

Bishkek International School

PYP HOMEROOM TEAM 2024/25

Grade 5 Yellow - Homeroom Teacher

Natalie Small



Ms Natalie is from Panama, though her childhood years were spent in the USA. She has an English teaching degree and over 7 years' experience teaching from Preschool to 9th Grade. Ms Natalie also has a Neuroscience Capacitation Program Certification from the Clinic of Neuropsychology in Panama as well as the 'Leader in Me' Program Implementation Diploma. Throughout her career, Ms Natalie has participated and organized educationally centered community service for impoverished youths and special needs children. Ms Natalie joined the BIS team in summer 2024.

Grade 5 Yellow Co-Teacher & ELA Teacher

Sezim Tologonova



Ms Sezim graduated from Kyrgyz Russian Slavic University with a Bachelor's degree in English linguistics. Ms Sezim has experience in teaching English to local students and Russian as a foreign language for international students. She worked in various language schools in Bishkek, gaining experience working with different age groups of students. She joined the BIS team in the autumn of 2023.

Grade 5 Blue - Homeroom Teacher

Rona Butler



Ms Rona graduated from the UCLA with a degree in Political Science, and later trained as a teacher. She has worked in South Korea as both an English language teacher and for 10 years as a teacher trainer for the Seoul Metropolitan Education Training Institute. During that time, she completed her Post Graduate Diploma at the University of Birmingham. After leaving South Korea, Ms Rona taught primary students in a research center for autism at Youngstown State University, Ohio. Ms Rona joined BIS as a Homeroom Teacher in summer 2018.

Grade 5 Blue Co-Teacher

Zharkynai Ilebaeva



Ms Zharkynai graduated from the Kyrgyz-Turkish University, Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality. After graduation she worked in various international schools and English Language Learning Center. Ms. Zharkynai joined the BIS team in summer 2023.

Grade 4 Yellow – Homeroom Teacher



Ana Marie Alcala

Ms Ana Marie obtained a bachelor's degree in Biology and a teaching certificate in Special Education in the Philippines. In addition, she has a certificate in teaching English as a foreign Language from TEFL-C Teachers College, Columbia University. She has taught in primary schools in the Philippines, Tajikistan, China, Latvia and Tanzania before joining BIS in summer 2022. Ms Ana Marie is committed to maximizing individual student performance, inspiring student's interest in learning and instilling a sense of self-worth among students.

Grade 4 Yellow Co-Teacher



Aizirek Dzhakypbekova

Ms Aizirek graduated from Debrecen University in Hungary with a degree in American Studies and American Literature. She previously earned her BA in English Teaching in Kazakhstan. Aizirek has worked both onsite and remotely in Kazakhstan and has participated in several education-related volunteer projects in Kyrgyzstan. Additionally, she served as an English instructor in Poland, where she worked with Polish students and co-authored a book published by Debrecen University. Aizirek enjoys exploring the world and believes in the power of education. She joined the BIS team in August 2024.

Grade 4 Blue - Homeroom Teacher



Daniel Bilog

Mr. Daniel is a dedicated educator with 12 years of teaching experience, including 9 years in international schools. A graduate of the Bachelor of Elementary Education program at the Philippine Normal University, he also studied at Gwangju National University of Education in South Korea as part of a student exchange program. He has pursued further education, completing coursework toward a Master of Arts in Education, majoring in Curriculum, Instruction and Educational Management. He joined BIS in summer 2024 and is committed to fostering student growth, continually seeking to bring a thoughtful and global perspective to his teaching.

Grade 4 Blue Co-Teacher



Gulmira Sabyrbekova

Ms Gulmira graduated from Bishkek State University with a Master's degree in English Language Philological Education. Ms Gulmira has experience working in English with local students and Russian as a foreign language for international students. She worked at two universities in Bishkek, gaining experience working with different groups of students. She joined the BIS team in spring 2024.

Grade 3 Yellow - Homeroom Teacher



Genevieve Maser

Ms Genevieve has taught in Quebec, Russia, and Uzbekistan. She speaks both English and French, and practices her Russian whenever possible. She has a BA, an MA, and a CELTA from Canada, as well as a Teaching degree from the United States. She is currently completing her Masters of Education degree in Gifted and Talented Education. In her free time, Genevieve likes to study the natural world of plants and animals with her daughter. Ms Genevieve joined the BIS team in summer 2023.

Grade 3 Yellow Co-Teacher & Spanish Teacher



Tilekбек Niiazaliev

Mr Tilek holds a Master's degree in Human Rights, Peace, and Sustainable Development from the University of Valencia, and a Bachelor's in Linguistics from Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University. Mr Tilek likes to learn Romance languages and can speak Spanish, Italian, and French. He joined the BIS team in August 2024.

Grade 3 Blue - Homeroom Teacher



Michaela Saber

Ms Michaela has taught in South Africa and Saudi Arabia. She has a Bachelor of Education in Foundation Phase Teaching from the University of South Africa. She believes all learners are capable of success when given the voice, choice, and ownership of their learning. Ms. Michaela's time spent living and studying abroad has strengthened her commitment to providing quality education. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, engaging in do-it-yourself projects, and baking. Ms Michaela joined the BIS team in August 2024.

