



Foundation Stage Handbook



HORIZON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Everyone counts, everyone contributes, everyone succeeds

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WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL

In the Foundation Stage at Horizon International School, our vision is to ensure our children reach their full potential through play-based activities, enabling our children the time to learn, play, become self-assured risk takers and develop positive relationships. Using an adaptable and inspiring curriculum, our children will lead their own learning to foster their natural curiosity and inquisitive skills. We want our children to be happy, confident, well rounded individuals with a love for learning. We believe in providing all children with a safe and stimulating environment that builds on each individual's wants, needs and interests.

Learning should be fun, engaging and suitably challenging.



“ I would like to welcome you and your family to the Foundation department at Horizon International School. The first week of school can be a very exciting and daunting time for many families and children. There will be lots of new experiences and many questions that you may want to ask. The aim of this booklet is to provide you with useful information about school procedures to ensure your child transitions smoothly into his/her new class.

As our youngest learners enter school on their very first day, they may find separating from parents and carers difficult. Preparing your child in advance by talking to them about their new school and visiting during 'moving in' day can ease matters for you all. During your child's first few weeks at school we suggest a consistent approach to drop-off without prolonged goodbyes. A big hug and a kiss for reassurance will help your child adjust to their new environment more quickly. It is unusual for a child to be upset for much longer than a few minutes once his/her parent has left and with time your child will become more familiar and settled with the school routines.

We are truly excited to be welcoming your child to school, we know your child will have a wonderful, fun-filled and exciting time with us. Your child will develop and make great progress in all areas of his/her little lives. You will be kept up to date with your child's progress from the class teachers.

We value our partnership with parents, and communication between home life and school life is very important to us. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school reception or myself directly.

Enjoy these memories that will be made during your child's Early Years' experience with us.



Mrs Cregan
Assistant Principal / Head of Foundation



THE EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE CURRICULUM

Your child's first years at school lay the foundations for his/her life-long learning. We encourage children to form positive relationships and develop emotional intelligence through a range of different learning styles. We allow children to make mistakes and build resilience to have another go, enabling them to become independent learners. All children arrive at school with different experiences and needs; therefore, personalised learning is at the heart of our provision. Teachers are continuously observing their children in the school environment and building on what they already know. We provide our children with the tools to develop their learning styles, which will lay the foundations for the skills they will need in the future.

Our school is a community nurtured by the quality of the relationship and communication between home and school. This is encouraged at both informal and formal levels. The informal can be as simple as the dropping off and collection from the classroom, at the beginning and end of the day, when the class teacher is available for the passing on of messages. If a longer discussion is necessary, then a meeting appointment should be arranged. The most regular examples of these are the parent-teacher meetings offered following the distribution of children's progress reports. Parents are always invited to meet with the teacher to discuss the contents of the report so that families and the school can work together to support a child's next steps in learning. In the Foundation Stage, formal Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTM) take place in October and March, with an optional PTM in June. Written feedback in the form of a report is shared in October, February and June. However, there is no need to wait for these meetings if there are concerns that arise in between.

The curriculum at Horizon International School is based on the UK Early Years Foundation Stage. We teach our children a range of life skills and deepen their knowledge by questioning how and what the children are learning. Our main priority is to ensure that every child reaches his/her full potential through play-based activities, enabling our children the time to learn, play and make friends.

The EYFS curriculum is based around the characteristics of effective teaching and learning and the seven areas of learning.



SEVEN AREAS OF THE EYFS CURRICULUM

Each area of learning is equally important and is planned for by our children and the teachers and learning assistants, ensuring we have our children's interests and life skills throughout the year.

THREE PRIME AREAS OF LEARNING

1



Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Children will learn to play co-operatively, taking turns with others, showing sensitivity to others' needs and feelings, and form positive relationships with adults and other children.

2



Communication & Language

Children will learn to listen attentively in a range of situations, giving their attention to what others say and respond appropriately. Children will also learn to follow instructions and answer 'how' and 'why' questions about their experiences and in response to stories or events.

