



Welcome to Kindergarten 1



A guide to helping you and your little one be prepared for the start of Kindergarten 1

Dear families,

Welcome to Kindergarten 1 at ISS International School! This is a very exciting time in your family's life and we could not be more happy to be a part of it.

The start of school is an important milestone, and like most milestones, it can come with a range of emotions, from nervousness to excitement and panic to delight. Believe us...as teachers we feel it too! Everyone has those "butterflies" in their tummy on the first day of school.

For us though, the emotion that overwhelms them all is excitement. Excitement about all the fun explorations and discoveries that we'll embark on. Excitement for the class community that will develop and the group and personal accomplishments that the year will bring.

Please use this "Welcome to Kindergarten 1" document as a guide to prepare your family for the start of Kindergarten 1. We encourage you to revisit the important ideas that it outlines over the course of the year, including the fundamentals of our play- and inquiry-based curriculum.

We consider the relationship between family, teacher, and child to be essential for healthy and holistic development and look forward to collaborating with you this year.

Please feel free to contact us at any time throughout the year with questions, comments, and concerns. You are always welcome to stop by the classrooms in the morning for a visit and to check out what we've been busy learning. Please also visit our classroom blogs and Twitter accounts for frequent updates and in-depth explanations about our activities.

Here's to a great year together and an exciting journey in Kindergarten 1! :)

Communication

You have a variety of options for communicating questions, comments, and information to your teacher and finding out about what we've been up to in the classroom. Please check and comment on the class blogs regularly. Email is usually the best way to reach your teacher, however you can also write handwritten messages that will be checked each morning in your child's blue communication notebook (they will receive this on the first day of school).

MS. LILIAN (K1.1)

Email: llyovarin@iss.edu.sg

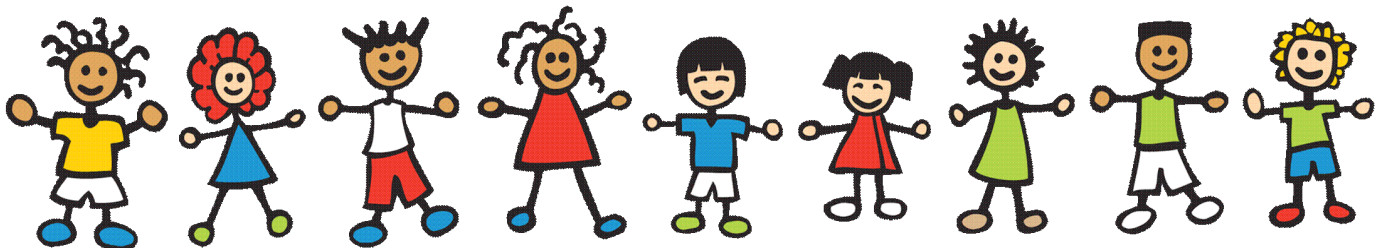
Blog: issk1-1.weebly.com

MS. ALISON (K1.2)

Email: acamire@iss.edu.sg

Blog: issk1-2.weebly.com

Twitter: @missalisonk1



A Day in Kindergarten 1

This is a sample schedule of what our day in Kindergarten looks like. Please note that integrator subjects (Physical Education, Art, Music, Mandarin) do not occur at the same time every day. They last for 45 minutes and occur twice a week, except for Mandarin which occurs three times a week for 30 minutes. Please also note that our schedule remains flexible and open to the interests, inquiries, and decisions of students. We try not to interrupt students' sustained involvement in group work and projects when it is not mandatory for a transition to occur.

