

Kindergarten Connection

Al Fatih Academy

Assalamu Alaikum!!

September 2011

Welcome to Kindergarten!! This first newsletter is designed to introduce you to your child's kindergarten experience. It contains practical information about kindergarten and some simple things you can do to assure your child's transition into kindergarten is a smooth one.

Kindergarten Teaching Team:

- Ms. Pervin Kindergarten Teacher
- Ms. Zainab Kindergarten Teaching Assistant
- Ms. Asma Arabic/Quran Teacher
- Ms. Maysoun Arabic/Quran Teaching Assistant
- Ms. Nadia Art Teacher
- Ms. Sabah PE Teacher

School Hours:

9:00 - 3:30 Children should arrive promptly at 9:00 am and be picked up promptly at 3:30

Please understand that late fees apply for late pick-up. Children will not be allowed to enter school prior to 8:45 (see student handbook)

Water Bottles:

In order to maximize instruction time and minimize the number of times a student leaves the room for a drink please send your child to school with one large or two small water bottles each day. **Please label the water bottle(s) with your child's name using a permanent marker. Do Not Send extremely tall water bottles as they will not fit into your child's cubby.**

Snack/Lunch:

Children should bring a small snack (for example: crackers/cheese, an apple, banana, etc. with a small drink) **AND** a complete lunch (for example: sandwich, fruit, cheese, chips, a small treat **NO CANDY** and a drink) everyday. Please send drinks that are easy to open and do not spill easily. Always remember to **include a napkin and a spoon/fork** whenever necessary. Please purchase a **lunch box** that can easily contain your child's lunch and snack. Clearly label your child's lunch box with their name using a permanent marker. **Every child must have some sort of lunch box. Grocery bags are not considered lunch bags.**

Back Pack:

Please purchase a **simple** backpack that is large enough to hold your child's lunch box and any papers and projects that will be sent home. Please avoid purchasing an extremely large backpack (if your child can't manage to put in on and take it off independently it's too large) or extremely small backpacks. Backpacks with wheels should be avoided, as they are difficult to hang on our classroom hooks. Clearly label your child's backpack with their name using a permanent marker.

Please check and empty your child's backpack daily.

Extra Clothes:

Even in kindergarten accidents can happen. Please provide an extra set of clothes (include underpants and socks). Place in ziploc bag and label with your child's name. Place the bag in your child's backpack. The bag of clothes will be stored in our classroom. The extra set of clothes does not need to be a uniform. The extra clothes will be returned to you at the end of the year. Please remember to send a replacement bag of clothes the very next day if the first set of clothes is used.

Parent Volunteers:

Parent volunteers are an important part of your child's school experience. A volunteer sign-up form is attached. We need parents that can help with special projects, read with the children, etc. Please consider volunteering. The volunteer schedule will begin in October Inshallah.

Room Parent and Some Related Duties:

- Each year we have two parents act as our kindergarten room parents.
- Room parent activities may include, helping to organize and plan parties, celebrations, and other related classroom functions.
- The room parents will co-ordinate classroom parent volunteers under the direction of the classroom teacher.
- Room parents will plan and organize kindergarten market day sales.
- Room parents may be asked to notify other classroom parents of upcoming events in order to boost support or participation.
- Room parents will act as liaison between PTA and other parents in the class (phone calls, etc) regarding various school wide projects

Head Scarf and Kufi (prayer cap):

Girls should bring a simple white or navy blue headscarf in a large Ziploc bag for daily prayer. Boys may bring a simple white prayer cap also in a ziploc bag. **Please label the bag with your child's name, using a permanent marker.** The scarves and caps will be stored in our classroom. The bags will be sent home periodically for washing.

Bathroom Use:

Children will be allowed to use the bathroom at any time they feel the need. The only requirement is that they notify their classroom teacher prior to leaving the room.

Please encourage independent use of the bathroom at home. Review with your child the steps for using the bathroom at school:

- 1- Take the bathroom basket to the bathroom with you.
- 2- Fill your spray bottle full of water.
- 3- Place the basket with the bottle and wipes close to the toilet.
- 4- Sit down on the toilet to use the bathroom.
- 5- Clean yourself with the spray bottle or with a flushable wipe (practice this part at home)
- 6- Dry yourself with toilet paper.
- 7- Flush the toilet.
- 8- Wash your hands.
- 9- Return the bathroom basket to our classroom.

Indoor Shoes:

In order to ensure the cleanest indoors environment possible please provide a pair of **plain, simple, slip-on sneakers with, non-skid soles and no laces** to be used indoors.

Uniforms:

- Girls should wear plain tan straight leg pants with white or navy blue polo shirt, a plain navy blue jumper with a white plain shirt or a long tan skirt with white or blue shirt.
- Boys should wear plain tan straight leg pants with white or navy blue polo shirt. Every effort should be made to make sure your child adheres to the school uniform on a daily basis.
- In order to give parents a chance to purchase the necessary uniforms the warning policy for non-compliance to the uniform code will not be in effect until the second week of school at which time your child can be officially cited for not wearing the proper uniform.

Outer Clothing: All removable outer clothing (sweaters, jackets, sweatshirts) should be labeled with your child's name.

Toys:

Please do not allow your child to bring toys to school, as they often cause distraction and conflicts among the children.

Permission to go home with another child:

When friends are visiting one another immediately after school please send a note to the office from the parents of each child involved. This assures each parent has given approval for the visit.

Emergency Information:

If at any time your phone number or emergency info changes please inform the school and me immediately.

