



# Welcome to Kindergarten



A guide to helping you and your little one be prepared for the start of Kindergarten 1

## Dear families,

Welcome to Kindergarten 1 at ISS International School! This is a very exciting time in your family's life and I could not be more happy to be a part of it.

The start of school is an important milestone, and like most milestones, it can come with a range of emotions, from nervousness to excitement and panic to delight. Believe me...as teachers we feel it too! Everyone has those "butterflies" in their tummy on the first day of school.

For me though, the emotion that overwhelms them all is excitement. Excitement about all the fun explorations and discoveries that we'll embark on. Excitement for the class community that will develop and the group and personal accomplishments that the year will bring.

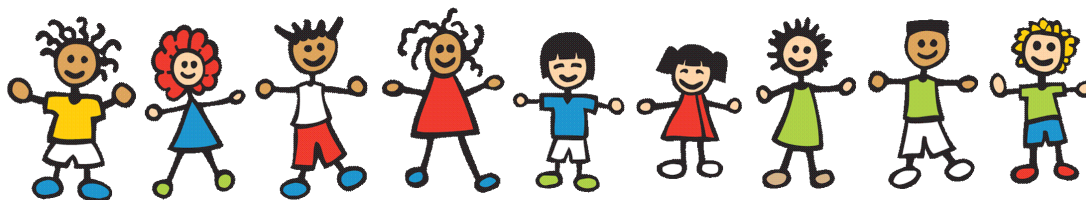
Please use this "Welcome to Kindergarten" booklet as a guide to prepare your family for the start of Kindergarten 1. I encourage you to revisit the important ideas that it outlines over the course of the year, including the fundamentals of our play-based curriculum, as well as the ideas suggested for supporting your child's development at home.

I consider the relationship between family, teacher, and child to be essential for healthy and holistic development and look forward to collaborating with you this year.

Please feel free to contact me at any time throughout the year with questions, comments, and concerns. You are always welcome to stop by our classroom in the morning for a visit and check out what we've been busy learning. Please also visit our classroom blog and Twitter account for frequent updates and in-depth explanations about our activities. All of this contact information is available in the "Meet the Teacher" section on Page 2.

Here's to a great year together and an exciting journey in Kindergarten 1.

See you all soon!! :)



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# Meet the Teachers



My name is **Karla Bedggood** and I am delighted to be starting a new school year with you and your child in Kindergarten 1!

After completing my university education (Bachelor of Arts from the University of Canterbury, New Zealand), I moved to China and taught English in a vocational school for girls. The experience left me with a love of traveling, chinese food and the desire to continue to be inspired, challenged and fulfilled by teaching children.

On returning to my native (and beloved) New Zealand, I completed my Graduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning (University of Otago). Armed with this, I began my teaching career.

What I love about teaching is the creativity, curiosity and brilliance of young children. I view children as having great capacity and capability to direct their own learning. I take a holistic approach to teaching and aim to produce confident students who have the skills, attitudes, and information to participate as active citizens in a global world.

Outside of teaching, I enjoy cooking, photography, reading and spending time walking or jogging outdoors. All of the different birds and animals to see here in Singapore, make getting outdoors especially exciting. I love traveling and am always looking for a new place in South East Asia to visit, as well as exploring my new home, Singapore.

I'm **Radhika Kolan**. I have worked at ISS for three years but this is my first year in the Kindergarten. I am very excited to work with the little kids! I love working with children and especially enjoy assisting children for whom english is a second language. I also love joining in celebrations at school, such as Deepavali.

Outside of school I enjoy cooking and baking. I also enjoy creating henna designs for celebrations, special events and during festivals. I have two children, one is eighteen, the other is twelve and have been married nearly twenty years!



## Communication

You have a variety of options for communicating questions, comments, and information to your teacher and finding out about what we've been up to in the classroom.

### Contact Ms. Karla

Email: [kbedggood@iss.edu.sg](mailto:kbedggood@iss.edu.sg)

*Communication Book:* You can write handwritten messages that will be checked each morning in your child's blue communication notebook that they will receive on the first day of school. Please keep these messages brief.

### Follow Our Learning

Blog: [www.k1kb.weebly.com](http://www.k1kb.weebly.com)

Information will be passed to you in the following ways:

(1) Paper documents in your child's mesh bag (2) Email from the school office & Ms. Karla (3) Class Blog "Important Details" page

# A Day in Kindergarten

This is a sample schedule of what our day in Kindergarten might look like. Please note that specialist subjects (Physical Education, Art, Music, Mandarin, Library) do not occur at the same time every day, but rather occur at different times throughout the week as can be viewed on the weekly schedule that follows. Please be aware, that to some degree, this schedule remains flexible and open to the interests, inquiries, and decisions of students. We try not to interrupt students' sustained involvement in group work and projects when it is not mandatory for a transition to occur.

