

2026 -2027

We are delighted to welcome both new and returning families to Ranches Primary School for the upcoming academic year 2026/2027.

To help you prepare for the year ahead, we have put together this comprehensive handbook containing key information, procedures, and helpful guidance for all families. Please take some time to read through it carefully, as it is designed to support a smooth, positive, and well-prepared start to the school year.

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Meet our Principal

Dear Parents and Families,

A very warm welcome to Ranches Primary School; a school unique in its care, wellbeing, and unwavering focus on building strong educational foundations.

Within the pages of this handbook, you'll find all the practical information you need to support your child's journey at Ranches. But beyond that, I hope you begin to experience what truly sets us apart: our identity as a stand-alone primary school, wholly dedicated to laying the essential foundations for a lifetime of success, fulfilment, and meaning.

At the heart of our approach is a deep understanding of what young learners need most. Embedding curiosity, creativity, and rich early language experiences are proven to shape not just academic achievement, but confident, capable, and joyful learners. These principles guide everything we do.
Alongside academic excellence is our unwavering commitment to wellbeing. Ranches is a place of joy. A safe, nurturing, and inspiring environment where children feel happy, valued, and motivated to thrive. We protect that joy fiercely and celebrate it enthusiastically every day.

We can't wait to begin this journey with you and your child. We deeply value the partnership between home and school and are committed to ensuring our communication, care, and collaboration are second to none.

Thank you for placing your trust in us.

Steve Arnold
Principal



Senior Leadership Team

Vice Principal



Hayley Lamb

Mrs Hayley Lamb is a dedicated educational leader who believes children's best interests should guide every decision.
She champions a well-rounded education that supports academic, personal, emotional, and social development—encouraging each child to reach their potential.

Hayley has served as a school governor, mental health charity trustee, lecturer, and international speaker. She is also an ICF Professional Coach focused on performance and wellbeing, and a certified Mental Health First Aider.

hayley.lamb@rpsdubai.com

Admissions and Parent Experience Manager



Kate Gutteridge

As Parent Experience Manager, Ms Kate is responsible for ensuring every family feels welcomed, informed, and supported throughout their journey with the school. She plays a key role in building strong relationships with parents and fostering positive partnerships between home and school, recognising the vital role families play in a child's education.

From initial enquiries and admissions through to ongoing parent engagement and community events, Ms Kate works closely with families to provide guidance, support, and clear communication at every stage. She is passionate about creating meaningful opportunities for parents to connect with the school, engage in their child's learning, and build lasting relationships within the school community.
By championing family engagement and promoting a culture of inclusivity and belonging, Ms Kate helps ensure every family feels valued, heard, and connected, contributing to the warm, welcoming environment that is at the heart of our school.

Kate Gutteridge

kate.gutteridge@rpsdubai.com



Senior Leadership Team

Assistant Principals

Our Assistant Principals each lead clearly defined areas of responsibility across the school, ensuring strong leadership, clear lines of communication, and effective day-to-day management. Working closely with staff and families, they provide focused expertise in their individual areas while contributing to a cohesive whole-school approach. This structure enables us to maintain high standards, consistency, and a strong culture of collaboration across the school community.



Amy Hughes

Area of Expertise
Nursery – Year 1 teaching, learning and curriculum development

amy.hughes@rpsdubai.com



Charlotte Rose

Area of Expertise
Year 2 - Year 6 teaching, learning and curriculum development

charlotte.rose@rpsdubai.com



Will Barratt

Area of Expertise
Data, Assessment & Curriculum

william.barratt@rpsdubai.com



Emma Synnott

Area of Expertise
Inclusion, student support and safeguarding

emma.synnott@rpsdubai.com



Middle Leadership Team

At Ranches Primary School, our Leadership Team plays a key role in ensuring every child receives an exceptional educational experience.

The team is made up of experienced educators who lead specific areas of the curriculum, year groups, and specialist subjects. They work closely with teachers to maintain high standards of teaching and learning, support staff development, and drive continuous improvement across the school.
By providing expertise, guidance, and support, our leaders help ensure that every child is challenged, nurtured, and inspired throughout their journey at RPS. They also work collaboratively with families and the wider school community to create a positive, inclusive, and successful learning environment for all.

This dedicated team supports our teachers every day, ensuring consistency, innovation, and excellence across every stage of your child's education.

