



LEARNING WELL, ENJOYING LIFE, EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

EARLY YEARS

Welcome and Information Pack for Parents 2011 -2012

Compass International School Doha

An international school located in the State of Qatar owned and managed by Education Overseas Qatar LLC (CR No. 33520)

PO Box 23479, Doha, State of Qatar

Phone: +974 4487 7445 (Gharaffa Campus)
+974 4493 2036 (Madinat Khalifa Campus)

Fax: +974 4487 7446

Web: www.cisdoha.org

Email: info@cisdoha.org



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EARLY YEARS INFORMATION

Welcome to Early Years at Compass International School Doha, Qatar.
More details about the school can be found on the website: www.cisdoha.com

Early Years 1 – children whose 4th birthday fall between 1st September and 31st August

Early Years 2 – children whose 5th birthday fall between 1st September and 31st August

Timings: 7:30 am until 1:20 pm Sunday to Thursday.

Doors to the Early Years Department open at **7:20 am** and **1:20 pm** (please remain in the tent until this time to avoid congestion in the Early Years Department).

Staggered Entry: The first week of the Autumn term school start dates will be staggered for Early Years 1 students

Children should be brought in and collected by an adult each day.

Absence :

If your child is absent from school for any reason, please inform the Class Teacher or call the school office. This should be done before the event in the case of a planned absence (e.g. holiday / visit to the dentist). For sickness, or other unplanned absences, please send an explanatory letter when your child returns to school.

Where a parent needs to take a student out of school for an extended period of time, permission should be sought in writing from the Principal in advance.

Uniform:

Details can be also found on the school website: www.cisdoha.com

Uniform can be ordered from the UK online <http://www.s-i.org.uk/cisd> and can be delivered to the school or home.

Our school uniform to be worn by all students is as follows:

- Polo shirts (with school logo) *yellow*
- Trousers/shorts/skirts *navy blue*
- School cap (with school logo)
- Fleece tops
- Reading Bags – for letters, communication book and library books.
- PE Bags – for swimming clothes
- Students should wear black sandals or shoes, and white socks.

All clothing and equipment should be named so that mislaid items can be returned easily

- We operate a **NO HAT - NO PLAY** policy.
- **No trolley bags are permitted in school.**

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Physical Education (P.E.)

- P.E. kits – students should come to school wearing their kits on P.E. days.
- Yellow school P.E. T-shirts and navy blue school shorts
- Plimsols or trainers

For safety reasons, all jewellery must be removed – including earrings.

Swimming

- Boys should wear either trunks or swimming shorts.
- Girls should wear a one piece swimming
- Please bring a towel and pool side shoes: flip flops, Crocs etc. in the school P.E. bag

All clothing and equipment should be named so that mislaid items can be returned easily

Snacks

Early Years 1 children have 2 half hour sessions/ Early Years Two have 2 - 15 minute sessions to eat their snacks each day.

Please provide your child with something healthy to eat at break times, in a small lunch bag marked with their name. **No chocolate, crisps, sweets or fizzy drinks.** Please provide drinks in containers other than glass, which can be dangerous. Students are allowed to drink water during lessons, so please make sure that they each have a labelled plastic water bottle. A drinking water cooler is available in the classrooms.

Allergies: Please notify the school office if your child has any allergy of which we should be aware.

Breaktime

Children have 2 half hour breaktime sessions each day to play out. Early Years 1 children play in a separate outdoor play area. Early Years 2 children play in the main playground with Milepost 1 children. During the hot times of the year these breaktime sessions will be indoors or may take place in the school hall.

Toileting Policy for Early Years Children – see policy document

Our expectation is that Early Years children are toilet trained before starting school. This includes them:-

- Knowing when they have to go to the toilet and use words to describe what they need to do and how to get help.
- Having a routine of pulling down their pants, using the toilet, wiping, flushing and washing their hands. We realise however that accidents will happen occasionally. Please help by providing clothes which are easy to pull on and off and **a spare set of clothes.**

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Swimming

Our expectation is that all Early Years children will take part in swimming lessons. It is an important part of the curriculum. If you think your child is too sick to swim then they are most likely too sick to come to school. For other medical reasons e.g. ear infection, please provide a medical note from a doctor if your child should not go in the water. If they forget to bring their swimsuits, we have spare kit which we can let them wear for the lesson.