Time	Activity	Details
7:30 - 7:55 AM	Children arrive at classroom, sign themselves in with a drawing or writing beside their name on a clipboard, and participate in free play.	Children are welcome to arrive at any point during this time. Families are invited to join us in the classroom to read with their child, view a project we are working on, or ask questions.
7:55 - 8:15 AM	Continued free play and exploration	Children continue their free, self-directed play. Parents are asked to exit the room at the sound of the 8 AM bell.
8:15 - 8:35 AM	Morning Meeting	Held at the main carpet, this includes: greetings; discussion about the day's plan; songs; sharing personal work, stories & experiences; suggestions from children about projects for the day and ways to continue yesterday's work; planning for the day (maybe adjusting teacher-planned schedule) as a group
8:35 - 8:55 AM	Group Lesson	The lesson connects to Literacy or Maths benchmarks or ongoing explorations within the current unit of inquiry
8:55 - 9:20 AM	Learning Centres	Centres provide choice for students and connect to the group lesson that has just taken place. The format and organization of centres provides opportunity for small group or 1-to-1 instructions with the teacher.
9:20 - 9:25 AM	Tidy-up!	Children are responsible for cleaning up their own materials.
9:25 - 9:30 AM	Bathroom Visits	Children independently visit the bathroom as needed throughout the day. This is a whole-group visit for toilet-use and washing hands.
9:30 - 9:50 AM	Snack Time	Children eat in the classroom. They set out place mats and are responsible for cleaning up their space.
9:50 - 10:10 AM	Recess Break	Free outdoor play in the Kindergarten playground.
10:10 - 10:20 AM	Transition Time	After bathroom visits, we reconnect as a class with one of the following: a read aloud, personal reading or quiet time, group quiet time & relaxation exercises
10:20 - 10:50 AM	Group Lesson & Learning Activity (in large group, small groups, or individually)	The lesson connects to Literacy or Maths benchmarks or ongoing explorations within the current unit of inquiry (usually different than what has been covered in the morning lesson).
10:50 - 11:35 AM	Specialist Subject	Physical Education, Art, Music or Mandarin
11:35 AM - 12:05 PM	Recess Break	Free outdoor play in the Kindergarten playground
12:05 - 12:15 PM	Tidy-up, bathroom visits, set up for eating lunch	Similar to morning pre-snack routine
12:15 - 12:50 PM	Lunch & Free Play Time	Children eat in the classroom and repeat routines from morning snack time. When children are finished eating they may participate in free play within the classroom.
12:50 - 1:05 PM	Transition Time	After bathroom visits, we reconnect as a class with one of the following: a read aloud, personal reading or quiet time, group quiet time & relaxation exercises, group physical activity (like dance, yoga, or stretching).

1:05 - 2:00 PM	Free Choice Time	Children have an opportunity for free, self-selected play that they may pursue independently or in collaboration with peers. Some children choose to continue explorations or projects that they started in morning play or centre times.  Learning from the morning lessons may be revisited in small group or 1-to-1 settings as needed.
2:00 - 2:15 PM	Afternoon Meeting & Reflection Time	Held at the main carpet, this includes: group discussions and reflections on experiences of the day (such as challenges, successes, conflicts, favourite moments, progress made).  We complete our calendar session where we review the month, day, and date through discussion and song, aided with manipulatives.
2:15 - 2:25 PM	Packing Up & Dismissal	With support, children relocate to bus pick-up points and parent pick-up rooms.

### A Note About Play

You may have noticed that free play forms a significant part of our days. Play-based activities are also the context of much of our academic learning.

Children engage in various kinds of play, such as physical play, object play, pretend or dramatic play, constructive play, and games with rules. To foster optimum development, children require opportunities to participate in play in all of its formats, in both child-initiated and teacher-initiated ways.

Through play, children express, combine, and extend what they know about the world around them. Their play scenarios combine everything they have learned and are wondering about, including the words, signs, symbols, and customs of their language and culture, as well as their own and other people's thoughts, feelings, and ideas.

Play empowers children to represent and transform the world around them, promoting physical, intellectual, and social development in ways that cannot be achieved by focusing on narrow pre-academic skills. Play also contributes to children's capacity for self-regulation: the internal mechanism that enables us to engage in mindful, intentional, and thoughtful behaviours. When children play, they interact with people and materials in ways that require them to set, negotiate and follow rules, thus growing in their ability to inhibit impulses, act in coordination with others and make plans. Much research has shown that children's self-regulating behaviours in the early years predicts future school success and achievement.

### Transitions

We transition between activities using songs and full body movement activities. The children quickly become familiar with a few favourites that we use frequently to support smooth changes, oral language and gross motor development.



