



GERONIMO



Kings' School Nad Al Sheba Newsletter
Edition 2 - March 2017

From the Principal's Desk



"Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." – Henry Ford

The words of Henry Ford have guided much of my work in schools. How apt is the quote when considering the development and progress of our school.

As such, the theme of our second edition of Geronimo! is *Teamwork and Collaboration*.

You can always rely on an Inspection to pull a team together! A key focus of Inspection is on the quality of Learning and Teaching. The Inspectors acknowledged the work carried out in our school with our rigorous focus on skills, thinking and questioning. Ms. Hopkins' article gives you further insight into our vision as a school.

Education, Learning and Teaching have thankfully evolved and changed since our time at school. Following feedback at the end of Term 1, we have listened to you and I was delighted to introduce 'Workshop Wednesdays' at the start of Term 2. Bringing you back to school and involving you in how our children are learning is an interesting read led by Mrs. Wells.

With parents in mind, the ongoing support and contribution of FONASS really supports our continued sense of community spirit. Our inaugural Family Fun Day was a great success. If you were unable to attend, you can see the celebration photos from the event.

We can also learn so much from Sport – team spirit, challenge, competitive spirit, grit and determination. It was wonderful to see these qualities come to life on the sports field after half term. A key driver for us is the 'Sports for All' attitude that Miss Oliver leads on, as we continue to develop our sporting programme at the school.

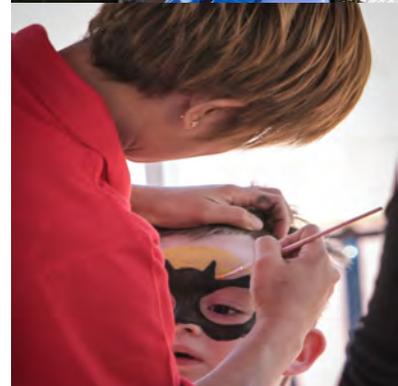
So, if Henry Ford was watching us now, I know he would admire our work.

Enjoy the read!

Mr. Darren Gale
Principal
Kings' School Nad Al Sheba

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Front Cover Image

A glimpse of KSNAS
Family Fun Day

Collaborative Power The Three-Way Partnership



Hannah Wells
Deputy Head Teacher

*"None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and **together we can do something wonderful.**" – Mother Teresa*

*Aim: "Parental involvement makes a highly positive and effective contribution to **raising standards.**" – DSIB Inspection Framework*

At Kings' Schools, we take parental engagement seriously because we understand the impact a strong 3 way partnership can have on the success of our children. We also believe in putting the children right at the centre of everything we do.

As with our children and teachers, we have very high expectations of our parents. We see them as true partners in their children's learning. There are a number of ways in which we expect parents to collaborate with us and engage in their children's learning and progress at Kings' School Nad Al Sheba.

Arguably the most powerful of these is **Student Led Conferences** (SLCs). They put the focus exactly where it should be, on the children.

SLCs allow both parent and child to celebrate learning successes and discuss specific next steps that will take the child's learning forward. We believe that children taking ownership of their learning will lead to a rise in standards of achievement and progress in the best possible way. Involving parents in this process is fundamental to its success in part because they can then support them more effectively and also because it is good for children to see their parents expecting them to take control of their learning and therefore their future success. Because of this, SLCs are a fundamental part of us achieving the best by every child.

Not only do SLCs improve the ownership a child takes over their own learning, they also lead to a rise in a child's self-esteem and they give children and parents the foundations for meaningful conversations at home. Research is also clear in finding that self-aware, reflective children are more motivated and work harder to follow through towards their goals.

"The power of student led conferences lies in the habits of mind that they cultivate in the student."

SLCs also help to instil a Growth Mindset in our children at Kings'. Mindset is an idea discovered by world renowned Stanford University psychologist Professor Carol Dweck based on decades of research on achievement and success.

We all have mindsets: children, teachers and parents. It is the type of mindset that we have that can prevent us from taking up challenges, developing resilience and being motivated in our learning. At Kings' we want children to cultivate a growth mindset to allow them success as well as to develop them as life-long learners.

Dweck discusses the importance of 'praising the process' a child goes through to complete a piece of work rather than the outcome and shares the dangers of children thinking that intelligence is fixed rather than something that can be cultivated through learning. It is vital as both educators and parents that we model this type of 'growth mindset' in order for children to maximise success and achieve or surpass their potential.