Time	Activity	Details
7:30 - 7:55 AM	Children arrive to classroom, sign themselves in with a drawing or writing beside their name on a clipboard, and participate in free play.	Children are welcome to arrive at any point during this time. Families are invited to join us in the classroom to read with their child, view a project we are working on, or ask questions.
7:55 - 8:15 AM	Continued free play and exploration	Children continue their free, self-directed play. Parents are asked to exit the room at the sound of the 7:55 AM bell.
8:15 - 8:35 AM	Morning Meeting	Held at the main carpet, this includes: greetings; discussion about the day's plan; songs; sharing personal work, stories & experiences; suggestions from children about projects for the day and ways to continue yesterday's work; planning for the day (maybe adjusting teacher-planned schedule) as a group.
8:35 - 8:55 AM	Group Lesson	The lesson connects to Literacy or Maths benchmarks or ongoing explorations within the current unit of inquiry
8:55 - 9:20 AM	Learning Centres	Centres provide choice for students and connect to the group lesson that has just taken place. The format and organization of centres provides opportunity for small group or 1-to-1 instructions with the teacher.
9:20 - 9:25 AM	Tidy-up!	Children are responsible for cleaning up their own materials.
9:25 - 9:30 AM	Bathroom Visits	Children independently visit the bathroom as needed throughout the day. This is a whole-group visit for toilet-use and washing hands.
9:30 - 9:50 AM	Snack Time	Children eat in the classroom. They set out place mats and are responsible for cleaning up their space.
9:50 - 10:10 AM	Recess Break	Free outdoor play in the Kindergarten playground
10:10 - 10:20 AM	Transition Time	After bathroom visits, we reconnect as a class with one of the following: a read aloud, personal reading or quiet time, group quiet time & relaxation exercises
10:20 - 10:50 AM	Group Lesson & Learning Activity (in large group, small groups, or individually)	The lesson connects to Literacy or Maths benchmarks or ongoing explorations within the current unit of inquiry (usually different than what has been covered in the morning lesson).
10:50 - 11:35 AM	Integrator Subject	Physical Education, Art, Music or Mandarin
11:35 AM - 12:05 PM	Recess Break	Free outdoor play in the large playground
12:05 - 12:15 PM	Tidy-up, bathroom visits, set up for eating lunch	Similar to morning pre-snack routine
12:15 - 12:50 PM	Lunch & Free Play Time	Children eat in the classroom and repeat routines from morning snack time. When children are finished eating they may participate in free play within the classroom.
12:50 - 1:05 PM	Transition Time	After bathroom visits, we reconnect as a class with one of the following: a read aloud, personal reading or quiet time, group quiet time & relaxation exercises, group physical activity (like dance, yoga, or stretching).

1:05 - 2:00 PM	Free Choice Time	<p>Children have an opportunity for free, self-selected play that they may pursue independently or in collaboration with peers. Some children choose to continue explorations or projects that they starting in morning play or centre times.</p> <p>Learning from the morning lessons may be revisited in small group or 1-to-1 settings as needed.</p>
2:00 - 2:15 PM	Afternoon Meeting & Reflection Time	<p>Held at the main carpet, this includes: group discussions and reflections on experiences of the day (such as challenges, successes, conflicts, favourite moments, progress made).</p> <p>We complete our calendar session where we review the month, day, and date through discussion and song, aided with manipulatives.</p>
2:15 - 2:25 PM	Packing Up & Dismissal	<p>With support, children relocate to bus pick-up points and parent pick-up rooms.</p>

Please see our weekly class schedule at the end of this document. A hard copy of this and the 'Pleased to Meet You' page will be sent home with your child on the first day of school.

A Note About Play

You may have noticed that free play forms a significant part of our days. Play-based activities are also the context of much of our academic learning.

Children engage in various kinds of play, such as physical play, object play, pretend or dramatic play, constructive play, and games with rules. To foster optimum development, children require opportunities to participate in play in all of its formats, in both child-initiated and teacher-initiated ways.

Though play, children express, combine, and extend what they know about the world around them. Their play scenarios combine everything they have learned and are wondering about, including the words, signs, symbols, custom of their language and culture, as well as their own and other people's thoughts, feelings, and ideas.

Play empowers children to represent and transform the world around them, promoting physical, intellectual, and social development in ways that cannot be achieved by focusing on narrow pre-academic skills. Play also contributes to children's capacity for self-regulation: the internal mechanism that enables us to engage in mindful, intentional, and thoughtful behaviours. When children play, they interact with people and materials in ways that require them to set, negotiate and follow rules, thus growing in their ability to inhibit impulses, act in coordination with others and make plans. Much research has shown that children's self-regulation behaviours in the early years predicts future school success and achievement.

