



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO.4

5th October 2017

A MESSAGE FROM MR SIBLEY

Dear Parents,

As you know our school week started on a high with a very special visitor, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

Many of you may be aware that His Highness is Alumnus of DESS, having attended the school in his primary years. It was a great honour and a very proud moment for our school to welcome His Highness and for me to escort His Highness during his time here. His Highness visited our library, our playground and one of our classes and, as usual, our children were beautifully behaved during the visit.

We are deeply honoured that His Highness chose our school, one of the oldest British schools in Qatar, to be represented in the television programme being filmed for CBS, '60 Minutes Show'. Charlie Rose, Television Presenter, was also present during the visit. As soon as we have details of when the television programme will be aired we will let you all know.

In addition this week, I would like to thank those parents who attended the Friends of DESS meeting. Also, thank you to those parents who have agreed to help with the organisation of the 'renowned' DESS Winter Fair, a much loved event at DESS which we are all really looking forward to. We also welcome Hiba Saeed and Shabana Wagley as Treasurer and Secretary on the Friends of DESS team respectively. **Have a lovely weekend.**



BOOKS AND TOYS NEEDED

We are busy getting organised for our fundraising week due to take place week commencing Sunday, 22nd October. During this week we will be holding dedicated events in aid of our chosen charity, 'Qatar Creating Vision'. This charity provides valuable funds for a sight saving programme which will provide 5.5 million eye screenings and treatments to children in India and Bangladesh by 2020.

As part of the fundraising activities, a book sale and toy sale will be held and organised by Year 4 and Year 2. Please bring in any **good quality, pre-loved items** that could go to a new home and deliver any books and toys to **4B garden (Miss Price)**.

Find out about our childrens' achievements here:

[Star Of The Week](#)

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- ◆ Year 1 and 2 Maths Workshops will be held for parents on 11th October at 1.15pm in the small gym.
- ◆ Foundation Stage 1 sibling applications open Thursday, 12th October—Thursday, 19th October.
- ◆ Dream Big Day: dress up day for Qatar Creating Vision will take place on Thursday, 26th October.



Music at DESS

Notices

The following children have worked hard and been awarded an award in 'Rock and Pop' for drumming from Trinity College, London: Jack (6B), Omar (6B), Luka (3A), Daniel, (5D) Thomas (3C), Ollie (3C) and Abdel (6C). We would like to congratulate these pupils, some of whom gained the highest grade of 'Distinction'.

Prayer Areas

The library is available if your child would like to pray during the school day. The Jubilee garden and the space between the library and small gym are quiet areas that may be used after school.

Join our fantastic team!

[Job Opportunities](#)



Sport at DESS

Notices

Early morning swim squads commence from Sunday, 8th October. More details can be found on our webpage here: [PE](#).

The DESS PE swim split information is on the DESS website here: [DESS PE Swim Split](#).

We would like some volunteers to assist during swimming lessons for FS1, FS2 and Year 1. Please email akind@dess.org if you are interested.

A polite reminder that jewellery is not permitted in PE and swimming lessons. It would be helpful for PE staff if Key Stage 1 children don't wear jewellery on their PE or swimming days.

A ski trip is organised every year at DESS for children in Years 5 and 6. This is due to take place Sunday 28th January 2018 to Saturday 3rd February 2018 and it will cost approximately QAR10,000. Letters for this trip will be distributed to parents shortly.

Sport Leadership

A fantastic new privately run after school club. [Click here for more details.](#)



Friends of DESS

Upcoming Events:

Ice lolly day: 19th October 12.30pm-1.15pm

Bake sale: Thursday, 26th October 12.30pm-1.15pm

Pizza Day: Thursday, 16th November.

Winter Fair: Friday, 8th December

FS1 Applications

For children with a date of birth 1st September 2014—31st August 2015. DESS will be accepting applications from siblings between 12th and 19th October 2017. Non-sibling applications will open between 26th and 30th November 2017.

All sibling assessments will be carried out at DESS on Sunday, 14th January 2018. Siblings must meet eligibility criteria.

All non-sibling assessments will be carried out at DESS on Sunday, 28th January 2018. Assessments will be carried out at the discretion of DESS.

USEFUL LINKS

- ◆ Our Parent Council now have a dedicated page on the DESS website: [Parent Council](#)
- ◆ Our policies can be found here: [Policies](#)
- ◆ Our new Calendar of Events for the Autumn Term can be found here: [Calendar of Events](#). Please note that there may be times when dates may need to change.
- ◆ Guidance on uniform can be found here: [Uniform](#)