



# BCA Parent Newsletter

Welcome back!



# Welcome to the first Newsletter of the 2021-22 school year

Dear Parents,

All students and their teachers and teaching assistants are settling in, establishing routines and expectations, and are fully engaged with the learning activities. If a week is a long time in politics, as the saying goes, then that is certainly true in education. A great deal has been achieved in the last seven days. We are all aware that in education, every opportunity, and every minute of every day, really matters. At the same time, education cannot be rushed: we need to judge when children are ready for the next step, have high but realistic expectations, and accept when we need to find a different route or approach.

As well as providing you with insights into your child's learning experiences, and highlighting class events, we will also use this newsletter to share relevant updates and reminders.

*Please note there will be more opportunities for your children to appear in the picture collages. This is only a selection.*



## Developing the Home-School Partnership: invitation to a Coffee Morning

In order to further develop the strength of our school community, I intend to create a formal and representative structure by which parent voice may be heard, and used as input to continuous improvement of the learning experience. I would also like to explore the ways in which students may benefit from the experience and links that parents have (guest speakers, school visits etc)

COVID protocols do allow us to host parent meetings at school, providing appropriate hygiene precautions are followed.



As a first step I would like to invite parents to one or more of a series of informal 'Coffee Mornings'. Each meeting will enable parents to meet one another and with me and other key members of BCA staff. The focus of the meeting will be a short presentation from the school on an education-related theme, with follow-up discussion. These are not intended for updates and discussions on your child's progress: we will share details of our plans for parent-teacher conferences separately, and as soon as we can.

The Coffee Mornings will run straight after morning drop-off, from **9:00-10:00 on the Dining Hall**, and will take place as follows:

- **Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2: Wednesday 22 September**
- **Year 3,4,5 and 6: Thursday 23 September**
- **Year 7,8,9 and 10: Friday 24 September**

In order for us to cater and arrange seating, an email to [gema.sanz@bcandorra.com](mailto:gema.sanz@bcandorra.com) (Head of Admissions and Communication) by Monday would be appreciated, if you will attend.

Following on from these meetings, which I believe will be very helpful for all of us, the school will set out, with your input, a plan to develop a parent consultation structure. It takes a village to raise a child.

## Special Educational Needs (SEN)

I am pleased to announce a development that will enhance our SEN provision, providing all children with access to the curriculum, and supporting mild to moderate learning difficulties.

Ms. Alba Rosas has joined us as a part time, fully-qualified and experienced SEN Coordinator (shared with the British College of Gava). Ms Rosas will have online hours each week, and will visit BCA for some days each month, to meet children and parents, and carry out assessments. Ms. Ingrid Delfolie, an existing member of the BCA staff, will act as the liaison point for SEN at BCA. Parents with questions or concerns regarding their child's learning support are encouraged to contact Ms. Delfolie [ingrid.delfolie@bcandorra.com](mailto:ingrid.delfolie@bcandorra.com), who will then liaise with other BCA staff and with Ms. Rosas as needed.

## Curriculum and teaching plans

These will be shared with you as soon as possible, and by Friday 24 September. Because of the large number of new staff, bringing new ideas and experience that must be melded to what has gone before, these are taking a little longer than expected to be prepared to a high quality, and to then be translated.



## End of the school day arrangements

As explained in an earlier email, we are looking at options to make the end of the school day a smoother experience for all, and to ease congestion.

- We offer parents of children in Nursery the option to pick up their child from 16:15. All other parents should kindly wait until 16:40.
- Children remain supervised until 17:00, so if it is more convenient for you to arrive a little later, this will ease the flow of people and cars.

## Absences and lateness

If your child will be absent from school, or unavoidably late, please send an email to [admin@bcandorra.com](mailto:admin@bcandorra.com) to ensure that all are informed. Absences during the day (e.g. medical appointments) should also be notified in this way.

## Swimming update

We have reviewed our plans for the Friday swimming lessons this term. This is a strong BCA tradition and has great benefits for physical health. Nonetheless we have decided that, for three year groups, it is not appropriate this term.

**Nursery and Reception students will not go swimming this term.** Further time in the classroom is needed to establish routines, and to build independence. We will consider this activity for the third term, when the children will be older and more confident.



**Year 10 students will not go swimming this term.** Our students studying for IGCSEs have a very busy schedule, and given the choice between Swimming or PE, the students have expressed a clear preference for PE instead. The timetable will be updated accordingly.

**All other year groups will swim as planned:** class teachers will shortly provide more information on clothing, equipment and routines.

## Snack time

The daily snack provided by the school is served at morning break. This is a change to the procedure last year, because morning school is for most students longer than afternoon school.

If you need further information about menus, or something related to our catering service, please contact our kitchen manager Irina Ponsico directly, and she will explain everything you need: [irina.ponsico@bcandorra.com](mailto:irina.ponsico@bcandorra.com)



## Birthday Cakes

Finally, our school catering service, K L'Irina, is able to prepare birthday cakes for students of all ages. The cake will be taken to your child's class and they can celebrate the special occasion with their friends in school.

If you would like to order a cake (plain or chocolate), please contact Irina Ponsico, our Catering Manager, on [irina.ponsico@bcandorra.com](mailto:irina.ponsico@bcandorra.com) or via WhatsApp on +376 346 406.

The cost of the cake is 18 euros and orders need to be made 48 hours before the day the cake is required.



Mr Harry Lock  
Principal  
The British College of Andorra

















# Primary

















# Secondary









# Secondary



The British College of Andorra