(Bodrova & Leong, 2008, p. 1; National Association for the Education of Young Children, 2009, p. 14-15, British Columbia Ministry of Education, p. 13-14).



Routines & Expectations

IB Learner Profile

Learners at our school strive to be:

Inquirers

Develop curiosity. Conduct inquiry & research. Show independence in learning.

Knowledgeable

Explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local & global significance & develop deep understandings.

Thinkers

Approach problems with critical & creative thinking skills, making reasoned decisions.

Communicators

Express ideas confidently in a variety of modes of communication. Work effectively in collaboration.

Principled

Act with integrity, fairness, justice and respect. Take responsibility for own actions.

Open-minded

Open to perspectives, values & traditions of others. Interested in a range of perspectives.

Caring

Show empathy, compassion & respect towards the needs & feelings of others.

Risk-takers (Courageous)

Approach unfamiliar situations with courage. Explores new roles, ideas & strategies.

Balanced

Understand the importance of intellectual, physical, and emotional balance for well-being.

Reflective

Give thoughtful consideration to learning & experiences. Assess & understand strengths and limitations.



The 4 Be's

ISS code of behaviour

Be Safe

Be Honest

Be Respectful

Be Responsible



The IB Learner Profile and 4 Be's Code of Conduct guide student behaviour and interactions and frame expectations at all grade levels.

Uniform

- Children are required to wear the ISS uniform to school.
- A PE uniform is to be worn all day on days when students participate in PE classes (Mondays & Thursdays).
- Closed-toed shoes must be worn. Children cannot wear open-toed shoes or flip flops to school.

Class Contact List

In the first two weeks of school we will be sending out a contact list with phone numbers and email addresses of families in our class. It may be used to contact other families to arrange play and visits outside of school hours. Please inform us as soon as possible if you do not wish for your information to be included on this list.



Morning Arrival

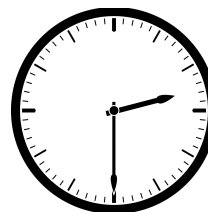
7:30 - 7:55 AM

For the first two weeks, parents are encouraged to join us in the classroom between 7:30 and 7:55 AM.

Every morning children will be greeted by the teacher and teaching assistant and are responsible for :

1. Hanging their backpacks on their peg outside of the classroom. Unpacking their lunch and water bottle (and putting it in the fridge). Unpacking their mesh bag (and putting it in the basket).
2. Signing in on the attendance clipboard with drawing or writing.
3. Self-selecting a free-play activity.

** Parents are asked to leave the classroom when the bell rings at 7:55 AM.



Afternoon Dismissal

2:25 PM

The afternoon bell rings at 2:25 PM. Children will be supported by the teacher and teaching assistant in moving to their dismissal locations.

Children go home by either:

1. Parent pick-up (Rooms 12, 14, 15 - access at back doors of classroom on the playground!)
2. Bus

Permanent changes to dismissal arrangements must be communicated to the main office. One-day changes (i.e. parent pick-up instead of bus or going home with a friend) can be communicated to the class teacher.

** Children and parents are asked not to return to classroom after dismissal due to teacher meetings and lack of appropriate supervision.

"Where's my spot?"
There is no assigned seating at group tables in the classrooms. Children are encouraged to select their own chairs, tables, and play spaces in a variety of different areas throughout the day. This routine encourages independent thought, decision-making, friendship-building, and a positive and competent approach to basic conflict management.

Snacks, Lunch & Healthy Eating

Please ensure that your child has a healthy snack (and packed lunch if you do not order school lunch) each day to keep them well-fuelled for all of our learning. This includes vegetables, fruit, and no sugary snacks. Please also send a big bottle of water so that your child can stay hydrated. We can refill this bottle over the course of the day.

As you are making your healthy food choices please remember:

- to label your child's lunch box and water bottle with their first and last name
- we will refrigerate cold snacks and lunches
- we are unable to reheat food in the microwave due to school policy



**A Note About Allergies: In the first week of school you will receive an email from us informing you of any severe allergies that we have in our K1 classes. After this point, we ask that you refrain from packing these items in your child's school lunches. This may include nuts, eggs, or shellfish. Please stay tuned for this important information.*

Birthdays!