Leadership Team	
Head of Islamic Studies Ahmad Jehad **Senior Leadership Representative for Arabic Culture and Language** Hanaa El Baz **Head of Science** Sabreen Khan **Head of Writing** Andrew Turner **Head of Maths** Dean Calvert **Head of Reading** Helen Smit **SENCO and Phonics Lead** Danuta Perryer **Digital Learning Lead** Della Baria **Head of PE and Enrichment** Caroline Rothwell	**Nursery Lead** Kerry Rafferty **Head of FS1** Victoria Brennan **Head of FS2** Kerry Bouch **Head of Year 1** Megan Baines **Head of Year 2** Emma Gilmour **Head of Year 3** Lydia Grundy **Head of Year 4** Erin Geraty **Head of Year 5** Alice Casey **Year 6** Amy Tattersall



Important Contact Details



Emelyn Magnaye

Admissions Executive
registrar@rpsdubai.com



Ana Scalamandre

Principal's PA
ana.scalamandre@rpsdubai.com



Chané De Beer

Parent Experience Executive
pre@rpsdubai.com



Alice Reynoso

Nursery Receptionist
registrar@rpsdubai.com



Katreena David

Primary School Receptionist
reception@rpsdubai.com

Finance

finance@rpsdubai.com

School Clinic

rpsclinic@rpsdubai.com

Enrich ME

RPS@enrichme.ae

School Lunch

To be confirmed



Academic Calendar

Term 1 - Autumn Term	
Staff Induction	Monday 24th - Friday 28th August 2026
Term 1 begins Induction Day for new students in Years 2 - 6 only as well as 1 to 1 meet your teacher session for all Nursery to Year 1 students.	Monday 31st August 2026
All Students return Children in Nursery and FS1 as well as new joiners in FS2 and Year 1 will follow a soft start schedule.	Tuesday 1st September 2026
Half Term Break	Monday 19th - Friday 23rd October 2026
UAE National Day *	Wednesday 2nd - Friday 4th December 2026 *
Last day of Term 1	Friday 11th December 2026

Term 2 - Spring Term	
First day of Term 2	Monday 4th January 2027
Ramadan begins *	Monday 8th February 2027 *
Eid Al Fitr *	Monday 8th March - Friday 12th March 2027 *
Last day of Term 2	Friday 2nd April 2027

Term 3 - Summer Term	
First day of Term 3	Monday 12th April 2027
Eid Al Adha *	Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th May 2027 *
Last day of Term 3	Friday 2nd July 2027

This calendar is subject to change in line with School and Government requirements. *Islamic holidays are subject to the lunar calendar and may change (school closure). Please do not book any holidays until dates are confirmed by the KHDA and school.

Approved by KHDA



Onboarding Documents

To ensure a smooth and successful start for your child, all required enrolment documents must be submitted no later than 7 days prior to your child's first day at school.
Timely submission allows our team to complete registration requirements, prepare your child's profile, and ensure all systems and safeguarding procedures are in place before they begin.

Please note that delays in submitting documentation may impact your child's start date. All documents should be sent to **rpsdocuments@rpsdubai.com**

If you require support obtaining or uploading any documents, our Admissions Team will be happy to assist you.

Mandatory Documentation

- Terms and Conditions form
- Student DHA Medical form
- Kings College Hospital / RPS Medical Form
- Request for child's safeguarding records
- Birth Certificate in English or Arabic
- Copy of child's passport
- Passport photo of child
- Copy of child's Emirates ID - Front and Back

(To be submitted within 14 days of starting school)

- Most recent school report
- Additional specialist reports

i.e.; occupational therapy/speech and language/diagnosis

- Child's vaccination records in English
- Transfer certificate - Please see attached information on Transfer Certificate requirements
- Child's health insurance card - Front and Back
- Copy of Father's passport
- Passport photo of Father
- Copy of Father's Emirates ID - Front and Back

(To be submitted within 14 days of starting school)

- Copy of Mother's passport
- Passport photo of Mother
- Copy of Mother's Emirates ID - Front and Back

(To be submitted within 14 days of starting school)



School Lanyards

At Ranches Primary School, the safety and wellbeing of our students is our highest priority. As part of our safeguarding procedures, we kindly ask that all adults entering the school premises wear their designated, colour-coded lanyards at all times. This includes any adult who is authorised to collect your child.

Parents and nominated guardians will be issued ID cards once the required documentation has been submitted. Visitors are asked to exchange a valid ID at the security desk in return for a temporary visitor lanyard before being allowed onto the school grounds.

To request a Parent or Guardian ID card, please email rpsid@rpsdubai.com with the following:

- Your child(ren)'s full name(s)
- A scanned photo of each parent

Please include the following information in your email:

- Child's Full Name
- Year Group
- Parents Full Name (Mum/Dad)

Parent ID cards are free of charge upon enrolment, a 50 AED fee applies for any replacements.

If you would like to request ID cards for family staff (such as nannies or drivers) who assist with school drop-offs or pick-ups, please send the request from the parent or sponsor's email address.
There is a one-time 50 AED fee for each staff ID. These remain valid while your child is enrolled at the school or until the staff member is changed.



Getting To School

School Bus

We are partnered with Guardian One Transport LLC, a well-established and trusted bus transportation company that serves several schools across Dubai. Guardian One Transport will be providing our students with a safe, reliable, and professional transport service to and from Ranches Primary School.

