

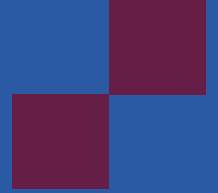


مدرسة المتحدة الدولية
United School International
The Pearl Island جزيرة اللؤلؤة
an Orbital Education School

United School International

*Excellence. Respect. Responsibility.
Integrity. Compassion.*

Early Years Foundation Stage Parent Information



United School International,
The Pearl, Doha

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Contents



Welcome	4
Ethos	5
Mission & Vision	6
Things To Look Forward To	7
Your Team	8
School Timings	9
Permissions	10
Websites	11
Clothing	12
School Bags	13
Lunch & Snacks	14
Dismissal	15
Absences & Illness	16
Toilet Training	17
Class Reps	18
Our Curriculum	21
Meet Our Head	22
Meet Our Teachers	23

Welcome!

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage at United School International! We are delighted to have you join our community for the 2025–2026 academic year.

At USI, we believe that the early years are a magical and foundational time in your child's learning journey. Together, as partners, we will nurture curious minds, kind hearts and confident learners who are ready to explore the world around them.

Our EYFS curriculum is designed to spark imagination, promote independence and build strong learning habits through play-based, engaging and purposeful experiences.

While we focus on developing key skills in communication, literacy, numeracy and social development, we also place great importance on values such as kindness, respect and collaboration.

Thank you for choosing to be a part of our vibrant and inclusive learning environment. We look forward to working closely with you to ensure your child has a joyful and successful start to their educational journey.



Our Ethos

Our ethos rests on five core values: excellence, respect, responsibility, integrity and compassion.

We are a school that prides itself on the ambitious education we deliver. We want our children to feel secure and confident, to feel supported and understood and to be able to turn to those around them for guidance and encouragement.

Our students are at the heart of everything we do, whilst we support them on their journey through an enhanced British curriculum to deliver an outstanding international education.



Mission and Vision

Vision

To prepare all USI students for a rapidly changing world by instilling in them our core values of excellence, respect, responsibility, integrity and compassion.

Mission

- To provide a safe, nurturing learning environment where everyone is valued and respected.
- We will create ambitious learning opportunities for students that will help them develop the knowledge, skills and understanding necessary to excel academically through a first-class British education.

Aims

- We aim to ensure that all USI students recognise that hard work, resilience and commitment are the key factors of success.
- We will also aim to establish a culture of proactive pastoral care which will focus on their mental and physical wellbeing.
- We aim to ensure all USI students achieve their personal academic excellence.



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Things To Look Forward To

Coffee Mornings

Keep connected, ask questions and hear updates about what's happening in EYFS.



Curriculum Workshops

Understand what and how your child is learning, how we teach it and how to help at home.



Classroom Open Mornings

Step into your child's world. Join us in class to see the learning in action and explore together.



Events, trips and competitions

Our calendar helps to enrich learning, enhance confidence and build community.



Your EYFS Team

We are here to support you every step of the way and truly value the partnership between home and school. Your input helps to shape your child's journey and we warmly welcome your feedback - whether it's to share a success, raise a concern or simply connect. Together, we will create a nurturing and inspiring environment where your child can thrive.

Head of School
Samantha Spencer



Head of FS1
Tasmin Khan



Head of FS2
Ellie Fryett



FS1 Teachers

Tasmin Khan
Rebecca Shea
Ceallach Murphy
Ashleigh Inniss

FS2 Teachers

Ella-Rose Sainsbury
Ellie Fryett
Caitlyn Chalmers
Natalie Harding
Lisa Weatherhead
Paula Anderson
Simone Dean

School Timings

Early Morning Courtyard Activities

7:00 - 7:30

Children who arrive from 7:00am will have the opportunity to engage in early morning learning activities in the courtyard space, heading to classrooms for registration at 7:30am.

