Primary DIAlogue

Newsletter

30th October, 2026

Term 1, Issue 8

Dubai International Academy
Emirates Hills









2nd

Courtesy of the H2GP SPRINT Global Challenge

PADIA
Passionate About DIA

innoventures education



Mid-Term memories with my tiny tot.

Head of Primary's Message

Dear DIA families,

Turning the Page… Our Readers' Cup Finalists! 📚
A huge congratulations to the 86 students from Years 3–6 who took part in this year's Chevron Readers' Cup school round!
Having read Nadia Islam: On the Record, our young readers put their knowledge and comprehension to the test, demonstrating some impressive attention to detail. It is wonderful to see this competition continue to grow, with so many children voluntarily taking on the challenge of reading a book and preparing for a competitive quiz. There is something rather reassuring about seeing such enthusiasm for a good book!

Of course, competitions inevitably mean that not everyone can progress, but every one of our 86 participants deserves recognition for their commitment and effort.

Following a closely contested round, eight students have been selected to represent DIA in the next stage:

- Aria Srivastava
- Julia Kasparian
- Kanav Khandelwal
- Yaz Ozkan
- Adrika Bisht
- Mishka Sarpal Marwah
- Aadya Purohit
- Aryan Savla

Our finalists will now begin reading their next book in preparation for the competition on 13 November.
Congratulations to all eight, and a huge well done to every student who participated. Thank you also to our teachers and families for encouraging such a wonderful love of reading.

Seven Schools, Nine Nurseries and 900+ Teachers… All Learning Together! 🎓
Yesterday, we brought together educators from across the Innoventures Education Group, now comprising seven schools, nine nurseries and over 900 teachers, for our annual Innoventures Conference.

It is quite something to see so many educators (and our own Kian from Year 5 speaking about what teachers mean to him) in one place, sharing everything from the latest educational thinking to those tried-and-tested approaches that continue to stand the test of time.

The real value of a conference like this isn't simply the opportunity for teachers to attend workshops or collect new ideas. It is what happens afterwards. Our aim is always that the professional learning undertaken by our teachers translates into an even better experience for your children.

Whether that means a more effective way to explain a difficult concept, a new approach to supporting a child or simply questioning something we have always done, these opportunities help us continue to reflect and improve. After all, if we expect our children to remain curious, open-minded and willing to learn, we should certainly expect the same of ourselves as adults!

Hydro-Powered and Second in the World! 🏎️🌍
Now for an achievement that deserves a rather large round of applause!

Our students have finished SECOND IN THE WORLD in the H2GP Sprint Global Challenge!

For those unfamiliar with the competition, the Hydrogen Grand Prix is an international STEM challenge where students aged 10–15 design, build, fine-tune and race miniature cars powered by hydrogen fuel cells. Their performances are recorded and submitted to a global leaderboard, where they compete against teams from around the world.
It is a wonderful combination of science, engineering, mathematics, problem-solving and, of course, a healthy dose of competitive spirit!

To finish second globally is an extraordinary achievement and a real testament to the dedication, creativity and perseverance of the students involved.

PTO

A huge congratulations to Mr Felipe, whose enthusiasm and guidance have been instrumental in supporting this opportunity, and to our brilliant team:

Riyansh Gaddi - Alexander Borisov - Clement Miquel - Gabriel Sleiman - Kyan Haddadin - Noah Rahim Sacoor - Paolo Issa

Second in the world! I think we can safely say that these students have set the bar rather high for the next group of budding engineers!

KenKen… Our Mathematicians Are Making Their Mark! 🧩
Another competition where DIA Emirates Hills is rapidly building quite a reputation is KenKen.
For those unfamiliar with it, KenKen is a mathematical puzzle competition that challenges students to combine numerical reasoning, logic and problem-solving. It is the kind of challenge where knowing your times tables is helpful, but being able to think strategically is what really makes the difference.

While we have always had children participating, the introduction of our Primary KenKen clubs and a greater emphasis on promoting the competition have helped take our involvement to another level.