Check out these videos to learn more about Growth Mindset:

<https://youtu.be/ZrdKuDGQEoQ>

https://youtu.be/TTXrV0_3UjY

At Kings', we want to offer parents a range of ways to collaborate with us. As well as SLCs, Parents have a number of other opportunities to support their children and to help us continue to raise standards through Parent Time, Learning Journals, Parent-Teacher Conferences and workshops.

Feedback from parents is powerful. We rely on parent feedback in order to provide opportunities specific to what is needed. **Workshop Wednesdays** was launched as a concept as a direct result of

parent feedback. A number of workshops have been delivered catering for all phases already with more coming this half term. The workshops have all been very well received by those who have attended them. We have however been disappointed with the number of parents attending the sessions and will be conducting a poll to ascertain timings that will allow a larger number of parents to engage in Workshop Wednesdays.

In summary, we should not underestimate the power of collaboration and the difference it can make to the success of our children. It is our belief that if children take ownership of their own learning and that we make this our expectation of them, standards will rise and **together** we can achieve the best by every child.

To share feedback about your own experience of Student Led Conferences, please post on the padlet (Student Led Conferences – Learning Power): https://padlet.com/h_wells2/StudentLed-Conf. All posts will remain anonymous.

Teaching and Learning

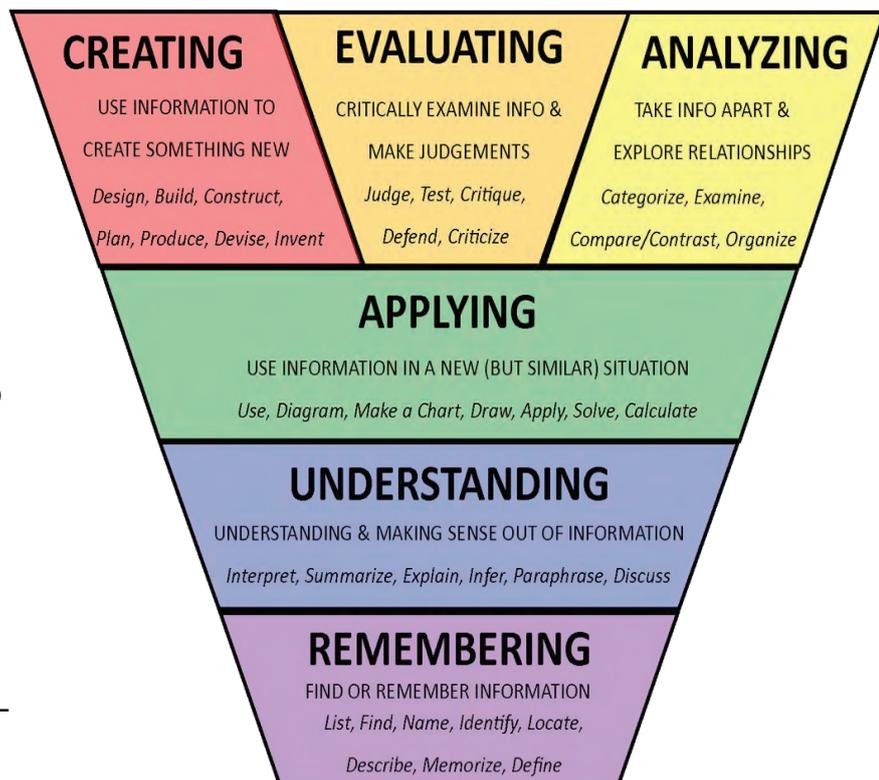


Elin Hopkins
Assistant Head Teacher

Teaching and Learning is the core purpose of what we do at Kings' Nad Al Sheba and is focused on maximising progress so that every child meets their potential. To help children on their learning journey, we ensure that there are no glass ceilings put in place to stop the children progressing – the sky's the limit.

Bloom's – deepening children's understanding and application

In some curriculums and in the past, Teachers and Parents have been likely to focus Teaching and Learning at the 'Remembering level' which according to Bloom's Taxonomy is the lowest level of thinking. This type of teaching only requires children to remember in order to respond. At Kings' School Nad Al Sheba, we use Bloom's Taxonomy, named after psychologist Benjamin Bloom, to develop children's higher levels of thinking. Planned objectives allow for depth of understanding in a lesson or a series of lessons. More often than not, lessons will have three or four objectives which are progressive and linked to Bloom's Taxonomy.





What does high quality teaching and learning look like?

As a school, we strive to improve our Teaching and Learning and have identified key aspects that that will facilitate outstanding lessons.

