

This is the first of our monthly bulletins to keep you up to date with life in the EIC.

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# News from the Headteacher

Dear families,

On behalf of all the staff and governors ("patrons") of the EIC, I would like to welcome you warmly to the new school year, 2018-19, our seventh year. Last year was filled with many events, successes and developments for the entire school, staff and our community. This year, of course it will be even better, because improvement is part of our mindset for children, teachers and non teachers and a new development plan will support planned progress in all areas, focusing on learning and the individual as well as high quality professional development for staff.

I hope you and your children have had a good summer -it has been a very long holiday for the children (and a long time for the parents to keep them busy... I know), so let's get back into the swing

quickly. They may not have been speaking one or more of Spanish, Catalan or English and will be rusty, so they will need practice.

It has been hot weather and not a day passed this summer without the international media talking about heatwaves, melting ice, impact on animal and plant life, pollution and in particular the problems caused by plastic. You will see below that I refer to our themes for the year, but I must emphasise that sustainability, one of our four pillars, has to be a priority. We have talked a lot but now it is time to act in a more fundamental way, not just when it suits us - and to educate our children in sustainable thinking and good routines across the curriculum. As a school and as individuals we must seriously reduce our consumption of single-use plastics as well as facing issues such as food waste, recycling,

diesel and cars, energy consumption (and more) and we will be raising the tone and the level of commitment this year.

Teachers have been back at work since September 3rd with some new colleagues too, planning and organising classrooms and the curriculum. This summer most of our IB and BAT students have been able to secure places at the universities they were aiming for: Selectivitat, BAT and IB results as well as strong

personal profiles helped open the doors to their futures, and our BAT/IB 2 students will be heading off soon to the UK, Canada, Spain and other universities around the world, overtaking a gap year before continuing their studies. This year we had more students than ever taking (and passing) the IB; some students whose priority was BAT (Nacional) also selected IB subjects which is an addition to their education and an enriching dimension too, as well as giving them extra qualifications.

There will be more than 70 new students at the school this year, and we ask for your support to welcome students and their families and help them feel at home as soon as possible. You will remember what you felt when you were "new" (students and families). There will be an extra teaching group in ESO 3, so we now have 3A and 3B.



September will be a month where we have to set good routines, get to know teachers, subjects and classes and focus on establishing good habits inside and outside the classroom. It is an important time for you as families to do the same at home, a chance for a new start with children who are one year older and wiser.

We will focus again on three specific themes for the year 2018-19, and Primary/Secondary students will see them in the planner.

First, a focus on sustainability, one of our 4 pillars, but with the aim of really integrating it in all areas of school life and serving as an example.

Second, a focus on "courtesy and good manners" which should be a life skill for all of our students, as it fundamentally means respect for others.

Third - Human Rights - this underpins all our attitudes and relationships.

Our educational model Socrates Educa emphasises not only the community, but also the importance of individual and personal development.

From this point of view, your child's tutor is a key person. S/he will know how to talk to you about progress, challenges, daily routines ... they see your child daily and will be able to tell you how he is developing. The tutor is always the first point of contact. Please speak with him/her in the Forum / by email, if you have concerns or if there is something you want to discuss or information you need to know from outside the school. Do not wait until a problem turns into a crisis - talk to the tutor.

You will be invited to parent information meetings during the next few weeks.

Extracurricular activities will begin on September 24th. The Extracurricular Activities Fair will take place on Monday 17th after school so you can see which are the activities on offer. You can see them and register through Alexia. The deadline is September 22nd, but some activities will be full before, if you leave it until the last minute.

Don't forget: Apply online for School Lunches and Extra Curricular Activities, both in Alexia, clicking on "Extra



Curricular Activities" at the bottom of the homepage. You can download, fill in and email the forms for transport and after school care from the Alexia Gallery - it is very easy and quick. Instructions were in the letter sent to you recently.

We attach the school calendar for the entire year. It can also be found in the Alexia Gallery, along with the menus. The detailed calendar for the next month will appear in each Bulletin, published at the end of each month, along with news, practical information and events.

### Parent Curriculum Information 2018-19

We are preparing this information and it will be published in Alexia. We will inform you when it is ready during the month of September.

