

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from the RGSGQ
www.rgsgq.com



RGS Dates For Your Diary

28th May: Year 2
Lions Trip to
Leabaib Health
Centre

29th May: Year 2
Tigers Trip to Leabaib
Health Centre

30th May:
Transition Day

Academic Year 2019/20

There was a lot of excitement across the school this week as each pupil found out the name of their class for next academic year, together with the name of their new teacher and classmates. On Thursday 30th May we will be holding a transition morning to provide pupils with an opportunity to see their new classroom, and spend time with their classmates.

The following new teachers, already based in Qatar, will join us next week to meet their classes and spend some time with the pupils:

Miss Hennessey (Year 1 Giraffes)
 Miss Cavanagh (Year 2 Cheetahs)
 Mr Quigley (Year 3Q)
 Miss Callaghan (Year 3C)
 Miss Newsome (Year 5N)

Teachers currently in the UK have sent PowerPoint presentations, photographs and videos which will be shown to the pupils by one of our current teachers.

Next academic year will see some minor changes to the timetable. The school gates will still open at 7.15am for the whole school, however, registration for pupils in the Senior School (Years 7, 8 and 9) will commence at 7.30am. Registration for pupils in Early Years and Primary (Nursery – Year 6) will continue to begin at 7.45am.

The end of the school day for Nursery will still be 1pm, however, for pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, collection time will be 1.30pm, instead of the current 1.45pm. Nursery pupils will also be permitted to stay until 1.30pm if required. The end of the school day for pupils in Key Stage 2 and the Senior School (Year 3 – Year 9) will continue to be 1.45pm.

There are a number of reasons for these changes being implemented:

1. The earlier start time for the Senior School allows us to introduce 45 minute lessons for Years 7, 8 and 9 instead of the current 35 minute lessons. This will benefit the pupils as there is substantial curriculum to cover in the Senior School and many practical lessons, for example Science, requires a longer period of time than 35 minutes or 70 minutes would allow.
2. It has been noted this year that with the final lesson of the day in Early Years and Key Stage 1 finishing at 1.45pm, just as the school day ends, there is little time for the class to come together and share their learning for the day, celebrate success and progress, and address concerns that pupils might have. We hope that providing 20 minutes from 1.10pm – 1.30pm each day, we will be able to provide an even higher level of pastoral care to the pupils in these year groups.
3. Upgrades to the carpark will not take place until Summer 2020 and so with a staggered end to the school day I hope that the flow of traffic will be eased slightly.

The arrival of pupils in the morning is naturally staggered due to the 30-minute drop off period. Once ECAs begin many pupils will remain in school until 3pm each day and so this will help with traffic flow at 1.45pm. However, with an increase to approximately 500 pupils for next academic year, and until ECAs begin, I am anticipating the end of the school day being very busy in the car park area.

By introducing a slightly earlier collection time for Early Years and Key Stage 1 (approximately 260 pupils) I hope that this will ease traffic between 1.15pm and 2pm which I anticipate being peak time, even though some younger pupils will wait until 1.45pm for older siblings.

Additional security staff have already been appointed for August to assist in the car park, as well as outside the school gates on the road. We will also be encouraging parents to park outside the school gates and walk through the pedestrian gate (which will be open for next academic year).

I am aware that some parents have children in different phases of the School, for example one child in Year 1 and one child in Year 3. In such cases, I request that the younger child is collected at 1.30pm and then parents wait in the atrium until their older child finishes at 1.45pm.

A parent handbook with full details for academic year 2019/20 will be sent out in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions about the transition morning, new timetables, or class lists, please contact me.

Have a good weekend and I look forward to seeing you next week.