3



Physical Development

Children will learn to develop co-ordination, control and movement, to understand the importance of physical activity and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

FOUR SPECIFIC AREAS OF LEARNING

1



Literacy

Children will learn to link sounds and letters and begin to read and write.

2



Maths

Children will learn to develop skills in counting, recognizing, ordering and writing numbers. They will learn what numbers are and how to use them, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems and to describe shape, space and measures.

3



Understanding the World

Children will learn to make sense of the world, communities and people. They will also learn how to use ICT.

4

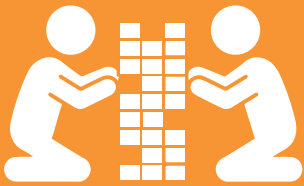


Expressive Arts & Design

Children will learn to move to music, create music and songs. Children will also learn skills to enable them to become mini artists and use language to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings about their creativity.

CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE TEACHING AND LEARNING

1



Playing & Exploring

Children investigate and experience things and 'have a go.'

2



Active Learning

Children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties and enjoy achievements.

3



Creating & Thinking Creatively

Children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas and develop strategies for doing things.

The characteristics of effective teaching and learning weave through the seven areas of the curriculum. The characteristics develop as our children learn to do new things, acquire new skills, develop socially and emotionally and become better communicators.



YEARLY OVERVIEW AT HIS

FS1 Curriculum

	FS1 - Term 1	FS1 - Term 2	FS1 - Term 3
The Mission	What is special?	What moves?	What is out of this world ?
The Topics	My 5 senses, My feelings, Where do we live, UAE Culture, Who do I live with, likes & dislikes, colours	Introduction to Animals, habitats, transport, plants and growing learning the vocabulary for all and some simple facts	Space, Pirates, Mermaids, Prince and Princesses, Dragons, fairytales, Superheroes
PSSED/ Monthly Values	Ambition, Happiness, Respect	Positivity, Kindness, Diversity	Resilience, Honesty
Maths	Colours Matching and sorting Introducing numbers 1 and 2 (Subitising, counting and numeral) 5 Frames Patterns	Introducing numbers 3 – 6 (subitising 3, counting, numeral and composition) 10 Frames Height and Length Mass and capacity	Sequencing Positional language More than and Less than Shapes 2D and 3D What comes after and what comes next?
Science	Our 5 senses, hands on exploration of environment and materials	Lifecycle of a plant or animal. Melting and freezing.	Planets. Moon and Sun. Magnets
Phonics	Environmental and instrumental sounds, listening games	Rhyming, Introduction to RWI set 1 sounds	Continue with RWI set 1 sounds. Begin to blend CVC words
Reading	Enjoying listening to stories and talking about stories	Wordless reading books and red reading diaries	Wordless reading books and red reading diaries with some simple cvc books
Book Focus	Colour Monster We're Going On a Bear Hunt Sultan's Journey Sort it out Pattern Fish A family is a family is a family	Dear Zoo Rumble In The Jungle Three Billy Goat Gruffs Six Sid Dinner Jack and The Beanstalk	Goldilocks and The Three Bears Rosie's Walk
Writing	Fine motor and gross motor skills development and mark making. Squiggle whilst you wiggle and Dough Disco	Introducing letter formation in foam, sand, glitter etc...	Starting to learn how to write our names
PE led by class teacher	Tossing, Throwing, Catching, Jumping, Rolling, Running, Climbing	Body Movement, Balancing, Crawling with balance	Hand-Eye coordination
Arabic	My family Sentence (how are you- I am fine thank you) Things around us Colours (blue- green- yellow) Numbers: 1-2-3-4 Arabic alphabets	Fruits- vegetables Numbers: 1 -2 -3 -4-5-6 Colours (red-- brown- orange) Arabic alphabets	Animals- Body parts) Numbers: 1 -2 -3 -4-5-6-7-8-9-10 Colours (black- pink - white) Arabic alphabets

