Parent Day
The parent day will be on Saturday 31/10/2015 from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm (lunch break for teachers 12:00-12:30).

Gifts for teachers
Please note that individual gifts for teachers or office staff are against school policy. Parents may show their appreciation with a simple but much appreciated thank you note in the diary.

Secondary school

History Project
On October 22nd year 7/8/9 will take part in our History competition, the first of many academic competitions this year in all subject areas. The students have been given their themes and time to research, and lessons will stop for two periods for all students to complete their essays. There are prizes of trophies for the winners and medals for runners up. While this is of course based on work in class, it is also an opportunity for a writing assignment!
There are trophies and medals for the winners!

Homework
Homework is an important means of helping students to achieve their potential, by helping them to become active, independent learners, and by promoting their enthusiasm for learning. It is essential in extending students’ self-discipline.
At IAK each subject is expected to set homework, without exception. There is a clear expectation that homework is challenging and meaningful and that it is completed to the highest of standards by students.

Why homework is important
• It encourages students to develop the practice of working on their own without the constant presence of the teacher or other students. This way of working is vital to be independent, proactive learners.
• It can help students to make more rapid progress in learning.
• It can allow consolidation of skills learned in lessons and, through practice, reinforce those skills and knowledge.
• It encourages students to use materials and other sources of information that are not always available in the classroom.
• It can involve parents and others in students’ work for their mutual benefit.
• It gives students valuable experience of working to deadlines, developing the lifelong skills of time management.
• It forms a beneficial link between families and the school.
Helping with home work

Your child will need to work more independently at secondary school than in primary school. But your interest and input will still be important and will help your child to do well.

Look for opportunities to talk your child about schoolwork – children enjoy sharing what they are learning. Try to find topics you’re both interested in so it’s more of a conversation than an interrogation.

Ask your child if there’s anything you can do to help with homework. Discuss the organization of the work. If your child has several assignments due in the same day, suggest they space the work out rather than leave it all until the night before.

The following is a rough guide to how long your child should be spending on homework at secondary school:

| Year 7 – 8 | -45 to 90 minutes a day |
| Year 9     | -60 to 120 minutes a day |
| Year 10 – 11 | -90 to 150 minutes a day |

Primary/Foundation

History Project for Primary
On Thursday October 22nd classes from Years 1 to 6 will be involved in a History ‘Door competition’. The students, along with their teachers, will work to create a historical piece according to the topics they have been learning about in class. If your child is interested in dressing up as a favourite historical character we would certainly welcome that. Hopefully we will see some teachers dress up too.

The door competition will be judged by The Principal, Mr. Andy and Ms. Vera the HOP.

Prizes are certificates for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place as well as a mention in our next newsletter.

Bus Service
Parents should be aware that for KG, Reception and Years 1 and 2 the children are still very young. Please ensure you inform our Administration (Miss Amani) if someone else will be collecting your child at any time. If you do not wish your child to be sent home on the bus please call the office. We cannot accept the word of a small child. In addition (but not instead) please write a note in your child’s school agenda.

Helping your Child with Reading
Parents can learn more about our Reading scheme and encourage their children by visiting the website: www.oxfordowl.co.uk where they can find free advice, free eBooks and lots of activities to help their children with literacy.

KS1/KS2 Curriculum Information Q and A
1) How has the Curriculum Changed?
   - We are now adapting the U.K. National Curriculum (see website: https://www.gov.uk/national-curriculum/overview) and no longer using the I.P.C.
2) What differences will I notice?
- The biggest difference is that subjects are now taught individually rather than in one project. The tests at the end of the year will be adapted from the National Curriculum; teachers will no longer be responsible for designing the most important test of the year.

3) What is your main goal in teaching?
- We want children to concentrate MORE (but not exclusively) on SKILLS and less on memorized facts. For example, knowing HOW to find information is more useful than knowing ONLY how to memorise it.

4) How can I know what my child is doing without disturbing the teacher in class?
- Curriculum Information Sheets (CIS) will be sent home weekly and posted on notice boards. An appointment time will be sent home so you can arrange to meet your child’s teacher and you can also communicate through the homework diary for primary & the communication book for early years.

5) How will my child be assessed?
- Your child will be assessed through weekly tests for spelling and Maths and will have formal assessments throughout the year at regular intervals, for English and Maths. Please see the assessment calendar posted on the web site. Years 3 to year 6 will have end of year exams.

6) Is the work more difficult?
- Definitely! You may notice your child’s grades changing to a more realistic level of achievement. We cannot continue to have a whole class receiving Excellent or A when we are trying to raise our standards even higher. Your child is following an adapted curriculum from the UK, a curriculum designed for First Language Speakers in the UK- clearly there will be challenges.

7) How can I help?
- At this stage your priority is to encourage first and foremost the joy of reading. Reading should be regular, daily, and enjoyable. ALL reading in English is good, news, journals, children’s books and magazines road signs, advertisements. Secondly, number work is important. You can also help by using the ‘how you can help your child’ section on the CIS.

Regards

Andy Hill
Principal