

# DUBAI HEIGHTS ACADEMY



2018/19 YEARBOOK

STUDENTS & FACULTY

A PUBLICATION BY



DUBAI HEIGHTS  
ACADEMY

LOOKING BACK AT ANOTHER GREAT YEAR



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# Dear children & parents of Dubai Heights Academy...



## Welcome to another great year!

It is with great delight that I have watched the school grow from the ground up to the amazing hub of activity it is today. As they say, "Time flies when you're having fun!" and what a fun and fantastic year it has been.

It has been a very busy second year in the life of the school with many events and experiences putting learning into a real life context for the children. We have sung our hearts out at Choir Fest and performed at Dubai Opera, we have visited the historical parts of Dubai on the Big Bus tour and explored marine conservation at the Turtle Sanctuary.

This year has seen our sports teams spring into action with children representing the school in football, netball, cross country, basketball and biathlons. It was a very proud moment watching the DHA colours hit the sports field and the excellent sportsmanship and pride shown by the children representing the school.

The school community growing from strength to strength and the parental support for many of our events has been amazing from the large numbers who attended our Winter Concert, Spring Fayre and the fabulous Family Iftar.

One memory that will stick with me was the parents and teachers Tug O' War. After losing heavily in our first Sports Day we were ready to exact our revenge. We had a good team all set ready to pull, we applied pressure, the parents pulled back. The tension was building only for the rope to snap and both teams to end up in a heap on the floor. I am pretty sure we were winning up to that point!

The DHA core values run deeply through the school and it is great to see the children's:

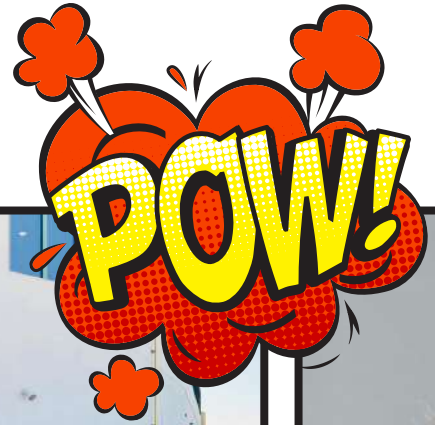
- Focus
- Integrity
- Respect
- Self determination
- Teamwork

I would like to thank everyone who has been involved with Dubai Heights Academy; staff, parents and the children for making all of these DHA moments into wonderful learning experiences which we will remember well into the future.

As you continue through school, never forget to keep learning, to keep having fun and to always smile. I am so proud of all of you and what you have achieved in our time together.



# Looking back...







DUBAI HEIGHTS  
ACADEMY



**WOW!**

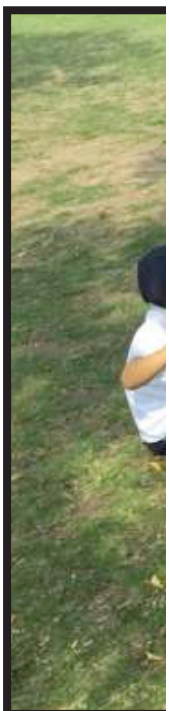




# FS 1 Class



What a wonderful year we have had in FS1 Yellow! From treasure hunts, listening walks and swimming as sharks to getting messy with glitter, mud, paint and chalk. The children's fun whilst learning has been endless! Not only have the children made life-long friends but they have gained a wealth of experiences and memories through classroom learning and our educational trips. The Chill Out Lounge was particularly memorable where the children loved touching and feeling ice, some for the first time and finished with a warm hot chocolate with their friends. The class have been a pleasure to teach and we wish them all the luck in the world on their next adventure into FS2.





**The teachers...**

**Dolly Bradley  
Barnard  
Class Teacher**



**Stephanie  
Billson  
Class Teacher**



**Cristina Layoso  
Learning  
Assistant**

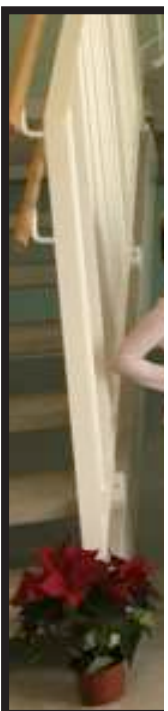




# FS 2 Green



What a wonderful year we have had in FS2 Green! We started the year as young and eager explorers with lots to learn and we are now leaving FS2 ready for the big step to Year 1. As we look forward to Year 1 we remember the many fun days we had like Pyjama Day, Character Dress up Day and National Day! We have made some lovely friendships this year and we have all supported and encouraged one another to always try our best. We are all ready for the exciting new learning experiences in Year 1. Bring on 'Big School'!