### First Weeks:

The first week of school is all about settling in and adjusting. We will learn what the important parts of the school are and where they are located, as well as who we can ask for help. We'll also set some class rules and agreements. The ultimate focus will be on building a class community in which everyone feels happy, safe, cared for, and supported. For the first two weeks of school, parents are invited to join us in the classroom between 7:30 and 7:55 AM to support the transition. We ask that you please consider the following schedule in your participation:

Monday, August 5	Tuesday, August 6	Wednesday, August 7	Thursday, August 8	Friday, August 9
Participate fully in play and activities with your child. Help him or her unpack bag & select activities.	Help your child unpack bag & select activities. Allow him or her to complete activities independently. Participate in discussion around them.	Help your child unpack bag & select activities. Allow him or her to complete activities independently. Participate in discussion around them.	HARI RAYA PUASA	NATIONAL DAY
Monday, August 12	Monday, August 13	Monday, August 14	Monday, August 15	Monday, August 16
Allow your child to independently unpack bag & select and participate in activities. Make yourself available only as needed.	Allow your child to independently unpack bag & select and participate in activities. Make yourself available only as needed & try to leave before 8 AM.	Allow your child to independently unpack bag & select and participate in activities. Make yourself available only as needed & try to leave before 8 AM.	Allow your child to independently unpack bag & select and participate in activities. Spend only about 5-10 minutes in the classroom.	Allow your child to independently unpack bag & select and participate in activities. Spend only about 5 minutes in the classroom.



# Our Weekly Schedule

Grade 1KB

Class Schedule

2013-2014

TIME	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
7:55-8:00	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance
PERIOD 1 8:00 - 8:45	CLASSROOM TIME	CLASSROOM TIME	CLASSROOM TIME	PE (Mr. Nathan)	MANDARIN 8:15 - 8:45 (Ms. Linda)
PERIOD 2 8:45 - 9:30		MANDARIN 9:00 - 9:30 (Ms. Linda)		CLASSROOM TIME	CLASSROOM TIME
BREAK 9:30 - 9:45	EAT SNACK	EAT SNACK	EAT SNACK	EAT SNACK	EAT SNACK
BREAK 9:50 - 10:05	OUTSIDE PLAY	OUTSIDE PLAY	OUTSIDE PLAY	OUTSIDE PLAY	OUTSIDE PLAY
PERIOD 3 10:05 - 10:50	CLASSROOM TIME	CLASSROOM TIME	MUSIC (Ms. Stacey)	CLASSROOM TIME	CLASSROOM TIME
PERIOD 4 10:50 - 11:35			CLASSROOM TIME		LIBRARY
PERIOD 5 11:35 - 12:05	OUTSIDE PLAY	OUTSIDE PLAY	OUTSIDE PLAY	OUTSIDE PLAY	OUTSIDE PLAY
LUNCH 12:05 - 12:50	EAT LUNCH PLAYTIME	EAT LUNCH PLAYTIME	EAT LUNCH PLAYTIME	EAT LUNCH PLAYTIME	EAT LUNCH PLAYTIME
PERIOD 6 12:55-1:40	ART (Ms. Caz)	CLASSROOM TIME	CLASSROOM TIME	CLASSROOM TIME	ASSEMBLY
PERIOD 7 1:40 - 2:25	PE (Mr. Nathan)		MANDARIN 1:40 - 2:10 (Ms. Linda)		CLASSROOM TIME

\* "Classroom Time" indicates the sessions spent in the main classroom where students participate in integrated subject activities with a play-based, exploratory approach.

# Curriculum



The most significant curriculum aspect of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years' Programme are the six Transdisciplinary Themes which frame the majority of learning:

Who We Are

Where We Are in Place & Time

How We Express Ourselves

How the World Works

Sharing the Planet

How We Organize Ourselves

In Kindergarten, students engage with four of the six themes each year. These themes have led us to develop a programme of inquiry, and set of units of inquiry, in which the students investigate important ideas with a high level of involvement in inquiry.

For more about the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme, visit [www.ibo.org/pyp/](http://www.ibo.org/pyp/).

Who We Are	How We Express Ourselves	How the World Works	How We Organize Ourselves
<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Who we are is shaped by the people around us.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b> (1) Ourselves as a part of a bigger world; (2) The role of family and friends; (3) How friends are made and kept</p> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> Form, Causation, Responsibility</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> People share stories in many ways.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b> (1) Different ways of telling stories; (2) How stories influence us; (3) The difference between real and imaginary</p> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> Perspective, Reflection</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> Light is all around us and behaves in different ways.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b> (1) Types of light; (2) Properties of light; (3) How light can be changed</p> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> Form, Function, Change</p>	<p><b>Central Idea:</b> We move in different ways and for different purposes.</p> <p><b>Lines of Inquiry:</b> (1) Ways we move from place to place; (2) Reasons that we move; (3) The importance of movement in our lives</p> <p><b>Key Concepts:</b> Form, Function, Connection</p>

The subject areas identified within the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme are:

- Language
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Arts
- Personal, Social & Physical Education (PSPE)

Science and Social Studies are always addressed as an integrated part of the programme of inquiry. The other subject areas can also be addressed through unit-integration or as "stand-alone" units.