FS2 Curriculum

	FS2 - Term 1	FS2 - Term 2	FS2 - Term 3
The Mission	Where do I belong?	Care and Curiosity	Innovation and Challenge
The Topics	My Family, Birthdays, My Body, My Home, Home Countries, My Favourite Things, Celebrations, Past and Present, Homes, Dubai then and now	Explorers, Oceans, Rainforest, Arctic, Animals, plants and growth, sustainability, change, seasons	Traditional Tales, News Reporters, Detectives, Theatre & Performance, Inventions, Robots, Vehicles, Toys, Machines
PSED/ Monthly Values	Ambition, Happiness, Respect	Positivity, Kindness, Diversity	Resilience, Honesty
Maths	Match, sort and compare objects Talk about measure and capacity Represent numbers to five in different ways Identify and describe 2D shapes Use language associated with time sequences Use language associated with the position of objects	Represent numbers to ten Explore the composition of numbers to 10 Identify and describe 3D shapes Use the language of more and less Explore and compare length and height Describe time and sequence things in the correct order	Develop a deep understanding of number to 10 Subitise (recognise quantities without counting) up to 10 Verbally count beyond 20 Represent numbers to 20 in different ways Automatically recall number bonds to 5 and some number bonds to 10 Explore and represent patterns within numbers up to 10
Science	Introducing practical Inquiry skills: Observe, predict, check, record, explain' Observing the natural world Learning about the human body Describing what they see, hear, feel in outdoor exploration	Growing, Caring for our planet, Change (decay and growth, Changing states of matter, Looking at similarities and differences between the natural world and contrasting environments	Developing children's independent inquiry skills, encouraging children to create their own predictions and carry out simple experiments. Exploring magnets, circuits, things that move (beginning to ask questions and answer how/why questions)
Phonics	RWI set 1 sounds, oral blending	Blending CVC words, digraphs	Red words, CCVC/CVCC words, longer words with fluency, RWI Set 2 sounds
Reading	Wordless books, identify initial sounds in words, reading books sent home	Red words sent home, Books with CVC words	Continue learning red words and recognise these in reading books, Reading captions, Books with CCVC/CVCC words
Book Focus	Martha Maps it out Here we are - Oliver Jeffers The Camel that got away - Julia Johnson	This Class can save the planet - Stacy Torino Dear Earth - Isobel Trotter Lost and Found - Oliver Jeffers	Gingerbread man Goldilocks Three Billy Goats Gruff Enormous Turnip Little Red Hen
Writing	Mark making, name writing, writing initial sounds, beginning to write more than one sound in a word	Labelling drawings with CVC words/ short captions	Writing sentences, Writing for a purpose, applying Phonics and Red words in writing independently
PE Specialist	Building on pathways and locomotor movements, ball skills, Athletics, Sports Day, Fielding Skills	Swimming – Pool safety, safe entries and exits, water confidence, aquatic breathing, floating	Gymnastics and Dance, balance with equipment
PE led by class teacher	Tossing, Throwing, Catching, Jumping, Rolling, Running, Climbing	Body Movement, Balancing, Crawling with balance	Hand-Eye coordination
Arabic	My family Sentence (how are you - I am fine thank you) Things around us Colours (blue- green- yellow) Numbers: 1-2-3-4 Arabic alphabets	Fruits - vegetables Numbers: 1 -2 -3 -4-5-6 Colours (red - brown - orange) Arabic alphabets	Animals- Body parts) Numbers: 1 -2 -3 -4-5-6-7-8-9-10 Colours (black- pink - white) Arabic alphabets

HOW WILL YOUR CHILD LEARN?

In the Foundation Stage the focus is on children learning through play. They are encouraged to join in all activities, to be independent and to be risk-takers. We offer a rich and varied curriculum, rated outstanding by the DSIB, in a safe and inviting learning environment. Our shared learning areas and classrooms are planned to give our children the opportunity to lead their own learning, with teachers extending their ideas through questioning, allowing our children to enhance and develop their thinking and learning across all areas of the curriculum. The shared areas are set up by our children and staff, enabling children to consolidate and apply their learning through themes and topics that interest them.

