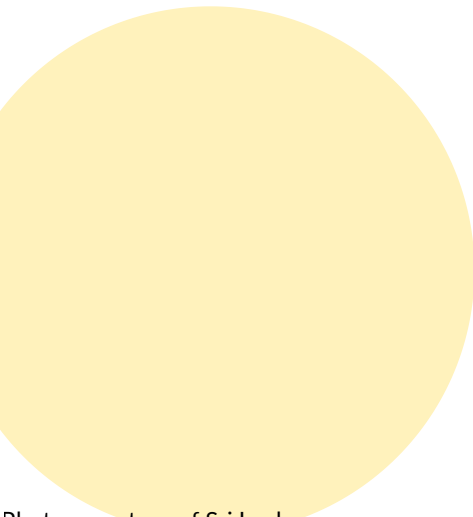


Newsletter

16th January, 2026

Term 2, Issue 2





Head of Primary's Message

The cold countryside spam continues

Dear DIA families,

Heroes in the Blood Bank 🩸

A huge shout-out to all the parents and staff who signed up for our Blood Donation Drive this week. Organised by our wonderful Secondary School CCA clubs, 'Interact' and 'MediCare', in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Jumeirah, the event was a real reminder of what community spirit looks like in action. We were delighted to welcome a brilliant turnout of eligible donors who very kindly parted with a few blood cells to help those who need them most. Thank you for showing our students what generosity looks like beyond the classroom.

Sports Days: Sweat, Smiles, and School Spirit 🏃🏻‍♀️🏆

The big headline of the week has to be our Primary Sports Days. A huge thank you to the PE team for their tireless efforts in delivering such a fantastic week for the students. The organisation, energy, and encouragement throughout the events made all the difference and we are incredibly grateful. And of course, a massive congratulations to all our athletes for representing their houses with determination, teamwork, and plenty of joy. Naturally, to all the parents who rearranged schedules, booked time from work or were 'working from home', your support made the world of difference. I know some parents would not have been able to make it as the timings would not have worked for all, and I hope those who this was the case for understand the complex nature of hosting this event for such a large cohort.

Finals Day Fever 🏆

Today also marked Finals Day, one of the most coveted competitions in our sporting calendar. The atmosphere was brilliant with all the children lined up down the track for the sprints. The efforts all around were outstanding. A full page spread will come next week when we can collate images and results.

Community Conversations: Parent Reps Meeting Next Week 💬

Next week, I'll be meeting with our Parent Year Group Representatives (you know who you are) to discuss upcoming events and explore ways we can further strengthen community engagement. These meetings are always valuable, as they help us reflect, refine, and plan in partnership with you, because school works best when we work together.

A Focus on Friendship and Behaviour: Workshop Coming Soon 🤝

One topic we know many parents would like more support and clarity on is bullying and friendship behaviours in younger children. Following next week's parent reps meeting, I will share a date for a parent workshop focused on:

- children's social behaviours and what they really mean at different ages
- how we support children at school (proactively and responsively)
- how parents can best support at home
- how wider community culture and relationships play a role

Please stay tuned, we will also be planning further workshops.

Coffee, Conversation, and Catching Up: SLT Coffee Morning ☕

Another date to look forward to is an upcoming SLT Coffee Morning. With Ms. Jodie joining the team, and with some parents yet to have the opportunity to meet our leadership group, we are looking forward to coming together over a coffee and some lovely community conversation. We are planning this for 7:40am on the 5th of Feb but more details will follow.

Lanyards On, Please! 🚫

A quick but important reminder for everyone on campus: all parents must wear their school lanyards around their necks at all times when visiting the school (rather than holding them in hand or forgetting it in the car). This helps our staff immediately identify that all visitors are authorised to be on site and supports our shared commitment to a safe, secure environment for our children.

If a member of staff asks you to display your lanyard, please accept the reminder politely and pop it on straight away, we really appreciate your support with this key safety protocol.

Sri Lanka Stories: Back with Big Smiles 🌍

Finally, Ms. Ellen and her students are safely back from Sri Lanka, and what a trip it has been! For any families considering this experience next year, Ms. Ellen truly could not be more enthusiastic about the impact it had. Watching the children grow in independence, build new friendships, and immerse themselves in Sri Lankan culture was incredibly special for her.

The group approached every moment with open minds and real enthusiasm, whether they were trying a new game, surfing, tasting unfamiliar foods, or learning new skills along the way. By all accounts, they were an absolutely fantastic group and represented the school brilliantly.