This year's competition saw thousands of students from across the Emirates narrowed down to highly competitive categories, with approximately 70–300 finalists competing for the top national positions.

We are delighted that 13 of our Primary students finished within the top 20 of their respective categories, with Jeeyansh Gupta winning his category!
An enormous congratulations to:

Adwaith Kishorpuria - Yedhant Jaiswal - Shiv Umang Shah - Anaishaa Bagree - Ishana Mittal - Ariana Sinha - Jethro Wong - Jeeyansh Gupta (**Category Winner**!) - Vihana Choksy - Ariona Surandar Jesrani - Viaan Shah - Weichen Zhang - Aaron Surandar Jesrani

These are fantastic individual achievements, but what particularly pleases me is the growing culture of children actively choosing to challenge themselves mathematically.

Success breeds success, and the more we celebrate children who enjoy stretching their thinking, the more we encourage others to have a go. Well done to everyone involved!

Awareness, Understanding and Choice 🎀
October is widely recognised as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and across the world many communities mark the occasion by wearing pink.

Cancer is, of course, a subject of enormous sensitivity. Within our own DIA community, during my time as Head of Primary, we have and continue to see parents, colleagues and students affected by the difficulties and tragedies associated with this illness. It is something that touches families in very different and deeply personal ways.

Following thoughtful discussions last year with our PADIA representatives and teachers, we made the decision not to hold a pink dress-up day in Primary, and we have continued that approach this year. This is not because we believe awareness is unimportant. Quite the opposite. I believe that meaningful awareness should begin with understanding and information. For children of Primary age, conversations about serious illness, treatment and loss require sensitivity, context and an appreciation of each child's age, experiences and emotional readiness. This is something that initially at least, is best understood by parents.

By not making this a large scale PS dress-up occasion, we hope to give families the space to introduce and discuss the subject in a way, and at a time, that feels appropriate for their own children. Of course, if you would like your child to wear a small pink ribbon, hair tie or another discreet symbol of support, we absolutely respect that choice. Thinking ahead to next year we have already discussed some ideas about specifically supporting parents with this.

For families wishing to contribute to the charitable spirit associated with Pink Day, donations can be made through our Zenda app, with funds supporting Dubai Cares, an official UAE organisation that contributes to a range of important charitable initiatives.

Kind regards,
Tom

Comm's Corner

EXTRA EXTRA!

KG1

KG2

YEAR 1

YEAR 2

YEAR 3

YEAR 4

YEAR 5

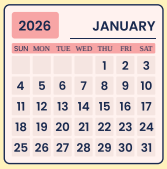
YEAR 6

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

NOTICES

PS PTC TUESDAY 03 NOVEMBER – NO SCHOOL FOR PRIMARY STUDENTS

TURN OVER



Head of Primary
Tom Collar
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Deputy Head KG1 - Year 2
Jodie Harries
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Assistant Head - Primary
Ruchika Sachdev
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Primary School Office
pssecretary@diadubai.com