There are daily opportunities for:

■ Adult-led learning

e.g. whole class teaching, group work

■ Adult-supported learning

This is either planned in advance or provided on an individual or group basis

■ Child-initiated learning

Learning takes place throughout the FS department both indoors and outdoors. The outdoor learning zones are the best place for the children to practise and master gross motor physical skills. Our children will have climbing frames, trikes and bikes, water stations, sand areas and mud kitchens available on a daily basis. The EYFS environment is regularly risk assessed by all staff in the EYFS school.



RECORD KEEPING AND ASSESSMENT

On-going observations and assessments by teaching staff occur throughout different experiences and this leads the direction of learning for our children, ensuring children have individual targets and learning. We use an online app, that collects evidence such as videos, photos and voice notes. These individual recordings will be accessible to you as a parent online - via the app. This evidence will track your child's progress as he/she works towards achieving the Early Learning Goals at the end of FS2.

SPECIALISED SUBJECTS

In FS1 our children have 55 minutes of PE and 55 minutes of Arabic per week with specialists/teachers. Our children also receive 30 minutes a week in our FS library with our librarian, Ms Elvie. In FS2 our children have 1 hour of PE and 1 hour of Arabic per week with specialists. Our children also receive 30 minutes a week in our FS library with our librarian, Ms Elvie.



NORMAL SCHOOL DAY ROUTINE IN FS

On a typical day at school parents/carers should:

■ Arrive between 7:30 and 8 am where your child will be welcomed by the class teacher and learning assistant. Your children may enter the classrooms from the exterior door of the classroom.

Your child's learning and routines start at 8 am, so it is essential that you are on time to be able to drop your child off at his/her classroom door. Any parents who are late dropping off will have to go straight to Gate Two and drop their child off there. Your child will then be brought to class by a member of staff. This can be unsettling for some children.

■ At 2:30 pm children will be collected from their classes, using the exterior doors. Pick up for the FS begins at 2:15 pm.

■ If you need further child care after 2:30 pm, please do contact our after school provider "Star Club" for further options.

If you will be unavoidably late picking up, please telephone the Reception with an explanation and a time so we can explain this to your child. If someone other than yourself is picking up, then you must call the school or send a note or e-mail to school.



TYPICAL TIMETABLE

Time	Activity
7:30-8:00	Arrival / Registration / Welcome
8:00-8:45	Experience 1 – Phonics / C&L / Literacy / Library
8:45-9:40	Experience 2 – E.g. Maths / UTW
9:40-10:00	Snack and a Story
10:00-10:55	Experience 3 – E.g. PSED, Specialist
10:55-11:50	Experience 4 – E.g. PD / Art
11:50-12:30	Experience 5 – E.g. Curriculum based / Specialists
12:30-1:00	Lunch together in classes
2:15-2:30	Home Time and Reflection – Proud Moments / Circle Time / Songs and Stories

*An **Experience** is a chance for the children to learn something new through teacher input, followed by continuous provision and activities.

**Class to Class timetables will vary

INDEPENDENCE IN THE TOILET






At Horizon International School (HIS), we encourage and support children to become independent and confident learners from the earliest age. As part of this, it is a school expectation that all children joining **FS1 and above are fully toilet trained** before starting school.

Important Expectations:

- All children must be **fully toilet trained** before entering FS1.
- Children must be able to **manage toileting independently** without adult help.
- Staff members will **not assist children with cleaning themselves** using the hose or tissue.
- In the event of an accident due to illness or an emergency, **the school clinic and designated staff members** will be available to assist your child sensitively and appropriately.
- **Children who are not fully toilet trained will need to delay their start at HIS until they are able to manage all aspects of toileting independently.**

What Does Toilet Independence Look Like?

To be considered independent in the toilet, your child must be able to:

-  **Recognise when they need the toilet** and go without being reminded.
-  **Pull down their own shorts, skorts, and underwear.**
-  **Clean themselves thoroughly** using tissue or the hose.
-  **Pull up their own shorts, skorts, and underwear** after using the toilet.
-  **Wash and dry their hands** independently using soap and water.