Some practical points:

- The EIC is a chewing gum-free zone. That includes students, parents, visitors and school staff. We ask that you respect this.
- Mobile phones (students) must be invisible at all times and will be confiscated if seen.
- Do not forget that the uniform must be impeccable

at all times for all students, including school regulation shoes (black/brown/navy blue, plain)!

•Reception assistants will start in September with ESO 1 students. This community service lasts from 8.35 until lunch time. Correct uniform and good presentation are essential.

### EIC Clubs

Throughout the year you will receive information directly from the clubs, which will propose events and activities. There will be many opportunities to participate and contribute to the life of the School. Do not forget that on the same day as the Extra Curricular Activities Fair, the Clubs will celebrate their Fair in the Forum (Monday, September 17th after school).

We encourage everyone to meet them, contact them and join in with the Clubs, so you can enjoy and see school life from another point of view. Unique in the EIC!

As usual, you can find me at the beginning and end of the day at the entrance of the school.

Best regards,

**Jonathan Day**

# Calendar dates

## SCHOOL CALENDAR: September / October 2018

### September

12th - School starts, normal times

17th - Extra Curricular Activities Fair 4.30pm

20th - ESO Parents' Information Meeting 4.45pm

24th - Extra Curricular Activities start

25th - Pre School Parents' Meeting (P1-2-3) 5pm

26th - Pre School Parents' Meeting (P4-5) 5pm

28th - New Families Welcome 5pm in the Cafe

### October

1st - Reception Assistants start (ESO)

2nd - Primary 1 & 2 Parents' Evening 4.45pm

3rd - Primary 3 & 4 Parents' Evening 4.45pm

4th - Primary 5 & 6 Parents' Evening 4.45pm

8th - 11th - Grandparents' Week

11th - Grandparents invited in to school, 3pm in the Forum

12th - Bank Holiday, school closed

19th - UK Universities Fair - British Council, Barcelona (BAT2)

25th - Alexia and ICT Information Meeting for families 4.45pm

25th - Premis 30 d'Octubre, Salou

30th - Halloween

31st - Castanyada

31st - ESO 1 Parents' Evening, 4.45pm

## November

1st & 2nd - Bank Holidays, School Closed

# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## Alexia/ICT

I hope you have downloaded the Alexia app, which is now easier to use and will improve our communications with families, both for academic and administrative issues. The 2018-19 school calendar is in the gallery, as well as the newsletters ("Let's Talk About...") which explain the main areas for the beginning of the year, including uniforms, materials, transportation, dining room, lockers and more. We have installed more digital projectors and purchased iPads, as well as traditional resources.

We will be introducing new security software for the school, teachers and for families, so watch out for news - there will be an ICT meeting on October (25th) to cover this and other areas such as Alexia and iPads.

## Resources

We order large quantities of textbooks, exercise books, workbooks, reading books and materials for use in classrooms throughout the year, including sport, music, art, science and more, so your children will receive materials as appropriate at the beginning of term.

If you have any books from previous years which you want to return to the school for re-use (recycling), then we will be pleased to receive them and you can de-clutter your child's room!

## Around the site:

- There have been physical changes during the summer: Extra classroom space for our new class: we now have ESO 3A and 3B which will be located on Level 2. Art and Technology rooms have moved.
- General maintenance works and many rooms and corridors painted so that the school feels fresh and cared for. We will encourage all children to help keep it that way, and the Student Council is assuming greater responsibility in caring for their surroundings, as well as in the content of the curriculum and the life of the school.
- We have picked vegetables from the EIC garden over the summer - delicious and healthy tomatoes, cucumbers, courgettes and onions. I think the rabbits enjoyed the lettuce!
- The Forum: the school is busier every year so we ask parents and children to ensure that there is no football or basketball played in the Forum after school. This is for the safety and comfort of everyone. We have spaces in the playground for ball games.
- We are installing more security cameras.



## Tutors

• If you wish to see a tutor or teacher: catch them after school in the Forum (mostly Primary) or in Pre School, or send an email. Please do not always expect a tutor to be free to have a meeting - it's always better to arrange in advance and we will do our best to accommodate you.