



# THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

*The latest news and updates from the RGSGQ*  
[www.rgsgq.com](http://www.rgsgq.com)

## RGS Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 9th January:  
Year 3/4 Trip to the  
Museum of Islamic Art

Friday 12th January:  
Ooredoo Running  
Event

Sunday 21st January  
– Thursday 25th  
January: Maths  
Week

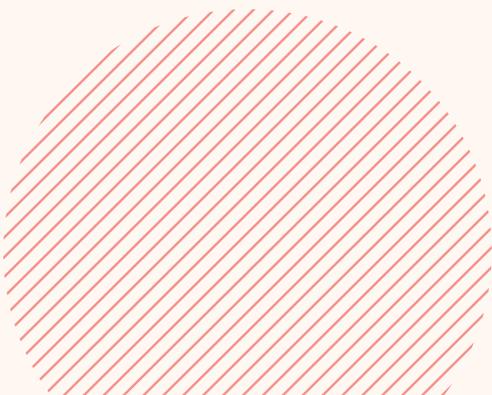
## RGS Goes Green!

During Term 1 the School Council gathered ideas and opinions from other children about improvements they would like to see made at the RGS. These were discussed with Mr Walsh and the councillors decided that their primary focus would be to raise awareness of the need to protect the environment and develop the outdoor area at the RGS. Year 5 and 6 pupils have also been discussing environmental issues and together the School Council and Year 5/6 have decided we should make some changes.

On Tuesday I met with the School Council who presented their ideas which included creating a school garden, planting more plants and trees and recycling. They decided that from the start of Term 2 the RGS is going green and they need your help! The pupils have placed paper recycling bins in every classroom and throughout school; I also have one in my office! The School Council would like to encourage parents to bring in their paper from home to place in our recycling cage which will be delivered by Al- Suwaidi Paper factory in the coming days and located in the car park.

The School will provide an initial budget to the School Council, but to raise additional funds they will be holding a Non Uniform Day on Thursday 25th January which will help raise further money. Details of the Non Uniform Day will be sent out in the coming weeks. Please also look out for a letter, written by Ssuubi (School Council Member and Year 5/6) on behalf of the pupils, which will be emailed to parents next week. This letter outlines why they have decided to 'Go Green' and a series of 'Steps to Success.'





## Movie Under the Stars

On Thursday the Parents' Association held a 'Movie Under the Stars' event to kick start the New Year. Parents and pupils gathered in the atrium under the skylight and enjoyed watching 'Despicable Me' as it went dark outside.

Thank you to everyone who attended and for the Parents' Association for their effort in putting on this event.



## House Update

On Thursday the House Captains collected the latest points and I can reveal that Beckingham still lead the House championship. The current scores are as follows:

Beckingham: 943

Hamad: 851

Powell: 789

Austen: 757

Nettles: 759

Valpy: 431

Next week we are holding a House Maths Quiz and then Ms Keay will be running a Maths competition during Maths week at the end of the current half term. Good Luck!

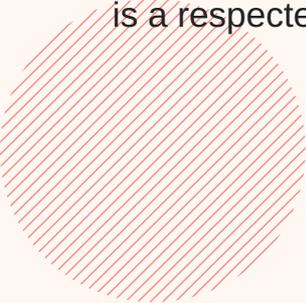
## International School Accreditation

Before the holiday period we welcomed Mrs Deborah Wring from The Education Development Trust (EDT) to our school. The EDT is a leading authority on school improvement and school inspection. They are approved by the UK Government for the purpose of inspecting schools in England and overseas and is quality assured by the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted).

Mrs Wring was very impressed with the development of the RGS to date with her summary stating:

*“This is a very happy school in which the needs of children are at the heart of everything it does. Much has been achieved in its’ short period. Leaders have a clear vision for excellence for all and they are reflective, ambitious and energetic in the drive to achieve this. Pupils value their school and the opportunities it offers them both in class and through enrichment activities. Parents are overwhelmingly supportive of the School and confident in their choice of school for their children.”*

The EDT designed and delivers the International Schools Quality Mark (ISQM) which is a respected school accreditation for international schools.



ISQM accreditation provides an objective assurance to pupils, parents, staff and proprietors that a school has been judged by independent evaluators to meet rigorous quality standards. I am delighted to announce that following the visit the EDT have confirmed that we will be able to proceed with accreditation next academic year. I will be out of school on Wednesday and Thursday next week attending a series of meetings linked to British Schools Overseas (BSO) inspection which we are also currently preparing for.

## **Academic Year 2018/19**

Although it doesn't seem too long since the current academic year started, over the past few months we have been busy preparing for academic year 2018/19. This has involved curriculum planning, staff recruitment, building development, and resource ordering.

You might have noticed as you arrive at school each day that the new floor being built above the admin' offices and Early Years classrooms is nearing completion. Next year these classrooms will cater to our Key Stage 3 pupils in Year 7 and 8 who will be the founding members of our Senior School. Languages, Music and our specialist teaching rooms for Science and Design and Technology will also be located upstairs in their own area, directly above the library and shared area where we currently have assemblies each week. The classrooms currently used for languages and music will become the four classrooms required for Year 3 – Year 6, which will no longer be combined classes next year.

The plans for the new 25-meter swimming pool have now been finalised and we look forward to having our own onsite facility next academic year so we can provide swimming lessons for all pupils and also offer a broader range of extra-curricular activities.

