

# News from the PD's Office 2

Hello to all parents and Guardians

The school's activities are well under way. We have now survived 7 weeks of hustle and bustle with a lot of new students, new teachers, new parents, new rooms and some new activities, all trying to get into the same rhythm.

The **new rooms for Portuguese classes** in primary are now fully operational. Ms Samaia and Ms Sandra are extremely very happy because they now have space to carry out other activities with the children.

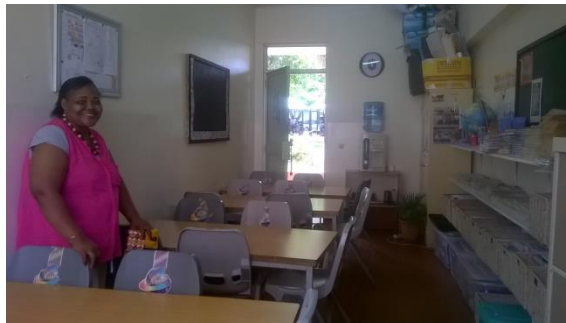


Ms Ancha's room has shifted to the new block enabling us to set up the KS1 in a more visible space for the little ones. The **library is now more available to the KS1 pupils**, especially those that prefer to go to the library as opposed to running around during breaks.



**The storeroom** has now been fully transferred to the new location and the **KS1 music lessons** have also been transferred to what will be the new music room. Unfortunately there is still a lot to do. Meanwhile Ms Elizabeth has also had a room upgrade.

We have also set up the KS2 storeroom which has enabled the optimisation of resources besides creating a lot more space in the classrooms. Keystage 1 storeroom has not yet been set up but will be soon.



We have **new teachers in all sections** and most have had to juggle moving in, finding accommodation and settling their families in, while settling in at the MIS rhythm.

Ms Shandre from South Africa is an **English teacher** and is also trained in **Life Skills**. She is currently working with **KS3 on the PSHE** (Personal, Social and Health Education) **Framework** and supporting teachers. She will also start the KS2 teachers as it is imperative that we introduce PSHE in all Key Stages.



Mr Eckson on the other hand is from Mozambique, he **teaches maths** throughout the secondary school and is heading the **Maths Club**.

Mr Arturo in the library has set up the **Teacher Reference Section** and is now busy setting up a system that will enable parents to come in and borrow books. You will need to have **your school card though**.



The library staff was also away for 3 days at a **librarians' conference at the American school**. We are impatient to see what innovations they will be putting into practice.



**There are still many parents who have not downloaded the new application form. These need to be completed and handed in to the office. This is for all students not just the new ones.**

This year we are **continuing to expand the offer of both school based activities and extracurricular (paid) activities**

We had initially thought of having payments done through the school by this presents an enormous logistics operation not only for the finance office but for parents as well. The activities are to be paid on a monthly basis to the instructors (**capoeira, judo, gymnastics and swimming for beginners, both children and adults**).

**Timetable for major KS3/4 school activities and clubs, as well as extracurricular activities held at school. 17/2/2017**

**Monday**

3pm -4pm	Science club KS3	in room 40 with Ana Cristina	(School activity)
3pm – 4pm	Gymnastics KS3 and 4	in Hall Ricardo and Aristides	(extracurricular)
3:10 – 5pm	Boys’ Basketball	with Mura and Leo	(School activity)

**Tuesday**

3pm – 5pm	Girls’ football	KS3	with Ms Jessica	(School activity)
3:15 – 4pm	Portuguese club	KS3/4	room 47 with Ms Ines	(School activity)
3pm to 4pm	Maths Club	KS3	room 24 with Mr Eckson/Ms Kiluba	(School activity)

3pm – 4pm Crafts Club KS3/4 room 23/25 with Ms Kiluba/Ms Ronia (School activity)

### Wednesday

3pm – 4 pm Debate club with Mr Gary room 30 (School activity)

3:10 – 5pm Boys' Basketball with Mura / Mr Anicêncio (School activity)

3:10 pm – 4:30 pm badminton with Mr Elex Hall (School activity)

3:10 – 4:30pm swimming club with Ms Mariza (School activity)

3:10 - Girls' basketball with ?(activity not yet decided) (School activity)

### Thursday

3pm – 4pm Gymnastics KS3 and 4 in Hall with Ricardo / Aristides (extracurricular)

3pm – 5pm Girls' football KS3 Ms Jessica (School activity)

3pm – 4pm Chess club KS3/4/5 Mr Anicêncio (School activity)

### Friday

2pm – 5pm Boy Football KS3/4 Mr Anicencio (School activity)

3pm – 4:30 German advanced level ICMA teacher (extracurricular)

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**Capoeira, judo and gymnastics** for KS1 and 2 are on Mondays and Thursdays between 1:40 and 3pm.

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As for the **language lessons (Italian and German** so far), these are organised by ICMA and The Italian Association Dante Aligheri. The German lessons will start this Friday while the Italian lesson is scheduled to start on the March 15<sup>th</sup> (timetable not set up yet).