Safety and Compliance:
All vehicles used by Guardian One Transport LLC comply with the strict standards set by the Road and Transport Authority (RTA). Additionally, the drivers are authorized, experienced, and trained by the RTA, ensuring the highest levels of safety for our students. To further enhance student safety, each bus will be accompanied by a "Bus Nanny" at all times, providing extra supervision during the journey.

Register **View Routes**

All children must be greeted upon arrival at home, children will not be permitted to leave school bus unless handed over to an adult at the home address.

If your child is in Year 4-6 you can apply for a School Bus Community Pass which gives parent permission for them to enter their home address without being greeted by an adult. Please click on the following link to apply for your pass.

Year 4-6 Community Bus Pass

Contact Information:
For any inquiries or assistance regarding transport, you can contact the Parent Relations Executive at Guardian One Transport:

- Mobile: +971 56 515 0197
- Landline: +971 4 442 9765
- Email: pre.rps@guardianonetransport.com
- Website: www.guardianonetransport.com



Getting To School

Community Pass

To support sustainable modes of travel and to encourage independence in older year groups, we operate a Community Pass scheme.

Children in Years 4-6, who are deemed able by both the school and their families, may be awarded a Community Pass that enables them to travel to and from school independently.

Children in Year 3 with siblings in Years 4–6, may also be granted a community pass on the request and permission from the parents. The pass includes contact information and acts as an identifier should the child find themselves in need of support outside of school. If children are traveling from further afield, they will have to travel by car or by bus.

Register for your child's Community Pass

Electric Scooters

We would like to remind families that electric scooters are not permitted for use on school grounds.

In line with the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) guidelines, electric scooters must only be used in designated areas and riders are expected to follow specific safety regulations, including age restrictions, wearing helmets, and adhering to speed limits. These measures are in place to protect both riders and pedestrians.

For the safety of all students, staff, and visitors, we kindly ask that electric scooters are not used. We encourage parents to review the RTA's updated e-scooter regulations for further details.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our school community safe.

Please ensure that all children arriving by bike or scooter, whether with or without parents, are wearing helmets.



Drop Off and Collection

FS1 and FS2

Drop Off: 7.30am - 7.50am
Please drop your child off directly at their classroom between 7.30am and 7.50am.
Families arriving after 7.50am must enter through the main Primary School reception.
Children will be welcomed by a member of staff, who will ensure they get to their classroom safely.
Collection: 2.10pm (Monday - Thursday) | 11.10am (Friday)
Sibling Club is available until 2.20pm for families collecting older siblings.
Please collect your child directly from their classroom.

Year 1

Drop Off: 7.30am - 7.50am
Please drop your child off to the astro pitch at Gate C or D between 7.30am and 7.50am.
Families arriving after 7.50am must enter through the main Primary School reception.
Children will be welcomed by a member of staff, who will ensure they get to their classroom safely.
Collection: 2.30pm (Monday - Thursday) | 11.20am (Friday)
Please collect your child directly from their classroom.

Year 2

Drop Off: 7.30am - 7.50am
Please drop your child off to the astro pitch at Gate C or D between 7.30am and 7.50am.
Families arriving after 7.50am must enter through the main Primary School reception.
Children will be welcomed by a member of staff, who will ensure they get to their classroom safely.
Collection: 2.30pm (Monday - Thursday) | 11.20am (Friday)
Please collect your child from the astro pitch via Gate C or D.

Year 3

Drop Off: 7.30am - 7.50am
Please drop your child off to the Primary School reception between 7.30am and 7.50am.
Families arriving after 7.50am must enter through the main Primary School reception.
Children will be welcomed by a member of staff, who will ensure they get to their classroom safely.
Collection: 2.30pm (Monday - Thursday) | 11.20am (Friday)
Please collect your child from the astro pitch via Gate C or D.



Drop Off and Collection

Year 4 - Year 6

Drop Off: 7.30am - 7.50am
Please drop your child off to the Primary School reception between 7.30am and 7.50am. Families arriving after 7.50am must enter through the main Primary School reception. Children will be welcomed by a member of staff, who will ensure they get to their classroom safely.
Collection: 2.40pm (Monday - Thursday) | 11.30am (Friday)
Please collect your child from the astro pitch via Gate C or D.

Kiss-and-go Lane

For children in Years 1 - 6 we also operate a kiss-and-go lane where members of the team are on hand to help your child out of the car making drop off for busy parents a breeze and reducing traffic congestion.
Please be advised the kiss-and-go lane will close promptly at 7.45am

Late Arrivals

Please be advised that all Primary School entry points will close promptly at 7.50am. After this time, access to the school will only be permitted via the main reception through security.

In line with school policy and to uphold the respect due during this time, families will not be permitted to enter the building once the National Anthem has begun at 7:58am. Entry will resume once the anthem has concluded.
As a sign of respect, we kindly ask that all families pause and remain silent while the National Anthem is playing if you are on school grounds.

If you do arrive late, please be aware that there may be a short delay while security grants access to the building. Additionally, all late arrivals must check in at reception, as student registration will be logged via iSAMS by our reception team. Children must not bypass reception under any circumstance.



