER EMAIL COMMS	29 KG1-2 SETTTLING IN PROGRAM 26-29 AUG KENYA TRIP 2ND PAYMENT DEADLINE 29.08 AUDITION RESULTS	30 CCA TERM 1 - SOCS LINK OPENS TO INDICATE PREFERENCES
31	01 CAT4 (YEAR2-3), NEW & NGRT ASSESSMENT	02 CAT4 (YEAR2-3), NEW & NGRT ASSESSMENT CCA SOCS SIGN UP CLOSES 	03 CAT4 (YEAR2-3), NEW & NGRT ASSESSMENT PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS (CLASSROOMS) Y1-6	04 CAT4 (YEAR2-3), NEW & NGRT ASSESSMENT	05 PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY* NO SCHOOL FOR PS 	06
07	08 TEACHER LED AND PAID CCA TERM 1 BEGINS	09	10	11	12 PADIA NEW PARENTS COFFEE MORNING, CANTEEN 7.45 AM	13
14 WSG PRIMARY 14-17 SEP, UK	15 WSG PRIMARY 14-17 SEP, UK PS PARENT INFO SESSION - YEAR 1-2, CANTEEN 7.45 AM	16 WSG PRIMARY 14-17 SEP, UK PS PARENT INFO SESSION - YEAR 3-4, CANTEEN 7.45 AM	17 WSG PRIMARY 14-17 SEP, UK PS PARENT INFO SESSION - YEAR 5-6, CANTEEN 7.45 AM	18 PS PARENT INFO SESSION - KG1-2, CANTEEN 7.45 AM	19	20
21	22 26 PS PARENT COFFEE MORNING - INCLUSION DEPT, KG1-Y6, CANTEEN 7.45 AM -	23	24	25	26 HOUSE DAY KG1-Y6	27
28	29	30	01	02	03 PADIA EVENT WORLD TEACHERS DAY	04



مركز الفنون الموسيقية
CENTRE FOR MUSICAL ARTS

Learn To Play an Instrument at **Dubai International Academy** Emirates Hills



For more details and information please visit our website at the link below or to register, scan the QR code with your smartphone:
www.cmadubai.com/en/diaemirateshills

Registration does not guarantee a place on the instrumental program. You will be contacted when a space becomes available for your child. Lessons take place during the school day and are subject to terms and conditions agreed upon at registration.



Call: 056 766 6527 | Email: diaemirateshills@cmadubai.com | Visit: www.cmadubai.com

Dear Parents,

Centre for Musical Arts is proud to continue providing instrumental music lessons to students at **Dubai International Academy - Emirates Hills**. Our programme continues to grow and we are seeing great progress from our current students. We would like to take this opportunity to invite new students to register for a place on our instrumental programmes in school for the **2025-26** academic year. As our places are limited and slots fill up quickly, we would encourage you to register your child as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Group and Individual Lessons

Our lessons take place during the school day and run on a rotational basis. Students will come out of their classroom lessons to attend their instrumental tuition. This rotation format ensures that students do not miss the same lesson week after week. We understand how vital your child's school education is and for that reason we endeavour to ensure that all students are kept on the rotation. Classroom teachers also have our timetable and are aware of students attending instrumental lessons as well as their lesson timings and will structure any classroom work accordingly.

CMA offers both Individual and group lessons, dependent upon instrument and student level. Group lessons can be offered on most instruments (with the exception of piano, voice and drum kit, which need to be taught on an individual basis). In a group there will be a maximum of 4 students per lesson. Group lessons are subject to availability and demand, as students need to be grouped with other students of the same ability and age group.

Group lessons are only available to beginners and after one year of learning, students will be encouraged to move on to individual lessons.

Fees

Lessons are 30 minutes in length. Fees are Dhs 185 per individual lesson and Dhs 110 per student per group lesson (maximum 2-4 students). All fees are chargeable by the term.

Registration

To register your child for instrumental lessons, please complete all of the details on the form which can be found on the following link; www.cmadubai.com/en/diaemirateshills

Please read all of the information carefully, as well as our Terms and Conditions document at the end of the registration form. Further details can be found on our website at www.cmadubai.com

Once registered, parents will receive a confirmation email and an invoice from the CMA team to proceed with payment. Fees must be paid before lessons can commence. Please note that your booking is not confirmed until fees have been settled and slots cannot be reserved without the settlement of fees. All lessons are subject to availability and demand. If for any reason the chosen instrument is not available, we will contact you as soon as possible to discuss other options.

Existing students who have already registered will receive a communication from our team if they have not done so already.

We look forward to welcoming you to our instrumental programme.

Kind regards

Sara Ingham

Director - Schools Music Service

Centre For Musical Arts



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For more information call: 056 766 6527
Email: diaemirateshills@cmadubai.com
or visit our website www.cmadubai.com