IT
helpdesk@diadubai.com

Accounts
accounts@diadubai.com

School Catering
hello@kalohospilality.com

11 / 12 NOVEMBER / DECMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
01 10TH DUBAI FITNESS CHALLENGE - 31 OCTOBER TO 29 NOVEMBER	02 PS BOOKFAIR BOOKTOPIA 2-6 NOVEMBER, FOYER KG1 MT BEGINS PS PHOTOS 2-27 NOVEMBER PS PADIA CLASS REPS MEETING WITH TOM, KG GYM 7.40 AM NEW!	03 PS BOOKFAIR BOOKTOPIA 2-6 NOVEMBER, FOYER PS PARENT TEACHER CONSULTATION (PTC) (NO SCHOOL FOR PS STUDENTS)	04 PS BOOKFAIR BOOKTOPIA 2-6 NOVEMBER, FOYER Y5-6 INNOVENTS MATH CHALLENGE, DIAAB PS PHOTOS 2-27 NOVEMBER Y2ADEF TRIP SAFARI PARK	05 PS BOOKFAIR BOOKTOPIA 2-6 NOVEMBER, FOYER PS PHOTOS 2-27 NOVEMBER Y2BCG TRIP TO SAFARI PARK	06 PS BOOKFAIR BOOKTOPIA 2-6 NOVEMBER, FOYER PS PHOTOS 2-27 NOVEMBER WS - PARENT SESSION - GUEST SPEAKER - EXECUTIVE FUNCTION SKILLS & EMOTIONAL REGULATION, KG GYM 7.45 AM	07
08	09 PS PHOTOS 2-27 NOVEMBER Y4-6 POETRY FESTIVAL, PS GYM, 8.00 AM	10 S4K PRODUCTION (WINTER) KG1-Y6 THE UGLY DUCKLING PS PHOTOS 2-27 NOVEMBER Y3-6 DASSA X-COUNTRY RELAYS, SEVENS STADIUM, 2 PM	11 PS PHOTOS 2-27 NOVEMBER	12 KG2 TEACH REX DINASSOUR, DANCE ROOM Y4-6 INNOVENTS PS DEBATE, RWA PS PHOTOS 2-27 NOVEMBER PS ADHD AWARENESS ACTIVITIES IN THE DAY	13 MT SPANISH MOVIE NIGHT, QUAD, 5 PM ONWARDS Y4-6 INNOVENTS PS DEBATE, RWA Y3-6 IVEI PS SWIMMING AT DIA-TS PADIA COOKING EVENT, CANTEEN EXTENSION, 12 NOON ONWARDS PS PHOTOS 2-27 NOVEMBER	14
15	16 PS WINTER CONCERT YEARS 1-6 (KG GYM & DANCE ROOM) 16-20 NOVEMBER PS PHOTOS 2-27 NOVEMBER PS ANTI BULLYING WEEK 16-20 NOV	17 PS WINTER CONCERT YEARS 1-6 (KG GYM & DANCE ROOM) 16-20 NOVEMBER PRILS 2026 PS PHOTOS 2-27 NOVEMBER PS ANTI BULLYING WEEK 16-20 NOV Y6 ANTI BULLYING ASSEMBLY- STUDENTS ONLY, 2.10 PM PS GYM NEW!	18 PS WINTER CONCERT YEARS 1-6 (KG GYM & DANCE ROOM) 16-20 NOVEMBER KG2B,E,G PICNIC, QUAD, 4.30-6.00 PM PS PHOTOS 2-27 NOVEMBER PS ANTI BULLYING WEEK 16-20 NOV	19 PS WINTER CONCERT YEARS 1-6 (KG GYM & DANCE ROOM) 16-20 NOVEMBER KG2A,C,D,F PICNIC, QUAD, 4.30-6.00 PM PS PHOTOS 2-27 NOVEMBER PS ANTI BULLYING WEEK 16-20 NOV	20 PS WINTER CONCERT YEARS 1-6 (KG GYM & DANCE ROOM) 16-20 NOVEMBER PS PHOTOS 2-27 NOVEMBER PS ANTI BULLYING WEEK 16-20 NOV	21
22	23 PS PHOTOS 2-27 NOVEMBER	24 PS PHOTOS 2-27 NOVEMBER	25 Y4 CAMP (GROUP 1 - 25-26 NOV) Y5 CAMP 25-27 NOV Y6 CAMP 25-27 NOV PS PHOTOS 2-27 NOVEMBER	26 Y2 EXHIBITION, SKY GARDEN, 1.30 PM ONWARDS Y4 CAMP (GROUP 1 - 25-26 NOV) Y4 CAMP (GROUP 2 - 26-27 NOV) Y5 CAMP 25-27 NOV Y6 CAMP 25-27 NOV PS PHOTOS 2-27 NOVEMBER PS PARENT INFO SESSION - ASSESSMENT & REPORTING Y1-6, KG GYM 7.45 AM	27 WINTER SOUQ (PADIA) Y4 CAMP (GROUP 2 - 26-27 NOV) Y5 CAMP 25-27 NOV Y6 CAMP 25-27 NOV PS PHOTOS 2-27 NOVEMBER	28
29 10TH DUBAI FITNESS CHALLENGE ENDS	30	01 DEC PS NATIONAL DAY ASSEMBLY	02 DEC UAE NATIONAL DAY* 2-4 DEC (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS & STAFF) TBC	03 DEC UAE NATIONAL DAY* 2-4 DEC (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS & STAFF) TBC	04 DEC UAE NATIONAL DAY* 2-4 DEC (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS & STAFF) TBC	05 DEC
06 DEC	07 DEC PS ARABIC BOOK FAIR LUGHATI 7-11 DECEMBER	08 DEC PS ARABIC BOOK FAIR LUGHATI 7-11 DECEMBER KG1 WINTER CONCERT (MONTGOMERIE CAMPUS) 8.30 AM 8-10 DEC	09 DEC PS ARABIC BOOK FAIR LUGHATI 7-11 DECEMBER Y4 WAX MUSEUM, SKY GARDEN L1-2 KG1 WINTER CONCERT (MONTGOMERIE CAMPUS) 8.30 AM 8-10 DEC	10 DEC PS ARABIC BOOK FAIR LUGHATI 7-11 DECEMBER SWEDISH MT WINTER ASSEMBLY, L1, PS GYM KG1 WINTER CONCERT (MONTGOMERIE CAMPUS) 8.30 AM 8-10 DEC TERM 1 REPORTS TO PARENTS	11 DEC PS ARABIC BOOK FAIR LUGHATI 7-11 DECEMBER	12 DEC WINTER BREAK BEGINS

