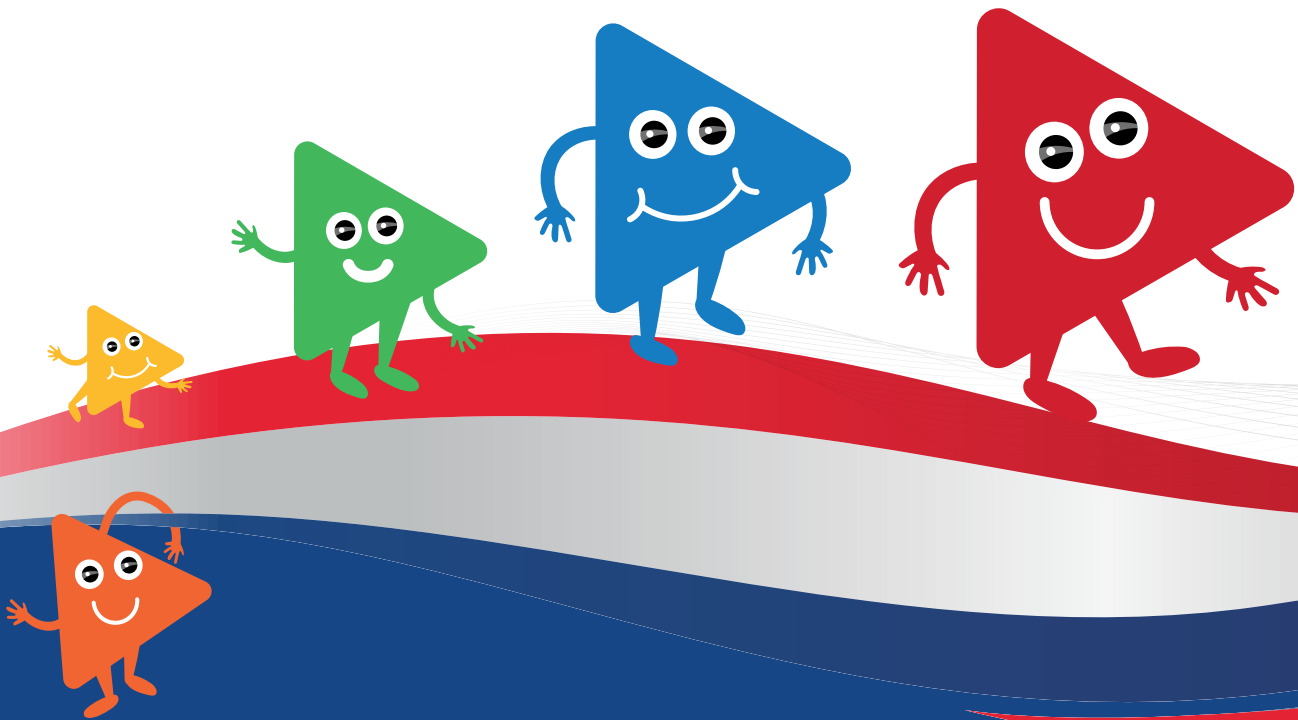


THE
BRITISH
SCHOOL
OF AMSTERDAM
EARLY YEARS
SCHOOL



Welcome to Year 1

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Heads welcome

We are looking forward to your child joining Year One.

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.

Please take time to read the information provided and, should you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We look forward to welcoming you all,

Kind regards,

Claudia van der Laar-Newson

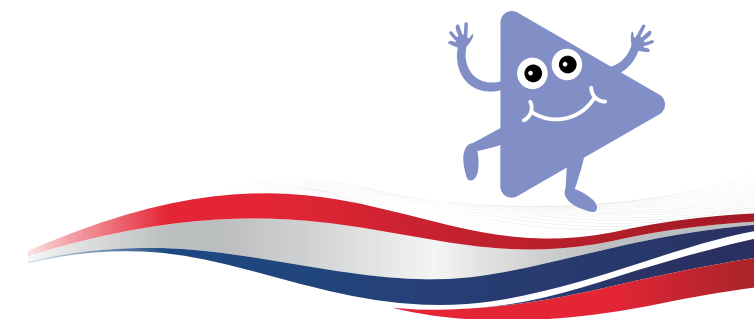
Head of Early Years

c.newson@britams.nl

Jane Keatley

Year Group Leader

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Class Allocation

There are four Year One classes with a maximum of 24 children in each class. There is a teacher and a full-time support member of staff in each class. The classes are named Caterpillar, Dragonfly, Grasshopper and Ladybird.

