



Newton British School - Al Waab

EYFS Parent Handbook

2025-2026



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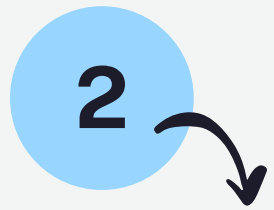
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Welcome Message

Dear Parents,

It is with great excitement that I introduce myself as the new Principal of Newton British School, Al Waab. I join this family-oriented school community after serving in the UK as a teacher and leader for many years. This school is renowned for its supportive environment and commitment to excellence, and I am eager to build upon its strong foundations. Together, we will continue to create a culture where every student feels inspired to achieve their very best and where values such as respect, responsibility and support are at the heart of all we do.

I am committed to listening, learning, and leading with integrity, always striving to ensure that each student is equipped with the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to thrive.

As we move forward together, I am determined to uphold high expectations and consistently high standards in all that we do. With the unwavering support of our exceptional staff and the partnership of families, I am confident that we will celebrate many achievements and milestones in the months and years ahead.

As I begin this new chapter at NBS Al Waab, my door is always open. Please feel free to reach out with your thoughts, ideas, or concerns — together, we can make our school a place where everyone feels valued and empowered.

I am excited to get to know each of you and to make this a memorable and rewarding year for our entire school community.

Tracy Dodds

Principal



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Welcome Message

Students at Newton British School Al Waab are encouraged to strive for excellence in their work, build positive relationships, and make good behavioural choices. The Early Years are a vital stage of their education, where children learn through play while developing key values and attitudes, preparing them for the rest of their educational journey. Our staff are committed to providing an outstanding learning environment that will nurture your child's growth and foster a lifelong love of learning.

We are delighted to be part of your child's educational journey and aim to work closely and collaboratively with you. By doing so, we can ensure that every student achieves their potential. With your involvement and support, our learning community will thrive, and we look forward to working in partnership with you to create an exciting and positive start to your child's school life. Our aim is to offer your child a safe, stimulating, and nurturing environment. Our enthusiastic team of staff are specifically trained in Early Years Education and have a strong understanding of how young children develop and learn.

We pride ourselves on the pastoral care we provide for all children and warmly welcome you to join this caring partnership. Building strong working relationships between parents and staff is crucial to supporting your child's development.

This handbook aims to address any questions you may have and provide clear, relevant information. If you have any concerns, questions, or issues, please feel free to discuss them with your child's teacher, the F1 and F2 Team Leaders, or the EYFS Coordinator.

We wish you and your child a happy, exciting, and successful time at Newton British School Al Waab.

Together, we can truly 'celebrate success'.

Keana Penney

Early Years Coordinator



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Vision Mission and Values

Our Vision

An international community of learners striving for excellence and celebrating success.

Our Mission

We aim to provide the highest quality of education possible for our students of all abilities. In doing so, we aim to positively encourage each student to achieve academic excellence, enjoy creative diversity, develop critical thinking skills and become lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

Our Values



**Environmental
Awareness**



Honesty



Respect



**Personal
Accountability**



Empathy



Diversity



**Social
Responsibility**



Support



**Transparent
Communication**

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Aims of EYFS

We believe that every child has the right to:

- Feel included, secure and valued
- Be happy, healthy, enthusiastic and confident
- Be courageous and take risks, challenging themselves and each other
- Know they have a voice, feel heard and that they can make a difference
- Be able to identify and communicate their own needs and feelings
- Respect themselves, each other, their communities and environment

And above all, develop a lifelong love of learning

To enable this we will:

- Offer a stimulating, safe, welcoming and playful environment, inside and outdoors
- Ensure every child has access to all the areas of learning within the EYFS curriculum and is developing and progressing at their own pace
- Make careful observations in order to support and extend children's learning appropriately
- Encourage the development of self-respect, respect for others and the world around them
- Promote healthy lifestyles.

We will demonstrate our commitment by:

- Ensuring all staff have access to high quality on-going professional development
- Maintaining professional integrity, high standards and being effective role models
- Listening, reflecting and continuously improving on our previous best.