The adventures continue: next up, Kenya and Switzerland! 🗺️

Kind regards,
Tom

PADIA Reminders

International Evening Kick-Off Meeting

If you'd like to be involved, whether it's leading, cooking, donating, or helping on the day, **join us for the kick-off meeting!** Meet other parents from your country and start planning for the event of the year. Let's celebrate our amazing school community and make this event truly unforgettable! [LINK](#) Click to register



DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
Emirates Hills

2ND HAND UNIFORM & TEXTBOOKS SALE

AED 20/ITEM

pls bring **CASH** - small notes OR **ONLINE PAYMENT** through school portal **ONLY** on **THE DAYS OF SALE** for cashless purchase

7TH & 14TH JAN 2026
7:30-9:30AM
@FRONT LOBBY

Diarecycle@gmail.com
Preloved uniform contribution welcomed

PADIA



DIA EH proudly presents:

International Evening 2026

Celebrating unity in diversity

FRI 13TH FEB

PADIA

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
Emirates Hills



PADIA
PASSIONATE ABOUT DIA

give
GIFT OF MOVIEWORTHY MOMENTS

MOVIE NIGHT

27 Jan - Year 4 & 5
28 Jan - Year 6 & 7
29 Jan - Year 8 & 9

DIA SKY GARDEN @ 5:30 PM

AED 30 - Ticket + Juice + Crisp

AED 5 - Popcorn
AED 10 - Pizza slice



International Evening 2026 FAQ's



FAQ's International Evening

Info for everybody attending

EVENT INFORMATION

Date: Friday, 13 February

Time: 4:00–9:00 PM

Location: Sports field at the back of DIA EH

GENERAL

Do I need to bring money?

All country stalls will offer their items for free. Water stations will be provided. Bring your own refillable flask / bottle - cups for water run out fast.

Where can I park?

Best to take a taxi on the day as parking will be very busy.

FLAG PARADE

The FlagParade is a celebration of diversity and unity, where students carry flags from around the world, showcasing the rich tapestry of cultures within our community. The eldest student who signs up will have the honor of carrying the school flag of their own nationality. For our younger participants, our prefects will be there to offer support with the large flags, ensuring everyone can participate with confidence. **Sign-up your child(rden) for the flagparade [HERE](#) (Deadline 30th of January)**

PERFORMANCE & ENTERTAINMENT

Where can I sign-up for a primarykids performance : click [HERE](#)

How do secondary school kids sign-up?

Secondary students have the opportunity to sign up via a link on their team pages.

Can we bring outside entertainment or companies?

Yes, especially if they will perform together with students and parents.

Can professional dancers perform with the children?

Yes — it's a community event and professionals are welcome to join.

Where should we send music files for performances?

One week before the event, we will provide a link to upload all music files.

Where can we practise our performance?

Yes, you can book a location at school for practice through the performance practice facility form: [click HERE](#)



FAQ's International Evening

EVENT CONTINGENCY

Under what circumstances will the date change?

We have a buffer before Ramadan, so the event is expected to proceed as planned. However, in case of a 'force majeure', the event may need to be postponed.

Info for all stall holders

Set-up for Countries: From 1:00 PM

Clear-up for Countries: After 9:00 PM

Click here for [List of participating countries + country leads](#)

LOGISTICS AND FACILITY

Where can I park to unload or clear up?

Please use the car park next to the sports field for unloading and packing up. Set-up time begins at 1:00 PM on 13 February.

Will there be lights?

Yes. The floodlights will be on throughout the event.

I need electricity. How can I arrange this?

Please let us know as soon as possible what you might require for your stall. Fill out your stall requirement form [HERE](#).

FOOD STALL LOCATION & DECORATION

Can countries be located next to each other?

We will try to accommodate placement requests, but final allocation will depend on overall event organisation.

Are flags allowed?

Yes they are, just no decorations with political messages

Can I promote my business or a donor's business?

The purpose of International Evening is to celebrate unity in diversity — personal business promotion is not permitted.

If a supplier has donated goods, you may acknowledge them appropriately at your stall.

EXTRA EXTRA! EXTRA!



