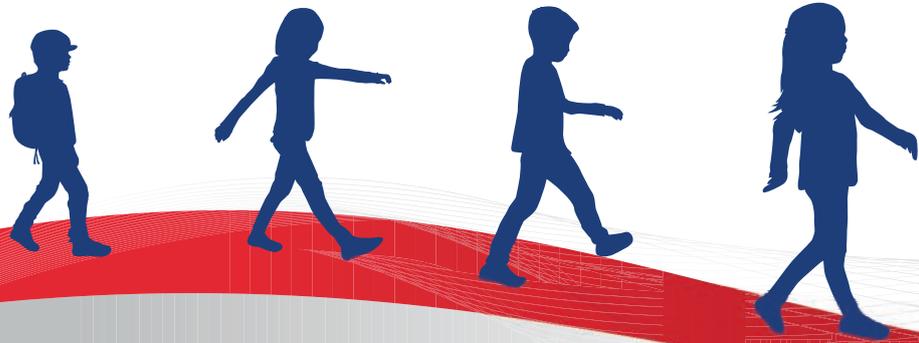


THE
BRITISH
SCHOOL
OF AMSTERDAM

EARLY YEARS
SCHOOL



Welcome to Year 1.

Your guide to joining in September 2021.

Heads welcome



Dear Parents

We are looking forward to your child joining Year 1 in September. We want you to know that your children will be nurtured and well cared for. Our dedicated staff strive to ensure that your children feel happy in their environment and feel part of the school community.

Some children will be transferring from our Reception department, other children are joining the Early Years School for the first time. Regardless, we are sure that parents will want to find out more about our Year 1 department and will want to know how they can support their child's transition.

As parents are currently not able to visit the school and we are unable to run our usual transition programme, we have produced this information booklet. We have included as much information as possible but please be aware that some aspects of our programme are not able to run at the moment due to Covid-19, this may still be the case in September and therefore the programme is subject to change. Please take the time to read the information provided and, should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me – c.newson@britams.nl

I look forward to meeting you in September.

Kind regards,
Claudia van de Laar
Head of Early Years



Organisation

Class allocation

Classes are created for the start of each year. There are 4 Year One classes with a maximum of 22 children in each class. There is a teacher and a full-time support member of staff in each class.

We try to ensure the following:-

- An equal number of children in each class,
- An equal number of boys and girls in each class,
- An equal number of children for whom English is an additional language,
- An equal number of children requiring learning support in each class.

Many of the children in the Early Years are learning English as an additional language. Such children often start school speaking little or no English but very soon gain the confidence and skills to communicate quite freely in English; this being their second and in some cases their third language. All recent research indicates that a child will learn English more effectively if they continue to develop their first language at the same time. Children's knowledge and skills transfer across languages from their first language they have learned at home, to the school language. With such evidence in mind we do not separate children who speak the same language, rather we try to ensure that there is at least one other child in the class who shares the same language.



School items

What do I need to provide?

Children need a fruit or similar healthy snack for snack time every day. This is eaten in the classroom after playtime. Snacks should be packed in a named, plastic box.

Children need a water bottle so that they can drink water throughout the day. Children eat their lunch at school. Parents can either supply the lunch from home or can arrange for lunch to be provided by our school catering service Markies.

Children need a spare set of clothes to change in to, this does not have to be school uniform but should include extra underwear.



Please note we are a 'nut free' school.

There are a number of children in the school with a severe nut allergy. No snack or lunch should contain nuts or foodstuffs with nuts or traces of nuts. This includes items such as pesto, nutella, hazelnut yoghurt, peanut butter etc.



Children are very welcome to celebrate their birthday in school and often bring a small 'treat' to share with their class at snack time, e.g. a small plain cake, a small box of raisins or some fruit. Please don't forget we are a nut free school. Party bags, small toys, sweets or lollipops may not be supplied.

School uniform

Details of the school uniform can be found on the school website and on firefly.



- Please be reminded that children are expected to wear school uniform at all times. Please support us by ensuring that your child adheres to the school uniform code. It is very frustrating for parents and children who always comply with the dress code to see other children wearing items of non-school uniform. **Denim is NOT allowed therefore jeans must not be worn.** The School has a range of branded uniform items in the school uniform shop. School uniform can also be bought from www.marksandspencer.co.uk, www.johnlewis.co.uk and other large UK department stores/supermarkets.



- Children need a white t-shirt and blue shorts for their PE kit. This is left in school in a school gym bag which will be provided. On days children have a gym session with the sports coach, children may come to school dressed in their PE kit, either blue shorts or blue jogging/tracksuit bottoms.



- Children need a pair of sport shoes/plimsolls for sport and a pair of wellington boots waterproof trousers. Children play outside in all weathers therefore it is important that they have the wet weather gear.