Kindergarten Envelopes:

Every day, please keep an eye out for your child's Envelope. The envelope will hold your child's work and any notices from us or the office. Please empty out the folder each evening and return it to school the next day. Feel free to insert any communications you may wish to pass along to the teacher or administration.

Email Communication: In an effort to be mindful of the earth's resources we will again go **PAPERLESS** this coming year. Parents can expect to receive most communications, newsletters, etc. from me via email. Please be sure to provide accurate and up to date email addresses. If you do not have regular email access please inform me so that I can be sure to send home hard copy communications with your child. Also please feel free to email me at any time. Keep in mind I am unable to respond to emails during the school day. However you can expect to receive a response within a day Inshallah.

Conferences:

A parent/teacher conference will be held in November. A parent may request a conference at any time prior to the initial conference as well as after.

Classroom Newsletters: Parents can expect a newsletter outlining upcoming instructional objectives with each new unit of study as well as periodic daily notes home describing our activities and encouraging interaction between parents and child.

Keep in mind all newsletters and procedural communications can be accessed on line at anytime by visiting the AFA website www.alfatih.org and clicking Academics and then clicking Kindergarten.

PTA:

Please consider becoming an active member of the Al Fatih Academy PTA. Information will be provided at a later date about scheduled meetings and activities.

Junk Materials:

During the school year your child will be taking part in many different arts and crafts activities. You can help us by gathering various materials found on the following list.

- Baby food jars
- Fabric scraps
- Sewing trim (rickrack, ribbons, sequins, etc.)
- Toilet and paper towel rolls
- Wallpaper scraps

Field Trip T-Shirts:

Please purchase an Al Fatih Academy T-Shirt to be used on Field Trips. The cost of the T-shirt is \$8.00. Children will be required to wear the shirts on field trips. If your child already has a T-Shirt from last year please use it. T-shirts are available for sale in the AFA office.

Scholastic Book Order: Each month a catalog of books that you can purchase will be sent home. You are not required to make a purchase. But please keep in mind for each purchase you make the teacher receives bonus points that can be used to purchase books for our class library. This is a great way to build our classroom library. This year we will again encourage parents to submit and pay for their orders directly on line. Details to follow.

Market Day: Once a week an AFA classroom sponsors a bake sale. Once every ten weeks our class will host the market day. Each parent will be asked to donate a home baked item to sell. Parents that contribute baked items for sale are eligible to receive volunteer hours. (1 hr for home baked items, $\frac{1}{2}$ hr for purchased items). All the proceeds from the sale are used by the classroom teacher to purchase items for their class. The exact dates of our Market Days TBA.

Market Day Money: It is sometimes difficult to remember to bring money for market day and when this happens children are often very sad and disappointed. As a result we are willing to keep a cash reserve for your child to use at Market Day. Please send **5 dollars** (Loose change or 1 dollar bills) to school with your child. Place the money in a ziploc bag labeled with your child's name. When your child's cash reserve becomes low we will send home your child's market day bag with a note asking for you to replenish the market day money. Please return the market day bag along with the money the next day. PLEASE DO NOT SEND MONEY UNLESS WE ASK FOR IT. Kindergarten children will be allowed to purchase no more than two items for Market Day. If you have special instructions for how you would like your child to spend their market day money please write a simple note and place inside the bag with their money.

Special Person: Each Friday I will send home a paper with one child announcing they are the special person. The child must complete the information asked for and bring the completed paper and some special objects to school on the following Monday. We will display the items and write a special person story. The items will be displayed for the week and the special person will bring home a folder containing drawings and writing from all the children. Children will be randomly chosen. This activity will begin in a few weeks Inshallah.

Sharing: A daily sharing experience gives each child the opportunity to get up in front of a group of friends and practice speaking in an effective and comfortable manner. The children are allowed to share at the end of each day. Sharing can mean many different things. In our class it means bringing in a special item: a trophy, certificate, ribbon, item from a collection, a photograph, a story, or picture the child has made, (no toys please). Sharing can also mean telling about a special event, or something new you have learned. We will be encouraging such skills as: keeping to your topic, being brief, and being a good listener while others are sharing. **A sharing schedule will be sent home after the first couple of weeks of school. Please do not send any sharing items to school until the schedule is set.**

Communicating with teachers: Emails, notes or a phone call are all acceptable ways of communicating with your child's teacher with any concerns, comments or questions you may have. I can be reached via phone through the AFA office, **703 437-9382** and you can email me at pdivleli@alfatih.org Please keep in mind that it may take a day for me to respond to your communications, simply because I am not able to respond during the workday while I am in the classroom with the children.

Kindergarten Wish List

Alhamdulillah our classed was blessed with a new wooden kitchen play set this year!! And we need your help to make it our new play area even more fun. Please consider donating the following items to our classroom. Thank You!



1-Sandwich making set:

<http://www.gummylump.com/p/SandwichShopPlayFood/513>



2- Food groups set:

<http://www.gummylump.com/p/FoodGroupsPlayFoodSet/271>



2- Fruit cutting set:

<http://www.gummylump.com/p/FRUITCratePlayFoodSet/4021>



4- Pot & Pan Cooking set:

<http://www.gummylump.com/p/KitchenPotsandPansWoodenToySet/2610>

5- Set of colorful cloth napkins and placemats



6- Need mom/dad to sew small circle seat cushions similar to these, 20*

http://www.ebay.com/sch/i.html?_nkw=circle+time+cushions