Lessons 7:40 - 1:45

At USI, we learn through purposeful play, balanced with a clear structure to support key areas of development. Our daily routine includes Read Write Inc. phonics, English, maths, project learning, art and music. Children also enjoy weekly P.E. sessions with a specialist P.E. teacher, ensuring a well-rounded and engaging learning experience.

Transition Timings

During the first weeks, children will follow a shortened day to help them settle into their new environment gently and confidently.

Date	FS1 Timings	FS2 Timings
Week 1		
Sunday 31 st August	Welcome Morning Parents to Join 8:00am – 10:00am	7:30am – 10:30am
Monday 1 st September	Group 1: 8:00am – 9:00am Group 2: 9:30am – 10:30am Group 3: 11:00am – 12:00pm	7:30am – 10:30am
Tuesday 2 nd September	Group 1: 8:00am – 9:00am Group 2: 9:30am – 10:30am Group 3: 11:00am – 12:00pm	7:30am – 11:30am
Wednesday 3 rd September	Group 1: 8:00am – 9:00am Group 2: 9:30am – 10:30am Group 3: 11:00am – 12:00pm	7:30am – 11:30pm
Thursday 4 th September	8:00am – 9:30am (all children)	7:30am – 12:30pm
Week 2		
Sunday 7 th September	8:00am – 10:30am	7:30am – 1:45pm
Monday 8 th September	8:00am – 10:30am	7:30am – 1:45pm
Tuesday 9 th September	8:00am – 11:30am	7:30am – 1:45pm
Wednesday 10 th September	8:00am – 11:30am	7:30am – 1:45pm
Thursday 11 th September	8:00am – 11:30am	7:30am – 1:45pm
Week 3		
Sunday 14 th September	8:00am – 12:30am	7:30am – 1:45pm
Monday 15 th September	8:00am – 12:30am	7:30am – 1:45pm
Tuesday 16 th September	8:00am – 12:30am	7:30am – 1:45pm
Wednesday 17 th September	7:30am – 1:45pm	7:30am – 1:45pm
Thursday 18 th September	7:30am – 1:45pm	7:30am – 1:45pm



Permissions

Photograph Permissions

If you do not wish for your child to appear on the school website or USI social media channels, please inform our Admissions Department using the link provided in an email during the summer break.

Children's photographs will be shared securely on Class Dojo as part of our normal tracking and celebration of learning. These platforms are private and only accessible to the school and families within your child's class.



Trips and Coach Travel

We go on a variety of exciting trips throughout the year to support learning beyond the classroom. To make this possible, please ensure you have given permission for your child to travel on our school coaches - the link for this form will also be included in the email sent during the summer break. Without this, your child may not be able to join their class on off-site visits.

Websites We Use



Class Dojo will become our main source of communication with parents. Your child's teacher will regularly update:

- Story posts - pictures, videos and updates on learning
- Reminders, announcements and updates
- Private messaging

For those of you who have not used Class Dojo before or need a refresher, we will provide a guide on how to set up your profile and utilise the features.

Tapestry is the online platform we use to document and assess your child's learning journey throughout the year. It allows us to record observations, track progress and support planning across all areas of the EYFS curriculum.



Clothing

Children wear the USI school uniform and on P.E. days or swimming days children wear the USI P.E. kit. Your teacher will let you know the class P.E. days.

Remember the children are exploring and getting involved in a range of experiences every day, they may not look as neat and tidy at the end of the day (this usually means they have had a good day!).

Children should wear plain black school shoes that they can easily take on and off. Our school day is a busy one! Please ensure your child has comfortable footwear.



Spare Clothing

Whilst our expectation is that all children are fully toilet trained to attend EYFS at USI, we understand accidents happen. Please ensure your child has a spare set of clothing and underwear in their bag.

**Please ensure all clothing is labelled
clearly with your child's name and class.**

School Bags



School Bags

Whilst we know there are many bags out there, we ask that you provide your child with a school bag **WITHOUT** wheels.



These bags do not fit properly into cubbies, which means they become a safety hazard in the corridors.