School times



Under our current Covid-19 protocol, school starts at

08.50

(children can be dropped off from 08.30)

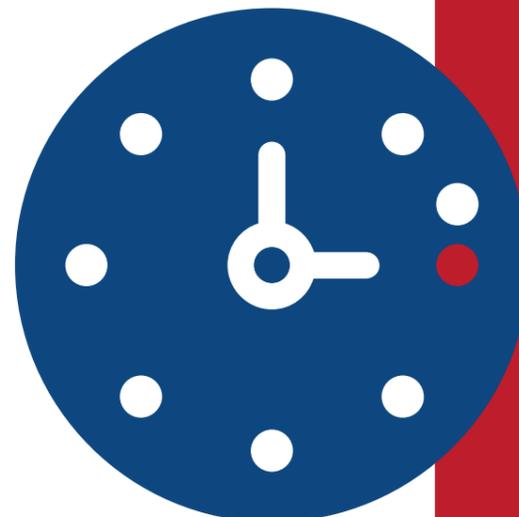


School ends

15.15

The school day

| | | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|--|--|--------------------|
| 08.30-08.45 | | Morning Activities - Handwriting | | | | |
| 08.45-08.50 | | Registration | | | | |
| 08.50-09.10 | | Phonics | Phonics | Phonics | Phonics | Phonics |
| 09.05-09.55 | Period 1 50 minutes | Writing | Writing | Writing | Writing | PE/ Forest School |
| | | Snack | | | | |
| 09.55-10.15 | Playtime | Outside Play | | | | |
| 10.15-11.05 | Period 2 50 minutes | Dutch / EAL | Maths | Library | Maths | PE/ Forest School |
| | | Music | Art | Maths | Assembly | Maths |
| 11.55-12.25 | Lunch (Eating) | Lunch | | | | |
| 12.25-12.55 | Lunch (Play) | Outside Play | | | | |
| 12.55-13.10 | Story Time | Story | | | | |
| 13.10-13.15 | | Registration | | | | |
| 13.15-14.05 | Period 4 50 minutes | Maths | PE | Learning Through Play Science/ History/ Geography/ Computing | Learning Through Play Science/ History/ Geography/ Computing | Writing |
| | | Outside Play | | | | |
| 14.05-14.20 | Playtime | Outside Play | | | | |
| 14.20-15.10 | Period 5 50 minutes | One-to-one reading | Dutch / EAL | One-to-one reading | Singing Assembly | One-to-one reading |
| | | Home Time | | | | |
| 15.15 | | Home Time | | | | |



We have an electronic registration system which records the children's attendance. The register is taken at 08.50am and at the start of the afternoon. Anyone arriving after the close of registration is recorded as 'late'. Lateness should be avoided at all times. Children who are late for school not only interfere with their own educational development but also with that of their peers. In the event a child does arrive at school late (i.e. after 08.50), he/she must report directly to the Reception to receive a late attendance mark in the register and to be escorted to their class.

Registration/Punctuality

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Teaching and learning

Which curriculum do the children follow?

The children in Year 1 follow the UK National Curriculum. The national curriculum provides pupils with an introduction to the essential knowledge they need to be educated citizens. It introduces pupils to the best that has been thought and said and helps engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.



The national curriculum is just one element in the education of every child. There is time and space in the school day and in each week, term and year to range beyond the national curriculum specifications.

The national curriculum provides an outline of core knowledge around which teachers can develop exciting and stimulating lessons to promote the development of pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills as part of the wider school curriculum.



Dutch is taught as an additional language to children who are native English speakers or children who are proficient additional English language speakers. Native Dutch is taught to native Dutch children. Children must have at least one Dutch speaking parent and speak Dutch every day in the home.



English is taught as an additional language to additional language learners. EAL is taught in the classroom by the EAL teacher and children are withdrawn for sessions.

What do we expect?

As we welcome the children back into their learning environment after the summer holiday, we work collaboratively to promote positive relationships and a sense of belonging; sharing what it means to be a BSA child.

Our learning focusses on core skills; helping the children to strengthen and develop their reading, writing and number. The children have daily phonics sessions, following the Letters and Sounds scheme, where they learn new sounds and apply them to their reading and writing.



Children practise their literacy skills through daily writing sessions and take home a reading book at their appropriate reading level. Maths sessions focus on number, shape, space and measure throughout the school year.

Outdoors

Forest School

Forest School is the name for an approach to educating children in the outdoors environment on a regular basis. It has been very successful in the UK and originates from Denmark where Forest Schools have been an integral part of Early Years Education since the 1980s.

- Forest School activities will teach the children about caring for and understanding the natural environment. They explore and use natural materials. They will learn different skills, including using simple tools as well as how to keep safe, how to live in harmony with nature and how the seasons and nature change. The sessions will support the main curriculum and also have a strong emphasis on raising self-esteem and independence.
- Forest School sessions are led by a trained Forest School Leader.
- An integral part of the Forest School experience is that children will experience the outdoors in all weathers – rain, shine, snow or frost. With the exception of very high winds and thunder storms, please assume that your child will be outside when they take part in forest schools, even if it is for a shortened session. We will provide all children with a high visibility vest and waterproof trousers, but please feel free to provide your own.