Important Information

Absence From School

We kindly ask that parents inform the school on the first day of any student absence via email.
While we understand that absences sometimes cannot be avoided, please be mindful that any time away from school can impact learning. Missed learning is not always easy to catch up on.

If a student needs to leave school early, they must have prior permission from their Class Teacher. A permission slip must also be signed at the School Reception by the adult collecting the child. Please note that appointments such as doctor or dentist visits should be scheduled outside of school hours whenever possible.

For longer periods of absence, please use the email address below to request Principal approval.

We regularly monitor attendance, and if a student's attendance falls below the expected level of 98%, we will follow up in line with our school's Attendance Policy. Please be aware that we are required to report persistent absences to KHDA, and this will become part of your child's official record.

Lastly, please note that holidays taken during term time are recorded as 'unauthorised' absences.
Absence email address: attendance@rpsdubai.com

Birthday Celebrations

We love celebrating our students' birthdays and making them feel special on their big day! However, to ensure the safety and well-being of all our students — especially those with allergies and specific dietary requirements — we kindly ask that birthday cakes and other food items not be brought into school.

If you'd still like to mark the occasion, we welcome a "Birthday Book" donation to your child's class. This book will be shared with their friends on the day and kept in class as a special reminder that we can revisit throughout the year.

Fun Fact: On your child's birthday, they are invited to wear their own clothes to school!
We look forward to celebrating with you and your child on this special day.



What to bring

FS1 - Year 6

- Refillable water bottle
- Ranches backpack
- A healthy snack and lunch should be provided if you are not utilising the school catering services.
  Please use plastic, stainless steel or silicone lunchboxes only. No glass.
- Please send an additional afternoon snack if your child will be staying for ECAs or Sports.

Year 2 - Year 6 Stationery List

- Pencil Case
- Writing Pencils
- Sharpener
- Eraser
- Ruler
- Colouring pencils
- One pair of safety scissors
- Glue stick

To help our children stay healthy, focused, and ready to learn throughout the day, we kindly ask that snacks and lunches do not include foods that are high in sugar, artificial additives, or unhealthy fats. This includes:
• Sugary sweets or chocolates
• Chips or crisps
• Sugary drinks or juices

Please be mindful of any allergies or dietary requirements your child may have and ensure that all food sent into school is safe and suitable for them. If your child has specific dietary needs, please do not hesitate to contact us so that we can support them.
Please note that we do not have refrigerators available for storing lunch boxes, so we recommend using an ice pack to keep food fresh.

As part of our commitment to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all children, Ranches Primary School is a nut-free and pork-free school. We kindly ask that you do not send any nuts or pork-based products in your child's snack or lunch.

Thank you for your support.



Technology In School

At Ranches Primary School, we use technology purposefully to enhance learning and support all students. Technology is not simply a tool, but a way to personalise learning so that every child can access appropriate challenge and support to thrive. We recognise that each learner is unique, whether they are part of our Gifted and Talented Programme or require additional support.

Through the thoughtful integration of technology, we are able to:

- Personalise learning pathways to suit individual pace, strengths, and areas for development
- Provide interactive, engaging resources that promote critical thinking and creativity
- Support learners who need additional help through assistive tools and adaptive platforms
- Extend and challenge Gifted and Talented students with enriched content and advanced opportunities

We believe learning should extend beyond the textbook. Technology enables students to explore, create, and experiment, helping them become independent learners and develop the digital skills needed for the future. This approach ensures technology enhances—rather than replaces—the valuable face-to-face teaching and hands-on learning at the heart of our curriculum.

iPad Terms and Conditions

To support learning, all children in Years 3–6 are provided with a school iPad. Please note the following:

- Screen repair due to non-accidental damage: 600AED
- Replacement due to loss or irreparable damage: 1,750AED

Year 5 and 6 students are permitted to take iPads home for homework and projects. Chargers are not issued as standard but can be requested from the finance office with a deposit of 200AED. All devices must be returned at the end of each term.

All parents with children in Year 3 - Year 6 are required to sign the iPad agreement prior to joining.

Sign your iPad Agreement Here



Parent App Support

To ensure you stay informed and connected throughout your child's school journey, we are using several important apps that will play a key role in supporting communication, academic progress, and school activities. Here's a quick overview of the apps you will need:

iSAMs Parent Portal

This portal gives you direct access to your child's academic reports, allows you to monitor progress and keeps you up to date with the school calendar.
This can be accessed via the following link **https://rpsdubai.isamshosting.cloud/**
This portal also provides access to SOCS, which is used to share information on sports fixtures and extracurricular activities.
App Support: pre@rpsdubai.com

Seesaw

Through Seesaw, you can view your child's learning activities, projects, and classwork. Teachers can share photos, videos, and assignments, while students can upload their work, giving you a direct insight into their daily learning. This will also be your primary method of communication with your child's class teacher.
App Support: pre@rpsdubai.com

Zenda

This app allows parents to pay term fees and school trip costs, set up instalment plans, track past and upcoming payments, order shcool lunch and view all their children in one convenient place.
App Support: help@zenda.com



Academic Houses

Our House System helps to build a strong sense of community, belonging, teamwork, and school spirit across Ranches Primary School.
All students from FS2 - Year 6 are assigned to one of our four Houses:

Godolphin **Darley** **Padron** **Hector**

Throughout the year, children take part in a range of academic, sporting, creative, and community activities to earn House Points for their House. The system encourages friendly competition while promoting collaboration, respect, leadership, and positive character development.