Medical matters and School Nurse

We do have a nurse at school and a sickroom with a bed. Please make sure that your child is fit and well enough to cope with a busy day in Early Years. Do not send your child to school if they are feeling ill in the morning, have a temperature, or have vomited. If a child gets hurts or feels ill at school then they will be checked by the nurse. If she feels they are too sick to remain at school, parents will be informed to come and collect the child. Please make sure the school knows your emergency contact number. Please inform the school about any health, allergy or medical issues concerning your child.

Curriculum

Compass International School follows the International Primary curriculum (**IPC**)

At the very heart of the **IPC** Early Years is clarity about what children should learn. The learning of children aged 3 - 5 is described in 4 strands:

- Independence and Interdependence
- Communicating
- Exploring
- Healthy living

Full details regarding the Early Years Curriculum can be found on the school website.

The units of work

The programme consists of units of work, each based on a theme chosen to appeal to young children

Early Years 1: Sand and Water; Let's Pretend; Changes; Bears; Food;

Early Years 2: Treasure; Plants and Flowers; Animals; Shopping; Going Places/Transport

These units of work give teachers the framework to design classroom activities for their children that let them achieve the learning outcomes and have fun. Each **IPC** Early Years Unit usually lasts between four and five weeks. An Entry Point activity sets the scene and an Exit Point gives the children an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on their learning.

Our first Unit in **Early Years 1** in September will be **“All about me”**.

Our first Unit in **Early Years 2** in September will be **“Family and Friends”**.

There will be opportunities for the children to go out of school on organised trips and visits which enhance and are relevant to their areas of study. We seek parental permission for these.

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Children in Early Years 1 will begin learning letter sounds with our **Jolly Phonics** programme, www.jollylearning.co.uk learn to form letters and numbers and in the Summer term the teacher will assess whether individual children are ready to start the on the school's reading scheme: **Oxford Reading Tree**. <http://www.oup.com/oxed/primary/oxfordreadingtree/parents/>
The majority of children will start the reading scheme in Early Years 2.

A weekly letter will be sent to you outlining briefly the learning taking place in class each week.

Specialist subjects

All students including Early Years will learn Arabic and about Arabic culture.
Dutch students will have daily Dutch lessons with Dutch speaking teachers.
Music lessons will be taught by a Music specialist.
P.E. lessons will be taught by a P.E. specialist.

Library

Each week the children will choose a book from our school library to enjoy at home. Please teach your child to take care of this book and bring it to school in their reading bag.

Assembly

Children attend a weekly assembly to celebrate the learning that has taken place in school in their own and in other classes. We award certificates linked to the Personal Goals and a child from each class is chosen to receive the award. Recognition is also given to students who have followed the Compass Code of Conduct, or have a birthday to celebrate. Parents are invited to attend the assembly.

Communication

Early in the term we will invite parents into class for an information morning and a chance to meet other parents.

Each class in school elects a class parent who liaises with the class teacher and informs the rest of the class parents by email of the weekly learning, current events or news. Please let your class teacher know if you would like to offer to be the class parent.

If you would like to come into school or class to help, please inform your class teacher or your class parent.

We will need volunteers to come with us to help on trips and also to help the children change on the days the children have swimming lessons in Early Years One in the first two terms.

Your class teacher is always there to greet you and your child in the morning and at home time. Each term there will be an opportunity to discuss your child's progress at formal parents meetings.

During the second term the children will have an opportunity to present examples of their learning to you. We call these 'Presentations of Learning'.

You will also receive two written reports during the year, giving details of your child's progress and achievements. A report is sent in Term 1 and in Term 3.

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We operate an open door policy at Compass whereby we are happy to discuss aspects of your child's learning at anytime. We do have regular contact with parents and carers during drop off and collection time, but we ask that if you wish to discuss an aspect of learning at length that an appointment is made at a mutually beneficial time.

Bus Service

We recommend Early Years 1 children are brought in and collected by a parent or authorised carer each day during the first term. We do have a school bus service which is operated by Trilogistics. Each bus has an adult monitor to supervise the students. For further information, please contact the School Office or contact the Trilogistics Coordinator in the gatehouse at the school.



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