

Newton International Academy, Smash



**PARENT HANDBOOK
2020-2021**

**WELCOME TO THE EARLY YEARS
FOUNDATION STAGE**

Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage

Dear Parents,

Students at Newton International Academy are encouraged to strive for excellence. The school staff are committed to providing an excellent learning environment that will enable all students to learn and grow.

We are delighted to be taking a lead role in your child/children's educational journey. We endeavor to work closely and collaboratively with you as parents to ensure that we can enable each student to achieve their potential. In doing so, we know that our learning community will grow even stronger with your involvement and support. We are immensely proud to be part of the Early Years Foundation Stage here at Newton International Academy and know that our students are proud to attend our school. Together we can 'celebrate success'.

This handbook offers practical guidance as to how the school operates and how you can play your crucial role in supporting the work of the school and your child's well-being and development. I would be grateful if you could take the time to read it carefully and keep it readily available for future reference.

Currently, of particular relevance is the guidance on how we can work together to ensure the school functions safely during the Coronavirus Pandemic. It is vital we all play our role in tackling this challenge. We pledge to keep you updated of latest developments and in return I ask you make sure you are at all times familiar with the latest practice and procedure being operated.

Dear Parents, Guardians and Family,

Welcome to Newton International Academy, Smash. We welcome you and your child to our brand new state of the art facility. We are positive this will be the beginning of a long and happy association, not only for your child but also for you and the whole family.

We have created a parent booklet which aims to provide everyone with important information that you will need to help make your child's entry to the early years, as happy and smooth as possible.

However, no matter how good such a booklet is, there will always be some questions or concerns that are not addressed.

Please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff or management if you need any help or assistance.

Your child's classroom teacher should be able to assist you with any concerns as a first port of call. Alternatively, please feel free to discuss any concerns or queries with me.

We hope that your stay with us will be pleasant and memorable.

I look forward to working with you and your child this year.

Best wishes,

Miss Laura Henderson

Early Years Coordinator

Email: laura.henderson@newtonschools.sch.qa

Our Vision, Mission Statement 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 all our students. In doing so, we aim to positively encourage each student to achieve academic excellence, celebrate diversity, develop critical thinking skills and become lifelong learners and responsible citizens.

To achieve this, we will provide a diverse education in a safe, supportive environment that promotes positive discipline and self-motivation. We will provide and maintain a trusting and caring atmosphere where teaching and learning is meaningful and developed. We will work in partnership with our staff, students, parents and wider community to achieve our vision.

Our Values

Respect	Self-respect, respect for students/ staff /parents and cultures. Respect for personal and community property
Honesty	Honesty in all our actions
Transparent communication	Open and effective communication among students, staff, and parents
Empathy	Understanding and appreciation of the feelings of others
Support	Support the development of each individual to his/her full potential.
Diversity	Appreciation of all languages, traditions, religions and cultures.
Social responsibility	Development of responsible citizens through community service.
Personal accountability	Highest personal commitment to taking responsibility for our actions
Environmental awareness	Respect for our environment.

Important Information

- Provide us with emergency contact numbers and let the school office know of any changes.
- Let us know the person who usually collects your child from school.
- All children must be brought to and collected from their classroom by an adult. Please remain with your child until they are invited into the classroom by their teacher at 7.00 a.m.
- Let us know of any medical conditions affecting your child or any other factors affecting their wellbeing.
- If you visit the school during the day, please report to the school office.

Important Members of Staff

Mr Luke Peacock	Acting Principal
Miss Laura Henderson	EYFS Coordinator
Mrs Chani Meyer	Primary Coordinator
Miss Trudie McAteer	KS2 Coordinator
Mr Dave Roantree	KS3 Coordinator

What to send to school

Please ensure that your child's school bag is small and light. **Large trolley bags are not appropriate.**

Each child needs to bring the following items to school each day:

1. Water bottle
2. Hat
3. Healthy snack (Eg. No fizzy drinks, chocolate, crisps or Fast Food)
4. Basic change of clothes
5. Large T-shirt for art activities
6. School folder (this will be provided by the school)
7. Individual hand sanitizer
8. Wear a mask coming to school

All items must be clearly named. This enables us to return lost items.

Do not allow children to bring their own toys to school as we cannot guarantee the safe keeping of these.

School Timings-

For the Early Years Foundation Stage the **school day begins at 7.00 a.m. and finishes at 12.30 p.m.**
You may collect your child from 12noon onwards.

It is very important that children arrive to school on time and are collected on time. Children should be dropped off at the designated area. Any late arrivals or collections can lead to significant disruption. **It is also very distressing for a child to be collected late after his or her classmates have left. There will be no early or morning aftercare available.**

If you unavoidably arrive late in the morning, please ensure that you obtain a late slip from the office. If you have to collect your child early for an appointment, please obtain a release slip from the school office before collecting your child.

Settling your child in at school

Settling a child into a new environment may take time, particularly if they have not been separated from you before or have attended a smaller nursery or day care setting.

How you can help

- Encourage them to look forward to school and feel excited about the new experience
- Be positive as this will encourage them to be positive too
- Say goodbye and explain clearly that you will be coming back to get them later. Reassure them if they become upset but still say goodbye and leave,
- When you pick up your child, ask them about their day and what they have been doing
- Praise and reward them for settling well

If your child cries when you leave, remember that the teacher is experienced and will support and reassure your child. We find that children generally calm down and become involved in what is going on in the classroom within 5-10 minutes. Please avoid returning to comfort your child or waiting outside the classroom as this tends to prolong the process. We appreciate that this can be upsetting but please do not worry as we will work together to support your child through this period of transition. **Please also refer to the last section on Covid-19**

Key Procedures

Dropping off and Collection of Children

Parents and drivers are asked to be extremely vigilant and cautious when dropping off and collecting their children. There will be a dedicated pick up and drop off point. Parents **MUST** not enter classrooms and social distance at all times.