## Language Strands:

- Oral Language (Listening & Speaking)
- Visual Language (Viewing & Presenting)
- Written Language (Reading & Writing)

## Mathematics Strands:

- Data Handling
- Measurement
- Shape & Space
- Pattern & Function
- Number

## Inquiry

Inquiry is a vehicle for learning in the PYP and the basis of our curriculum. It builds on children's natural curiosity and sense of wonder about the world. Through this approach, children engage in learning and activities that support them in actively exploring, asking questions, solving problems, applying theories and information, and drawing conclusions. Through the process, children become researchers and do meaningful work that is significant to them.

Language, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies are the main subjects taught by class teachers, though the Arts and PSPE are also covered in collaboration with specialists.

# Routines & Expectations

## IB Learner Profile

Learners at our school strive to be:

### Inquirers

Develop curiosity. Conduct inquiry & research. Show independence in learning.

### Knowledgeable

Explore concepts, ideas and issues that have local & global significance & develop deep understandings.

### Thinkers

Approach problems with critical & creative thinking skills, making reasoned decisions.

### Communicators

Express ideas confidently in a variety of modes of communication. Work effectively in collaboration.

### Principled

Act with integrity, fairness, justice and respect. Take responsibility for own actions.

### Open-minded

Open to perspectives, values & traditions of others. Interested in a range of perspectives.

### Caring

Show empathy, compassion & respect towards the needs & feelings of others.

### Risk-takers (Courageous)

Approach unfamiliar situations with courage. Explores new roles, ideas & strategies.

### Balanced

Understand the importance of intellectual, physical, and emotional balance for well-being.

### Reflective

Give thoughtful consideration to learning & experiences. Assess & understand strengths and limitations.



## The 4 Be's

ISS code of behaviour

**Be Safe**

**Be Honest**

**Be Respectful**

**Be Responsible**



The IB Learner Profile and 4 Be's Code of Conduct guide student behaviour and interactions and frame expectations at all grade levels.

## Uniform

- Children are required to wear the ISS uniform to school.
- A PE uniform is to be worn on days when students participate in PE classes.
- Closed-toed shoes must be worn. Children cannot wear open-toed shoes or flip flops to school.

## Class Contact List

In the first two weeks of school we will be sending out a contact list with phone numbers and email addresses of families in our class. It may be used to contact other families to arrange play and visits outside of school hours. Please inform me as soon as possible if you do not wish for your information to be included on this list.

## "Where's my spot?"

There is no assigned seating at group tables in the classroom. Children are encouraged to select their own chairs, tables, and play spaces in a variety of different areas throughout the day. This routine encourages independent thought, decision-making, friendship-building, and a positive and competent approach to basic conflict management.

## Morning Arrival

**7:30 - 7:55 AM**



For the first two weeks, parents are invited to join us in the classroom between 7:30 and 7:55 AM.

Every morning children will be greeted by the teacher and teaching assistant and are responsible for :

1. Hanging their backpacks on their peg outside of the classroom. Unpacking their lunch and water bottle (and putting it in the fridge). Unpacking their mesh bag (and putting it in the basket).
2. Signing in on the attendance clipboard with drawing or writing.
3. Self-selecting a free-play activity.

\*\* Parents are asked to leave the classroom when the bell rings at 8:00 AM.



## Afternoon Dismissal

**2:25 PM**

The afternoon bell rings at 2:25 PM. Children will be supported by the teacher and teaching assistant in moving to their dismissal locations.

Children go home by either:

1. Parent pick-up (Room 14 for last names A-K and Room 12 for last names L-Z - access from the playground!)
2. Bus

You must inform the office of how your child will be traveling to and from school before the start of the school year. Permanent changes to these arrangements must be communicated to the main office. One-day changes (i.e. parent pick-up instead of bus or going home with a friend) can be communicated to the class teacher.

\*\* Children and parents are asked not to return to classroom after dismissal due to teacher meetings and lack of appropriate supervision.

## Snacks, Lunch & Healthy Eating

Please ensure that your child has a healthy snack (and packed lunch if you do not order school lunch) each day to keep them well-fueled for all of our learning. This includes vegetables, fruit, and no sugary snacks. Please also send a big bottle of water so that your child can stay hydrated. We can refill this bottle over the course of the day.

Lunch Order will not begin until Monday, August 19th. Please see the main office to make arrangements.