Some of these key attributes are:

- Hooks for learning that are linked to the class concept.
- Children leading their own learning – by children being fully involved in their learning, concept planning and their learning environment.
- Pace – lessons have momentum to ensure ambitious learning goals are met.
- Lesson objectives that allow for progress and depth (Bloom's).
- Children able to articulate their next steps and what they need to do to move forward due to an on-going dialogue with their teacher and through highly effective feedback.
- Children demonstrating the skills of independent learning – able to use and take care of a range of resources, able to organise themselves, able to manage time effectively within lessons.
- Learning Behaviours and clear behaviour management systems that are clearly understood and used by children.
- Well organised and vibrant classrooms with high quality children's work on display.

The Success Criteria are the activities that children complete to show they have mastered the skill/learning objective. These often act as a checklist for children and will be the things that they will need to achieve in order to be successful.

To enable work to be pitched at the right level and so that each child is faced with an achievable yet ambitious challenge in their work, accurate on-going (formative) assessment is vital. AfL (Assessment for Learning) strategies are used so that teachers have a firm grasp of the children's current individual skills, knowledge and understanding. From this, sharply focused planning leads to lessons being delivered that are appropriately pitched and with high levels of challenge that facilitate the progression of children as soon as they are ready. The effectiveness of teacher planning upon the work that children produce forms part of the review of Teaching and Learning.



Year 3 had an exciting visitor in class one day. Having left behind his important work in Egypt, Howard Carter came to answer Year 3's important reporter questions. Then they used their notes and research to produce a newspaper report including quotes from our eyewitness. #StandingOut

Professional collaboration

We strive for high quality Teaching and Learning across the school through a culture of professional collaboration. Teachers and support staff work alongside colleagues in different classes and year groups so that skills, approaches and expertise are shared and ideas and innovations are developed.

The continuing drive for collaboration comes from our teachers' professional enthusiasm and creativity. Teachers are encouraged to take risks and stand out through trying out new ideas and those that have been derived from international practice and research.



In January, Professor Nutty Nicky from Rockit Science came to Kings' School Nad Al Sheba to work with our teachers and learning assistants. It was such an inspirational session where our staff were able to try and test out different strategies to engage and excite the children in their science learning. #StandingOut

CELEBRATIONS



FS Developed Outdoor Area



Workshop Wednesdays



Gong Xi Fa Cai



Let's Get Planting

CELEBRATIONS



KSNAS Family Fun Day - January 2017

Nous Allons au Café Français

We recently celebrated our learning in French with a very special visit to the Kings' School Nad al Sheba's *French Café*. We used this opportunity to communicate with each other in the target language (French) while enjoying a traditional French breakfast. Not only did the children make a huge effort to communicate amongst themselves in French, they also experienced a very important part of the French culture - food!

The *French Café* was set up inside the Primary building and everyone from Year 1 to 6 had the chance to order *un croissant, un pain au chocolat, du fromage...* and share a special moment with their classmates, all spiced up by the French music and the smell of "*la boulangerie*" French bakery.

A big thank you to all our children for their help and enthusiasm!

- **Virginia Lopez Lara**
French/Spanish Teacher



Sports in Term 2



Jill Oliver
Leader of PE and School Sport

We are now halfway through Term 2 and there has been a lot of action on the sports field!

House Sports Days

We have successfully completed our House Sports celebrations.

Foundation Stage children did a fantastic job displaying their skills in running, jumping, throwing and climbing in our multi-ability circuit. Year 1 and 2 children also completed a multi skills circuit, with the addition of competing for House Points, in events that demonstrated their skills in problem solving (river crossing), throwing (rocket launch), running (relay tag) and fun activities on the obstacle course and rugby skills circuit.

In our final installment of House Athletics, Year 3 to 6 children competed in traditional track and field events for their respective house. We also shared all the highlights and achievements of our House Sports celebrations in a special House Assembly on Thursday, 2nd March.

Kings' Olympics

The Inaugural Kings' Olympic Heptathlon is an initiative driven forward by Miss Oliver with the aim of enhancing opportunities for children to compete in Track and Field Athletics. The event involved children from both Kings' School Nad Al Sheba and Kings' School Dubai; along with 3 other Schools - Victory Heights, Dovecote Primary and Hartland International - from the local community. Just like the Olympic Heptathlon, children participated in 7 events, 3 from the track and 4 from the field, accumulating points for the time, distance and heights they achieved. Twenty seven children represented Kings' School Nad Al Sheba, with over 100 children from other schools.