By ensuring your child is confident with these steps before starting FS1, you help them feel successful and secure in their new environment.

If you have any concerns about your child's readiness for toilet independence, please do not hesitate to speak with Mrs Cregan before the school year begins.

COMMUNICATION AT HORIZON INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

There are several ways in which we communicate important information at school:

01

ISAMS Parent Portal / iParent app- Please see the whole school handbook for more details.

02

Face-to-face:

Pick up and drop-off is a busy time for teachers, ensuring your child settles well and is safe in school. Please ensure you write important information/notes by e-mailing the class teacher rather than relying on teaching staff to remember. Please arrange a meeting time after school with the teacher to discuss any concerns/issues that exceed a general message.

03

Online App (Seesaw):

For individual children's learning journals.

04

Formal Parent-Teacher Consultations:

October - Settling in Parent-Teacher Consultation.

March - Parent-teacher consultation to discuss progress and attainment and any next steps.

05

Reports:

December - Term 1 report.

June - Full end-of-year report

06

Class Link:

For reminders / organising get togethers outside the scope of school.

07

E-mail:

Your teacher's e-mail address will be shared with you, should you require to send through individualised messages about your own child.

UNIFORM



Blue polo t-shirt



Navy blue cargo shorts



Navy blue skirt

PE Kits for FS Students



PE t-shirt



PE shorts



PE skirt



School hat or cap



Black trainers with white socks
(Velcro fastenings)



School book bag OR
black or navy backpack **without wheels**



School winter fleece
(Optional. However, if your child requires
an extra layer for warmth,
then it must be the school winter fleece)



Swimming/PE bag
This will contain a one-piece swimming
costume for girls, shorts/trunks for boys,
goggles, swimming hat, towel,
crocs/flip flops

All school uniform is stocked and sold via

**Sumeru Trading, School Uniform Shop,
located on 1st floor, J3 Mall,
Al Wasl Road**

Online Shop:
www.shopatsumeru.com
info@shopatsumeru.com

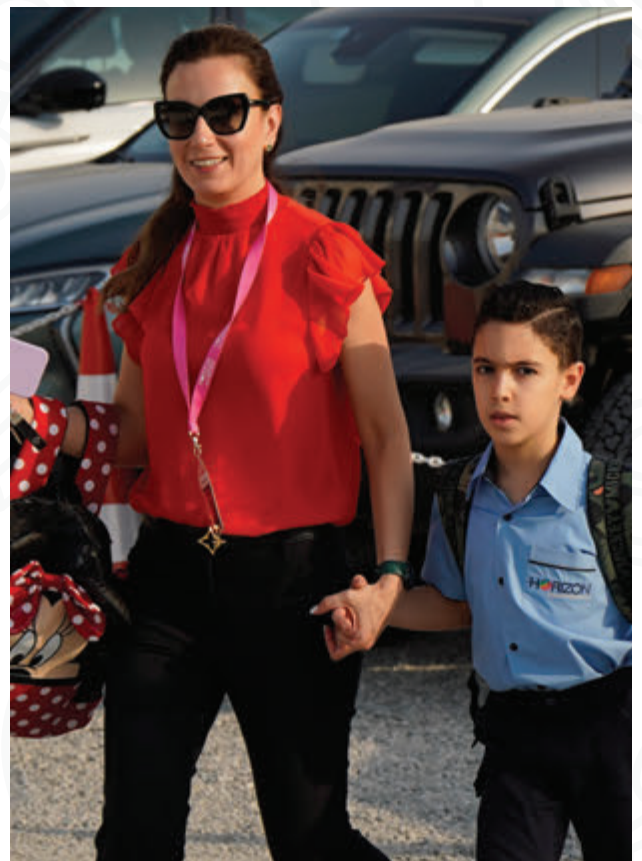


ILLNESS AND SAFETY AT HIS

- Please provide the school nurses with a medical record.
- Please ensure the school nurses are informed of any ongoing health concerns and updated on any changes.
- Hats are to be kept in school and will be worn if the children are outside in full sun.
- Please provide a change of clothes to keep at school in the event of an 'accident'.
- Please note that, following a fever, your child must be fever free without medication for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Vomiting and diarrhoea – no return for 24 hours after the last episode.
- A doctor's note is required if your child is absent from school for two or more days.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