As you are making your healthy food choices please remember:

- to label your child's lunch box and water bottle with their first and last name
- we will refrigerate cold snacks and lunches
- we are unable to reheat food in the microwave due to school policy



### *A Note About Allergies:*

In the first week of school you will receive an email from me informing you of any severe allergies that we have in our class community. After this point, I ask that you refrain from packing these items in your child's school lunches. This may include nuts, eggs, or shellfish. Please stay tuned for this important information.

## Birthdays!

If you wish to bring in a treat, please contact me so that we can arrange the celebrations for an appropriate time. Please consider quick and easy-to-clean options such as fruit or cupcakes.

I will be happy to circulate birthday invitations so long as all the children have been included in order to avoid feelings being hurt.

## Library



Our library lessons are on Fridays. Your child may borrow one book each week. Please ensure that the book is returned the following Friday so that another book can be selected and issued.

## Illnesses & Absences

If your child is not well, please keep him or her at home. You can phone the main office to inform us of the absence. Normally, when children are on medication they need to be home. Please visit Ms. Alden's blog for more information on when to keep your child at home versus sending him or her to school: <http://issesprincipal.weebly.com/1/post/2013/01/when-to-keep-you-children-home-from-school.html>



## A Note for English Language Learners

If your child is still learning to communicate in English, it may be useful to help him or her learn some key information and phrases in order to feel more comfortable and confident at school:

- Recognize full name (spoken and written)
- Recognize main classroom
- Identify personal property, such as school bag, lunch box, and water bottle
- "May I go to the toilet?"
- "I need..." / "I want..."



# Supporting the Transition

From Read Now British Columbia's "Ready, Set, Learn: Helping Your Preschooler Get Ready for School" (2009)

As your child's first and most important teachers, your family plays an essential role in your child's education . . . including the transition to Kindergarten!

Many factors contribute to a child's success in school, including:

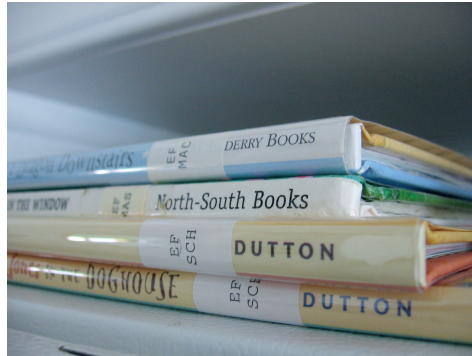
- ☐ confidence
- ☐ relationships with friends
- ☐ language development (in your mother tongue)
- ☐ the ability to communicate needs, wants, and thoughts to adults and children
- ☐ the ability to follow instructions and routines
- ☐ a setting that encourages creativity, motivation, cooperation and persistence

You can support your child in developing these capacities and others by participating together in activities and play that are already part of your everyday life, including cultural and family traditions and routines. You may also want to try some of these activities which address some key development areas and support school success. Please keep in mind that these activities can all be completed in your mother tongue!



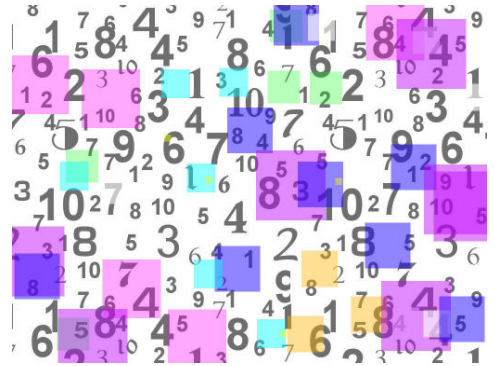
## Talking

1. Talk about the day's activities or plans for the next day.
2. Point out names of things as you ride in the car or walk to the store.
3. Listen carefully to your child. Show that you are interested in his or her ideas. Ask questions about what you hear.
4. Use rhymes to increase interest in language. Play rhyming games and read rhyming stories and poetry.
5. Sing songs. Make up simple songs about everyday activities like having lunch and sing them together.
6. Expand your child's sentences. If your child says, "Daddy cook soup," respond with "Yes, Daddy is cooking vegetable soup for lunch".
7. Ask your child to tell you a story about a picture he or she has drawn.
8. Talk about colours: "Look at that blue car", "Are you going to wear your red dress?"



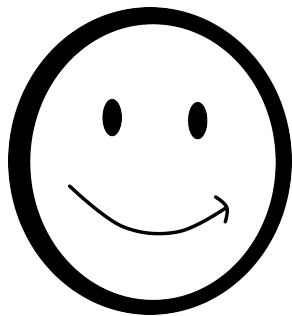
## Books

1. Set aside a special time each day to read to your child. Pick a special spot in your home where it is quiet and you and your child are comfortable.
2. Ask questions about the pictures in books: "Where do you think the woman is going?" Pause to discuss the meaning of new words.
3. Encourage your child to select and look at books on their own. Sit with your child and read your own book to show that books are enjoyable.
4. Encourage repetition. Revisit favourite books so your child becomes familiar with words & letters.
5. Join the library! Explore the children's section together and borrow books.
6. Introduce books into daily activities. Play dress up and act out a book or read a recipe out loud as you cook.
7. Share books that show people of different cultures, genders, ages and abilities.