Through the House System, we aim to:

- Strengthen children's sense of identity and belonging within the school community
- Encourage positive behaviour, responsibility, and leadership
- Celebrate achievement, effort, and participation in all forms
- Promote the values of our School Character Compass in everyday school life

House Points are awarded to children who demonstrate positive behaviours and attitudes that reflect our school values. This may include:

- Showing kindness and respect
- Demonstrating resilience and effort
- Taking responsibility for learning
- Supporting others and contributing positively to the school community
- Acting with honesty, integrity, and compassion

House Points contribute to both individual achievements and the overall House total.

House Point Awards

Students are recognised for reaching key House Point milestones through the awarding of achievement badges:

- **50 House Points – Bronze Badge**
- **100 House Points – Silver Badge**
- **200 House Points – Gold Badge**

Important: FS2 houses will be assigned in Term 3 only



Home Learning

At Ranches Primary School, we believe that home learning plays an important role in reinforcing classroom learning and supporting each child's development.
Our home learning approach is tailored to each year group, ensuring that activities are purposeful, age-appropriate, and enhance the learning taking place in school.

Foundation Stage (FS):
In the Foundation Stage (FS), children will enjoy weekly reading practice at home. This provides a wonderful opportunity to develop early literacy skills while fostering a lifelong love of reading. We encourage families to read together regularly, making it a special time to share stories, build confidence, and enjoy books together.

Year 1 to Year 4:
Children in Years 1 to 4 will complete weekly reading and spelling practice. These activities are designed to develop reading fluency, improve spelling accuracy, and build the strong literacy foundations needed for continued success throughout primary school.

Year 5:
In Year 5, children will continue with weekly reading and spelling, alongside optional home learning assignments. While these tasks are not compulsory, we strongly encourage children to complete them as they prepare for the transition to secondary school. They are designed to develop independence, organisation, time management, and effective study habits.

Year 6:
In Year 6, home learning becomes compulsory alongside weekly reading and spelling. Children will be set one home learning assignment each week, designed to reinforce classroom learning while further developing their critical thinking, problem-solving, and independent learning skills in preparation for secondary school.



Celebration of Learning

Throughout the year, we offer a range of opportunities for parents to engage with their child's learning and school experience.

Each half term, we invite families to attend a Class Connect session. These provide an opportunity to spend time in the classroom, see learning in action, and gain a deeper understanding of what your child is exploring throughout the year.

What happens during a Class Connect?

- **Direct classroom drop-off:** Instead of the usual morning drop-off routine, parents are invited to accompany their child directly to the classroom.
- **Explore your child's learning:** Spend time with your child as they proudly share their learning. You can look through their books and current work, explore classroom displays, and take part in a range of learning activities together.
- **Informal teacher catch-up:** Teachers will be available for a brief, informal conversation. Please note that Class Connect is not a substitute for formal parent–teacher meetings. If you would like to discuss your child's progress in more detail, we kindly ask that you arrange a separate meeting with the class teacher.

At the end of each term, we celebrate learning through a Learning Showcase. These events give children the opportunity to share and celebrate their achievements, projects, and progress with their families, highlighting the learning that has taken place over the term.

These valuable opportunities to celebrate student learning help your child feel a strong sense of pride and achievement when they are able to share their work, successes, and learning environment with their families, building confidence and recognising their progress. They also strengthen home–school partnerships by allowing parents to experience the classroom first-hand, making routines, expectations, teaching approaches, and the curriculum more transparent and easier to understand.

We kindly ask that parents leave the classroom before the National Anthem begins at 7.50am.



Reporting Cycle

At Ranches Primary School, we believe that strong partnerships between home and school are key to every child's success. Our reporting cycle is designed to provide regular opportunities for communication, reflection, and celebration throughout the academic year, ensuring that parents remain informed and actively involved in their child's learning journey.

Term 1

Parents attend Wellbeing Parent–Teacher Conferences (PTCs) early in the term, providing an opportunity to discuss how children have settled into school, their wellbeing, and their engagement with learning.

This is followed by an Interim Report at the end of Term 1, which provides an overview of attainment and effort across subjects, alongside a reflection on each child's early progress. The report celebrates strengths, identifies next steps, and recognises the positive start made to the academic year.

Term 2

Parents attend Parent–Teacher Conferences (PTCs), offering a valuable opportunity to discuss progress made since the Interim Report. Conversations focus on current attainment, progress towards year group expectations, and the next steps needed to support continued growth and development. This term prioritises meaningful dialogue and partnership between teachers and parents.