Fitness and nutrition

FitNut

FitNut stands for Fitness & Nutrition. FitNut provides a stimulating learning experience to teach children about the importance of health, nutrition and fitness. It is hands-on and gives children a practical experience that can be taken home.

- It has a constant and consistent healthy message to inspire the children and their family.
- FitNut believes the key to bringing good nutrition into the home is through the children.
- Children will enjoy fun fitness sessions using real mini gym machines and exercise equipment followed by smoothie or juice making.



In addition to Forest School and FitNut children also have lessons with a visiting sports coach. We teach yoga and follow the massage in schools programme.

In Year 1 children enjoy ball-skills activities with a specialist teacher each week as well as a weekly PE session with their class teacher. Children develop fundamental movement skills, become increasingly competent and confident in balance and coordination, individually and with others.

Educational visits

We go on educational visits throughout the year to museums and local attractions linked to what the children are learning. These are a wonderful opportunity for children to make exciting, real-life links with their learning.



After school care

Majest Global

The British School of Amsterdam works in partnership with after school care provider **Majest Global** to provide reliable, good quality after school care for children.

Majest Global provides after school care exclusively to British School children between the ages 3 to 12 years. The facility is open every day after school 3.10 – 6.30pm and during school holidays 8am to 6.30pm.

For all enquiries, please use the contact or meet us buttons on the school website:
www.britishschool.amsterdam



Supporting your child

At home

There are no specific expectations but if you would like to help your child at home, on the following pages there are some suggested activities to help develop skills such as gross and fine motor skills.



Activities

To develop large motor skills

- Balancing along a bench, wall or beam (encourage use of arms), start on a wider object and over time reduce to narrow
- Jumping both feet together
- Star jumps
- Hopping on one foot
- Standing on one foot, then the other (should be able to maintain for 10 seconds)
- Bouncing on a trampoline
- Musical bumps (stop still when the music stops)
- What's the time Mr. Wolf? game
- Hopscotch
- Skipping with a skipping rope (jumping from one side to the other of a rope on the floor is enough of a challenge to start with)
- Walking with fairy steps (feet toe-to-toe)
- Walking with giant steps
- Walking, hopping, running, skipping, jumping according to given directions (walk forward, skip to the side, jump back 5 times)
- Kicking a football
- Bowling
- Skittles
- Marbles
- Frog and rabbit jumps
- Jumping down the stairs one step at a time (under guidance!)
- Slithering like a snake
- Swimming
- Rotating wrists whilst keeping elbows still
- Walking on tiptoes forwards and backwards
- Walking on heels forwards and backwards
- Walking on insides of feet
- Recognizing fingers touched when obscured from view (hold a book over hand and touch one or two fingers, can s/he tell you which were touched)
- Finger sequencing (touch thumb with each finger). Left hand, then right, then both
- Touching end of nose with finger in an arc, eyes closed. Repeat this several times with alternate arms
- Playgrounds and parks (see saws, swings, climbing frames)
- Dressing up play, and getting self dressed and undressed

To develop fine motor skills

- Cutting pictures from magazine to make a collage
- Threading beads, pasta etc.
- Bread making (esp. kneading)
- Playdough
- Playing a musical instrument (eg. Piano, keyboard)
- Exposure to a variety of textures (sandpaper, cloth, vinyl, plastic, wood) and ability to describe what they feel without looking
- Hand exercises and games (mirroring your hand movements, clapping games, cats cradle)
- Finger rhymes and songs with actions
- Making large arm movements (to form letters, numbers etc)
- Large and free style painting and drawing on very big pieces of paper
- Drawing on a (mini) whiteboard
- Drawing on a chalk board
- Chalking on the pavement or in the garden
- Construction activities such as lego
- Sewing/threading through large binca
- Craft activities related to an area of special interest for the child
- Specific teaching of skills such as cutting (open, shut movement and finger placement) and sticking (don't glue up in the air, glue around the edges of the object, don't wind up a pritt stick too far)
- Help with positioning for fine motor tasks (not too near or far from a table, at comfortable height)
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Doll play or soft toy play where clothes can be changed (zips, buttons, laces)
- Experimenting with different textures through use of : shaving foam, clay, playdough etc.
- Opening and closing containers (being shown how to do so independently)
- Water play – involving pouring from one container to another
- Picking up beads or peas or other small objects from a bowl with a pair of tweezers and placing them in a different bowl
- Sorting buttons or coins or other similar objects
- Learning to tie laces



Here to help

Contact us

We are here to help you. If you ever have any questions or queries or just want to ask for some advice, please get in touch.



Claudia van de Laar-Newson,
Head of Early Years:
c.newson@britams.nl

We hope your children are
looking forward to joining
Year 1 in September



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JUNIOR
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Havenstraat 6
1075 PR Amsterdam

+31 20 67 97 840