Dubai International Academy, Emirates Hills Calendar Outline 2026 – 2027	
SMT return to School for Orientation and Training	19 August 2026
HODs, Subject leaders, HOYs and Year level leaders return to School for Orientation and Training	20 August 2026
Teachers return to School for Orientation and Training	24 August 2026
Prophet Mohammad's birthday* (No school for students and staff)	25 August 2026
Primary School 'Hopes & Dreams' KG1 – Year 6	31 August 2026
Secondary School new students' orientation - All Year 7, 11 and 13 students' orientation	31 August 2026
Lessons start for Year 1 – Year 13 students	1 September 2026
KG1 & KG2 settling in programme	1 - 4 September 2026
Mid-term Break	12 – 16 October 2026
Innoventures Education PD Day (Early dismissal for all students)	29 October 2026
Parent Teacher Consultations KG1 – Year 6 (No school for PS students)	3 November 2026
Parent Teacher Online Consultations Year 7 – 13 (No school for SS students)	10 November 2026
Parent Teacher Consultations Year 7 – 13 (No school for SS students)	20 November 2026
UAE National Day* (No school for students and staff)	2 – 4 December 2026
Winter Break	14 December 2026 – 3 January 2027
Lessons start for KG1 – Year 13 students	4 January 2027
Innoventures Education PD Day (Early dismissal for all students)	2 February 2027
Parent Teacher Consultations Year 11 – 13 (No school for SS students)	5 February 2027
Ramadan begins*	8 February 2027
Eid Al Fitr* (No school for students and staff)	8 – 12 March 2027
Innoventures Education PD Day (Early dismissal for all students)	25 March 2027
Parent Teacher Consultations KG1 – Year 6 (No school for PS students)	31 March 2027
Spring Break	5 – 9 April 2027
Parent Teacher Consultations Year 7 – 10 (No school for SS students)	22 April 2027
Eid Al Adha* (No school for students and staff)	15 – 18 May 2027
Parent Teacher Consultations KG1 – Year 6 (No school for PS students)	24 May 2027
Hijri New Year* (No school for students and staff)	6 June 2027
End of Year for Students and Teachers	2 July 2027
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	

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY
Emirates Hills

BOOKTOPIA
A Perfect World of Books!

