

# 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



#### Altynai Kalieva

**Ms Altynai** graduated from the Pedagogical Faculty of Chui University, and she worked on a cruise liner for 8 months in the hospitality sector. Also, Ms Altynai worked as an English language teacher in Bishkek and 5 months experience as a sales assistant at the airport in Dubai. She joined the BIS community in October 2024 as a Co-Teacher.

### 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 Michalea 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

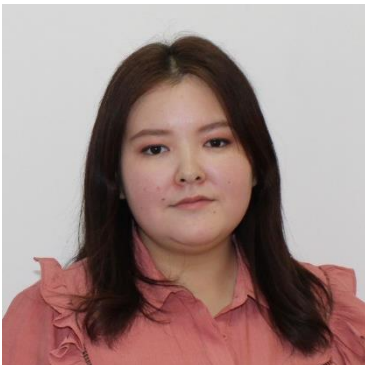
### Morgan Chadderton



**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.

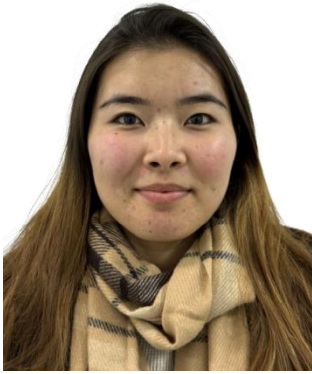
## Grade 2 Blue Co-Teacher

### 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 2 Green - Homeroom Teacher



### Malika Ismailova

**Ms Malika** graduated from the University of Canberra in Australia with a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Global Studies. She then pursued a Graduate Certificate in TESOL and Foreign Language Teaching. Ms Malika has worked with primary aged children for over 5 years as an educator for an out of school hours care service in Australia. Her goals are to create a safe environment for children to be able to learn, be curious and grow. In her free time, she enjoys reading, playing sports, taking photos of nature and spending time with her friends. Ms Malika joined the BIS team in autumn of 2024.

## 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 Yellow Co-Teacher



### Datkayim Uralieva

**Ms Datkayim** is currently studying Sociology at Bishkek State University. She has a great passion for working with children and enjoy communicating with them. I actively participate in various conferences and seminars to enhance my skills and broaden my knowledge. In my free time, I love listening to music and taking photographs. Ms Datkayim joined the BIS team in December 2024.

## 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



### Peiyong 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



#### 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



#### 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

### **Aizhan Zhamanakova**



**Ms Aizhan** graduated from Gazi University in Ankara, with a degree in International Relations and Trade. She also participated in an exchange program at Vytautas Magnus University in Lithuania as part of her undergraduate studies, through the Erasmus Mundus program. Her professional path encompasses various fields, including work as a product certification specialist, freelance translator, and personal assistant to the Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan in Turkey. Ms Aizhan joined the BIS team in spring 2024.

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