



MEF International School - Izmir

Early Years Welcome Booklet

2018-2019 Academic Year



Building Bridges between Countries and Cultures

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The International Primary Curriculum (IPC) for R1 and R2 classes has been designed to establish a firm foundation on which pupils can build upon to support them in their continuing education. The principles that underpin the IPC at this level can be summarised as follows:

- The overriding purpose of the education in R1 and R2 is to help children develop the skills and attitudes they will need both at this level and throughout a lifetime of learning
- Children need a holistic educational experience that doesn't create artificial boundaries between different aspects of their development
- Play is an essential part of children's learning and general development

The learning of children aged 3 to 5 is described in four strands:

- o **Independence and interdependence**
This strand focuses to a large extent on the children's personal goals and their relationship with other children
- o **Communicating**
This strand is primarily about developing skills in communication including speaking and listening, reading and writing, early numeracy work and the expressive art
- o **Exploring**
Through this strand the children's skills in inquiry are developed
- o **Healthy living**
Using the statements within this strand children are encouraged to understand how to look after themselves and each other

To make sure students do not study the same topics, IPC themes are chosen carefully in Reception 1 and 2 and can include the following: All about me, Food, Clothes, Houses & Homes, Animals, Transportation, Family & Friends, Changes, Let's get Moving, Up & Away, Let's Pretend, Plants & Flowers, Shopping, Treasure, and others.

Early Years students also receive specialists lessons, as per table below:

Specialist Class	Summary	Hours per week
Physical Education	Travelling Skills, Balancing Skills, Gross-Motor Manipulative Skills, Fine-Motor Strength and Coordination, Using Equipment, Health and Body Awareness	2
Music	Music Appreciation, Rhythm, Orff, Artists, Singing, Instruments	1
Drama	Role-play, Confidence building, Acting, Feelings and Emotion expression	1
Art and Craft	Fine motor development, Hand eye coordination, Building relationships with materials, colour and shape awareness	1
Library	Book Appreciation, storytelling, Functions of a library	1 (30 minutes)
BTA Brain Training Activities	Multiple Intelligence Development: Verbal/Linguistic Development, Logical/Mathematical group games and activities, Music and dance, Visual and spatial awareness, body/Kinaesthetic activities, TPR	1

For more information, please visit:

www.internationalprimarycurriculum.com

COMMUNICATION WITH OUR FAMILIES

The International Primary Curriculum (IPC) for R1 and R2 classes has been designed to establish a firm foundation on which pupils can build to support their continuing education. Children's learning is the central purpose of everything connected with the IPC. Helping children learn - academically, socially, emotionally and physically is the main purpose of schools. What children learn respects the past and is of help to them in their future lives. Children's learning must respond to their current and future personal needs, their future career needs and the needs of the varied societies and cultural groups in which they will play a part. Learning needs to be active, in that children must engage with their own learning. For R1 and R2 children, this means that learning which is relevant to the future must be placed in a context that is meaningful to their present lives. Children need to share responsibility for their learning with their teachers, parents and carers.

Families will receive a daily email by the teacher. The email provides you with the opportunity to voice any special requests or questions you may wish answered. It also assists the Early Years' team in keeping you briefly informed of class activities/food eaten, and general observations.

A class newsletter is published on Fridays on your child's Class Google Site by the teacher, outlining tasks completed during the week and information regarding any forthcoming special events. This weekly letter also includes information regarding work planned for the following week.

During the year, we also send home a file containing examples of work completed by your child during the previous weeks. A variety of work is chosen to provide parents with an overview of the teaching and learning that has taken place throughout the term. The file is sent home for full weeks of attendance.

There are also opportunities for you to speak in person with your child's teacher or Primary Deputy Principal during Parent Consultation Days and by arranging meetings by prior appointment through the Academic Assistant, who is also to be contacted in case of emergency or to let the school know if your child is absent, late or leaving early.

SETTLING YOUR CHILD IN SCHOOL

Your child will experience some difficulties settling into school at the beginning of the year; this is perfectly normal and in our experience it is more helpful if you leave your child in our care. Generally, once your child is left with the teacher, they quickly settle down, become engaged with an activity, and forget their discomfort. Therefore, we advise you to depart from school as quickly as possible, after saying good-bye to them and explaining that you will pick them up later. If you are worried during the day about your child, please contact the Academic Assistant, and she will contact the teacher and/or Primary Deputy Principal to update you.

The language of instruction is English and children are encouraged to communicate in this language at all times. At the beginning of the school year, faculty members and/or older students speaking languages other than English may be used to communicate with your child if they are not English speakers. Children are buddied with a child who speaks a different language, so that their common language will be English. We also have a Counsellor who visits all classes and works closely with the teachers and support teachers to make sure all children settle down smoothly in their new school environment. Our Counsellor is also happy to discuss with the families any concern they may have regarding the settling in process.

To develop their understanding of English, children will be able to take home a book of their choice every week from the library. We encourage parents to read to their children to support the development of their English skills.

NEED TO KNOW THINGS:

We believe that what children make or produce needs to be their own work and we will strongly encourage individual development and risk taking as well as having students work independently.