BOOKFAIR

2- 6 NOVEMBER 2026

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY EMIRATES HILLS, 7:30AM -4PM

5 NOVEMBER
KG1 CAMPUS 8AM-2PM



WWW.BOOKTOPIA.COM MYBOOKTOPIA MYBOOKTOPIAUAE

FAMILY TIME AT THE LIBRARY



All DIA families are welcome to visit us, read, enjoy and repeat!

We believe a library with open doors is a library with open books!

Library Open Day

We Are Library Pirates: Books ARRRe Our Treasure! EDITION



Come aboard and follow our **Library Treasure Map**! Explore hidden-gem displays, uncover bookish treasures, and sail through our **Once Upon a Library exhibition**, showcasing three years of booktastic adventures, librarish initiatives and readmarkable moments that have shaped our library story.

Or simply drop anchor in a cosy corner and enjoy a good book with your child.

We ARRRRe delighted to welcome you aboard for some reading, exploring and family fun!

TUESDAY - 3RD NOVEMBER

UNDERSTANDING ADHD: BEYOND THE LABEL

Practical insights and strategies for families - whether ADHD is diagnosed, suspected, or simply part of the conversation.



Fri, 6 Nov
7:45 am

DIA Emirates Hills
Venue-KG Gym

Angela & Nadia
ADHD360

VALUABLE INSIGHTS | **REAL-LIFE STRATEGIES** | **MANAGEMENT OF SYMPTOMS**

info@adhd360.ae

ADHD360

www.adhd360.ae
@adhd360.ae

ADHD 360

WHO ARE WE?



Angela Marson

- Masters in Psychology (Distinction)
- PGCE & 25+ years teaching experience in UK, USA, Dubai
- Inclusion experience at Outstanding British School, Dubai
- Qualified ADHD Coach
- Mum of teenagers
- Member of British Psychology Society



Nadia Mankani

- Masters in Special Education(Distinction)
- Inclusion experience at Outstanding British school, Dubai
- CCET Qualification (Educational Testing)
- Qualified ADHD Coach
- Children (& spouse) with ADHD
- Member of British Psychology Society

Understanding ADHD and Supporting Your Child at Home

We are pleased to invite parents to an informative session focused on understanding executive functioning skills and practical strategies to support children at home. The workshop will explore key skills such as organisation, time management, emotional regulation and independence. It will also help parents recognise the underlying barriers that may contribute to challenging behaviours, encouraging us to look beyond labels and better understand what children may be struggling with. Parents will leave with practical strategies to support their child's confidence, independence and overall wellbeing.

Parent Session Attendance Confirmation

Kindly confirm your attendance by clicking on the form and submitting your response by 5th November, as this will help us make the necessary arrangements for the session.

https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/L99n9Q2dEv

DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

the World Scholar's Cup

WORLD SCHOLAR'S CUP

DUBAI REGIONAL ROUND 2027

LEARN • COLLABORATE • CHALLENGE • GO FURTHER

AN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC COMPETITION FOR CURIOUS MINDS!

The World Scholar's Cup brings together students from around the world to **collaborate**, **debate**, **write**, **compete** and **celebrate** learning.

A fantastic opportunity to develop confidence, critical thinking, communication and teamwork while meeting like-minded students from other schools.



TEAM DEBATE
Build confidence and persuasive communication skills.

COLLABORATIVE WRITING
Work creatively and critically with your team.

SCHOLAR'S CHALLENGE
Explore fascinating topics across a range of subjects.

SCHOLAR'S BOWL
Test your knowledge, quick thinking and teamwork.

EVENT DATES
Saturday 29th – Monday 31st May 2027
Sunmarke School & Arcadia Global School, Dubai

TEAMS OF 3
Organise your own team (with support from parents). Places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

APPROXIMATE COST
Around **AED 600** per pupil (final amount TBC). Payment will be collected in December.

REGISTER YOUR INDIVIDUAL INTEREST NOW!

World Scholar's Cup 2027 - Individual Interest & Parental Permission

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES | CRITICAL THINKING | MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS | A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

Please note that team places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Registering individual interest does not guarantee a place, and only complete teams of three will be considered during team registration.