Mr. Downs

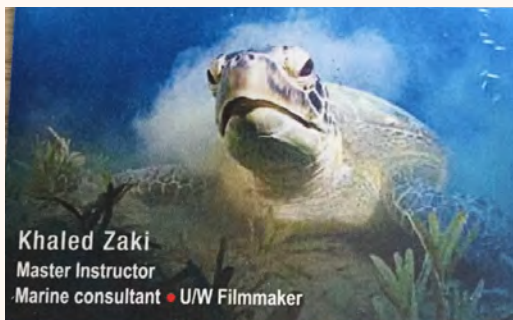
Qatar Marine Talk

This week, the children in Nursery and Reception had the opportunity to meet a real-life marine expert! Khaled Zaki, a PADI Ambassador from Qatar Marine kindly came into school to speak with the children about their 'Animal' and 'Under the Sea' topics. The children enjoyed watching videos of Khaled diving and then asking him lots of questions about his under the sea adventures. A great deal of Khaled's work focuses on keeping the seas and oceans clean and reducing the use of plastic. It was fantastic to see the children so engaged and to hear our youngest children speak so passionately about the need to care for the world's oceans for the sake of marine life. Khaled introduced the children to Project A.W.A.R.E: a campaign which takes action to create both local and global change for the ocean and the communities who depend on it.

Should you or your children wish to learn more about Project A.W.A.R.E, you can find lots more information and details of local and international events at <https://www.projectaware.org/>

A special thank you from all of Early Years to Khaled Zaki for taking the time to come to see us about such important issues!

Miss Matthews



World Athletics Championship 2019

As you may be aware the World Athletics Championships will be taking place in Doha in October 2019. As part of this, the organising committee and the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) are getting schools and local sports organisations involved in the build up towards the start of the championships.

They have two competitions for our RGS pupils to take part in:

1. 'Drawing on Success' which is a drawing competition for ages 5-9 (pupils in Years 1-4)
2. "Superheroes are Written into Athletics" which is a writing competition for ages 10-15 (pupils in Years 5-8)

Your child will have received a leaflet this week with more details about the guidelines for the competition.

Please note that the deadline for the competition is 13th June 2019. Please return all entries to the PE office.

Mr. McCullagh

Kings Maths Competition

What an amazing morning Year 5 and 6 have had at King's College. The children were put into mixed teams with children from DESS, King's and Sherborne and the competition began! The teams took part in 12 different maths challenges from building shapes, sudokus, tangrams to countdown conundrums. The children all got a certificate of participation for their fantastic efforts.

I have to say the children really did RGS proud! I was so pleased with the maths skills, problem solving and logical thinking the children displayed throughout the day. We now await the results of the winning team, which will be announced on Sunday.

Well done to all involved.

Miss Kelly



Weekly Awards

RGS Superstars

Each week RGS Superstar certificates are awarded to pupils from each class in the Primary School 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! These pupils each receive 25 additional House points.

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

Nursery Seahorses: **Maya Benet**

Nursery Starfish: **Jasper**

Reception Dolphins: **Noah B**

Reception Turtles: **Hussein**

Reception Sharks: **Jack**

Year 1 Meerkats: **Fatimah**

Year 1 Giraffes: **Xavier**

Year 2 Lions: **Maryam**

Year 2 Tigers: **Reemas**

Year 3M: **Carmen**

Year 4H: **Al Jazy**

Year 5K: **Adam**

Year 6W: **Ahmed Adam**

Year 7T: **Khalid**

Year 8P: **Ahmed**

Music: **Aaron Robinson** - Year 5



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 in Early Years, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two, who achieve the highest weekly attendance, and who achieve the highest percentage of punctual pupils arriving by 7.45am. Pupils in these classes are also rewarded with an additional two House points each.

The winners this week can be seen below:

Early Years

Attendance: **Reception Turtles**

Punctuality: **Nursery Starfish**

Key Stage 1

Attendance: **Year 1 Giraffes**

Punctuality: **Year 1 Giraffes**

Key Stage 2

Attendance: **Year 4**

Punctuality: **Year 3**

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

Community Events

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

Doha Rugby Football Centre Ramadan Night Market: May 23rd at Doha Rugby Club

Ramadan Decoration Workshop: 25th May at Qatar National Library

Ramadan Festival: from April to 25th May 2019 at Katara Cultural Village

Time: 11:30 am - 01:00 am – Free entry – Contact: 4408 0000

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

RGS Diary Dates

28th May: Year 2 Lions Trip to Leabaib Health Centre

29th May: Year 2 Tigers Trip to Leabaib Health Centre

30th May: Transition Day

4th - 6th June: Eid - School Closed (TBC)

13th June: End of Year Reports sent home

16th - 19th June: End of Year Parents' Meetings

19th June: End of Year Prize Giving Assembly

19th June: Last day of Term 3 (School finishes at 12pm)