We try to ensure equal allocation of the following in classes:

- number of children
- ratio of boys and girls
- a language 'buddy' who shares the same language as your child

- number of children with English as an additional language
- number of children that need learning support



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.



Snacks and Lunch

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.



We aim to be a 'nut-free' school.

There are a number of people in the school with a severe nut allergy, so we ask you to ensure that no snacks or lunch contain nuts/traces of nuts. For example, items such as Nutella, pesto, hazelnut yoghurt or peanut butter.



Children are very welcome to celebrate their birthday in school and may 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

Everyday uniform



Branded items in school online shop:

- navy blue branded sweatshirt or cardigan
- navy blue branded polo shirt
- BSA branded book bag

Not sold by school:

- white polo shirt
- grey or navy blue trousers and/or skirts
- school shoes (must be suitable for outdoor use and easy to use such as Velcro straps)

PE Kit and Sports and Games



On days children have sports and games, they may come to school dressed in their sports clothes. PE lessons begin in the Spring Term. For PE sessions children will change into their PE kit at school.

Not sold by school:

- white t-shirt
- navy shorts

Children need a P.E kit which is kept at school in their gym bag.

Children need a pair of indoor gym shoes/plimsolls for sport and games.

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

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



Only branded school items can be purchased from our online Uniform Shop. For non-branded items, you can purchase them from Marks & Spencer or other external retailers.

The school day

School times



School starts

08.50

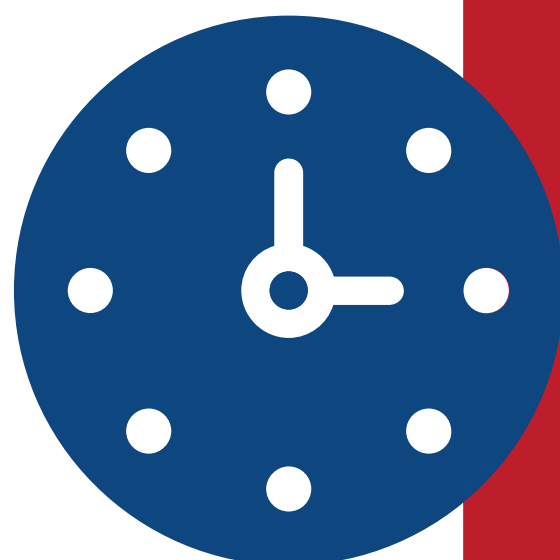
(children can be dropped off from 08.30)



School ends

15.15

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday				
08.50 – 09.00	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION	REGISTRATION				
09.00 – 09.15	PSHE Assembly	Literacy	Literacy	Literacy	Literacy				
09.15 – 09.30									
09.30 – 09.45						Literacy intro			
09.45 – 10.00	Snack and Playtime	Snack and Playtime	Snack and Playtime	Snack and Playtime	Snack and Playtime				
10.00 – 10.15									
10.15 – 10.30									
10.30 – 10.45	Literacy	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths/Library				
10.45 – 11.00									
11.00 – 11.15	Music								
11.15 – 11.30									
11.30 – 11.45									
11.45 – 12.00						Phonics / Handwriting	Phonics / Handwriting	EAL/Dutch	EAL/Dutch
12.00 – 12.15	Lunch and Playtime	Lunch and Playtime	Lunch and Playtime	Lunch and Playtime	Phonics / Handwriting				
12.15 – 12.30									
12.30 – 12.45									
12.45 – 13.00									
13.00 – 13.15	Mathematics	Learning Through Play Science/Humanities/Computing	Learning Through Play Science/Humanities/Computing Outdoor Learning	Learning Through Play Science/Humanities/Computing Outside Learning	Native Dutch				
13.15 – 13.30									
13.30 – 13.45		Learning Through Play Science/Humanities/Computing			P.E	Reading	Reading	Learning Through Play Science/Humanities/Computing Outside Learning	
13.45 – 14.00									
14.00 – 14.15					Reading		Sports and Games		Reading
14.15 – 14.30									
14.30 – 14.45	Outdoor Learning Reading	Story and Home time	Home time	Story and Home time					
14.45 – 15.00									
15.00 – 15.15									



Attendance

Every day counts. Children are expected to attend every day unless they are sick.

