



NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO.5

12th October 2017

OUR SPECIAL VISITOR

Dear Parents,

This week I am dedicating my message to a very special visitor who we were honoured to receive at DESS on Sunday, 1st October—Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

This was not a state visit and strict protocols were in place. I am pleased that we have now been given permission to release an old photograph from our archives and provide some further details which I thought you would enjoy reading. **Have a lovely weekend. Sean Sibley, Headteacher.**



On Sunday, 1st October we had the privilege and honour to welcome His Highness, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani to our school. As many of you may be aware, His Highness is alumnus of DESS having attended the school during his primary years in the 1980's. His Highness was filming a television programme with CBS and chose our school to feature as part of this programme. I had the honour and was very proud to welcome His Highness and to escort him around our school, where His Highness visited our library, our playground and one of our classes. His Highness's passion and fondness for our school was evident throughout the visit. As we walked around the school, it was obvious to me how much His Highness cared about children. I always think that you can tell when someone genuinely cares about children and when someone is not genuine. I could definitely recognise that His Highness cared about the children.

As we walked into the playground, a child in Foundation Stage 1 was trying to balance on a 'Wobble Board' and called out to His Highness for some help. His Highness was being interviewed but still went over to the little boy to hold his hands and steady him on the board. Another child was upset because she had fallen over. His Highness knelt down to console her and offered some kind words. His Highness spoke to another child about his favourite football team and how Manchester City had beaten Chelsea the previous evening. His Highness had the ability to engage with the children at their level and they were in awe of him.

When I went to introduce His Highness to a classroom of children as 'His Highness', he intervened to say: "*please let them call me Tamim*". The children felt comfortable talking to His Highness and he was very complimentary about the school and the time he spent at DESS.

I am sure, like many of you, His Highness is someone we have followed in the news but to actually meet such an influential man was an experience I am sure the children, the staff at DESS and I shall never forget. Whilst we were not permitted to take any photos on the day, we are able to include a lovely photograph of His Highness playing football at DESS during his primary years. His Highness is the tall boy second from right in the photograph. *Written by Sean Sibley, Headteacher.*

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- ◆ iPad Meeting for parents will be held on Sunday, 15th October at 6pm in the small gym.
- ◆ The school photographer will be in school on Tuesday, 17th October and Wednesday, 18th October.
- ◆ Foundation Stage 1 sibling applications open Thursday, 12th October—Thursday, 19th October.
- ◆ FS1 Curriculum meeting will take place on Monday, 16th October at 12pm in the library.

Thank You Megarme

We would like to thank Megarme for a generous donation which they have made to DESS for some much needed new equipment for our PE department.

About the donation, Alex Lee, Group Operations Director says: *“As a company Megarme are always happy to contribute towards our community and schools sports and cultural programs where our children get to enjoy their environment with their friends and families”.*



Sport at DESS

Notices

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.

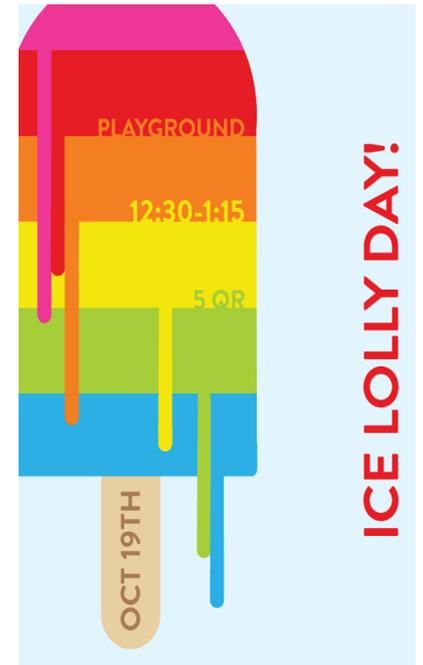
A ski trip is being organised for children in Years 5 and 6. This is due to take place Sunday, 28th January 2018 to Saturday, 3rd February 2018 and it will cost approximately QAR10,000. Letters to follow.

The PE Clerical Assistant role has become available. Please click [Job Opportunities](#) if you are interested.

Fixtures

Monday, 16th October 2017: Year 5 Mixed Indoor Athletics.

Wednesday, 18th October 2017: Year 4 Mixed Indoor Athletics.



Find out about our childrens' achievements here:

[Star Of The Week](#)

Message from Accounts

Please note that invoices for **Spring Term 2018** will be issued via email on Tuesday, 17th October.

If you do not receive your invoice, please contact Accounts (schoolfees@dess.org). The payment deadline is Wednesday, 15th November.

If you are thinking of leaving DESS at the end of **Autumn Term 2017**, please complete our 'Withdrawal Form Letter' which can be found [here](#) on our website. This must be given to our Registrar no later than **Wednesday, 15th November** in order to receive your refund of the refundable deposit. This form can be handed in via email to registrar@dess.org or in hard copy.

Join our fantastic team!

[Job Opportunities](#)

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](#)