## Numbers

1. Count as a part of everyday routines: "Please get me 6 spoons." "How many letters are in the mailbox?"
2. Discuss the order of events: "This morning at 10:00 we are going to the store. After lunch, you will have time to play."
3. Make a calendar together. Write in special days and have your child mark off each day.
4. Help your child learn your family's phone number and address.
5. Collect objects (buttons, stones, blocks) & sort them by shape, colour, and size.
6. Identify & talk about shapes in the world around you: "That window is square."
7. Start a growth chart and talk about the ideas of weight & height.
8. Use words that give direction when asking your child to do something: "Look under the box."



## Feelings

1. Talk about feelings & what might cause them: "You are feeling really happy. Is it because we're going to the park?"
2. Expand vocabulary using new words: "disappointed", "frustrated", "surprised".
3. Listen to & accept your child's concerns. Reassure & comfort.
4. Encourage your child to talk about him or herself: "Tell me three things that you like to eat".
5. Pause when reading a book & ask how a character might be feeling.
6. Show how to handle emotions positively yourself. Suggest different ideas for coping.
7. Address inappropriate behaviour immediately & calmly. Help cope with tantrums by discussing afterward what helps your child feel better when experiencing frustration or anger.
8. Model patience and persistence in your tasks. Children will learn to stick with things by acting like their parents.



## Getting Along

1. Give approval (with encouraging words & actions like smiling) for taking turns & waiting for a turn.
2. Introduce your child to simple games that require taking turns (such as the card game "Go Fish").
3. Encourage your child to have regular responsibilities around the home. An activity like choosing clothes independently allows your child to get used to routines & expectations as part of the day.
4. Provide lots of opportunities for your child to interact with friends. Set up short play dates (1-2 hours) with friends on a regular basis. Be sure to provide the experience of playing away from your own home and learning the rules of another family.
5. Invite your own friends over. Young children pay close attention to behaviour and often imitate what you do. Model positive social behaviour.
6. Read stories about friends to introduce socializing and interpersonal dynamics.



## Physical Activity

1. Play games such as throwing & catching a ball and balancing or building blocks to develop hand-eye coordination.
2. Play active games, like tag and hide-and-go-seek. Go swimming together.
3. Practice fundamental movement skills, like skipping, jumping, running, and balancing on one foot, during play.
4. Walk together to the park or playground and be active. Also teach playground safety (waiting turns, sliding feet first, staying away from moving swings & the bottom of slides).
5. Put on some of your child's favourite music and dance!
6. Teach your child how to use the pedals on a tricycle or toy car to move themselves forward and back.
7. Try stretching before bed to promote relaxation and flexibility.
8. Talk about & model the ways that you stay physically active.

## The Wider World

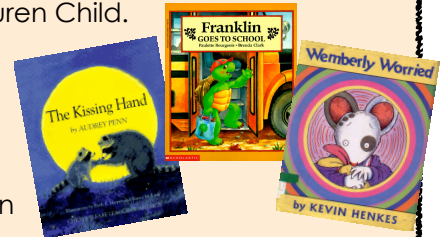
1. Go for neighbourhood walks. Take turns pointing out interesting things. Bring along a container so your child can collect treasures along the way (like seeds, leaves, and rocks) and explore them later at home.
2. Attend a variety of community events in your area.
3. Help your child understand where food comes from. Show them food being grown in gardens, farms, orchards, or greenhouses and make the link to your local shops and markets.
4. Help your child identify items that can be recycled. Make artwork and crafts using recycled materials.
5. Encourage your child to consider other people's feelings. You might ask your child: "What do you think it would feel like if the other children would not let you play?"
6. Singapore is a diverse place and so is our school! When talking about diversity, point out human similarities first, then help your child appreciate people's differences. You might say: "Everybody needs food, shelter and love, but people have different ways of doing things. Our family's way is just one way."



## Countdown to Kindergarten

Here are some fun and practical things you can do as a family as you and your little one count down the final days before starting Kindergarten 1!