## **The teachers...**



**Hayley  
Shaw  
Class  
Teacher**



**Courtenay  
O'Neill  
Learning  
Assistant**



# FS 2 Purple



What an amazing year we have had in FS2 Purple. There have been so many highlights this year that it is hard to name just a few. One of the children's favourite moments was back in December, when we had our 'Dark Day' and came to school in our pyjamas! Many other moments have made our year very special including some of our favourite days – Diversity Day, National Day, Inclusion Day and World Book Day. We have also had the opportunity to experience lots of exciting school trips – going to the beach, touching the ice at the Chillout Lounge, watching the Gruffalo's Child at the Madinat Theatre and holding butterflies at the Butterfly Garden. I am really proud of all of the progress the children have made this year and what they have achieved. I am looking forward to seeing the children continue to flourish as learners next year in the 'Big School'.







## **The teachers...**



**Eisha  
Mehta  
Class  
Teacher**



**Gemma  
Cribbin  
Learning  
Assistant**



# Year 1 Green



What a fantastic year we have had in Year One Green! I have enjoyed watching you all grow into independent, confident and enthusiastic learners and we have had many exciting memories to look back on and cherish. I am so proud of everything you have accomplished and have loved seeing your sparkly personalities blossom and mature throughout the year. As your teacher, my favourite memories with you all was the World Book Day where we enjoyed lots of fun activities dressed as our favourite book characters, our visit from a knight in shining armour and our wonderful trip to the Turtle Rehabilitation Centre. I have enjoyed reading all your wonderful writing, especially your stories about 'The Lighthouse Keepers Lunch.' We have had great fun making pizzas when learning about fractions and acting as scientists to make floating boats to rescue Professor DXB. Well done to you all for all your hard work and positive attitudes this year, I look forward to seeing you flourish as learners next year.







## **T**he teachers...



**Sophie  
Appleby  
Class  
Teacher**



**Caitlin  
Currie  
Learning  
Assistant**





# Year 2 Purple



What a terrific year it has been in Year Two Purple. There have been so many highlights and special memories such as learning about green sea turtles at the rehabilitation centre, seeing the fabulous costumes on World Book Day, welcoming the Bermudan Special Olympic team and seeing the children's innovative ideas for boat designs during our recent Science Week to name but a few. Some of my own fondest memories also come from the everyday; marvelling at the progress a child has made in their reading, delighting in the vocabulary used in a report about loggerhead turtles or admiring the detail and effort put into a drawing or painting. One of the truly loveliest things about Year Two Purple is the children's ability to celebrate one another's achievements. Whether it is a friend moving up a reading level, winning the weekly 'Maths Champion' contest, getting full marks in a tricky spelling test or reaching



the next level in their weekly maths CLIC; the children in Year Two Purple enthusiastically applaud their classmates' achievements and build each other up with words of encouragement. What's more, they are such a welcoming bunch who have been genuinely delighted and excited as new friends have joined the class throughout the year, Mrs. Gelling included!

I wish you all a wonderful summer, making memories and enjoying the trips and plans you have been sharing with me and I look forward to hearing all your news when I see you again in September, ready for Year Three!

## The teachers...



**Elizabeth  
Doust  
Class Teacher**



**Gemma Gelling  
Learning  
Assistant**



# Year 2 Yellow

What a wonderful year we have had in Year Two! We have so many memories but Year Two all agree that the best memories were making new friends and attending all our school trips. Thinking back on all your achievements, there are so many to be proud of but as your teacher, my favourite part of the year was watching your amazing poetry recitals, which you performed with confidence and expression. I was so impressed with the way you learnt to recite the poem together as a team, support each other and even helped each other improve. This year, we have had many opportunities to take our learning outside the classroom and the children have loved every experience. The children couldn't agree on their favourite trip but we all agree that feeding the rescued turtles was amazing! Well done to everyone for all your hard work and positive attitude towards learning. You should all be very proud of your achievements this year!