Some days children will be involved in "messy play" and this is important as children are encouraged to use their senses, especially touch, as they learn to explore, mould and manipulate materials. The focus for children is in having fun, or exploration and discovery, rather than producing something perfect.

Students who get a little messy (or even dirty) show evidence of valuable learning. However, we will make every reasonable effort to make sure students are presentable when returning home each day.

Outdoor Play/ Weather Policy

The outside environment has a unique value to young children's learning. Young children need space in which to run, express their feelings, to be noisy and exuberant. Fresh air and exercise are beneficial to the development of children to promote a general feeling of well being. Children also need to be challenged and take risks if they are to grow and learn.

Parents need to ensure that children have appropriate clothing for the different times of the year, eg. rain boots, rain pants and rain jackets for wet weather. Children need to always have a couple of spare sets of clothing appropriate to the time of the year which is kept at school. Spare shoes such as slippers or other indoor shoes are to be left at school, so that children can remove wet or muddy shoes. In order to protect your child during hot weather, please ensure your child has a hat and sunscreen which should be left at school.

All outdoor play is supervised by the teachers on duty. Children are expected to follow the rules for safe play in the playground.

Clothing and Labelling

Please, label every article of clothing that comes to school with your child's name. Sports shoes must be worn for PE lessons; swimming costumes and pool shoes must be worn for swimming lessons. Please, encourage children to wear appropriate clothing on sport days for greater comfort and safety; other details will be sent home directly from the teachers via email or in the Communication Book. Children will be involved in different activities throughout the day and need to have comfortable clothing suitable for the classroom and outside play environment. Spare clothing should be left in the locker at school.

Unclaimed items without names will be taken to the Lost and Found lockers, situated outside the Academic Assistant's office. Please, check in the classroom first if your child is missing something or write a message in the 'Communication Book'.

School Bag

Students should bring a bag that is large enough to hold their communication book, spare clothes, water bottle and other items that may require to be sent home.

Toilet

If children have an accident, they will be changed and their soiled clothing will be sent home in their bag. If your child has toilet concerns, please let us know and we will endeavour to help.

Food (morning snack, lunch, afternoon snack)

Healthy snacks and lunch are provided by the school every day. Details of the menus are provided on a monthly basis in the school newsletters, and on the website.

Please, let us know if your child has any food allergies. Generally, we will encourage children to try the food available in the cafeteria. However, we will not force children to eat, nor will we feed them by hand.

Illness & Absences

There is a full time nurse on campus. The school nurse keeps records on each child's medical history, allergies, doctor and emergency contacts. Please, ensure a current set of emergency numbers is available in school in case we need to contact you.

If your child is not coming to school, please inform the school by 9:00 by calling our Academic Assistant. If your child falls ill while at school, you may need to pick your child up if we contact you. We do not administer any medicine without contacting you; please, make sure you fully fill in the medical form at registration.

Children attending school are expected to fully participate in all class activities inside and outside with the other children. If a child is too unwell to participate in an activity in the morning, then that child needs to stay home until better to avoid feeling uncomfortable at school and spreading the disease. Children that have a fever in the morning should not be sent to school.

Medicines

If your child needs to be given medication during school hours, please inform us by email, or in writing in your child's Communication Book and through the bus hostess because, without a written note/email, medicine will not be given to the child. Do not just put the medicine in your child's bag, and please, ensure that you give exact details of the dosage and times. The school nurse will make sure that students will then take their medicine. Medicines will be returned at the end of the day, unless otherwise advised. Please, make sure you have indicated any allergies or medical requirements your child may have at registration.

Accidents at School

Students are always under adult supervision but during garden play or in the classroom accidents may happen. If your child has a minor accident, such as a head bump, a knee scratch or an insect bite, they will be sent to the nurse who will take action accordingly. The nurse will email you with the details of the accident and the measures taken.

In case of more serious accidents, such as a fracture, the Deputy Principal will call you and you may have to come and take your child to the hospital. In case of a real medical emergency, the Deputy Principal will call you but your child will be taken to the nearest hospital by school car or ambulance.

Head Lice

During autumn and winter the Nurse will check periodically for head lice. Parents will be informed if nits or lice are discovered and a treatment procedure will be sent home.

Toys at School

Children are not encouraged to bring their own toys to school but if they do bring something special from home to show, they need to be responsible for it. Teachers cannot be held responsible for toys which are lost or damaged.

Birthdays at School

If you would like your child to celebrate his/her birthday in class with their friends, teachers must be informed in advance and we can assist in organising a modest celebration as part of our snack at 14:30. A birthday cake and some cartons of fruit juice are sufficient. Please, refer to our Policy Handbook for more details.

Changes from daily routine

Please, ensure that all your contact information is up to date. Please, let us know in advance if you wish to make any changes to the arrangements for the way your child arrives and leaves the school.

WHAT TO BRING TO SCHOOL

A bag to put things in.

A water bottle (just water and no fizzy drink).

Spare clothes - preferably two sets of each - including shorts/skirt, spare underwear and t-shirt or shirt (these must be left at school).

A sun hat.

Indoor shoes and clean PE shoes (These can be left at school).

A big smile and lots of energy!