Register you interest by 5th November 2026

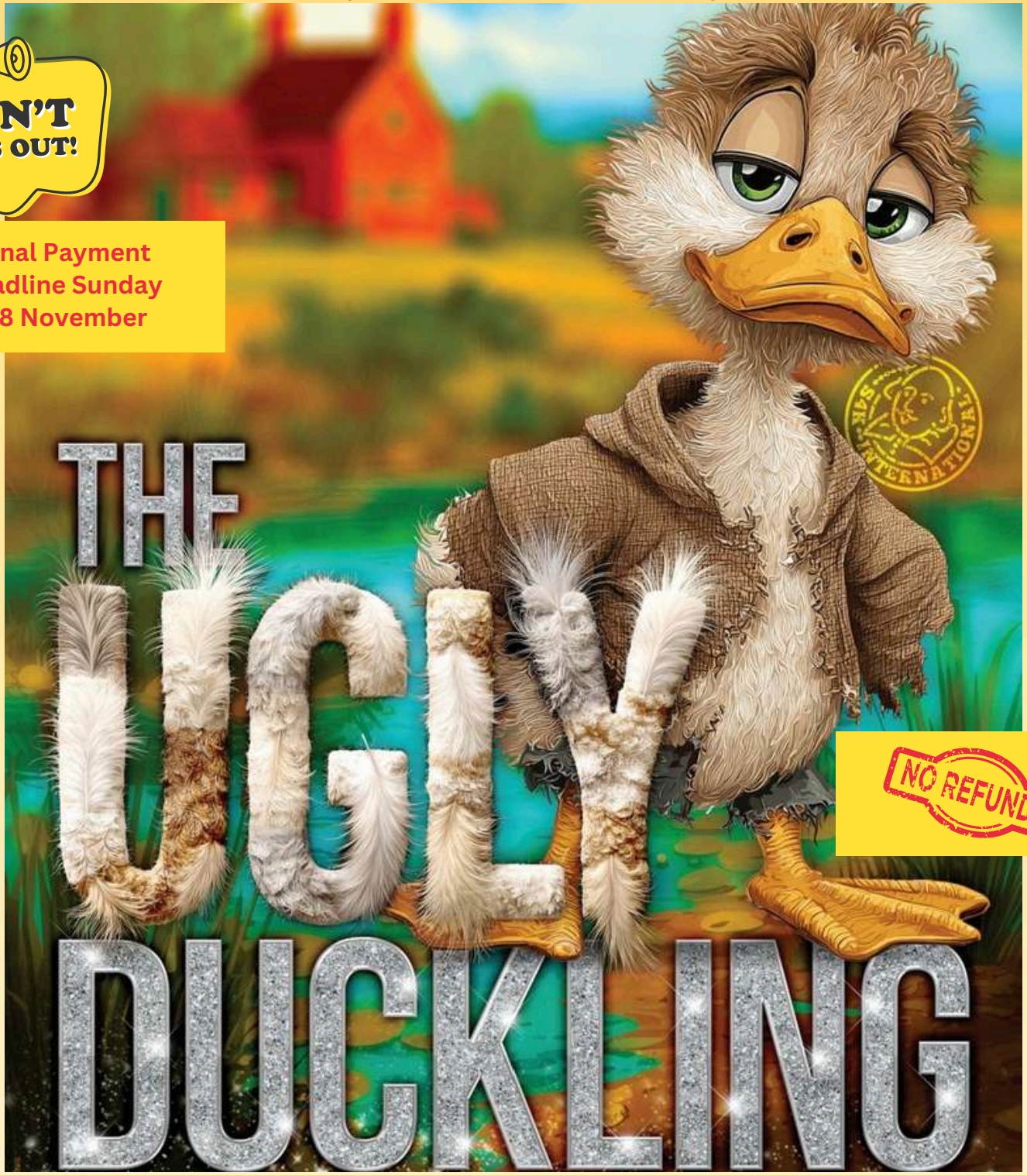
COMING TO DUBAI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY ON TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2026

Is Beauty only Feathers-Deep?