Please provide backpacks that fit into the given spaces.

Book Bags

Each week, your child will bring home a reading journal and a library book to enjoy with you. FS2 children will also receive a levelled reading book to support their phonics learning through the Read Write Inc. programme. To help us keep these items safe and organised, we kindly ask that every child brings a labelled book bag to school each day.



A Healthy Lunch

A healthy lunch is crucial for your child's well-being and academic success. It provides essential nutrients and energy, supporting their ability to stay focused, active and engaged throughout the school day.

Each day, children will have a snack time and lunch time. Please ensure these 2 meals are packaged separately if providing food from home. If you would like for your children to have this provided by our in-school catering, please discuss with our EYFS Reception team who will be happy to take orders and answer questions.

It is also essential that our children remain hydrated throughout the day. We provide stations for children to re-fill their water bottle throughout the day. Please ensure their bottle, snack box and lunch bag are all labelled.

Please be aware we are a no nut school.



Dismissal



For the safety and security of all children, dismissal will take place directly from classrooms. The adult collecting your child must present a dismissal card to the duty teachers and security at the gate. Without this card, access will not be granted, and the adult will be asked to leave their QID with security until they exit the premises.

Additional dismissal cards can be issued for nannies and family members who regularly collect your child. If you require extra cards, please speak to the school office. We appreciate your co-operation in helping us maintain a safe and secure environment for all.



Absences

If your child is unwell and will not be coming to school, or if you are going to be late dropping off or picking up, we ask that any last minute/same day notifications regarding student absence, lateness or change in pick-up arrangements are sent via email to **eyfsreception@unitedschool.qa**

Our receptionist will then pass on the information directly to the teacher/relevant staff member.

Illness or Injury at School

We all understand that children will fall over or get hurt at times. This is a normal part of growing up. We have a school nurse and the teaching teams will take the children to the nurse if needed.

If your child falls ill at school, our nursing team will contact you to advise you on next steps and the school's medical guidance.



Please ensure your contact details remain up-to-date with our admissions team.

Toilet Training

At our school, we expect all students to be adequately toilet trained and independent before starting their journey with us. This helps ensure a smooth and positive experience for everyone. If a child experiences more than three accidents within a week, we will kindly ask parents to ensure potty training is fully complete before returning children to school.

We appreciate your understanding and support in helping us maintain a comfortable environment for all students.



Class Reps

Each class will have one parent representative, who will help support communication between the school and families. Class reps play an important role in sharing updates, passing on key information and occasionally helping to organise class events or gatherings.

We will arrange application for interest during the first week of school. If you are interested in getting involved, we would love to hear from you!



Our Curriculum

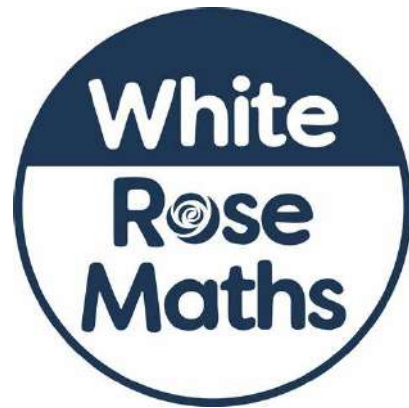
At USI, our EYFS curriculum is designed to support the development of the whole child through engaging, purposeful learning experiences. It is built around the seven areas of learning outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage framework.

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



Our Curriculum

Children take part in daily Read Write Inc. (RWI) phonics sessions to develop early reading and writing skills, alongside English lessons inspired by quality storybooks to build language, comprehension and creativity. We follow the White Rose Maths programme, which supports a deep understanding of number, shape and problem-solving through hands-on, practical activities.



Our curriculum also includes regular opportunities for art, music and language learning, ensuring children receive a broad and balanced experience. In addition, all children enjoy two P.E. sessions each week, delivered by our specialist P.E. teachers, helping to develop coordination, confidence and a love of movement.