If you wish to bring in a treat, please contact us so that we can arrange the celebrations for an appropriate time. Please consider quick and easy-to-clean options such as fruit or cupcakes.

We will be happy to circulate birthday invitations so long as all the children have been included in order to avoid feelings being hurt.

Library



Our library lessons are on Tuesdays. Your child may borrow one book each week. Please ensure that the book is returned the following Tuesday so that another book can be selected and issued.

Illnesses & Absences

If your child is not well, please keep him or her at home. You can phone the main office to inform us of the absence. Normally, when children are on medication they need to be home. Thank you in advance for keeping our class healthy.

A Note for English Language Learners

If your child is still learning to communicate in English, it may be useful to help him or her learn some key information and phrases in order to feel more confident at school:

- Recognize full name (spoken and written)
- Recognize main classroom
- Identify personal property, such as school bag, lunch box, and water bottle
- "May I go to the toilet?", "I need..." / "I want..."

Materials & Personal Items

The school provides all writing, art, and stationary materials as part of your tuition. Please send the following personal items to school as soon as possible. These will remain in the classroom in your child's personal cubby tray until the end of the school year.

- Art smock (old t-shirt or art apron)
- Extra set of clothes in a ziplock bag (t-shirt, shorts & underwear!)
- Small stuffed toy or personal comfort item
- Hat
- A small photograph of your family and/or people important to your child



"Pleased to meet you!"

We have received some information about your child from our admissions office, but we'd like to know more! Please help us to get to know your child by answering these questions. Please detach and return this completed page to us by Friday, August 14.

Child's full name: _____

Name your child prefers to be called: _____

Languages spoken at home: _____

Other languages your child speaks: _____

Describe your child's English language abilities: _____

Does your child have any brothers and/or sisters in the school? Please include names, ages, and grade level: _____

Please confirm whether your child has any allergies or medical conditions: _____

Any special dietary requirements? _____

Describe your child's strengths? _____

What would you like your child to develop this year? _____

Does your child have any special talents or interests? _____

Describe your child's feelings about starting Kindergarten 1: _____

Any other information that you think is important for me to know: _____

Kindergarten 1.2
Class Schedule
2015-2016

TIME	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
7:55-8:00	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance
PERIOD 1 8:00 - 8:45	CLASSROOM TIME	CLASSROOM TIME	CLASSROOM TIME	PE (Mr. Nathan)	MANDARIN 8:15-8:45
PERIOD 2 8:45 - 9:30	MANDARIN 8:45-9:15 (Ms. Linda)			CLASSROOM TIME	CLASSROOM TIME
BREAK 9:30 - 9:45	EAT SNACK	EAT SNACK	EAT SNACK	EAT SNACK	EAT SNACK
BREAK 9:50 - 10:05	OUTSIDE PLAY	OUTSIDE PLAY	OUTSIDE PLAY	OUTSIDE PLAY	OUTSIDE PLAY
PERIOD 3 10:05 - 10:50	CLASSROOM TIME	CLASSROOM TIME	MUSIC (Ms. Marnie)	CLASSROOM TIME	CLASSROOM TIME
PERIOD 4 10:50 - 11:35			CLASSROOM TIME		
PERIOD 5 11:35 - 12:05	OUTSIDE PLAY	OUTSIDE PLAY	OUTSIDE PLAY	OUTSIDE PLAY	OUTSIDE PLAY
LUNCH 12:05 - 12:55	EAT LUNCH PLAYTIME	EAT LUNCH PLAYTIME	EAT LUNCH PLAYTIME	EAT LUNCH PLAYTIME	EAT LUNCH PLAYTIME
PERIOD 6 12:55-1:40	ART (Ms. Caz)	LIBRARY (Mrs. Grant)	CLASSROOM TIME	CLASSROOM TIME	ASSEMBLY
PERIOD 7 1:40 - 2:25	PE (Mr. Nathan)	CLASSROOM TIME			CLASSROOM TIME

* "Classroom Time" indicates the sessions spent in the main classroom where students participate in integrated & stand-alone subject activities with a play-based, exploratory approach.