



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 1 / 2023-24

19th August 2023

WELCOME TO 2023/24 – FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 7:45 MONDAY 21st AUGUST

The inspirations of summer travels soon turn into the joy of children's voices and excited greetings as we return to school. Each new year brings over 100 new students, as families come and go, a few new teachers arrive, and a few more classrooms to explore.

We eagerly await you on Monday, August 21st, with students arriving between 7:40 and 8:00 am, including those who come by school bus.

All Homeroom Teachers, Co-Teachers and Form Teachers will be waiting outside on the basketball court with a sign for their class, so that children can meet up with their class group. At 8:00 we will have a brief welcome, then students are taken to their Homeroom or Form class.

The Parents Association will have coffee and snacks for anyone who would like to stay and chat after their children have gone inside.

Each class should have an email from their Homeroom or Form Teacher, providing timetables and essential information for the first week. [More information for new families is here.](#) Staff profiles for all staff will be sent out with Voices at the end of the first week.

As teachers will be busy with students on Monday, you can **'Meet the Teachers' on Friday 25th August from 15:30 to 16:30** to see your child's classroom, and meet Homeroom & Co-Teachers, and Form Teachers. This is an opportunity to ask any questions, and learn more about educational programmes and the BIS community.

Let's work together to make 2023/24 a wonderful year of learning for all of our children!

David Grant, Head of School



WELCOME BACK TEACHERS!

We are excited to welcome our teaching staff back to school on August 14! Our dedicated educators are stepping into their roles as mentors, guides, and knowledge facilitators.

During this special week, our teachers dive into team-building, professional growth, and curriculum planning.

The event featured new educator introductions, school updates, workshops designed to enhance teaching methodologies and foster a collaborative learning environment.

Our educators have been actively participating in professional development and putting the finishing touches on their classrooms.

Get ready for a year of discovery, growth, and endless inspiration!



STAFF PROFILES

As an international school we always have some turnover in both students and staff every summer as people move elsewhere and we welcome several new staff this summer. These team members bring with them a diverse skill set and an abundance of experience. Photos and bios of all the staff will be available on our website soon. In the meantime, you can see the team in our group picture below! From the next edition of Voices, there will also be a feature called 'New Faces of BIS' where, each week, you will get to know a new member of the team in more detail.



NEW PARENTS MEETING

As we embarked on yet another promising academic year, we extended a warm welcome to all our new parents who joined us. Held on this Thursday, this event offered a good opportunity for new parents to connect with one another and with the Homeroom/Form teachers. Parents were also introduced to our curriculum, extracurricular offerings, events, school traditions and protocols.

We're absolutely thrilled to have you on board for an incredible journey of learning, growth, and endless possibilities. Our dedicated teachers and staff are here to share experiences, answer questions, and make this transition as smooth as possible.

We are looking forward to a year filled with memorable moments and boundless opportunities.



ECA AND MUSIC ACADEMY TERM 1 SIGN-UP

ECAs and Music Academy lessons start on Monday, 28th August, and finish on Friday, 13th October.

ECA and Music Academy Sign-up start on SchoolsBuddy on Wednesday, 23rd August and finish on Friday, 25th August.

All information regarding ECA and Music Academy including the ECA list for Term 1 will be sent out to the BIS community on Monday, 21st August.

Thursday 31st August is a public holiday and school will not be open on that day. Normal school (including ECAs) will resume on Friday 1st September.

ECA sign-up will be a preference-system, meaning that parents will select first, second and third choice for each child on each day, and the system will automatically allocate ECAs fairly and objectively to each student based on preferences and the number of spaces available. This means that there is no need to rush to sign up as soon as it opens, meaning it is a much more convenient process for you.

Music Academy sign-up will be on a first-come-first-serve basis, so in order to have the best chance to sign up for lessons which are convenient for you, please sign up as soon as possible after sign-up opens.



“Meet the Teachers”

Friday 25th August 2023 15:30-16:30

All parents and guardians are invited to attend.