Security and Visitors to the School

During this time, no visitors will be permitted into the school under any circumstances.

Absence and Late Procedure

It is vital that students attend school every day in order to ensure they are keeping up to date. Students who regularly miss days through sickness or other reasons often have difficulties catching up with work and tend to become frustrated. This can often affect their behaviour and social interaction.

Accidents and Sickness

If a student is ill or injured during the day, the school doctor nurse will assess the child and will contact parents if necessary. If your child needs to receive medication throughout the school day, this must be given directly to the school nurse. If your child has any of the following symptoms they **MUST** be kept at home;

- Fever ,Dry Cough, Tiredness
- If your child has tested positive for Covid-19 you MUST inform the school as early as possible.

Children's temperature will be taken upon arrival to school and parents Ehteraz app will also be checked.

Uniforms

Please ensure that your child is dressed in the correct uniforms. All uniforms can be purchased from Newton schools, we will announce the locations at a later date.

Communication with parents.

Parents should minimize contact with teachers. If parents wish to contact teachers they can so, through class dojo which will be set up prior to children starting school. Teachers will also be available for Zoom meetings with parents to discuss any concerns.

Activity Weeks

At our school we run activity weeks throughout the year. The students find the weeks very enjoyable and learn a lot whilst having fun, where possible events will be held virtually. The events for this year include:

- International Day
- Maths Week
- Qatar National Day
- School Fayre
- Science Week
- Sports Day
- Book Week
- End of Year Celebration

Assessments and Reports

At the end of each term your child will receive a report, these will be sent electronically. All children in the Early Years Foundation Stage will be continuously assessed throughout the year. Teachers carry out regular observations of the children using our Tapestry app. You will receive these via email.

Trips

We understand and value how important trips outside of school are for children's further learning and development however, until further notice all trips and outings will be cancelled.

Birthdays

We enjoy helping your child celebrate their birthday. However, to minimize the spread of infection, no birthday cakes will be allowed.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework

The EYFS sets the standards for learning, development and care for children from birth to 5 years of age. The principles which guide the work of our Early Years Professionals are grouped into four themes:

- A Unique Child** - every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

- **Positive Relationships** - children learn to be strong and independent from loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person.
- **Enabling Environments** - the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.
- **Learning and Development** - children develop and learn in different ways and at different times; all areas of learning and development are equally important and inter-connected.

Areas of Learning and Development

There are seven areas in which our Early Years Professionals support children to learn and develop. There are three prime areas and four specific areas.

These are as follows:

Prime Areas:

- Social, Personal and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

Development Specific Areas

- Expressive Art and Design
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World.

For more information about the Early Years Foundation Stage please download full guidance at www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications

How will my child learn at Newton International Academy, Smash?

Children will learn through a blended teaching approach, with a mixture of online learning and in school learning.

Children will use the "Seesaw" application in EYFS for online learning. All children will be given a unique username and password. During online learning days, children will be expected to watch and respond to the pre-recorded lessons as well as attend live lessons. Timetables will highlight all timings.

Adaptations will be made to plans to ensure the work is achievable and manageable at home. All above topics will still be covered. During school teaching, teachers will cover key lessons such as, Arabic, Physical Development, Understanding the World, Literacy and Phonics and Circle times. The first 3 days of school will be used to inform children of the health and safety procedures in school.

Children in Foundation 1 will follow set topics each term which will cover all the areas of learning. The topics which we will cover this year are as follows:

Term 1 All About me, Animals and Qatar/Arabic Culture

Term 2 People who help us and Transport

Term 3 Seasons and Fairy tales

Children in Foundation 2 will follow set topics each term which will cover all the areas of learning. The topics which we will cover this year are as follows:

Term 1 Pirates, Countries around the world and Qatar/Arabic Culture

Term 2 Space and Dinosaurs

Term 3 Then and Now and Special days and Celebrations

How will my child be assessed?

The assessment is based on classroom observations of your child. Your child may be capable of doing some of the objectives before we cover them but it is important that they are covered and observed throughout their time in the EYFS. It is important to remember that every child is unique and learning happens at different stages and each child is learning through more than one language. We will work alongside you and your child to ensure they are getting the best from their learning. If you wish to read the objectives you can read more on:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/237249/Early_Years_Outcomes.pdf

How can I help my child at home? All of the activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development and have a really long lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress towards and through school. For example, talking, reading, singing nursery rhymes with your child or cooking and baking with them. Even when your child is very young and is not yet able to talk, you talking to them helps them to learn and understand new words and ideas. It is important that children feel valued and are given lots of praise and recognition for the smallest things they achieve.

Other Important Notes

1. Teachers' will be wearing face shields at all times.
2. Teachers' temperature will be checked regularly.
3. Cleaning procedures will be in place throughout the day
4. Teachers' will keep a minimum distance of 1.5m from children where possible.
5. EYFS children naturally become upset when separated from their parents/carers, teachers' will try their best to comfort and support children however, parents should keep in mind teachers' must follow the strict guidelines set.
6. Parents must social distance while on campus.
7. Parents must wear a face mask before entering the school premises.

We appreciate the above is extremely difficult especially with very young children, however, it is crucial that we abide by the set guidelines to ensure your safety, your child's safety and the safety of all of our staff. We thank you for your support with this matter.