



**Bishkek
International
School**

VOICES



Newsletter for BIS Parents and Friends. No: 1 / 2025-26

22nd August 2025

WELCOME TO THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 7:45 MONDAY AUGUST 25th

WELCOME

**BACK TO
SCHOOL**

2025-2026



The joys of summer travels move on to the joys of friendships and learning, as children return to school, or arrive for the first time. Each new year brings over 100 new students, as families come and go, a few new teachers arrive and school evolves.

We eagerly await you on Monday, August 25th, 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' from 15:30 to 16:30 on Friday, August 29th** 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 2025/26 a wonderful year of learning for all of our children!

David Grant, Head of School

WELCOME BACK, TEACHERS!



On August 18, we welcomed our teachers back with a week of team-building, professional development, and planning for the year ahead. Orientation week was filled with energy, smiles, and enthusiasm as staff prepared to reconnect with students.

We're also delighted to introduce new team members who bring fresh ideas and experience—look out for their photos and bios in our upcoming *New Faces of BIS* series in **Voices**, where we'll spotlight a different staff member each week.

Here's to a year of learning, growth, and inspiration!



WELCOME TO EPIC!

EPIC stands for *Enrichment Program for Innovative Challengers*. At BIS we strive to be inclusive, and sometimes our students are able to achieve above and beyond their age and grade level. While BIS employs numerous methods of differentiation and teaching to meet every child's needs, it is our goal this year to reach those students who need an exceptional level of challenge.

I am Genevieve, former grade 3 Homeroom teacher at BIS. I have four university degrees and diplomas, including a Master's of Arts in History, and a Master's of Gifted Education. This year I am coordinating EPIC services at almost all grade levels. This means that I will be providing extracurricular activities and opportunities inside and outside the classroom and school for advanced learners. If you have questions, please email me at gmaser@bis.kg. Additionally, if you believe your child to be academically ahead of his or her class, and believe your child needs more challenge, please contact me.

I am thrilled to launch this program and look forward to giving our exceptional students all they need to boost their learning.



Ms. Genevieve Maser, the EPIC Coordinator

BIS – A PHONE FREE CAMPUS

At BIS, we believe in creating a learning environment where everyone can focus, connect, and engage fully with each other; to be active in their physical environment, not just online.

Following extensive surveys and discussion with the BIS community over the last year, **from today BIS is a phone free campus!** This policy covers any internet connected mobile device with a screen size below 25 cm diagonal.

- **Student phones MUST be OFF and OUT OF SIGHT during the school day**
- **Student phones will be confiscated if seen**
 - 1st time – collect at the end of the day
 - 2nd time – parent/guardian collect
 - 3rd time – must use a lock bag every day until the end of year
- Staff phones MUST be OUT OF SIGHT of students, with some exceptions
- Grade 11/12 students are allowed to use their phones in the DP study room
- Middle/High students must bring their own laptop to school so that they can fully participate in lessons.



AI ASSISTANT FOR BIS POLICIES & HANDBOOKS

All [BIS Policies and Handbooks are linked here](#), including the [Parents & Guardians Handbook](#), and the [Student Handbook](#). However, AI is here to make your life easier, so you can now **ask the [AI Assistant](#) any questions** about the policies and it may find the answers for you.

“MEET THE TEACHERS”

Friday 29th August 2025 15:30 - 16:30

All parents and guardians are invited to attend.

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

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| <p>BIS News for 25/26 Small Hall - 2nd floor 5-minute presentation repeated twice in English and twice in Russian</p> <p>Topics: Buses, ECAs, Mobile Phones, Laptops, Food, ManageBac, Schoolsbuddy, Student Behaviour, 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> <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</p> <p>Drop-in at any time 15:30 - 16:30</p> |
| <p>Specialist Teachers & Middle/High Form Teachers drop-in Big Hall - 3rd floor Math, English, Languages, Science, Individuals & Societies, Music, Arts, Sports, Learning Diversity, Inclusion & Counselling, Middle & High Form Teachers Drop-in at any time 15:30 - 16:30</p> | <p>Drinks & Snacks for Parents & Guardians 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 ManageBac/SchoolsBuddy University & Career Counselling ECAs and Music Academy School Buses</p> | |

THE HOUSE SYSTEM

At BIS, the House System builds teamwork, inclusion, and healthy competition. All students, from Preschool to High School, join one of three Houses: Phoenix, Piranhas, or Snow Leopards. Throughout the year, events and challenges earn points, with one House crowned the winner. Students and staff are evenly distributed across Houses, guided by dedicated House Leaders who inspire and support every step of the way.