Term 3

Parents receive the End of Year Report, which provides a comprehensive summary of each child's achievements across the academic year. This includes attainment, effort, personal development, and learning behaviours.

The report celebrates progress over time, highlights successes, and outlines next steps to support a smooth transition into the next year group.

Alongside this reporting cycle, we strongly value ongoing communication between home and school. Teachers remain available throughout the year to celebrate successes, discuss any concerns, and ensure that every child is fully supported to thrive both academically and personally.



Ranches Primary Physical Education

At Ranches Primary School, we believe that PE and sport play an important role in developing confident, healthy and resilient young people. Through a broad and engaging PE curriculum, children develop physical skills, teamwork, resilience and a lifelong enjoyment of being active.

Across the year, students take part in a wide range of sports and physical activities, with opportunities to represent the school in competitive fixtures, festivals and tournaments. Each term offers a variety of sports, ensuring every child has the opportunity to participate, develop and succeed.

Curriculum Swimming

Swimming is a valued part of our PE curriculum, with all students from FS2 onwards taking part in weekly swimming lessons. Lessons are delivered by qualified Cognita Enrich ME swim coaches alongside our RPS PE team, following the Swim England Learn to Swim Framework.

Our programme helps children build water confidence, develop strong swimming technique and learn essential water safety skills through small, ability-based groups that support individual progress.

The programme includes:

- Weekly swimming lessons for all students from FS2 onwards.
- Lessons take place in our heated 25m pool or learner pool.
- Small, differentiated groups to support every child's progress.
- Assessment follows the Swim England Learn to Swim Framework.
- Delivered by qualified Cognita Enrich ME swim coaches, supported by RPS PE teachers.
- A focus on water confidence, stroke development and water safety.
- Clear pathways into RPS Swim Squads and after-school swimming programmes.



Ranches Primary Physical Education

RPS Sports Squads

Sports squads are selected each term based on the commitment, attitude and performance students demonstrate during their PE lessons, rather than through formal trials.

This approach allows every child the opportunity to showcase their ability while encouraging consistent effort, teamwork and a positive attitude towards sport. Selected students have the opportunity to represent RPS in fixtures, festivals and competitions throughout the year.

Being part of an RPS sports squad includes:

- Squad selections are reviewed each term and shared with families.
- Training sessions take place before school.
- Fixtures are usually held after school, with transport and supervision provided by RPS.
- Parents are encouraged to attend fixtures and support the teams.
- Opportunities are available across a range of sports and year groups.

Term 1 Squads	Term 2 Squads	Term 3 Squads
Netball	Girls Football	Girls Rounders
Boys Football	Boys Rip Rugby	Boys Cricket
Swimming	Swimming	Swimming
Cross Country	Cross Country	Girls Basketball
Aquathon	Aquathon	Boys Basketball
	Athletics	



After School Programmes

Extra Curricular Activities (ECAs)

Extra Curricular Activities (ECAs) are provided free of charge by the school and are led by teachers for children in FS2 - Year 6.

The ECA offering is divided into three categories.

Move	Our **MOVE** activities are designed to get children moving, exploring physical skills, and building confidence through games, and movement-based fun.
Make	Our **MAKE** sessions spark creativity and imagination. Children can explore the world of visual art, music, STEM and hands-on activities – whether through painting, crafting, singing, or building.
Master	Our **MASTER** activities are designed to challenge curious minds. Activities such as puzzles, problem-solving, languages, or research based projects.

FS2 – May select one ECA activity per week and should be collected at 3.00pm
Years 1 - Year 6 – May select two ECA activities per week and should be collected at 3.40pm

The ECA brochure will be published and shared with families during the first week of each term and booked through SOCS on the parent portal/iSAMS. Dates for termly ECAs can be found in the Whole School Calendar.

Please contact caroline.rothwell@rpsdubai.com if you have any questions or require support with ECAs.



After School Programmes

The RPS Hubb - Wraparound Care

The RPS Hubb offers wraparound care for parents needing to extend their child's day either before or after school. Children will engage in creative play, games and art activities.

Primary School Hubb

Time	Price
Morning Hubb 6.50am - 7.30am	30AED per day
Afternoon Hubb End of day - 3.40pm	40AED per day

Nursery Hubb

Time	Price
Morning Hubb 6.50am - 7.30am	30AED per day
Sibling Club 1.00pm - 2.00pm	No additional charge
Sibling Club Extension 2.00pm - 3.40pm	65AED per day
Nursery Hubb 1.00pm - 2.00pm	40AED per day
Nursery Hubb 1.00pm - 3.40pm	85AED per day



Beyond The Classroom

At RPS, we believe that learning extends far beyond the classroom. Throughout the year, students have the opportunity to take part in a range of on-campus educational experiences, off-site visits and residential programmes that enrich the curriculum, bring learning to life and create lasting memories.
FS1 and FS2 - On-Campus educational visit
Year 1 - Year 6 - Off site trip

Overnight Camps

Year 3 - 1 night sleepover at school with external provider activities
Year 4 - 1 night residential in a UAE Emirate
Year 5 - Year 6 - 2 night residential in a UAE Emirate

ENRICH ME

At Ranches Primary School, we are proud to offer a wide range of enriching experiences beyond the classroom through the Cognita ENRICH ME programme.