Registration/Punctuality

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.

Sickness

If your child is unwell then they must stay at home. If symptoms include vomiting or diarrhea they **must** stay at home for 24 hours after they were last ill.

A child who has had a fever (temperature above 37.5) must be free of the fever without medication for 24 hours before returning to school.

The Head of School has the right to exclude pupils from school if they feel a pupil is too sick to attend and/or are causing risk of infection to others.

The Head of School may exclude pupils who have, or are suspected of having a contagious disease. Parents must inform the School if their child has been diagnosed with a contagious disease.

This will be communicated to all parents including the symptoms and possible side effects. Parents are advised to contact a doctor should they feel concerned.

Absence Procedure

Absence due to illness:

Call or email the Receptionists before 9.00 am. You only need to notify us on the first day that your child is absent; you do not need to call every day.

Absence due to holiday or family events:

Complete a 'Leave of Absence Form'. You can always find the form on Firefly.

If you do not notify us when your child is absent from School, we will contact you to ensure that your child is at home.



To avoid us calling you unnecessarily please follow these steps. **Please ensure that you telephone or email the School before 09.00am** if your child is going to be absent.



Teaching and Learning

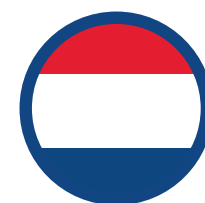
Which curriculum do the children follow?

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.



Supporting Children

The British School is a non-selective school, and we work in various ways to support pupils with additional needs where their needs can be met in a mainstream Early Years School environment. We work together with the parents and the class teacher to identify children with additional needs (cognitive, social/emotional, physical) and to provide them additional support as needed.

This can be done in one of three ways. Either through advice and guidance to parents and teachers, or through working as part of the learning support programme in which children can be supported either in class or in small groups or pairs with the learning support staff, or by referral to within or out of school specialists. Parental permission is sought before children join any learning support groups.



Little Stars Fitness

Little Stars Fitness 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 families.
- It 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 this children also have lessons with a visiting sports coach.

Sports and Games

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 starting in the Spring Term. 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 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 3.00 – 6.00pm and during school holidays 8.00am to 6.30pm.



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



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



Extracurricular Activities

What we offer

Activities can include sports and games, ballet, street dance, Art, English and Dutch. These are held from 3.15 to 4.30 on particular days of the week.



Helping at home

We would expect children in Year One to spend at least 5 to 10 minutes reading with an adult at home, at least four times per week. As well as developing key literacy skills such as word reading and creative writing; reading develops ability to focus, concentration, social skills and communication skills. Where families speak more than one language, reading in a native or home language is just as important as reading in English to develop these skills.

Confidence with number is a key foundation for Maths in Year One. Finding numbers in day-to-day activities, counting on and back to 100 and solving number problems is highly beneficial.



Class Parents

Each class will have one or two class parents. They will update you and remind you about things happening in your child's class – such as term themes, non-uniform days, class events etc.

If you are willing to be a Class Parent, please inform your child's class teacher.



Child Protection

The British School of Amsterdam is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and parents to share this commitment. The school has a child protection policy and guidelines which are in line with Dutch national procedures and which all members of staff are expected to adhere to. All reported incidents are legally obliged to be investigated following a strict code.

It is important for parents to know and to adhere to the rules of the host country. In the Netherlands any form of physical punishment - for example, smacking or hitting is against the law. If a child discloses that they have been punished in this way, as a school, we are obliged to follow up with parents and carers and, depending on the severity, report the incident to child protection services (Veilig Thuis) in order that appropriate support can be given to the child and their parents and carers.



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 der Laar-Newson,
Head of Early Years:
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Jane Keatley
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