Omar Yaghi competing in the Inaugural Kings' Olympic Heptathlon

We had some exceptional performances from our children. Amin Faruqi, Shamsa Al Muna Al Falasi, Max St.Matthew-Daniel and Omar Yaghi accrued the most points for KSNAS in their age categories. The event was well received by children, parents and staff alike. With such a positive response, it is sure to become a permanent fixture in the school calendar for years to come!

Touch Rugby

This term, Touch Rugby has been one of our sports in focus. This fast paced, non-contact version of the game has proved very popular among our children with almost 30 children from Year 2 to 6 attending Touch club every Sunday. They have been developing their skills and learning the rules of the game before putting them into practice in our Touch Rugby tournaments. These tournaments, another initiative driven forward by the PE team, has seen over 20 schools visiting us weekly to compete in the event, which is heavily focused on developing skills and playing the game in a fun and friendly environment.



Action from U9 Touch Rugby Tournament



Gemma Martin
U11 Girls Touch Rugby Player

In the finals, teams will go head to head in a knock out tournament to win awards for their schools. Furthermore, our KSNAS Touch Rugby teams will be competing in the prestigious BSME Touch Championships next term. The PE department will be selecting a team to represent us in the the U9 and U11 age groups very soon.

House Swimming

We are looking forward to the next round of House Sport Competitions for children in Y1-6. Children will be moving from the astroturf and into the swimming pool to participate in a House Swimming Gala. Year 1-2 will be participating in a number of events, including individual races and fun relays, where children can demonstrate their fantastic swimming skills and teamwork. Children in Year 3-6 will participate in a mixture of individual races and relays allowing them to score lots of points for their House Team. We cannot wait to see who will take the House Sports Crown and are looking forward to enjoying some thrilling races in the pool.

Important Dates for the Diary

Wednesday, 2nd March (1:00-3:00 PM) - Years 3-6 House Athletics
Monday, 6th March (3:00-5:15PM) - U9 Touch Rugby Finals
Wednesday, 8th March (8:30-9:00AM) - Healthy Active Lifestyle Workshop (Foundation Stage)
Monday, 13th March (3:00-5:30 PM) - U11 Touch Rugby Finals
Wednesday, 15th March (8:30-9:00AM) - Healthy Active Lifestyle Workshop (Primary)
Thursday, 16th March (1:00-3:00 PM) - Kings' Development Swim Gala
Sunday, 19th March (1:30-3:00 PM) - Y1 and Y2 House Swimming Gala
Monday, 20th March (1:00-3:00 PM) - Y3-Y6 House Swimming Gala
Friday, 14th April (9:00 AM-3 PM) - BSME Touch Championships, U9 and U11 Select

Specialist in Focus





Who or What is FONASS?

FONASS stands for Friends of Nad al Sheba School. We are a group of parents who are working to support the school with community based events and to work in partnership with the school and families in building a community.

Our core team consists of:

Co-Chairs - Raghad Mousli and Sahar Taheri

Co-Vice Chairs - Amie Colley and Caroline Richardson-Yeates

Treasurer - Sanji St. Matthew-Daniel

Co-Secretary - Crisild Mullaji and Wendy Prior

What have we done so far?

Our main work so far in this term had been assisting with Kings' School Nad Al Sheba's community event Family Fun Day, which took place on Saturday, 28th January 2017. At this event, FONASS organised eight stalls with interesting crafts and games for the children to participate in.

Family Fun Day was a huge success. We would like to thank all the fabulous parents, teachers and children who helped us by taking part in it. It was great to see everyone enjoying themselves whilst meeting and making new friends.

We have also continued to support the School's sporting events, with some of our dedicated parents running a tuck shop. A big thanks to the parents who help us in providing such a great service during these events.

FONASS Needs You

FONASS is here to support the school with organising events and building a great community. We really welcome all the help and ideas, however big or small, to enable some of these events to take shape. We get together once a month and it's always great to see some new faces. So please come and join us for the following

International Day – 23rd March

Tuck Shop – Please let us know if you are available to help us from time to time for running the tuck shop at different sporting events

A Surprise for all the students – Please get involved and provide your creative inputs to us for planning and organising a surprise for all the students of Kings' School Nad Al Sheba.

You can contact us on fonass.parents@gmail.com. We are soon also going to introduce a FONASS suggestion box at both the School's receptions.

Next update will be in April 2017.

- Community Spirit at KSNAS*
- Arabic and Islamic Engagement*
- International Day*

#Geronimo



"the best by every child"