1. Reading - Start reading books about the different activities and emotions associated with starting school. Some of my favourites include: *Wemberley Worried* by Kevin Henkes, *Franklin Goes to School* by Paulette Bourgeois, *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn, *We Share Everything!* by Robert Munsch, *Welcome to Kindergarten* by Anne Rockwell, & *I Am Too Absolutely Small for School* by Lauren Child.
2. Set a Routine - Establish a consistent bedtime routine and morning schedule so your child goes to bed and wakes up at the same time every day.
3. Safety First - Make sure your child knows his or her full name, address, and your telephone number.
4. What to Wear - Purchase school uniform items and have your child try them on ensure that everything fits.
5. Paperwork - Check with the Elementary School Office (+65 6235 5844) to ensure that you have completed all the necessary forms and paperwork.
6. Practice Lunchtime - Start preparing pretend school lunches and serve them for lunch at home. Plan a selection of healthy meals with your child to ensure he or she likes what she is eating.
7. Learn the Route - Discuss the driving, bus, MRT, bike, or walking route to and from the school.
8. Prepare Materials - Gather the items noted on the materials list below.
9. Eat Well - Choose an energy-packed breakfast for the first day of school You may also want to cook your child's favourite dinner the night before.
10. Pack up - Make sure your child's backpack is stocked and ready to go with items from the Personal Materials list (below). Don't forget to include their packed lunch the next morning!
11. Sleep Well - Plan for an early bedtime. Read one of the books listed above about starting school for nighttime reading.
12. Relax!! - Remind your child (and yourself!) that the teachers and school will be there to help you every step along the way. The start of school is all about getting to know each other and having fun. Take a deep breath and enjoy!



## Materials & Personal Items

The school provides all writing, art, and stationary materials as part of your tuition. Please include the following personal items in your child's backpack on the first day. These will remain at school over the course of the year in your child's personal cubby tray.

- ☐ Art Smock (old t-shirt or art apron)
- ☐ An extra set of clothes in a zipped plastic bag (t-shirt, shorts, and underwear!)
- ☐ A small stuffed toy or personal comfort item
- ☐ A hat
- ☐ A small photograph of your family and/or people important to your child





# School Calendar

More important dates and events (including field trips) will be emailed to you from the class teacher and school office over the course of the year. This provides a general guideline of holidays and major events.

## ISS Academic Calendar 2013-2014

Week	Week Commencing	Details: Semester 1 (2013)
0	29 Jul 2013	Returning staff begin Monday, 29 <sup>th</sup> July λ Orientation for Elementary @9.00am & Middle School @ 10.30am, Friday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> August Orientation for High School – 10.00am – 3.00pm, Friday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> August
1	5 August	Semester 1 begins Monday, 5 <sup>th</sup> August (First day of school for all students) Hari Raya Puasa – Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> August (Public Holiday) National Day – Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> August (Public Holiday)
2	12 August	Grade 9-12 Meet the teachers night - Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> August IB at ISS run by IB Coordinators - Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> August
3	19 August	λ Grade 6-8 Meet the teachers night, Tuesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> August Elementary School Information Evening – Wednesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> August
4	26 August	PTA Meeting – Monday, 26 <sup>th</sup> August ESL Info Meeting - Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> August
5	2 September	IBPYP Information evening for parents – Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September University presentation to G11 & G12 students and parents
6	9 September	λ MYP Mother Tongue Info Evening - Tuesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> September PTA Social Evening – Thursday, 12 <sup>th</sup> September Elementary School Sports Day (K - G5) – Friday, 13 <sup>th</sup> September (tentative date)
7	16 September	PTA AGM – Wednesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> September UN Concert - Thursday, 19 <sup>th</sup> September (tentative date) Staff In-Service Friday, 20 <sup>th</sup> September - School closed for students of ES/MS/HS
8	23 September	λ MYP Personal Project and Moderation Info Evening - Tuesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> September λ Swim Gala (High and Middle School) – Friday, 27 <sup>th</sup> September (tentative date)
9	30 September	PTA Meeting – Monday, 30 <sup>th</sup> September λ Grade 6-12 Interim Report sent home - Thursday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> October Elementary School United Nations Day Celebration – Friday, 4 <sup>th</sup> October
Mid Semester Break (School Closed from 7 <sup>th</sup> October – 11 <sup>th</sup> October)		
10	14 October	Staff In-Service – Monday, 14 <sup>th</sup> October - School closed for students of ES/MS/HS Hari Raya Haji - Tuesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> October (Public Holiday) Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conferences G9-10 Thursday, 17 <sup>th</sup> October
11	21 October	Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conferences G11 & G12 Tuesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> October λ Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conferences - G6-8 Wednesday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> October
12	28 October	PTA Meeting – Monday, 28 <sup>th</sup> October Elementary School 3 way Conferences – Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> October (school closed for ES)
13	4 November	ES Math Night – Wednesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> November (tentative date)
14	11 November	
15	18 November	G9 -11 Examinations week G12 Study Week
16	25 November	Introduction to Extended Essay for G11 students and parents - Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November
17	2 December	PTA Meeting – Monday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> December G10 IB Diploma Information Evening and Subject Fair - Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December
18	9 December	Elementary School Winter Concert – Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December (tentative date) Elementary School Student Progress Reports sent home to parents – Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December λ G6 – 12 Reports sent home Thursday, 12 <sup>th</sup> December (Full Report) End of Semester 1 – Friday, 13 <sup>th</sup> December (12 noon)
Christmas & New Year Vacation 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2013 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2014		