- A security system operates in our EYFS; please help us maintain a safe and secure environment.
- All parents must wear their badge when entering and walking around school.
- All visitors are asked to report to Reception to sign in and wear a visitor's badge.
- Please ask a member of staff to let you out of the EYFS building. This is to ensure that children are not let out of the building by mistake.
- If anyone different is picking your child up from school please inform his/her teacher or relevant member of staff.



LUNCH AND SNACK TIME



All children should bring a healthy snack to school that they can access throughout the morning. Children will be monitored and assisted to ensure that they eat before 10 am so that everyone has had a morning snack. Please send in sensible amounts of food for your child to eat. We ask that chocolate biscuits and flavoured milk do not get packed as part of their snack.

Please provide

- A small snack provided in a plastic box – 1 piece of fruit, yoghurt, snack bar
- Packed lunch provided in a separate lunch box – 1 sandwich/wrap, vegetable sticks, juice, yoghurt, pasta
- Water bottle

Please show your child his/her snack and lunch box so she/he knows what they look like. Ensure containers are easy for the children to open and close independently. Please **clearly label** your child's boxes as 'snack' and 'lunch' and please do not send in glass ware. **HIS is a nut-free school.**

Do not include snacks containing tree nuts, peanuts, sesame seeds, nutella spread, etc.

Please ensure that any small fruits & vegetables, e.g grapes, blueberries, cherry tomatoes, olives, etc are cut in half (longways) to minimise choking.

TRIPS

FS1 and FS2 are able to sign up to external extra-curricular activities available from outside agencies at HIS. These include football, karate, gymnastics, tennis and ballet. The ECA availability may change from each academic year. At HIS we work closely with a number of providers who are experts in their fields. Many of our providers offer activities tailored for Early Years children. Scheduling is at the discretion of the providers and may vary depending on when their staff is available.

The Foundation Stage teachers will be organising school trips that leave the premises using our bus service, for example, Oli Oli museum, Ski Dubai, the Dubai Mall Aquarium, the JamJar and Pizza Express.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT

We work very closely with a reputable bus company called Shanawaz Buses Rental, to provide a first-class transportation service for children that opt to take the bus. With getting to school, safety is our utmost concern and as such we ensure that our buses meet and exceed KHDA and RTA requirements through the following:

- State of the art real-time GPS tracking
- Personalized parent login to a mobile application
- CCTV monitoring

Additionally, a dedicated Support Assistant will always be on the bus with your children to make sure they are seated with their seatbelts fastened. The Support Assistant will also make sure students move to their classrooms on time and arrive home safely from the bus.

All families who wish to use the bus service are kindly asked to complete the School Bus Service Registration Form.

You will then be contacted to be advised of the routes, timings, and service.

OUR BUSES OPERATE THE FOLLOWING ROUTES

It is important that parents ensure that the school office has up-to-date emergency contact details. It is also essential that the school is provided with at least one emergency contact other than the child's parents in the event that neither parent is reachable.

ZONE	Residential Areas Serviced
 Route 1	Al Badaa, Al Wasl, Al Safa, Jumeirah 1, Jumeirah 2, The Greens, Umm Suqeim, Tecom, Al Hudaiba
 Route 2	Dubai Hills, The Gardens, Jumeirah Park, Al Sufouh, Business Bay, Discovery Gardens, Downtown, Dubai Marina, Emirates Hills, Flamingo Villas, Internet City, Jumeirah Beach Residence, Jumeirah Islands, Jumeirah Lakes Towers, Knowledge Village, Meadows, Motor City, Palm Jumeirah, Satwa, The Springs, The lakes, Trade Centre, Sheikh Zayed Road, Al Qouz, Media City
 Route 3	Oud Metha, Jumeirah Golf Estate, Jumeirah Village Triangle, Bur Dubai, Jebal Ali Village, Jumeirah Village Circle, Karama, Sports City, Town Square, Mudon, Remraam, Mira Community, Mira Oasis, Damac Hills, Serena Community, BurJuman, Production City/IMPZ