Let's make this year one of teamwork, growth, and fun!

This year our House Leaders are:

| | | |
|---|--|---|
|  PHOENIXES Mr. Daniel Ms. Malika Ms. Datkaiym |  PIRANHAS Ms. Deniz Mr. Geoffrey Ms. Mira |  SNOW LEOPARDS Mr. Matthew Mr. Bolotbek Ms. Erkeayim |
|---|--|---|

SCHOOL BUS OPERATIONS

SCHOOL BUS

School buses operate from **Monday August 25th**.

Morning buses start at 7:00 AM, with pick-up points along each route, arriving at school by 7:45–8:00 AM.

Afternoon buses normally depart at 15:20 and 16:40 (after ECAs).

First week only: Since there are no ECAs, all afternoon buses will leave at 15:30. From the second week onwards, the regular schedule (15:20 and 16:40) will apply.

Bus Fees:

- 200 som per journey per student (400 som for morning and afterschool trips).
- 180 som per journey for the second child in the same family (10% discount).

Each bus will have a Supervisor who will be the main contact for students and parents.

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



NEW TRAFFIC RULE NEAR SCHOOL – ONE-WAY STREET



The Traffic Police (GUOBDD of the Ministry of Internal Affairs) has changed the school road to a **one-way street going from East to West**. This means that **the entrance to the school road is only from Dzhunusalieva Street**, and **the exit is only onto Ydakhina Street**. To help keep traffic safe and smooth



for everyone, please make sure all drivers follow the one-way system.

We kindly ask you to share this information with anyone who drops off or picks up your child.

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

LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for August 25th to August 29th 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 – 2025/26 Calendar is [here](#)

- **25th August, Monday: First Day of School**
- 29th August, Friday: Meet the Teachers
- 1-13 September: Grades 6-12 Overnight Trips & MYP Experiential Week
- 20th September, Saturday: Asia Day Festival
- 25th September - 3rd October: PYP 'Bring your Parents to School' days
- 30th September, Tuesday: Sports Day in Spartak Stadium: Grade 4-12

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 2025/26 are given below:

| Position | Name | Contact |
|--|--|---|
| BIS Reception | Albina / Meerim / Madina | info@bis.kg ; 0312 214 406, 0770 214 406 |
| School Bus enquiries | Burmakan Birnazarova | bus@bis.kg |
| ECA (extra-curricular activities) enquiries | Bojana Askovic / Nazira Almasbekova | eca@bis.kg |
| ManageBac & SchoolsBuddy Administration | Esentur Dildebekov | edildebekov@bis.kg |
| Admissions Officers | Gulsara Sheraly kyzy / Begimai Urmanbetova | admissions@bis.kg ; 0706 200 200 |
| Registrar | Nurbek Chagataev | nchagataev@bis.kg |
| Doctor | Asel Turusbaeva | doctor@bis.kg |
| Head of School | David Grant | dgrant@bis.kg |
| Head of Administration | Mirzat Osmonova | mosmonova@bis.kg |
| High School Principal | Nurbek Chagataev | nchagataev@bis.kg |
| Middle School Principal | Gulbara Akunova | gakunova@bis.kg |
| Primary School Principal | Elina Ignatova | eignatova@bis.kg |
| High School Academic Director, DP Coordinator | Makiko Inaba | minaba@bis.kg |
| MYP Coordinator | Nadine Lemoine | nlemoine@bis.kg |
| PYP Coordinator | Maria Corbett | mcorbett@bis.kg |
| National Curriculum Coordinator | Chynara Abdyaeva | cabdyaeva@bis.kg |
| Learning Diversity, Inclusion and Counselling (LDIC) Coordinator | Kyzjibek Tekenova | ktekenova@bis.kg |
| EPIC Coordinator | Genevieve Maser | gmaser@bis.kg |
| Chair of the Governing Board (GB) | Fred Huston | gbchair@bis.kg |
| Governing Board Secretary | Alina Seitalieva | gbsec@bis.kg |