Grade 3 Blue Co-Teacher & Russian Teacher



Deniz Karybaeva

Ms Deniz graduated from the Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University, philology faculty, as teacher of Russian language and literature. She initially worked as Russian teacher in Novo-Pokrovka school and realized that teaching is very responsible and noble as the education and upbringing of the younger generation is a huge contribution to the development of both the country and all of humanity. Ms Deniz joined the BIS team in summer 2023.

Grade 2 Yellow - Homeroom Teacher

Oksana Chichilova



Ms Oksana studied the theory and practice of intercultural communication at the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University and has a bachelor honours degree in Linguistics and a British Council certificate of 'Language Learning and Development in Early Childhood'. Ms Oksana joined the BIS team in summer 2016 and received UK Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) in June 2021. She became a Homeroom Teacher for Grade 2 in summer 2021 and continues in this role today. Ms Oksana enjoys working with children and believes that not only do children learn from their teachers but that teachers also learn new things from their students every day.

Grade 2 Yellow Co-Teacher

Aike Uralieva



Ms Aike graduated from the Kyrgyz National University with a degree in interpretation/translation. She worked as an English teacher in an education center and taught in different schools. She loves working with children helping them to grow and supporting them. Her goals in teaching are to get students interested and excited about class, inspire them to look forward to learning, and to have fun in class. Ms Aike joined the BIS team in summer 2022.

Grade 2 Blue - Homeroom Teacher

Morgan Chadderton



Ms Morgan graduated from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County with a B.A. in Modern Languages, Linguistics, and Intercultural Communication. After graduation, she spent a year as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant at Kyrgyz State Technical University in Bishkek. She has been teaching early primary students for the past four years. In her free time, she is usually studying languages, petting dogs, or baking. Ms. Morgan joined the BIS team in summer 2022.

Grade 2 Blue Co-Teacher

Kanykei Tursunaliyeva



Ms Kanykei graduated from Ala Too International University with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary School Teaching. After graduation she has worked in different international schools in Bishkek, before joining the BIS team in summer 2022.

Grade 1 Yellow - Homeroom Teacher



Begimai Keneshbekova

Ms Begimai graduated from the Bishkek Humanities University, and worked as an English teacher in state secondary schools before joining BIS in June 2016. Ms Begimai has excelled in various roles at BIS and received UK Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) in June 2021. She has been a Homeroom Teacher since summer 2019 became a Grade 1 Homeroom Teacher in summer 2022, where she continues to inspire students every day. Ms Begimai very much enjoys working with children and is constantly focused on improving the educational experience of our students.

Grade 1 Yellow Co-Teacher



Rabiia Erkulova

Ms Rabiia graduated from the Bishkek State University, Faculty of European Civilizations, as a Linguist-translator. While studying she also worked as a private English tutor and helped children with their homework. Ms Rabiia loves working with children and finds a good common language with them. She also has work experience in Germany via the "FerienJob" program. Ms Rabiia joined the BIS team in summer 2023.

Grade 1 Blue - Homeroom Teacher



Nelia Chisenga Mwanza

Ms Nelia has a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education having majored in English and History, as well as a Teaching Diploma. She has been teaching primary students for the past 5 years, having taught in her home country Zambia, and Kyrgyzstan. She loves working with children and believes that being a teacher is an opportunity to make a positive impact on young minds and help shape their educational journey. Ms. Nelia joined the BIS team in summer 2023.

Grade 1 Blue Co-Teacher



Begaiym Djumaeva

Ms Begaiym graduated from the Kyrgyz State University with pedagogical education, including sign language pedagogy, and a psychology in special institutions. After graduation, Ms Begaiym worked in the educational sphere for more than 15 years. She also attended JICA training in Japan for young leaders, and has a certificate in "Early Childhood Education" from the 'Taiwan Foundation for Children and Families'. Before joining BIS in summer 2023, Ms Begaiym was a project manager at the Taiwan foundation for families and children.

Grade 0 Yellow - Homeroom Teacher



Peiyang Lin

Ms. Lin is a U.S. certified Early Childhood Educator who is multilingual and holds dual bachelor's degrees in different subjects. Before joining BIS, she worked in an IB accredited international school in China for 4 years. Ms Lin is also a certified yoga teacher, and she is interested in social emotional wellbeing, growth mindset and building an inclusive learning environment in the classroom. In her own time, she enjoys doing yoga, biking and exploring different cafes.

Grade 0 Yellow Co-Teacher



Karina Bolotkanova

Ms Karina graduated from Bishkek Humanities University, Faculty of European Civilization, majoring as an English Teacher. Prior to joining BIS in 2021 she taught in public schools in Bishkek. Ms Karina likes teaching and watching the children develop. Ms Karina returned to BIS in summer 2023 following maternity leave.