## The teachers...



**Natalie  
Hutchison  
Class Teacher**



**Nisha Childs  
Learning  
Assistant**





# Year 3 Green



A truly remarkable year here at Dubai Heights Academy, where the children have made excellent progress in their Reading, Writing and Mathematics. Not only have they developed academically, they are beginning to learn about the world around them and how they can be kind, loving and caring children of the UAE.

We have had the chance to make some great memories, including a trip to the Etihad Museum in November where we learned all about the history of the UAE as well as the Big Bus Tour where we travelled all the way to Deira to experience even more local History. In March, we took part in World Book Month; completed reading challenges, poetry competitions and dressed up as our favourite characters! During this month most of the class went on a residential stay at Ecoventure and learnt to kayak, climb and even snorkel!

I am so proud of everyone in the class and even through



challenging lessons and new experiences the children have supported each other and congratulated each other

along the way. I wish them all the success in Year Four and onwards into their journeys through their childhoods.





## **T**he teachers...



**Samuel  
McNally  
Class  
Teacher**



**Sally Rowe  
Learning  
Assistant**



# Year 4 Purple



What a fantastic year it has been in Year 4! Watching each and every child grow in maturity and knowledge has been amazing and it has been a pleasure to see you all overcome fears within your lessons to show some excellent progression.

We have been lucky enough to create some fantastic memories from visiting Orbi and learning all about the Earth and how we can help it – whilst creating some exploding volcanoes too! Next, our amazing Winter Concert where you all worked so hard practicing together where you made DHA and your parents so proud up on that HUGE stage. I think we can all agree, one of the best days of this year was our Beach trip! Playing in the sea, building sand castles, playing football and creating some amazing skyline sketches. It was a highlight for me as your teacher to see everyone so happy and playful together.

Every child in Year 4 should be extremely proud of all your



achievements this year and your smiles, generosity and empathy towards each other this year has made this my

favourite year of teaching so far, I look forward to seeing you progress and grow throughout Key Stage 2.







## **T**he teachers...



**Aaron  
Yasities  
Class  
Teacher**



**Deborah  
Cain  
Learning  
Assistant**





# Year 5 Aqua



Wow - what a fantastic year we have had in Year 5. Reflecting on the year has made me extremely proud of how far all the children have grown and progressed. When I asked the children their favourite moments, instantly they agreed that Eco-venture, International Day and the Spring Fair were definitely memorable highlights for them! Many other moments were special for me this year including some of my favourite days – Inclusion Day, our trip to Orbi experiencing many different environments and definitely riding the wave pool with the children at Wadi Adventure!

Eco-venture this year really challenged the children, living together in the desert for 3 nights. They were very brave during our night walk, exploring the desert animals. We even found a snake!

I am so proud of each and every child in Year 5 for all of the hard work and challenges they have completed this year.



Each and every child has tried their very best and reached many of their goals. This year the children have impressed

me with their determination and dedication to improve – how lucky have I been to teach such a special group of children!





## **The teachers...**



**Suzanne  
Doyle  
Class  
Teacher**



**Deborah  
Cain  
Learning  
Assistant**





# SEND

What a busy year we have had in DHA's Inclusion classroom! We have enjoyed seeing the progress from the children who we have had the pleasure to work with and seeing them go from strength to strength in the classroom.

There have been some wonderful memories throughout the year. We kicked the year off with our fabulous Inclusion Day where the children got to experience 'SENSEible Football', created some expressive artwork, developed their awareness of mindfulness and learnt new skills such as Makaton and how to include children of all abilities in sport.

We then embraced the Special Olympics World Games held here in Dubai and Abu Dhabi by participating in the 'Adopt a Nation' programme and inviting Team Bermuda to school for a fun, action packed morning of activities. Some of us were also lucky enough to attend a morning session watching the athletes compete in the Athletics event at the Dubai Police Academy Stadium. It was a special moment to see the children all cheering for the different nationalities taking part including Team Bermuda.

The Inclusion team would like to take this opportunity to



thank parents for their continued support over this academic year and to many of you for attending our coffee mornings and information sessions. We look forward to offering many more next year!