KG1

YEAR 3

STUDENT
LEADERSHIP

KG2

YEAR 4

YEAR 1

YEAR 5

YEAR 2

YEAR 6



NOTICES

Primary School photos from 5-23 January 2026.
Individual class photo schedule will be share by
the teachers



2026							JANUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
											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	31							



New Parents Survival Guide

Head of Primary
Tom Collar
tomc@diadubai.com

Deputy Head KG1 - Year 2
Jodie Harries
jodieh@diadubai.com

Deputy Head Year 3 - 6
Stephanie Trueman
stephaniet@diadubai.com

Deputy Head Pastoral
Manuella Watfa
manuellow@diadubai.com

PYP Coordinator
Ruchika Sachdev
ruchikas@diadubai.com

Head of Inclusion
Jayda Keer
jaydak@diadubai.com

Primary School Office
pssecretary@diadubai.com

IT
helpdesk@diadubai.com

Accounts
accounts@diadubai.com

School Catering
hello@kalohospitality.com



JANUARY

2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
04	05 STAFF & STUDENTS RETURN - LESSON STARTS KG1-Y6 CCA TERM 2 BEGINS SPANISH MT ASSEMBLY, L1 QUAD PS SCHOOL PHOTOS, CANTEEN 5-23 JANUARY	06 PS SCHOOL PHOTOS, CANTEEN 5-23 JANUARY	07 PS SCHOOL PHOTOS, CANTEEN 5-23 JANUARY PADIA 2ND HAND UNIFORM SALE FOYER 7.30-9.30 AM 7TH & 14 JAN	08 PS SCHOOL PHOTOS, CANTEEN 5-23 JANUARY	09 PS SCHOOL PHOTOS, CANTEEN 5-23 JANUARY	10 PS SRI LANKA TRIP 10-14 JAN
11 PS SRI LANKA TRIP 10-14 JAN	12 PS SPORTS DAY 12-16 JAN PS SCHOOL PHOTOS, CANTEEN 5-23 JANUARY PS SRI LANKA TRIP 10-14 JAN	13 PS SPORTS DAY 12-16 JAN PS SCHOOL PHOTOS, CANTEEN 5-23 JANUARY PS SRI LANKA TRIP 10-14 JAN	14 PS SPORTS DAY 12-16 JAN PS SCHOOL PHOTOS, CANTEEN 5-23 JANUARY PADIA 2ND HAND UNIFORM SALE FOYER 7.30-9.30 AM 7TH & 14 JAN PS SRI LANKA TRIP 10-14 JAN BLOOD DONATION DRIVE - REAR PARKING 9 AM-2 PM	15 PS SPORTS DAY 12-16 JAN	16 PS SPORTS DAY 12-16 JAN PS SCHOOL PHOTOS, CANTEEN 5-23 JANUARY	17
18	19 YEAR 6-7 TRANSITION MORNING, 7.40 AM CANTEEN PS SCHOOL PHOTOS, CANTEEN 5-23 JANUARY NGRT YEARS 2-6 (19-23 JAN)	20 PS SCHOOL PHOTOS, CANTEEN 5-23 JANUARY Y5 GAMES EXHIBIT, PS GYM, L3 NGRT YEARS 2-6 (19-23 JAN)	21 PS IVEI ATHLETICS, DIA-AB PS SCHOOL PHOTOS, CANTEEN 5-23 JANUARY YEAR 6 APP EXHIBIT, PS GYM, L1-2 ARABIC POETRY COMPETITION, 8.15 AM DUBAI FESTIVAL CITY NGRT YEARS 2-6 (19-23 JAN)	22 PS MUSICAL 22-23 JAN, EVENING PERFORMANCE INNOVENTS ACADEMIC OLYMPIAD DIA-AB YEARS 5-13 EMIRATES LIT - AUTHOR VISIT MS. LUCY STRANGE, PS GYM 10.30-11.45 Y5-7 PS SCHOOL PHOTOS, CANTEEN 5-23 JANUARY Y5-6 COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING ECO AND ACTION AMBASSADORS, (PROVISIONAL) 9.30 AM NGRT YEARS 2-6 (19-23 JAN) BREAKFAST WITH PADIA REPS - MONTGOMERY	23 PS MUSICAL 22-23 JAN, EVENING PERFORMANCE PS MUSICAL - MATINEE (9.30 -11.30), QUAD Y1-6 PS SCHOOL PHOTOS, CANTEEN 5-23 JANUARY PS SKI TRIP - PARENT MEETING, CANTEEN 10.40-11.30 AM NGRT YEARS 2-6 (19-23 JAN)	24 PS SPACE CAMP NASA STEM PROGRAM, DIA-AB 24-25 JAN DUBAI TERRY FOX RUN 2026, 10 AM EXPO CITY
25 PS SPACE CAMP NASA STEM PROGRAM, DIA-AB 24-25 JAN	26 KG2 TRIP TO ZABEEL SARAY THEATRE 7.45-11.00 AM YEAR 2 TRIP TO ZABEEL SARAY THEATRE 10 AM-1.00 PM PS KENYA PARENTS MEETING PS MEETING ROOM 7.40 AM	27 Y3 TRIP TO LEGOLAND 8.00 AM - 2.40 PM Y4-5 MOVIE NIGHT (PADIA) - BUY TICKETS ON THE PARENT PORTAL Y3-6 TT ROCKSTARS UAE - 27-29 JAN	28 WSG PRIMARY, 28-31 JAN, QATAR Y6-7 MOVIE NIGHT (PADIA) BUY TICKETS ON THE PARENT PORTAL Y3-6 TT ROCKSTARS UAE - 27-29 JAN Y2DEFG HEALTHY EATING WORKSHOP (STUDENTS ONLY) L7, PS GYM	29 WSG PRIMARY, 28-31 JAN, QATAR YEAR 1 PETTING ZOO Y3-6 TT ROCKSTARS UAE - 27-29 JAN	30 WSG PRIMARY, 28-31 JAN, QATAR	31 WSG PRIMARY, 28-31 JAN, QATAR Y4-5 FLL COMPETITION, ARCADIA BRITISH SCHOOL, JVT 7.30AM -1.00 PM





SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
01 DIAMUN	02 GIVE WALKATHON Y5-6 PARENT & CHILD MINDFULNESS MONDAYS 6:30 AM LIBRARY 	03 INNOVENTS FORWARD IDEAS YEARS 5-12 RWA (9AM-12 NOON) PS HAG AL LAILA KG2-Y6	04 PS ART PARENT STUDENT WORKSHOP, QUAD L1-2 YEAR 6, L3-4 YEAR 5	05 DIAMUN OPENING (EVENING) Y3 SLEEPOVER, SKY GARDEN Y2 TRIP TO KIDZANIA 8.45 AM -12.45 PM SLT COFFEE MORNING WITH PARENTS 7.45-9.30 AM CANTEEN 	06 DIAMUN YEAR 5 MINI EXHIBITION, SKY GARDEN L1-2	07 DIAMUN
08 DIAMUN	09 ARABIC A TRIP TO POTS & PAINTS CAFE 10.10 AM - 02.10 PM	10	11 UOI SHOWCASE - LITTLE RED RIDGING HOOD 1.30 PM KG GYM	12	13 TERM 2 CCA ENDS INTERNATIONAL EVENING (PADJA) Y5-6 VIBE CODING BOOTCAMP BY SMART CONCEPTS 1.00 PM ONWARDS	14 PS Y5-6 KENYA TRIP 14- 19 FEB Y5-6 VIBE CODING BOOTCAMP BY SMART CONCEPTS
15 PS Y5-6 KENYA TRIP 14- 19 FEB Y5-6 VIBE CODING BOOTCAMP BY SMART CONCEPTS	16 DC BOOKFAIR, 16-20 FEB, FOYER PS Y5-6 KENYA TRIP 14-19 FEB PS RAMADAN ASSEMBLY Y1-6, L2 SS PE HALL	17 DC BOOKFAIR, 16-20 FEB, FOYER PS Y5-6 KENYA TRIP 14-19 FEB	18 DC BOOKFAIR, 16-20 FEB, FOYER PS Y5-6 KENYA TRIP 14-19 FEB RAMADAN BEGINS* (TBC)	19 DC BOOKFAIR, 16-20 FEB, FOYER PS Y5-6 KENYA TRIP 14-19 FEB	20 DC BOOKFAIR, 16-20 FEB, FOYER	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

TAKING ACTION

Has your child been taking action out of school? Then we want to know all about it so we can celebrate it on our posters and displays in school...
Please email Mr Nick with any details at nicholast@diadubai.com



Alex (4B) and Zaya (2G) took action over the holiday break by wrapping gifts for local NGOs in Lebanon to distribute to underprivileged children. Through this thoughtful act, they gave their time generously and learned how small actions can bring joy and make a meaningful difference.



Adiva (6C) took action during a visit to India after noticing ragpickers working in winter without warm clothing or basic necessities. Wanting to help, she worked with her cousins to create and donate hygiene kits for the families, showing empathy, awareness, and care for others. Her thoughtful actions are a powerful example of how small steps can make a meaningful difference.