Created exclusively for Cognita schools, ENRICH ME provides students with access to high-quality extra-curricular activities designed to complement and extend their learning. The programme offers a diverse range of opportunities, from sports and performing arts to STEM, languages, and creative pursuits, enabling children to explore new interests, develop skills, and build confidence in a fun and supportive environment.

The programme is known for its experienced coaches, low student-to-coach ratios, and innovative approach to enrichment, ensuring that every child benefits from a safe, engaging, and rewarding experience.

If you have any questions regarding ENRICH ME or would like support with bookings, Ms Nicky, who is our dedicated point of contact based at our Primary Reception, will be happy to assist. Click **(Here)** to find out what's on offer.



RPS@enrichme.ae
+971 52 288 1596



Dress-Up Days

Throughout the academic year, students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of themed dress-up days, celebrations, and special events that enrich the curriculum, build school spirit, and create lasting memories.

These occasions may be linked to national celebrations, cultural events, charity initiatives, reading and literacy activities, wellbeing campaigns, curriculum themes, or whole-school community events.

Families will always be given advance notice of upcoming dress-up days, including any specific themes or requirements. We aim to keep participation fun, inclusive, and accessible, and wherever possible encourage the use of items students already have at home.

While dress-up days are an exciting part of school life, participation is always optional, and students who choose not to dress up are welcome to attend school in their usual uniform. Here are some of the Dress-Up Days you can look forward to at RPS:

Whole School Dress-Up	
Term 1	Spooky Sparkle Winter Jumper Pyjamas Odd Socks UAE Union Dress as a sport star
Term 2	International Day World Book Day
Term 3	Party Clothes TT Rock Star

Year Group Specific	
FS1	T2 - Teddy Bear's Picnic
FS2	T3 - Pirates
Year 1	T1 - Superheros
Year 2	T3 - Sustainability
Year 3	T1 - Ancient Egyptians
Year 4	T1 - Romans
Year 5	T3 - Victorians
Year 6	T1 - World War II / Evacuees



Learning Links

At Ranches Primary School, our curriculum is carefully designed to inspire curiosity, build confidence and ensure every child makes excellent progress.
Through engaging, high-quality teaching and a clear focus on developing key knowledge and skills, we provide children with the strong foundations they need to become successful, independent learners. Our approach combines proven educational programmes with meaningful learning experiences, creating a stimulating environment where every child can thrive.

Phonics

From FS to Year 2, we follow the Read Write Inc. phonics programme. This provides a clear and systematic approach to teaching children how to read, write and blend sounds, words and sentences.

Across Year 1 and Year 2, children are grouped according to their phonics stage, ensuring they receive targeted teaching at the appropriate level. This enables sessions to be purposeful, engaging and closely matched to each child's individual needs, supporting rapid progress and confidence in early reading and writing.

Reading and Writing

Our reading and writing curriculum is built around high-quality texts that are carefully selected to link with each year group's Question of the Term and wider topic learning.

Throughout the week, children participate in a range of reading and writing lessons designed to develop comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, creativity and written accuracy. Learning objectives are drawn from the British Curriculum, ensuring clear progression in knowledge, skills and understanding across all year groups.



Learning Links

Maths

We follow the White Rose Maths scheme across the school. This approach supports children in developing a deep understanding of mathematical concepts through small, carefully sequenced steps.

Lessons focus on building fluency, reasoning and problem-solving skills, enabling children to develop confidence, resilience and a strong foundation in mathematics as they progress through the school.

As children move into the upper years of the school, they are encouraged to apply their mathematical understanding in increasingly complex and real-life contexts. In Year 6, there is a strong focus on developing mathematical reasoning, problem-solving and mastery of key concepts, ensuring children are well prepared for the transition to secondary school and the demands of a more advanced mathematics curriculum.

Click on the images below to explore parent resources.



Arabic at RPS

At Ranches Primary School, we are proud to support students in developing their Arabic language skills while fostering a genuine appreciation for the rich culture, heritage, and traditions of the UAE.

Arabic is a core part of our curriculum and is taught in line with UAE Ministry of Education requirements. Through engaging, interactive, and meaningful learning experiences, we aim to build students' confidence in listening, speaking, reading, and writing, while nurturing a lifelong connection with the language.

Students are placed in the most appropriate pathway based on their language background, previous experience, and Ministry of Education requirements:
Arabic A – for native and fluent Arabic speakers.
Arabic B – for students learning Arabic as an additional language.
Arabic Beginners – for students who are new to learning Arabic.