There is also the possibility of **Chinese lessons** with the Confucius Institute. All these are dependent on number of enrolments. So far we have 3 students and we are looking to start soon

**Children should not be left at school** beyond the time when they are busy. Please beware that **we cannot guarantee 100% supervision** for children that hang around school if they are not attending activities. There are times when children stay at school until very late. We have actually had problems because of this and our behaviour committee was busy for two weeks sorting out and resolving the issues that arose.

**Children in Key Stage 1 and 2 do not have activities beyond 3pm** unless the class teacher communicates with you. The secondary school library is open until 5 for study purposes.

The lists of activities for key stage 1 and 2 have already gone out. I would suggest that parents ask class teacher, Key Stage heads or drop me an email if you are in doubt of your child's participation.

We have now started working on the plans for the **expansion of the KS1 and KS2 Jungle gyms**. The increase in numbers of students means there is more competition for space. The work will be done during the April Holidays. The KS1 jungle gym will be extended by 2 more towers and there will be more swings.

In the picture you can spot Ms Michelle, who is also from South Africa. She teaches one of the Reception classes.



I would also like to emphasise the importance of parental involvement in the child school activities, whether helping with homework or organisational skills, communicating regularly with the teachers on the progress or just offering to drop in and help once in a while.

Parent volunteers are welcome; it's just a matter of organising. You can come in and chat to me if you are willing to offer some of your time. We are very grateful to Mrs Maria José Montilla, Spanish, who has been in the library helping with the mammoth work load of registering books.

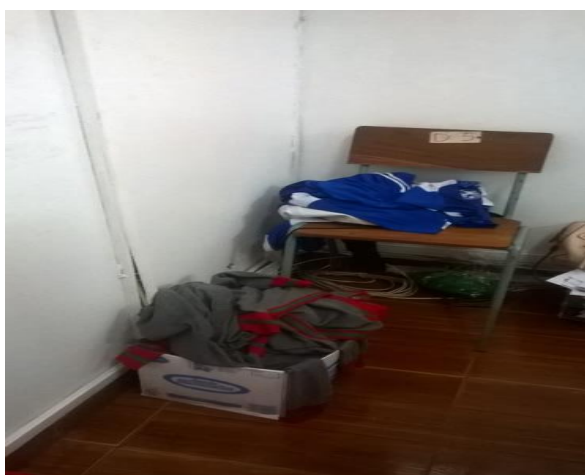
Please be aware that all children are given **homework**. This depends on the level. KS1 children are generally given assignments on Monday to be done during the week and this includes reading. Children in Key stage 2 have on average 15 to 20 minutes of homework every day.

Ks3 will definitely also have work given by different subjects. At this stage students should be learning to be responsible to get the assignments in on time but your questioning on this at home is important. If your child says they never have homework I would suggest you contact

the class teacher or the Tutor. Most probably they are not doing their homework. By Key Stage 4 a question now and then about the work should be enough. These students must all have Diaries to write down information on assignments and tests, and it should be used as a means of communication between parents and teachers.

By Key Stage 5 students should not need to have parents asking. If they do, then they are not prepared for University.

LOST AND FOUND – we have increasing amounts of items being left at school and we have no idea who they belong to. PLEASE put NAME TAGS on the clothes.



**Key Stage 3, 4 and 5** will be having a **Parents' Evening** next week on **Tuesday (March 7)**. Most teachers will be available between 4 and 7pm. A few teachers who live far away will be available between 3 and 6pm.

There will also be a **grade 11 parents 'meeting** on Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the End of Year **Prom**.

We have been informed that there will be a **Sports Festival** on March 25<sup>th</sup> at the UEM sports Centre. The participation is voluntary but if we have many students willing to participate, our PE teachers will be available to coordinate. **Please contact someone from the PE department** if you wish to enrol your child. **For more information, check Poster put up.**

Mr Brian who has been with us for over 10 years will be leaving at the end of the month. Unfortunately the Labour Law does not allow for those who have gone passed the official retirement age to have their contracts renewed. Mr Brian taught mostly English but at times also History in the secondary section. He was Key Stage 4 and 5 head for a number of years and even interim pedagogical director for a term. However he is most famous for putting on stage, theatrical productions involving students from different sections of the school. His shoes

will be difficult to fill. We would like to organise a farewell at school. It will be a Friday late Afternoon Get Together. Parents are invited to participate. There will be charcoal available for braai and tables to sit on and enjoy the company. Everyone should bring their drinks and meat (or any other main course). Salads and desserts will be provided by Upper school staff by depending on the participation we might need more contributions. We will inform you of the precise date ASAP.

Wishing everyone a great month of March (International Woman's Day on the 8<sup>th</sup>, World Water day on the 22<sup>nd</sup> ).

MIS @ work



Best Regards

Cristina Sanches

Pedagogical Director