Grade 0 Blue - Homeroom Teacher



Paul Fahede

Mr Paul has a Bachelor of Arts in History, as well as a PGCE from the University of Leeds. He also has a TEFL qualification from the University of Liverpool and a Masters in Education with an emphasis on Special Educational Needs from Liverpool John Moores University. Mr. Paul has taught in his home country of the United Kingdom as well as internationally in Canada, Mongolia, Japan and Malaysia. Mr Paul joined the BIS team in summer 2022 and is thrilled to be part of the BIS community.

Grade 0 Blue Co-Teacher



Nargiza Zhusupova

Ms Nargiza graduated from Bishkek Humanities University, Faculty of European Civilization, as an English teacher. She has worked as a guide translator for tourists from all over the world, and also worked as a project specialist in NGO "Kyrgyz Association of Forest and Land Users". She really enjoys playing with children and wants to develop in the field of education. She spends her free time reading books by Maria Montessori. Ms Nargiza joined the BIS team in March 2022.

Preschool 3 Homeroom Teacher



Bivo Chongo

Ms Bivo has a Bachelor's degree in Medicine and specializes in paediatrics. She has 5 years of teaching experience 3 years of which were in China and two years in Bishkek, she has taught preschool and primary levels and she has enjoyed it so much because she has a passion for nurturing young minds. Young children learn better by visualizing and doing things, which makes teaching them exciting and fun. She joined the BIS team in the summer 2023.

Preschool 3 Co-Teacher



Gulya Junusheva

Ms Gulya has many years of experience in childcare and education and is the longest serving member of BIS teaching staff, having joined us in 2012 as a Preschool Teacher Assistant. Over the last eleven years, Ms Kulkaiyr has shown just how well she cares for and teaches our younger students as she communicates so well and enjoys spending time with them.

Preschool 3 Co-Teacher



Kudrat Niiazov

Mr Kudrat graduated from KRSU, Faculty of International Relations and has a bachelor's degree in political science. Kudrat also worked for three years in schools in Bishkek as an English language teacher and chess teacher. He is currently studying for a master's degree in the humanities. Mr Kudrat joined the BIS team in summer 2022. He enjoys inspiring students to new heights and victories, including teaching keen students how to play chess. Mr Kudrat's hobbies are chess, football, drawing, music, reading books and photography.

Preschool 3 Co-Teacher



Nurzat Osmonova

Ms Nurzat graduated from the Kyrgyz National University and has a Bachelor's and Master's degree, as well as a one-year course "Small and Medium Business Accountant" from the School of Economics of KNU. She has varied work experience in business but joined BIS in January 2022 as she loves interacting with children and helping them to learn.

Preschool 2 Homeroom Teacher



Nuraida Asanbaeva

Ms Nuraida graduated from the Kyrgyz Russian Slavic University and has a diploma in the Theory and Practice of Translation. She has 5 years' experience working with school students from age 7 to 10. She very much enjoys the opportunity to be with children to help them grow and flourish. Ms Nuraida joined BIS as a Primary Co-Teacher in August 2019, and moved Preschool as a Homeroom Teacher in early 2023, where she loves working with young children who are always full of fun.

Preschool 2 Co-Teacher



Zharkyn Oskonbaeva

Ms Zharkyn graduated from the Institute of Economics, University J.A. Alyshbaeva. After graduation, she worked in the State Tax Service, then in the State Enterprise "Kyrgyz Pochtasy", and the Commercial Bank "Kyrgyzstan". Since then she has worked with children as she says *"they fill her with freshness, joy, new discoveries, wisdom, and happiness"*. Ms Zharkyn likes that preschool children help her be constantly on the move, and she always finds joy in the smile of a child!

Preschool 1 Homeroom Teacher



Guldana Muratalieva

Ms Guldana graduated from Bishkek Humanities University, Faculty of European Civilization, as an English Language Teacher, then worked in business organizations in both Bishkek and Qatar, before returning to teach in Bishkek. Ms Guldana joined the BIS team in summer 2021 as a Co-Teacher in Primary School, where her wonderful approach to working with and inspiring children led her to move to Preschool 1 as Homeroom Teacher from summer 2023. She is also currently completing a Masters degree at the Kyrgyz and Russian Slavic University.

Preschool 1 Co-Teacher



Laura Meloliu

Ms Laura graduated from the International University of Kyrgyzstan with a Bachelors Degree in Linguistics and a Masters Degree in Philology. She is a mother of two teenage children, who loves life, believing that the world is bright, full of colour, and that all good dreams should come true. Ms Laura joined BIS in summer 2022 and moved to Preschool in summer 2023.

Preschool 1 Co-Teacher



Rakhat Osmonova

Ms Rakhat has Bachelor's degree in Linguistics from the International University of Kyrgyzstan and Master's degree in Economics from the Kyrgyz Economic University. She worked at the Asian Medical Institute named after Satkynbai Tentishev as a laboratory assistant at the Department of Surgical Disciplines. Miss Rakhat joined the BIS team in spring 2024 and is very excited to be part of the BIS community.

PYP students are also taught by specialist teachers following the PYP approach for Art, Dance, Music, Languages and Physical Education.