In the Early Years, children benefit from regular Arabic exposure through a combination of direct teaching and opportunities to experience Arabic throughout the school day. Students in Years 2–6 receive three hours of Arabic instruction each week.

Our lessons are designed to be engaging, interactive, and age-appropriate, incorporating speaking, listening, reading, writing, technology, games, storytelling, songs, and hands-on activities. Students are encouraged to use Arabic beyond dedicated lesson times, helping them develop confidence and familiarity with the language in everyday school life.

Monitoring Progress

Parents can stay informed about their child's progress through:

- School reports and assessment updates
- Parent–Teacher Conferences
- Seesaw learning journals and class communications
- Direct communication with teachers when required

Celebrating Arabic Language and Culture

Throughout the year, students have opportunities to celebrate Arabic language and culture through activities such as Arabic Week, storytelling events, cultural celebrations, competitions, performances, assemblies, and enrichment experiences. These opportunities help bring learning to life and encourage a deeper appreciation of the Arabic language and the culture of the UAE.



Islamic Studies at RPS

Islamic Studies is a core subject for all Muslim students and is taught in line with the UAE Ministry of Education requirements. Our aim is to develop students' knowledge and understanding of Islam while supporting them in applying Islamic values, manners, and teachings in their daily lives.

Through our curriculum, students engage in meaningful and age-appropriate learning experiences that strengthen their Islamic identity, moral development, spiritual awareness, and understanding of the Holy Qur'an and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Islamic A and Islamic B

From Year 2 to Year 6, Muslim students follow either Islamic A or Islamic B, depending on their language background and UAE Ministry of Education requirements.
Islamic A is delivered in Arabic and is designed for native Arabic-speaking Muslim students.
Islamic B is delivered in English and is designed for non-native Arabic speakers.
Both pathways follow the UAE Ministry of Education curriculum and cover the same core areas of Islamic learning, adapted appropriately to meet students' language needs.

These areas include:

- The Holy Qur'an and its sciences
- Qur'an recitation and memorisation
- The Noble Hadith
- Islamic beliefs and principles
- Acts of worship and Islamic rulings
- The life of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ
- Islamic history and key personalities
- Islamic values, manners, and identity
- Applying Islamic teachings in everyday life



Community Spirit

Friends of Ranches Primary School

We are excited to invite you to become a part of the Friends of Ranches (FOR) Primary School Committee. This committee plays an essential role in supporting our school community by organising events, fundraising, and fostering collaboration between parents, teachers, and students.

To ensure every year group is represented, we are seeking a minimum of one committee member per year group.
Each year group will have a dedicated representative who will share ideas, provide feedback, help coordinate school activities and initiatives and meet regularly with the Senior Leadership Team.

If you are interested in joining please email our Admissions and Parent Experience Manager Kate at **kate.gutteridge@rpsdubai.com**

UAE Heritage Committee

As we continue to celebrate the rich and diverse culture of the UAE, we are excited to invite parents to join our UAE Heritage Committee. This committee plays a vital role in preserving and sharing the country's unique traditions, values, and history with our students.

We would love to have your voice and perspective as part of this special group.
Whether you are Emirati or have a deep connection to the UAE's heritage, your insights will be incredibly valuable in fostering an inclusive environment where students learn and appreciate the cultural diversity that makes our country unique.

If you are interested in joining please email our Admissions and Parent Experience Manager Kate at **kate.gutteridge@rpsdubai.com**



FAQs

When will we be able to sign up for Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs) and paid enrichment activities?
An ECA sign-up link will be shared during the first week of school by Ms Rothwell, Head of PE and Enrichment. Paid enrichment activities can be booked now via EnrichME.

When my child has PE, do they wear their PE kit?
Yes. All children should wear their PE kit on PE days. They do not need to wear their school uniform or change at school.

When my child has swimming, do they wear their swimwear under their clothes?

- Children in FS2 to Year 1 should wear their PE kit with their swimwear underneath.
- Children in Year 2 to Year 6 should wear their school uniform with their swimwear underneath.

If my child has a school sports fixture, can they wear their PE kit on that day?
Yes. Children are not required to wear their school uniform on sports fixture days and should wear their PE kit instead.

My child has lost something. Who can help?
Lost Property is located at Entrance B. Please note that items are only kept for one term before being donated. We strongly recommend that all belongings are clearly labelled.

I need to speak to someone from Finance in person. Is there someone I can see at school?
Yes. Our Finance Office is located on site. Please visit the Main Reception, where a member of the team will direct you.

I have concerns regarding my child. Who should I speak to?
Your child's class teacher should always be your first point of contact. If further support is required, you are encouraged to contact the relevant Head of Year.
If you feel additional support is needed, you can then contact the appropriate member of the Senior Leadership Team:
Assistant Principal **>** Vice Principal **>** Principal

How do I contact my child's teacher?
Please use the Seesaw app to contact your child's teacher or any other member of the academic team.