



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 1 / 2022-23

20th August 2022

WELCOME TO 2022/23 – FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 7:45 MONDAY 22nd AUGUST

With excitement, all BIS staff await your return to school on Monday. We wish to hear the sounds of joy and laughter in the classrooms, corridors and playgrounds again as we all return to learning. 100 new students will join 280 returning students. We also have several new staff in our team so we all have new people to meet! New buildings also await you, with a new Preschool, new Grade 0 classrooms and a Primary Gym.



Each class has received emails 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.

On Monday 22nd, all students should arrive between 7:45 and 8:00 am. 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. Parents can go into the café before 8:00 for coffee and snacks. At 8:00 we will have a brief welcome, then students are taken to their Homeroom or Form class. After 8:00 the Parents Association provides coffee and snacks for any parents who would like to stay and chat.

As teachers will all be busy with students on Monday, you can **'Meet the Teachers' on Friday 27th 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.

I look forward to working with all of you over the next year to make 2022/23 a great success for all of our children!

David Grant, Head of School



Jacques Prinsloo, High School Principal & Deputy Head of School

Dear BIS community. My name is Jacques, and I will be both the High School Principal for Grades 9-12 and Deputy Head of School for Academics. This will be my sixth year at BIS and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday morning for the start of the new academic year!



Mirzat Osmonova, Head of Administration & Deputy Head of School

This summer has been busy with new buildings, enrolment and recruitment. Now we are ready to welcome everyone back! We look forward to the new school year, full of joy and student achievement, and working together with the whole community to make it our best year yet!

Laura Kircough, Middle School Principal



Hello! My name is Laura and I can't quite believe that this is my third year here at BIS! I have enjoyed various roles while I have been here, and I am very happy to be the Middle School Principal this year. There is a great team of teachers in place to inspire the students, and I feel privileged to be part of it. I know that the Middle School students have a vast range of skills and talents, and I look forward to getting to know them over the coming weeks and months. I'm also excited to help the school as it continues to expand, and I look forward to being part of its future growth and development.

Gill Mcguigan, Primary School Principal



Hello. I'm honoured to introduce myself as the Primary School Principal, for my second year with BIS. I look forward to working with all the students in our care throughout Primary and Preschool, and their parents and guardians. I will be working in partnership with Ms Carmen for Preschool, and Ms Alica for the overall PYP Curriculum.

**ECA AND MUSIC
ACADEMY TERM 1 SIGN-UP**

ECAs and Music Academy lessons start on Monday, 29th August, and finish on Friday, 14th October.

ECA and Music Academy Sign-up start on SchoolsBuddy on **Wednesday, 24th August** and finish on **Friday, 26th 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, 22nd August**.

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.

**PARENTS' WELCOME
COFFEE**



The Parents Association will be starting the academic year with a welcome coffee at school! They are looking forward to meeting returning members of the community and greeting new parents.

- 22nd August, Monday
- 08:15–09:15
- School Playground

SCHOOL BUS

From Monday 22nd August we have 9 school busses running every morning to arrive at school by 7:45 and leaving school in the afternoon at 15:20 and 16:40.

Some buses still have spaces, so if you are interested in using the bus, contact Burmakan Birnazarova bbirnazarova@bis.kg for more information.

The bus costs 100 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 22nd to August 27th is **Menu B**.

You can view both [Preschool Menu Primary school & Secondary 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 (See the school calendar [here](#))

- 22nd August, Monday: **First Day of School!**
- 22nd August, Monday: PAMC Coffee Hour (08:15-09:15 – School Playground)
- 26th August, Friday: Meet the Teachers (15:30 – 16:30)
- 31st August, Wednesday: **Independence Day (No School)**
- 9th September, Friday: All Parents Meeting (PAMC) – all parents invited
- 17th September, Saturday: Asia Day – Open Day – everyone invited
- 23rd September, Friday: Middle & High School Sports Day (Spartak Stadium)
- 6th October, Thursday – 9th October, Sunday: Cross Country, CAFA Tournament, Bishkek
- 12th October, Wednesday: Parent Teacher Meetings
- 14th October, Friday: UN Day at BIS
- 17th – 21st October, Monday-Friday: **Autumn/Fall break (No School)**

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 2022/23 are given below:

| Form Class | Homeroom & Co-Teachers | Emails |
|----------------|---|--|
| Preschool 1 | Tinatin Oskombaeva & Nurzat Rayymbekova | toskombaeva@bis.kg ; nosmonova@bis.kg |
| Preschool 2 | Dinara Salieva (interim) & Nargiza Zhusupova & Zharkyn Oskonbaeva | dsalieva@bis.kg ; nzhusupova@bis.kg ; joskonbaeva@bis.kg |
| Preschool 3 | Carmen Prinsloo & Kulkaiyr Junusheva & Aike Uralieva | cprinsloo@bis.kg ; kjunusheva@bis.kg ; auralieva@bis.kg |
| Grade 0 | Altynai Isabekova & Zhazgul Omorova | aisabekova@bis.kg ; zhomorova@bis.kg |
| Grade 1 Yellow | Maria Corbett & Diana Kurbanova | mcorbett@bis.kg ; dkurbanova@bis.kg |
| Grade 1 Blue | Begimai Keneshbekova & Guldana Muratalieva | bkeneshbekova@bis.kg ; gmuratalieva@bis.kg |
| Grade 2 Yellow | Oksana Chichilova & Karina Bekeshova | ochichilova@bis.kg ; kbekeshova@bis.kg |
| Grade 2 Blue | Morgan Chadderton & Aiperi Zhyrgalbekova | mchadderton@bis.kg ; azhyrgalbekova@bis.kg |
| Grade 3 Yellow | Alicia Grinsteinner (interim) & Eva David | agrinsteinner@bis.kg ; edavid@bis.kg |
| Grade 3 Blue | Michaela Kilbride & Erkinai Abdiakhat kyzy | mkilbride@bis.kg ; eabdiakhatkyzy@bis.kg |
| Grade 4 Yellow | Shelley King & Emima Amankulova | sking@bis.kg ; eamankulova@bis.kg |
| Grade 4 Blue | Ana Maria Alcalá & Aisedep Syrgakova | aalcala@bis.kg ; asyrgakova@bis.kg |
| Grade 5 Yellow | Rebecca Peters & Tansuluu Kachkynbaeva | rpeters@bis.kg ; tkachkynbaeva@bis.kg |
| Grade 5 Blue | Rona Butler & Nuraida Asanbaeva | rbutler@bis.kg ; nanasbaeva@bis.kg |

| Form Class | Co-Form Teachers | Emails |
|------------|---|---|
| Grade 6 | Asel Orunbekova & Marc Garreta | aorunbekova@bis.kg ; mgarreta@bis.kg |
| Grade 7 | Dannelle Dela Cruz & Esentur Dildebekov | dcruz@bis.kg ; edildebekov@bis.kg |
| Grade 8 | Gulbara Akunova & David Lien | gakunova@bis.kg ; dlien@bis.kg |
| Grade 9 | Tulay Yavuz & Helene Fick | tyavuz@bis.kg ; hfick@bis.kg |
| Grade 10 | Nadia El Aoud & Ray Benton- Evans | nelaoud@bis.kg ; revans@bis.kg |
| Grade 11 | Jan Scott & Colin Mackay | jscott@bis.kg ; cmackay@bis.kg |
| Grade 12 | Valeria Totolina & Andrew Wheeler | vtotolina@bis.kg ; awheeler@bis.kg |

To contact Management Board members:

- David Grant, Head of School 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
- Gillian McGuigan, Primary School Principal, gmcguigan@bis.kg