The Ugly Duckling is a musical comedy show written for young children and based on the famous fairytale by Hans Christian Anderson.

It is the story about a young bird who is mocked and bullied by his newly-hatched brother and sister ducklings because he is different from them. They think he is ugly! Even his mother thinks he is ugly! Feeling unwanted, unloved and alone he runs away - only to meet other farm animals who either reject him or want to eat him. Then the winter arrives - cold, freezing, icy and snowy. What is a young duck to do? How can our little guy survive? When spring arrives, he meets a flock of beautiful swans and has the surprise of his life! The Ugly Duckling is a delightful, musical comedy show with plenty of audience participation and interactive fun. Our young audiences will go on a journey with the characters where we explore themes of personal growth, discrimination, positivity, kindness and diversity.

This show is performed in English and sensitively adapted for young, international audience



Show times:

KG1, KG2 & Year 1 - 9:30 - 10:20 am

Years 2-3-4 - 10:40 - 11:40 am

Year 5-6 - 12:30 - 1:30 pm

The show will take place in the SS PE Hall, where all students will be seated. Students who are not watching will remain in class with one of the year level team teachers.

If you wish your child to attend this fantastic performance then please arrange an online payment of AED 60 via Zenda using either of the following:

Zenda App through mobile: app.zenda.com/getstarted

Zenda webpage: https://innoventureseducation.zenda.com/

DIA Arts Presents

CLASSROOM CURTAIN CALL

NOV 16TH - 20TH

Presentations will take place during your child's music and dance lesson this week

Classroom Curtain Call Timetable:

Years 1-6 **CLICK HERE TO VIEW**

KG2

We're excited to invite you to our KG2 Family Picnic!

Join us for a lovely afternoon together as we celebrate our students' hard work and creativity. Each class will take the stage to perform their Zog 'Talk for Writing' piece – we can't wait for you to see how confidently they bring the story to life!

16:30-18:00

18 NOVEMBER: KG2B,E,G

19 NOVEMBER: KG2A,C,D,F

Location: The school quad

What to Wear:

The students are invited to come in their own clothes with a splash of orange to match our Zog theme.

What to Bring:

Pack your favourite snacks and don't forget your picnic blanket for a cosy spot on the grass!

(If you'd prefer to bring a chair, please pop it at the back of the quad so everyone has a great view.)

SAVE THE DATE

KG1 WINTER CONCERT

Please join us for festive fun and entertainment from our KG1 children under the KG1 trees.

Tuesday 8 December
KG1B • KG1C • KG1G

Wednesday 9 December
KG1A • KG1E

Thursday 10 December
KG1D • KG1F

8:30 AM

Venue: KG1 DIA Campus

Children to wear festive colours:

RED, WHITE OR GREEN

More information will be shared by your class teacher closer to the time.

BORBONE PIZZERIA & CAFFÈ | PADIA PASSIONATE ABOUT DIA | SUGAHOLIC SINCE 2010

Little Pizza Makers & Cake Decorators for a Day!



Pizza Making by Borbone



Cake Decorating by Sugaholic

AED 70 per child

AED 175 per adult (Double Challenge)

AED 100 Bento Box

AED 60 Cupcakes & Cookies

13 November

60 min sessions

Max 20 kids per session

All equipment included

REGISTER HERE

PADIA

PASSIONATE ABOUT DIA

INVITES YOU TO OUR 2026

WINTER SOUK

JOIN US FOR A FESTIVE FILLED WITH HOLIDAY CHEER, SHOPPING, ACTIVITIES, AND WONDERFUL MOMENTS WITH OUR DIA COMMUNITY.

Book your stall NOW through the attached link

27TH NOVEMBER
10:00 AM
TO
2:00 PM

DIA Parents & Staff:
https://forms.gle/e6XKPhuzqjQkXs9UA



COME SHOP, CONNECT & CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH US! ❤