Curriculum Support

At USI, we recognise that every child is unique and learns in their own way. We are proud to be a fully inclusive and diverse community, where every child is valued, supported and celebrated. Our experienced teachers and teaching assistants are fully trained to meet a wide range of needs.

- Inclusive support for a wide range of learning needs
- Experienced staff trained in Early Years, SEND and EAL practices.
- Tailored interventions to help every child succeed

By working closely with families, we aim to create a nurturing environment where all children feel confident, capable and ready to thrive.



Meet the Head of EYFS: Mrs. Spencer

As an educational leader with over 13 years of experience in Early Years and Primary education, I hold a BSc in Psychology and Sociology, PGCE and National Professional Qualification for Headship. I have worked as a teacher and leader both in the UK and Qatar. My focus is on building strong foundations for lifelong learning and leading teams to deliver high-quality, inclusive education across Early Years and Key Stage 1.

I lead with collaboration, clarity and care - ensuring children, teachers and families feel supported and inspired. I have led whole-school development initiatives, facilitated teacher training and provided leadership coaching in both the UK and Qatar, championing inclusive practices that put young learners at the heart of every decision.

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my family, travelling and visiting galleries and museums wherever we go. I am passionate about how curiosity can spark a lifelong love of learning - in children and adults. I truly believe that great educators are always learning too.



Meet the Teachers:

FS1A

Miss. Khan & Mrs. Corbett

I am the FS1 Leader and FS1A Class teacher here at USI. I am from London and have a strong background in Early Years, including experience as a Pastoral Lead supporting children's wellbeing and development. I am excited to get to know you all and start a fantastic year together! I love reading, travelling. I have adopted two adorable kittens - Pepper and Rice.



I am from a small town in Scotland, not far from Edinburgh and I have worked in Early Years throughout my entire career. I have extensive experience in both the UK and Qatar. Early years is a true passion of mine, inspired by my mum who owned an Early Years setting.

Meet the Teachers: FS1B

Miss. Shea & Mrs. Baassirir

I have worked in schools both in the UK and here in Qatar and am always excited to begin a new academic year. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my family and my little toy poodle, Millie. I also enjoy going to the theatre and travelling to new places for an adventure. I am excited to meet you all and start a fun year of learning together!



I am originally from Sidon, a beautiful city in Lebanon. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to work in schools across Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and here in Qatar. When I am not in the classroom, I love cooking at home, exploring new places and spending time with my family.

Meet the Teachers: FS1C Miss. Murphy & Mrs. Paner



I am from a small village in Ireland. This is my fourth year teaching in Qatar and I absolutely love living here! I am very passionate about music – I sing and play guitar – and in my spare time, I enjoy running, reading and spending time with my family, making memories exploring new places and experiences.



I am from Sri Lanka and lived in the city of Colombo before moving to Qatar. I have been working in Early Years for over nine years. It is such a joyful and rewarding experience. In my free time, I love spending quality moments with my siblings and family.

Meet the Teachers: FS1D Miss. Inniss & Mrs. Bacqain



I am an experienced Early Years teacher with a real passion for supporting young children as they learn and grow from London. I love going on adventures around the world and in my free time, I enjoy swimming, playing padel, going for walks and getting lost in a good book. I always look forward to welcoming new children and am excited for the year ahead.



I am passionate about supporting young learners as they grow and have been working in Early Years for multiple years. In my free time, I enjoy shopping, travelling and spending quality time with my family. I can't wait to meet you and start a fantastic year together!

Meet the Teachers: FS2A

Miss. Sainsbury & Miss. Magsalin

I am originally from Derry in Northern Ireland and have been teaching in Qatar for the past two years. I have a real passion for Physical Activity and spend much of my free time playing sports. I am very excited to share countless joyful moments with you as we create new memories and grow together. My teaching approach is all about unlocking potential and building futures.



I love working with children, helping them grow in confidence and seeing their progress each day. Outside of school, I enjoy trying new foods, spending time in nature and making memories with my friends.