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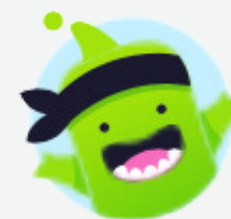
Communication

School Office		+97444472427
Mrs Tracy Dodds Principal		Principal.nbsalwaab@newtonschools.sch.qa
Mrs Katherine Elmalem Head of Primary and Early Years		katherine.butt@newtonschools.sch.qa +974 3352 2603
Ms Keana Penney Early Years Coordinator		eyfscoordinator.nbsalwaab@newtonschools.sch.qa
Ms Rachael McGee Foundation 1 Team Leader		f1g_nbs@newtonschools.sch.qa
Ms Lucy Allen Foundation 2 Team Leader		f2b_nbs@newtonschools.sch.qa
Mrs Ghadeer Khoury HR & Parent Liaison Manager		ghadeer.khoury@newtonschools.sch.qa +974 3318 2195
Ms Aida Yakhlef Arabic Coordinator		aida.yakhlef@newtonschools.sch.qa



Parent Meetings

At NBS Al Waab, clear communication is key. Parents are invited to a 'Meet the Teacher' morning at the start of the year to discuss aims and learning objectives. Termly Parent-Teacher Meetings cover student progress, and additional appointments can be arranged via phone, email, or Class Dojo. Please book through the school office.



Class Dojo

Most communication from teachers will be via Class Dojo, which we encourage all parents to use for regular contact. Teachers can share photos and updates with parents individually or with the whole class. At the start of the year, you'll receive guidance on using Dojo, along with your child's login details.



Email

It is important to provide us with your email address at the start of the year so that we can communicate with you effectively. Please keep us updated if your email address changes during the year to ensure that you continue receiving important information.

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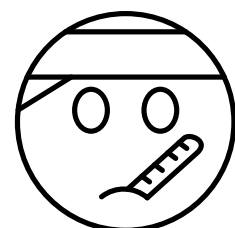
School Routines

Registration



Registration runs until 7:15 am. Timely arrival is essential to avoid missing valuable teaching time. If your child arrives late, please obtain a 'late slip' from reception.

Sickness



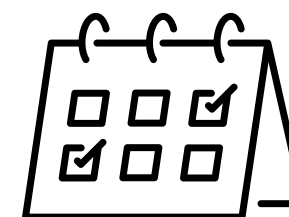
If your child becomes ill or injured during the school day, the school nurse will assess them and contact you if necessary. Medication must be handed directly to the nurse. Keep medical details up to date, and do not send your child to school if they are unwell or have a temperature. For contagious illnesses, notify the nurse or reception and provide a medical certificate before returning.

Security Passwords



Each child is assigned a security password at the start of the year. If someone unfamiliar arrives to collect your child, they must provide this password. If they cannot, your child will not be released to them.

The School Day



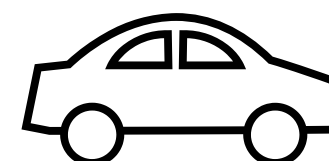
The school day for Foundation 1 and 2 runs from 7:00 am to 12:30 pm, with registration until 7:15 am. Children arriving after 7:15 am must collect a 'late slip' from reception and give it to the teacher. If you need to collect your child early (before 12:15 pm) due to an appointment or emergency, an 'early release slip' must be obtained from reception and handed to the teacher. Children have two breaks for eating (one in the morning and one in the afternoon).

Absence



If your child will be absent, please notify the teacher via Class Dojo or call the school office. Provide a medical certificate for medical absences when possible. Regular absences or lateness can impact progress and will be noted in termly reports.

Drop-off and Pick-up



Children must be dropped off and picked up by an authorised adult. Early Years children should be taken to their classrooms in the morning and collected from them in the afternoon. After-school care is available until 2:00 pm for children with siblings or those using the school bus. See the After School Care policy for details. Buses are managed by an external company; information is available from the school office. Parents and drivers must be cautious during drop-off and pick-up, ensuring children wear seatbelts, and infants are in car seats. If a regular driver will collect your child, please introduce them to us.

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Settling In



What to Send to School



- Back Pack
- Water bottle
- Two Healthy snacks
- Hat
- Change of clothes in case of toileting accidents (including socks)
- Art apron

Please label all items clearly



Newton
British School Al Waab

Starting school can be challenging for both you and your child. A child's anxiety can affect their ability to settle, especially if they sense your discomfort. It's important for parents and staff to work together to help children feel confident and secure.