Students may be in the playground from 15:30 - 16:30

<p>BIS News for 23/24 Small Hall - 2nd floor</p> <p>5-minute presentation repeated twice in English and twice in Russian</p> <p>Topics: Buses, ECAs, Food, ManageBac, Schoolsbuddy, Coordinator Contacts, Q&A</p> <p>15:35 (English) 15:50 (Russian) 16:05 (English) 16:20 (Russian)</p>	<p>Preschool & Primary Homeroom drop-in</p> <table><tr><td>Preschool:</td><td>Green House</td></tr><tr><td>Grade 0:</td><td>1st floor west</td></tr><tr><td>Grade 1:</td><td>1st floor north west</td></tr><tr><td>Grade 2:</td><td>1st floor south west</td></tr><tr><td>Grade 3:</td><td>2nd floor south west</td></tr><tr><td>Grade 4:</td><td>2nd floor south east</td></tr><tr><td>Grade 5:</td><td>2nd floor north west</td></tr></table> <p>Drop-in at any time 15:30 - 16:30</p>	Preschool:	Green House	Grade 0:	1st floor west	Grade 1:	1st floor north west	Grade 2:	1st floor south west	Grade 3:	2nd floor south west	Grade 4:	2nd floor south east	Grade 5:	2nd floor north west
Preschool:	Green House														
Grade 0:	1st floor west														
Grade 1:	1st floor north west														
Grade 2:	1st floor south west														
Grade 3:	2nd floor south west														
Grade 4:	2nd floor south east														
Grade 5:	2nd floor north west														
<p>Specialist Teachers & Middle/High Form Teachers drop-in Big Hall - 3rd floor</p> <p>Math, English, Languages, Science, Individuals & Societies, Music, Arts, Sports, Learning Diversity, Inclusion & Counselling, Middle & High Form Teachers</p> <p>Drop-in at any time 15:30 - 16:30</p>	<p>Drinks & Snacks for Parents & Guardians</p> <p>School Café Visit at any time 15:30 - 16:30</p> <p>Parents are also invited to walk around the whole school, including the Creative Arts Centre and new classrooms</p>														
<p>Helpdesks & Info Stands in the Cafe</p> <p>ManageBac/SchoolsBuddy University & Career Counselling ECAs and Music Academy School Buses</p>															

SCHOOL BUS



School buses operate from Monday August 21st.

If you have not already signed up for a school bus, contact Burmakan Birnazarova as soon as possible bbirnazarova@bis.kg

Morning buses arrive at the school around 7:45. Afternoon buses leave at 15:20 and 16:40. Please make clear which afternoon bus option you require.

The bus costs 150 som per journey.

ARRIVING BY CAR



If you deliver children to school by car, please avoid congestion near the school gates.

Entry to the drop-off area for school buses is only allowed for cars with Preschool and Grade 0-1 students as space is very limited.

Please follow directions from our security guards to keep the area around school safe for children!

LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for August 21st to August 25th is **Menu A**.

You can view the [School menu](#) on our school website.

Form Teachers and our Chef are responsible for adjusting this menu to avoid any foods your child cannot eat, according to the information provided to us by you.

UPCOMING EVENTS – 2023/24 Calendar is [here](#)

- **21st August, Monday: First Day of School**
- 25th August, Friday: Meet the Teachers
- **31st August, Thursday: Independence Day - Public Holiday (no school)**
- Friday, 8th September: All Parents Meeting – Parents Association
- Saturday, 16th September: Asia Day Festival
- Friday, 22nd September: Sports Day in Spartak Stadium: Grade 4 to 12
- Friday, 6th October – Saturday, 7th October: CAFA Cross Country (Bishkek, Karagach Park)
- Wednesday, 11th October: Individual Parents-Teacher Meetings
- 16-20 October: Autumn/Fall Break
- Tuesday, 24th October: UN Day at BIS
- Tuesday, 31st October: Fall Festival/Halloween

KEEP IN TOUCH

If you have anything you want to discuss or suggestions for the school, please contact your child's Homeroom or Form Teacher and they will either answer directly or pass the message on to the right person. Messages can be sent in English or Russian, or in your own language. If you do not know the correct email address for the person you want to write to, please write to info@bis.kg and our Reception will forward your email to the right person. Homeroom and Form Teachers for 2023/24 are given below:

Form Class	Homeroom & Co-Teachers	Emails
Preschool 1	Guldana Muratalieva & Laura Meliou	gmuratalieva@bis.kg ; lmeloliu@bis.kg
Preschool 2	Nuraida Asanbaeva & Zharkyn Osmonbaeva	lasanbaeva@bis.kg ; joskonbaeva@bis.kg
Preschool 3 Blue	Bivo Chongo & Kudrat Niyazov & Nurzat Osmonova	bchongo@bis.kg ; kniazov@bis.kg ; nosmonova@bis.kg
Preschool 3 Yellow	Carmen Prinsloo & Gulya Junusheva & Nurzat Osmonova	cprinsloo@bis.kg ; kjunusheva@bis.kg ; nosmonova@bis.kg
Grade 0 Blue	Paul Fahidi & Nargiza Zhusupova	pfahidi@bis.kg ; nzhusupova@bis.kg
Grade 0 Yellow	Altnai Isabekova & Gulsara Sheraly kyzy	aisabekova@bis.kg ; gsheralykyzy@bis.kg
Grade 1 Blue	Nelia Mwanza & Zhyldyz Zhikanova	nmwanza@bis.kg ; zhzhikanova@bis.kg
Grade 1 Yellow	Begimai Keneshbekova & Rabiia Erkulova	bkeneshbekova@bis.kg ; rerkulova@bis.kg
Grade 2 Blue	Morgan Chadderton & Kanykei Tursunalieva	mchadderton@bis.kg ; ktursunalieva@bis.kg
Grade 2 Yellow	Oksana Chichilova & Aike Uralieva	ochichilova@bis.kg ; auralieva@bis.kg
Grade 3 Blue	Brenda Wamboi & Deniz Karybaeva	bwamboi@bis.kg ; dkarybaeva@bis.kg
Grade 3 Yellow	Genevieve Maser & Meikina Kuldanbaeva	gmaser@bis.kg ; mkuldanbaeva@bis.kg
Grade 4 Blue	Shelly King & Meerim Tashtanova	sking@bis.kg ; mtashtanova@bis.kg
Grade 4 Yellow	Ana Marie Alcalá & Aigerim Zhumabayeva	aalcala@bis.kg ; azhumabayeva@bis.kg
Grade 5 Blue	Rona Butler & Roza Amanbekova	rbutler@bis.kg ; ramanbekova@bis.kg
Grade 5 Yellow	Rebecca Peters & Meerim Aitieva	rpeters@bis.kg ; maitieva@bis.kg

Form Class	Co-Form Teachers	Emails
Grade 6	Marc Garreta & Adele Antheunissens	mgarreta@bis.kg ; aantheunissens@bis.kg
Grade 7	Asel Orunbekova & Daniel Cullington	aorunbekova@bis.kg ; dcullington@bis.kg
Grade 8	Gulbara Akunova & Stephen Labanowich	gakunova@bis.kg ; slabanowich@bis.kg
Grade 9	Aigul Sakieva & Aleksander Sheyerman	asakieva@bis.kg ; asheyerman@bis.kg
Grade 10	Nadia El Aoud & Ray Benton- Evans	nelaoud@bis.kg ; revans@bis.kg
Grade 11	Andrew Wheeler & Lailo Yousoup-Akhounova	awheeler@bis.kg ; lyousoup@bis.kg
Grade 12	Helene Fick & Jan Scott	hfick@bis.kg ; jscott@bis.kg

To contact Management Board members:

- David Grant, Head of School, Primary School Principal dgrant@bis.kg
- Mirzat Osmonova, Head of Administration, Deputy Head of School mosmonova@bis.kg
- Jacques Prinsloo, High School Principal, Deputy Head of School jprinsloo@bis.kg
- Laura Kircough, Middle School Principal lkircough@bis.kg

WHATSAPP & TELEGRAM

Most school communication is sent by email or in Voices. We also have Telegram and WhatsApp broadcast channels to repeat general email messages. The same info is on WhatsApp and Telegram, and on both English and Russian channels. If you do not check emails, join the channel that is easiest for you to follow.



[BIS news \(Eng\)](#) OR [BIS новости \(Рус\)](#)



[BIS news \(Eng\)](#) OR [BIS новости \(Рус\)](#)

FIND US ON THE WEB



BIS website - www.bis.kg

BAILANYSH NEWS

Connecting the BIS Community

www.bailanysh.com



BIS Instagram - [@bis.kg](#)



BIS Alumni Association - [@bis_alumni](#)



BIS Facebook - facebook.com/biskgz



Act for Community - [@actcom.bis](#)



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