## The teachers...



**Katie  
Saunders**  
**Head of SEN**



**Hayley  
Gardiner**  
**SEN Teacher**



# *memorable moments*

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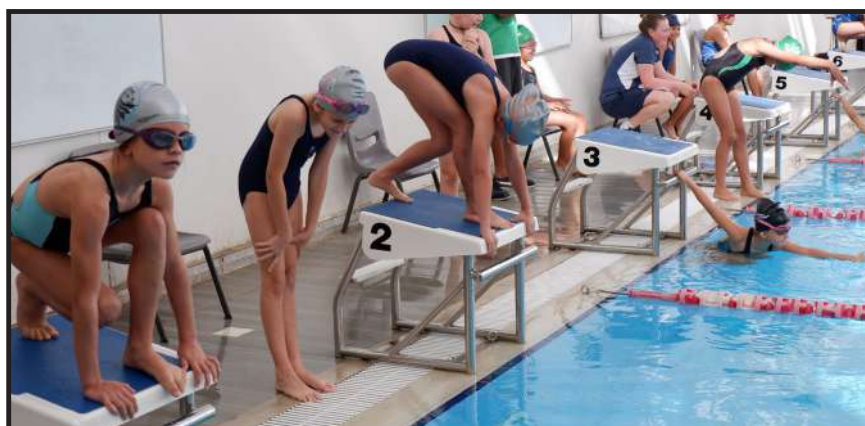
# PE

This academic year had been a great one for the DHA PE & Sports department. We witnessed the opening of our brand new 4G-football pitch, Sports Hall and 25m Swimming Pool. We participated in the DAPSA sports leagues, competing against the other schools in Dubai, and we successfully started many ECA sports clubs that improved the sporting landscape across the school community.

In PE, we have introduced new sports, including dodgeball, badminton, netball and rounders. Participation in a wide variety and range of sports has allowed each of our students to excel in different areas, while developing their overall skill level as well as their teamwork, leadership, and moral/social education, which has undoubtedly transferred into positive in-class and academic performance.

Our participation in the Dubai Primary School Leagues across various sports is one that we will never forget. Our students competed in football, basketball, netball, cross country and swimming and had many successes over the year. Next year, we intend to enter even more competitions while using this year's experience to take the next step and aiming to win the various tournaments/events on offer.

We have many more plans to look forward to in the next academic year and we cannot wait to get started!





## **T**he teacher...



**Paul King**  
**Head of PE**





# Arabic

What a fabulous year it has been!

Our students learnt a lot of topics, they practiced introducing themselves in Arabic.

The topics we learnt were about; In the class, at school, at home, family, the four seasons, jobs, sports, body parts, hygiene, healthy food and many other topics.

They enjoyed the activities, the songs and reading time during the Arabic Day.

They participated in the celebrations and the events of the National Day, and they went on an amazing trip to the Etihad Museum to learn more about the



history of Dubai, the old Union House, and the UAE.

Also they enjoyed the special assembly for Ramadan and the Iftar event in school and several initiatives for Ramadan.

Our students enjoyed their walk across the Bridge of Tolerance in Dubai which was a great way to celebrate the Year of Tolerance.

They wrote subjects in Arabic and shared their thoughts about Tolerance.

They were excited and very happy about the visit from KHDA and Dr Abdullah Karam.

They greeted them and spoke with them in Arabic.

## The teachers...



**Nada  
Almasri  
Head of  
Arabic**



**Emtesal  
Alghaz  
Arabic  
Teacher**



# Library

It has been a busy year here in the Library. We have had lots of lovely new books to enjoy and I am currently asking students and teachers for their book suggestions for next year.

We were delighted to welcome local author Gihan Faisal who entertained us with Arabic stories from her book.

Year 4 and 5 had an exciting visit to the Festival of Literature to see Wimpy Kid author, Jeff Kinney. The children loved his funny and interactive session and were happy to get their books signed and a photo with Jeff.

We had a fun-filled Book Month in March with lots of children completing their Reading Passports, fantastic photos of Extreme Readers and very entertaining Poetry performances throughout the month!

Thank you for all your enthusiasm and love of reading! I am already looking forward to next year.

## The teacher...



**Lucy Walne**  
**Librarian**





# Admin Staff



**Alison  
White**  
**Registrar**



**Carlos  
Marylyn**  
**Accountant**



**Chrish  
Dias**  
**IT**



**Lucy  
Pritchard**  
**Receptionist**



**Lynne  
Gallacher**  
**School  
Nurse**



**Mairin  
Crozier**  
**FS  
Receptionist**



**Naomi  
Murphy**  
**Marketing and  
Communications**



**Sahar Kamel**  
**Arabic  
Secretary**



## **M**r Prosser's Best Moments



**WOW!**



**OMG!**





# The school...



**POW!**





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Summer  
Steak  
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# Superheroes





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