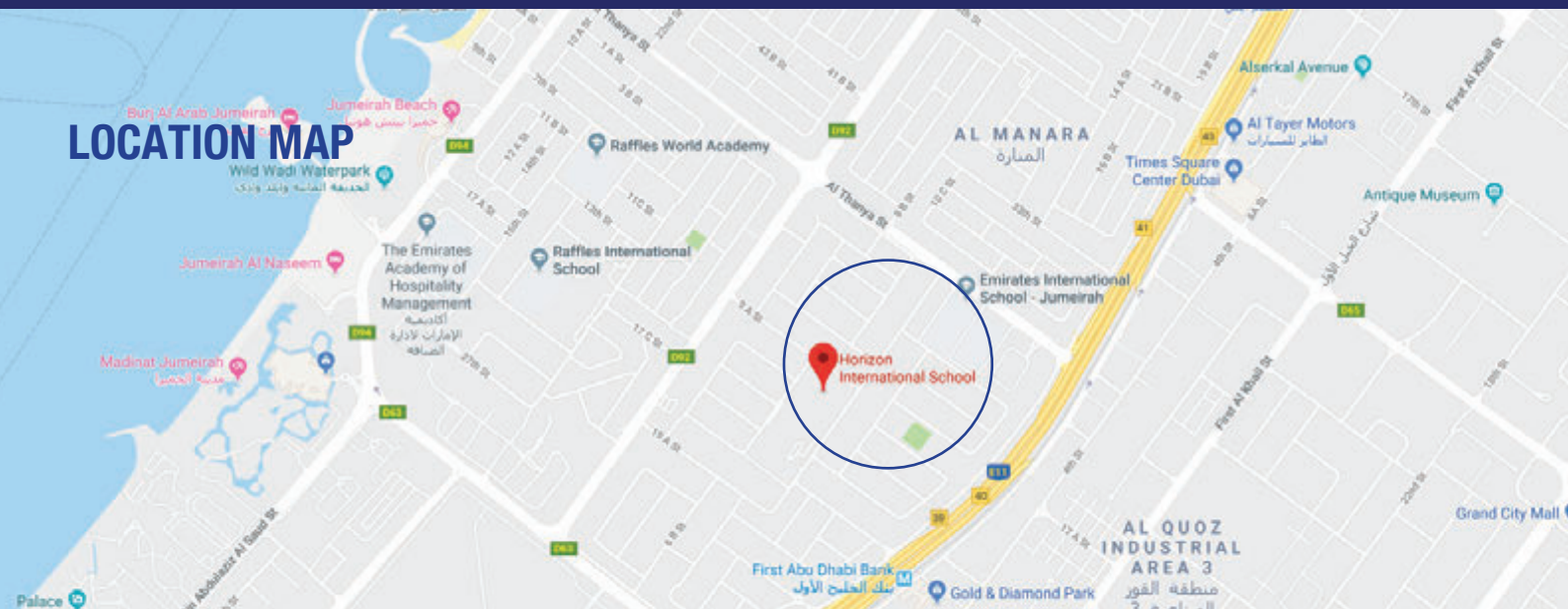


For more information on registering your child for our Transport Service, please contact:

hisbus@shanawazgroup.com

Principal
Mr Stephen Quinn

Head of Foundation Stage
Mrs Cregan
rebecca.cregan@cognita.com



Phone:
+971 4 348 3314

General Enquiries:
reception@hisdubai.com

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Street 9A, Off Al Wasl Road
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Website:
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Facebook:
[@HISdubai](https://www.facebook.com/HISdubai)



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