| Parents Association President | PAMC President | papres@bis.kg ; pamc@bis.kg |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Parents Association Secretary | Secretary | pasec@bis.kg |
| Homeroom/Form Classes | | |
| Preschool 1 | Laura Meliou, Ayana Akmatova & Saltanat Mamanova | lmeliou@bis.kg ; aakmatova@bis.kg ; smamanova@bis.kg |
| Preschool 2 | Nuraida Asanbaeva & Zharkyn Oskonbaeva | nasanbaeva@bis.kg ; joskonbaeva@bis.kg |
| Preschool 3 | Bivo Chongo & Kulkayir Junusheva & Nurzat Osmonova | bchongo@bis.kg ; kjunusheva@bis.kg ; nosmonova@bis.kg |
| Grade 0 Blue | Altynai Isabekova & Kanykei Tursunaliyeva | aisabekova@bis.kg ; ktursunaliyeva@bis.kg |
| Grade 0 Yellow | Peiyang Lin & Begaiym Djumaeva | plin@bis.kg ; bdjumaeva@bis.kg |
| Grade 1 Blue | Nelia Mwanza & Nargiza Zhusupova | nmwanza@bis.kg ; nzhusupova@bis.kg |
| Grade 1 Yellow | Begimai Keneshbekova & Rabiia Erkulova | bkeneshbekova@bis.kg ; rerkulova@bis.kg |
| Grade 2 Blue | Morgan Chadderton & Datkayim Uralieva | mchadderton@bis.kg ; duralieva@bis.kg |
| Grade 2 Yellow | Oksana Chichilova & Aike Uralieva | ochichilova@bis.kg ; auralieva@bis.kg |
| Grade 3 Blue | Michaela Saber & Tilekbek Niazaliev | msaber@bis.kg ; tniazaliev@bis.kg |
| Grade 3 Yellow | Claudette Colinares & Altynai Kalieva | ccolinares@bis.kg ; alkalieva@bis.kg |
| Grade 4 Blue | Daniel Bilog & Eliza Saidalieva | dbilog@bis.kg ; esaidalieva@bis.kg |
| Grade 4 Yellow | Ana Marie Alcala & Aizirek Dzhakypbekova | aalcala@bis.kg ; adzhakypbekova@bis.kg |
| Grade 5 Blue | Rona Butler & Zharkynai Ilebaeva | rbutler@bis.kg ; zhilebaeva@bis.kg |
| Grade 5 Yellow | Natalie Small & Sezim Tologonova | nsmall@bis.kg ; stologonova@bis.kg |
| Grade 6 | Marc Navo Garreta & Janyl Namazbekova | mgarreta@bis.kg ; jnamazbekova@bis.kg |
| Grade 7 | Matthew Vandewaal Valkanov & Aigul Sakieva | mvalkanov@bis.kg ; asakieva@bis.kg |
| Grade 8 | Francois Spies & Nurzhamal Alymova | fspies@bis.kg ; nalymova@bis.kg |
| Grade 9 | Maria Rojas & Sagida Satysheva | mrojas@bis.kg ; ssatysheva@bis.kg |
| Grade 10 | Yana Karpenko & Ahmed Hashem & Stephen Labanowich | yakarpenko@bis.kg ; ahashem@bis.kg ; slabanowich@bis.kg |
| Grade 11 | Nazira Abakirova & Megan Bagdonas | nabakirova@bis.kg ; mbagdonas@bis.kg |
| Grade 12 | Lane Spies & Kevin Snow | lspies@bis.kg ; ksnow@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](https://www.instagram.com/bis.kg)



BIS Alumni Association - [@bis_alumni](https://www.instagram.com/bis_alumni)



BIS Facebook - [facebook.com/biskgz](https://www.facebook.com/biskgz)



Act for Community - [@actcom.bis](https://www.instagram.com/actcom.bis)



Parents Association - [facebook.com/bis.parents.127](https://www.facebook.com/bis.parents.127)