Join Us



GAME DESIGN CODING FUN!



**Year 5's Annual Game
Exhibition**

Purple

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

9:30 - 10:45 AM



Year 6

APP

Development
Exhibition

January 21, 2026

7:40 – 9:30 AM

PE HALL



DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
Emirates Hills

Presents

TROLLS

Find your sparkle...



Join us for an unforgettable
performance by our
Primary School Stars
Date: JANUARY 22 & 23
Time: 6.00 - 7.15 pm

Book your space by Tuesday 20th January

[Trolls: Find Your Sparkle - Ticket Booking Form](#)

We are delighted to announce **DIA EH** has been selected by the **Emirates Literature Foundation** for a special **Emirates Lit Fest Author School Visit**

AUTHOR SCHOOL VISIT



Lucy Strange



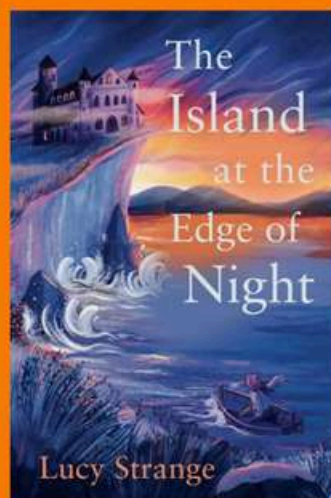
DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

Students in **Years 6, 7, and 8** will have the opportunity to meet **multi-award-winning children's author Lucy Strange**.

Winner of the Montegrappa Writing Prize and author of *The Secret of Nightingale Wood* and *Our Castle by the Sea*, Lucy Strange is well known for her atmospheric historical fiction, gothic tales, and ghost stories, blending folklore and imagination to create immersive worlds where anything might happen.




22.01 2026

If you wish your child to have the memorable experience of having their own book signed by the author, you may order a copy of one of Lucy Strange's books via the online portal. Find [link here](#) or scan the QR code:



DEADLINE FOR BOOK ORDERS: 12 JANUARY, Monday

IMPORTANT: Book quantities are limited and allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. If a selected title is unavailable, an alternative book by the same author will be provided.

ART WORKSHOP



Wednesday 4th February

FOR YEAR 5 AND YEAR 6



Featuring Neurography Art with guided video and hands on activities and explore water colour painting



VAE ROCKS




27TH - 29TH JANUARY

Year 3-6 7:30 AM TO 7:30 PM



PLAY IN ANY
GAME TYPE!

1HR TIME LIMIT
PER PERSON!



WINNING CLASS WILL HAVE THE HIGHEST
NUMBER OF CORRECT ANSWERS
PER STUDENT!



TIMES TABLES
ROCK STARS

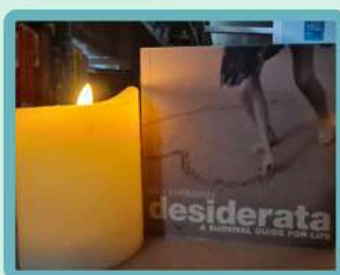
WE ARE BACK!

Come together for a peaceful meditation session* and start your month with mindfulness, calm and connection.



MINDFULNESS MONDAY MORNINGS

AT THE LIBRARY



WHO: Parent + Child partners in Y5, Y6, Y7 & Y8

WHAT: Meditation, Mindfulness and the Magic of Words

WHEN: Every first Monday of the month, 6:30am - 7:15am

FIRST EVENT IS ON 2ND OF FEBRUARY - 
SIGN UP VIA LINK HERE OR SCAN THE QR CODE



*Led by a Certified Yoga Teacher (YTT) Specializing in Mindfulness & Meditation



DIA EH proudly presents:

International Evening 2026



FRI 13TH FEB

Celebrating unity in diversity



PADIA



DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
Emirates Hills

AUTISM AWARENESS SURVEY

Dear Parents,

The Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) and the Dubai Health Authority (DHA) are inviting all parents to participate in a **Needs Assessment Survey for Autism Education Program**. This initiative aims to identify gaps in the current knowledge of teachers and parents regarding ASD, in order to guide future training and awareness programs that meet actual needs.

For more information, please refer to the official memo outlining further details: [DHA- Autism Awareness Survey](#).

Scan the QR code below [or Click HERE](#) to participate



- The survey takes only 5 minutes to complete.
- All responses will be treated with strict confidentiality and used solely for developing training and awareness programs.
- Please complete the survey no later than 28 February 2026.