Meet the Teachers: FS2B

Miss. Fryett & Mrs. Serratore



I am the FS2 Leader and an experienced EYFS teacher from Manchester in the UK. I have spent two years teaching in the UK before moving to Qatar, where I have now been for five wonderful years. Outside of the classroom, I enjoy walking my dog, travelling the world and spending time with my nephews. I am really looking forward to a fun and rewarding year ahead!



I have been working in EYFS for almost nine years here in Qatar and I absolutely love being part of children's early learning journeys. In my free time, I enjoy playing volleyball, going for drives and spending quality time with my lovely family.

Meet the Teachers: FS2C Miss. Chalmers & Mrs. Caparas



I am from a small town on the west coast of Scotland. I have been working in Early Years for 13 years, with experience in schools across Qatar, Thailand and Scotland. Outside of the classroom, I enjoy Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, reading, shopping, travelling and spending time with my dogs. I am looking forward to starting a wonderful year together!



I hold a degree in Psychology and have been teaching Early Years in various schools across Qatar for over four years. I am passionate about creating a nurturing and engaging environment. In my free time, I love baking, cooking and trying out new recipes.

Meet the Teachers: FS2D Mrs. Harding & Mrs. Hyndman



I am an experienced EYFS and Primary teacher currently living in Qatar with my family. I am passionate about early education and love creating a fun and supportive learning environment. Outside of the classroom, I enjoy spending time exploring with my children and making the most of our adventures together. I am looking forward to an exciting year ahead!



I have over 10 years of experience in early years education and as a mother of two young children myself, I am passionate about helping little ones grow and learn in a fun environment. Outside of school, my family and I enjoy travelling and exploring new cultures.

Meet the Teachers: FS2E

Mrs. Weatherhead & Mrs. Dasi

I have been living in Qatar for many years now with my husband and have gained valuable experience teaching in international schools. I love bringing creativity and curiosity into the classroom. I have a real passion for working with children and supporting their growth and development. In my free time, I enjoy relaxing with my lovely cats and making the most of life here in Qatar.



I have been working in Early Years education here in Qatar for 10 years and hold a Bachelor of Education. Outside of work, in my free time I enjoy gardening, painting and spending time with my family.

Meet the Teachers: FS2F

Miss. Anderson & Mrs. Bahar

I am an experienced early years teacher from Scotland. I have a passion for creating nurturing environments and I am very excited to start a new learning journey this academic year. A few things I love include travelling, playing padel, reading a good book, spending time with my family and of course, my wonderful dog, Holly. My favourite flowers are sunflowers and I love gummy bears!



I have been living in Qatar for several years now with my family. I have a genuine love for working with children and feel passionate about supporting their learning every day. I'm looking forward to a wonderful year ahead!

Meet the Teachers: FS2G Mrs. Dean & Mrs. Inoy



I am from Manchester in the UK and have spent many years teaching in both EYFS and Primary, with experience in schools across the UK, Kuwait and Qatar. In the classroom, I love drawing and reading stories with the children. Outside of school, I enjoy spending quality time with my son, Zayden. I am very excited to meet you all and welcome you into your new class - we are going to have a fantastic year together!



I am an experienced early years practitioner and have worked in schools in Qatar for 13 years. I love travelling with my family, gardening, painting, singing and dancing. I am very much looking forward to a fun and meaningful year ahead.

Meet the Teachers: EYFS Mrs. Nolan & Ms. Smith

I am an experienced teacher from Enniskillen, Northern Ireland and have been teaching Primary and Early Years for over 10 years. I studied Primary Education with a Literacy specialism at Edge Hill University in Liverpool. Doha has been my home for the past six years. I love travelling, spending time with family and friends and visiting the duck pond on The Pearl with my son.



I was born in and went to university in London, where I began my teaching career before I moved to Qatar. My favourite book is 'Hands Up' by Breanna McDaniel and I love sharing this in class. I love to travel to different countries and do sporty activities. I am looking forward to working with the children and families in EYFS.



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