19	6 January 2014	Start Semester 2 – Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> January Staff In-Service – Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> January – School closed for students of ES/MS/HS New HS Student Orientation – Monday, 6 <sup>th</sup> January All students return to school – Tuesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> January λ. Introduction to the Middle School for new and G5 parents – Thursday, 9 <sup>th</sup> January HS Photoshoot (Graduates, Homerooms, Individual Students) Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> January
20	13 January	Photoshoot (Graduates, Homerooms, Individual Students), Monday, 13 <sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, 14 January λ. Photoshoot for ES & MS Homeroom & Faculty, Wednesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> – Friday, 17 <sup>th</sup> January λ. Parent/Guardian-Teacher Conferences G6 – 8, Wednesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> January λ. Introduction to the High School for new and G8 parents – Thursday, 16 <sup>th</sup> January
21	20 January	University presentation to G11 students and parents Part 2
22	27 January	PTA Meeting – Monday, 27 <sup>th</sup> January Chinese New Year Thursday, 30 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January (replacement for Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> February) (Public Holiday)
23	3 February	MYP Personal Project Exhibition
24	10 February	Paterson Book Week Grade 12 Mock Exams starts Monday, 10 <sup>th</sup> February - Wednesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> February λ. International Food & Dress Day, Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> February
25	17 February	λ. Middle School Activity Week
26	24 February	PTA Meeting – Monday, 24 <sup>th</sup> February
27	3 March	G12 Reports sent home Wednesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> March ISS Fun Fair – Sunday, 9 <sup>th</sup> March
28	10 March	λ. MS New Students Report sent home, Thursday, 13 <sup>th</sup> March Parent/Guardian Teacher Conferences G12 – Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March λ. Track & Field (High and Middle School) – Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> March (tentative date)
Spring Break (School closed from 17 <sup>th</sup> March – 28 <sup>th</sup> March)		
29	31 March	Staff In-Service – Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> March – School closed for all students of ES/MS/HS All students return to school – Tuesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> April G9-11 Interim Reports sent home Tuesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> April
30	7 April	PTA Meeting – Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> April Parent/Guardian Teacher Conferences G9 - 11 – Tuesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> April
31	14 April	λ. Student-Led Conferences – Tuesday, 15 <sup>th</sup> April (ES and MS school closed) Good Friday – Friday, 18 <sup>th</sup> April (Public Holiday)
32	21 April	G9-11 Examination begin - Thursday, 24 <sup>th</sup> - Wednesday, 30 <sup>th</sup> April
33	28 April	Labour Day – Thursday, 1 <sup>st</sup> May (Public Holiday) Staff In-Service – Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May – School closed for all students
34	5 May	IBDP Examinations begin, Monday, 5 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May PTA Meeting – Monday, 5 <sup>th</sup> May λ. G6-8 Exam week (5 days) Monday, 5 <sup>th</sup> - Friday, 9 <sup>th</sup> May
35	12 May	Vesak Day – Tuesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> May (tentative) (Public Holiday)
36	19 May	λ. Middle School Production Wednesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> – Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May (tentative date) Elementary School Swimming Gala – Friday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> May (tentative date) Graduation – Friday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> May
37	26 May	HS Activity Week Monday, 26 <sup>th</sup> May - Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May λ. Middle School Arts Exhibition Monday, 26 <sup>th</sup> – Friday, 30 <sup>th</sup> May
38	2 June	λ. G6 – 11 Reports sent home Elementary School Student Progress Reports sent home to parents λ. Grade 8 Farewell Celebration (Middle School) End of Semester 2 for students and Faculty - Friday, 6 <sup>th</sup> June (12noon)

# "Pleased to meet you!"

We have received some information about your child from our admissions office, but we'd like to know more! Please help us to get to know your child by answering these questions. If possible, please return this page to us on the first day of school (Monday, August 5).

Child's full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name your child prefers to be called: \_\_\_\_\_

Languages spoken at home: \_\_\_\_\_

Other languages your child speaks: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your child's English language abilities: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is your child (please circle one):

Left handed?    Right handed?    No preference?    Don't know yet?

Does your child have any brothers and/or sisters in the school? Please include names, ages, and grade level: \_\_\_\_\_

Please confirm whether your child has any allergies or medical conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Any special dietary requirements? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your child's strengths? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What would you like your child to develop this year? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Does your child have any special talents or interests? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe your child's feelings about starting Kindergarten 1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Any other information that you think is important for me to know: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_