



**FS1**

## **A School Start & Transition Guide**

Dear Parents, families and children,

Firstly a HUGE welcome to our USI Early Years community. We are happy that you have chosen our Early Years Setting for your child and we are excited to start the new school year with you. Before we start our new school year journey, the teaching teams have a summer break. This is a time to rest and refresh in preparation for the new school year. I know the teaching teams are looking forward to getting to know you and your child and to ensure a smooth transition I would like to use this letter to communicate some key pieces of information.

**Please read the below information carefully.**

### **New Class**

Please find attached the **Class Poster** with information on the teacher, teaching assistant and class name. Please also find attached a **Meet the Teacher Poster** with more information about your new class teacher. Please spend time with your child looking at both these posters.

### **Transition**

We will have a settling in period for the new school year. Transition is really important, we want to make sure that the children feel settled and secure in the environment. We also want to allow time for the children to build relationships with the teaching team and not get over tired with everything new happening around them.

We understand that every child is unique and will manage this transition in different ways. Some children will walk in and have no problems settling and others will need time and even some gentle persuasion to separate, there may also be tears and upset. Our teaching teams are experienced and understand the needs of children. They will work closely with you to ensure the best possible outcomes for all the children (and parents!).

To support the transition into the new environment we will have a strict transition timetable for the first few weeks of school. Please see below for the guidelines:

## The Transition Timetable

Day	Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> August	Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> August	Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> August	Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> August
Timings	First Day at School Introduction Day 8:00-10:00	8:00- 11:00	8:00- 11:00	8:00- 11:00	8:00- 11:30
What to bring...		Healthy and easy to eat snack	Healthy and easy to eat snack	Healthy and easy to eat snack	Snack and Lunch (keep these separated)
Day	Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> September
Timings	8:00- 11:30	8:00- 12:30	8:00- 12:30	8:00- 12:30	8:00- 12:30
What to bring...	Snack and Lunch (keep these separated)	Snack and Lunch (keep these separated)	Snack and Lunch (keep these separated)	Snack and Lunch (keep these separated)	Snack and Lunch (keep these separated)

### From Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September

7:00-7:30 Early Drop Off in the Early Years Courtyard

7:30-7:55 Drop off to classrooms – **families welcome into the classroom between 7:30-7:55**

7:55-8:00 Parents and families leave and doors close

**8:00 Register Closes for Start of the Day**

8:00-12:30 School Day including snack time and lunch time

**12:30 FS1 Collection \***

**\*Following the two week transition timetable, the class teacher will work with you and your child on the right time to extend the day to a 13:45 collection.**

## **Q&A** Some frequently asked questions and answers.

### **What does my child need to bring to school?**

- Water bottle (with child name and class)
- Change of clothes and spare underwear (labelled with child name and class)
- Snack/Lunch (please keep these separate, we are a NO NUT school)

### **What should I bring for snack and lunch?**

- Please see our Healthy Eating Poster - Healthy eating is promoted
- No sweets/candy/chocolate
- No nuts or foods which may contain nuts
- Foods that are easy to eat (children will be expected to feed themselves)
- Food will not be heated up
- Snack and Lunch in separate lunch boxes/bags

### **What if my child is sick or needs to be absent?**

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](mailto:eyfsreception@unitedschool.qa) Teachers may not be able to access emails until after the school day has finished. Our receptionist will then pass on the information directly to the teacher/relevant staff member.

### **What can I do when it is my child's birthday?**

We understand at this age that birthdays are an important event in your child's life. If your child has their birthday on a school day, then we will make sure the day is special for them. Your child can wear a birthday outfit to school and if you want your child can bring in a gift for the class, we suggest a book to share and then keep in the classroom. In Early Years we promote healthy eating and families have a variety of opinions on this subject. It is for this reason that we do not allow cake to be brought in.

### **When will my child start swimming?**

Swimming for FS1 children will start after the half term break, the week beginning 29<sup>th</sup> October. More information will follow. FS2 will start swimming after the first few weeks, your teaching teams will let you know when this will start.

### **Can my child join the After School Activity (ASA) programme?**

For our FS1 children we recommend that they spend time settling into the routines of the school day before extending their day with the ASA programme. From Term 2 (January) there will be optional ASA provision for our FS1 children. This will run between 14:00-15:00 and is run by external providers.

### **What should my child wear to school?**

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 P.E. and swimming 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!).

### **What footwear should my child wear?**

It is important for children to have comfortable footwear that enables them to move. We recommend black or white trainers or black school shoes. We encourage children to take their shoes off at times as this helps children orient their bodies and develop skills like balance and coordination. Shoes need to be easy to take off and put on by the children themselves.

## How will my child be supported at school?

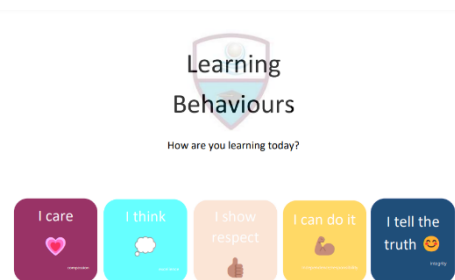
We expect a level of independence for our children. Children need to be toilet trained and need to be able to feed themselves. Adults will be there to support but we encourage children to complete these tasks on their own. Please encourage independence at home to support this. **If your child is not yet fully toilet trained then you need to speak to our admissions team as we may need to delay their start to school.**

## How do you manage behaviour in school?

We understand that all behaviour is a form of communication, and we believe in the importance of knowing the child well in order to meet their individual needs. It is important to talk to children about feelings and allow them to reflect on their own behaviour.

We promote positive behaviour by using targeted praise and celebrating our five key learning behaviours.

- I care
- I think
- I show respect
- I can do it
- I tell the truth



## What happens if my child gets hurt at school?

We 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. Children may also get hurt by other children and the teaching teams will manage this through positive behaviour management and talking through the situation with those involved. For more serious injuries or incidents parents will be contacted.

## How will I know what is happening at school?

We use Class Dojo to send photos and updates, please make sure you check this regularly. You can download the APP on your phone. In addition to Class Dojo the teachers document the learning in the classroom using display and learning books. There will be regular opportunities to come into the classroom to view the documentation. We will also have regular exhibitions of the learning in our Early Years reception area.

In addition, we will hold regular parent workshops so that you can come in and play. This will enable you to explore the learning and environment to better understand what your child is experiencing every day.

## Toys

Our environments are set up with a wide variety of resources for the children to use and play with. We do not allow children to bring in toys from home. Anything in our classrooms needs to be for all our children to use. Children also get upset if their toy gets lost or broken. If a child brings in a toy from home the teacher will keep it in a box until the end of the day.

## Any other questions...

We are always happy to help, please don't hesitate to contact our Early Years Team to ask us your questions, we like questions.