Due to the development of our Senior School and expansion of Primary, we are currently in the process of recruiting additional teaching staff for next academic year. Since advertising in November we have had a huge number of applicants, many from teachers already working at different schools in Doha, but who wish to join the RGS. From Sunday 14th – Tuesday 16th January I will be out of school as I complete the recruitment process in the UK, interviewing our UK based teachers in Guildford.

If you have any questions about next academic year or the school's plans for the future, please come and speak to me.

## **Parent Feedback Survey**

Parents should have received an online survey via 'Survey Monkey' at the end of Term 1. Many parents have already completed this survey, however, if parents haven't then I would appreciate it if they could take a few moments of their time to provide us with valuable feedback.

Have a great weekend and I will see you next week.

**Mr. Downs**

## **Upcoming Running Events**

On Friday 12th January the Ooredoo Half Marathon will take place here in Doha. There will also be two children's events taking place on the same day for children aged 6-8 years old (1km run) and children aged 7-11 years old (3km run).

I am keen for as many RGS pupils as possible to take part and represent the School wearing their RGS kit. If you would like to enter then please click on the following link:

[https://www.premieronline.com/event/Ooredoo\\_Doha\\_Marathon\\_2018\\_3082](https://www.premieronline.com/event/Ooredoo_Doha_Marathon_2018_3082)

If you have any questions, please contact me.

**Mr. McCullagh**

## Community Events

Below is a list of upcoming events in Doha that our parent community have shared:

**Torba Farmers Market:** Every Thursday and Friday from 7th December – 2nd February at the Ceremonial Court, Qatar Foundation

**Qatar National Library:** A number of parents have visited the newly opened Qatar National library and have asked us to pass on how fabulous it is to other parents! It is located inside the Qatar Foundation campus and entry to the library is free. They have an extensive collection of books, including a very good children's section at the back, as well as lots of online resources. There are also a couple of cafeterias. Parents have said that parking can be difficult, although valet parking was available when some families visited! Mr. Trace, our English Coordinator, has arranged for our school to visit next Term as part of our Book Week celebrations, but the holiday period could be a great opportunity for families to go explore everything the library has to offer.

If you know of any events planned for the future, please let the School know so we can pass this information to our school community.

## Weekly Awards

### RGS Superstars

Each week RGS Superstar certificates are awarded to pupils from each class who have excelled in an area of school life during the week. Pupils receive these awards for demonstrating one of the RGS Learning Habits and becoming a member of our RGS Super Squad!

This week the following pupils received one of these special awards:

Nursery Seahorse: **Amaan**

Nursery Starfish: **Ayah**

Reception Dolphins: **Yasser**

Reception Turtles: **Abraham**

Year 1 Meerkats: **Malek**

Year 1 Giraffes: **Essa**

Year 2 Lions: **Nora**

Year 3/4: **Zein**

Year 5/6: **Aljazi, Almaha, Ahmed**

## Class of the Week

Maintaining high levels of attendance and punctuality at school are essential for pupils to ensure they maximise their learning time in school and reach their full potential; academically, socially and emotionally.

Each week Class of the Week trophies are awarded to the classes who achieve the highest weekly attendance and who achieve the highest percentage of punctual pupils arriving by 7.45am. Last week we announced the Class of the Term which saw **Year 3/4** claim the trophy for the highest attendance over the whole of term 1. A special mention to **Year 2 Lions** who received the trophy for the best on time arrival percentage as they scored 100% for term 1, just edging out Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 who themselves both scored an impressive 99%.

Thank you very much for ensuring your children arrive at school on time each day and do not miss school unnecessarily.

## Top Table

To promote healthy eating and good table manners, pupils who demonstrate excellent behaviour, eating habits and manners during snack time and lunch time throughout the week are invited to eat lunch on the 'Top Table' at the end of the week. During project lesson time Ssuubi (Year 5/6) made Top Table bunting and table runners and these are now proudly displayed on the Top Table.

On Thursday Mrs Stuart enjoyed eating lunch with **Sharifa** (Reception Dolphins), **Yousef** (Reception Turtles), **Faris** (Year 1 Meerkats), **Basheera** (Year 1 Giraffes), **Rhiley** (Year 2 Lions), **Sultan** (Year 3/4) and **Suereya** (Year 5/6).



## **RGS Diary Dates**

Tuesday 9th January: Year 3/4 Trip to the Museum of Islamic Art

Friday 12th January: Ooredoo Running Event

Sunday 21st January – Thursday 25th January: Maths Week

Thursday 25th January: School Council Non Uniform Day

Tuesday 13th February: Qatar National Sports Day School Event

Thursday 15th February: Year 1 Giraffes Class Assembly

Wednesday 21st February: International Mother Language Day

Sunday 25th February – Thursday 1st March: Book Week

Friday 9th and Saturday 10th March: BSME Qatar Games

Thursday 15th March: Year 1 Meerkats Class Assembly

Sunday 18th March – Friday 23rd March: Year 5/6 Residential to Sri Lanka

Thursday 22nd March: Reception Turtles Class Assembly

Sunday 25th March – Thursday 29th March: Health Week

Thursday 29th March: Sports Day

Thursday 29th March: Last day of Term 2 (school closes at 12pm)