A gradual introduction is best, with parents slowly withdrawing to ease the transition. Here are some tips:

- Talk positively about school and the fun activities and new friends your child will meet.
- Show trust in the teacher, as your child will feel reassured if you are comfortable.
- Reassure your child that you will return to collect them, and the teacher will call if needed.
- If your child becomes distressed, the teacher may ask you to leave; they usually settle shortly after.
- Be punctual at drop-off and pick-up, as this helps children feel secure and prevents distress.
- Ensure regular attendance to build a routine.
- Ask your child about their day, showing you value their learning.

Toileting

All children enrolled in the Early Years should be independent with toileting. Children in nappy or pull ups will need to be toilet trained before attending. If a child is not independent we will request they spend time working on this at home. They will be able to return to school once they are independent with toileting.

Healthy Eating

Please ensure that your child brings enough food to school for two snack breaks.

It is also of utmost importance that you send well balanced and nutritious snacks such as sandwiches, fruit, cheese, crackers etc...

Items such as sweets and chocolates are not recommended.

Healthy Eating Days will be held during the school year to educate students about the adverse effects of unhealthy food and drinks and to encourage a healthy life style.

Please refer to the following link for suitable lunchbox suggestions

<https://www.superhealthykids.com/recipes/50-packable-school-lunch-ideas/>

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Curriculum

Learning through play is a term used in education to describe how a child can learn to make sense of the world around them. Through play children can develop social and cognitive skills, mature emotionally, and gain the self-confidence required to engage in new experiences and environments. Learning through play is one of the main ways in which children learn and develop. Play helps to nurture imagination and give a child a sense of adventure. Through this, they can learn essential skills such as problem solving, working with others, sharing and much more.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum (EYFS) which supports the children to achieve Early Learning Goals by the end of their Foundation 2 year. All areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum are provided daily in both independent and adult supported learning experiences.

We aim to provide the most inspirational environment possible in order for each child to explore, experiment and problem solve.

We provide an environment where staff continuously observe and monitor each child's individual needs and are trained specifically in how to move learning forward.

Objective Led Planning

In EYFS at NBS Al Waab, we use Objective Led Planning, which sets specific learning goals tailored to each child's needs. Teachers support children in achieving these goals through play-based and structured activities, adapting the environment to keep learning engaging and relevant.

This approach encourages children to explore and learn at their own pace, fostering curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving. It ensures children receive personalised support, promoting independent thinking and skill development in a meaningful way.



10 ↘ What Learning looks like in EYFS



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Supporting at Home



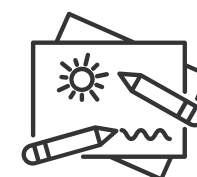
Supporting Language and Early Reading

- Share books regularly in a cosy setting; choose engaging picture books.
- Spot words on signs, posters, and in shops.
- Sing nursery rhymes together.
- Help recognise their name and let your child see you enjoy reading.
- Write together (e.g., shopping lists) and encourage your child to read back.
- Use audio stories and focus on letter sounds, not just names.



Sharing Books

- Show your child how to hold a book.
- Discuss the cover before reading.
- Talk about the illustrations for story context.
- Let your child turn the pages.
- Re-read favourite stories; it aids memory.
- Encourage your child to 'read' by describing pictures.
- Choose books with catchy rhymes.



Supporting Mark Making and Early Writing

- Provide opportunities for drawing, colouring, and writing in playful ways.
- Use chalk or water for writing on the ground.
- Give writing a purpose, like letters to relatives.
- Value your child's early mark-making and let them explain it.
- Encourage writing their name, starting with a capital letter.
- Teach correct letter formation.



Supporting Mathematical Understanding

- Use counting rhymes and spot numbers around you.
- Count steps, apples in the shop, or door numbers.
- Discuss cost differences while shopping.
- Share toys or Lego equally, explaining more or less.
- Count items when setting the table.
- Look for shapes and patterns at home.
- Practice writing numbers.

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Routines at Home



Parents can support their child at home by establishing a consistent daily routine. Setting regular wake-up and bedtime ensures children get the rest they need, helping them focus and perform better at school. Mornings should include a nutritious breakfast and time for children to dress themselves and pack their bags, promoting independence and confidence.

Evening routines should be calm, with time for reading or quiet play to help children wind down. Involving them in simple chores, like setting the table or tidying up, fosters responsibility and a sense of achievement. It's also important to limit screen time, as excessive use can contribute to behavioural challenges, affect attention span, and disrupt sleep patterns. A clear, structured routine provides children with a sense of security and helps them manage transitions between home and school more easily.