MID-LEVELS CAMPUS
FIRST WEEK ARRANGEMENT FOR
FOUNDATION C - GROUP C1

Welcome to the Foundation Group at IMS!

We are very pleased to welcome your child to our Foundation Group, and are certain that the Montessori environment will be a positive and enriching experience. The first few weeks of our Foundation Group are designed to help our children become accustomed to the environment and to begin to work independently. Please find below, as a friendly reminder, the important dates and information to assist your child's transition to our environment.

Also, in preparation for joining IMS, please find a number of **IMPORTANT** documents for your attention, please click onto the link to download and view each document.

- Foundation Orientation Booklet 2022-2023
- Parent Handbook 2022-2023
- ML Foundation Campus Logistics 2022-2023
- Foundation Groups Checklist
- Foundation Groups School Calendar 2022-2023
- Weather Warnings and School Closure

* Please refer to Engage Parent Portal for the latest version of these documents.

NOTES FOR STARTING BACK TO SCHOOL

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Given the continuing restrictions in place for gatherings, we have reviewed our calendar to ensure that school events can continue as close to normal as possible, while satisfying social distancing. This will be the theme throughout the year, and so please keep an eye out for updates to the calendar from time to time. For the latest version, please visit **School Calendar 2022-23**.

COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS

As part of our Covid-19 protocols, the following are the most important steps to take before school starts. Please read these carefully, and also review our **Health and Safety Protocols** for a complete set of our Covid measures. We thank you for helping keep our community healthy and safe.

1. Please complete the **Student Health Declaration and Vaccination Form** ***for each child*** **by 5pm on Friday, 19 August 2022**. If you answer "YES" to any of the questions on the declaration, please refrain from sending your child to school, and contact us by phone to provide more details. In this form we are also asking everyone to once again **provide details of your child's vaccination status, and upload the latest vaccination record** where applicable so please have it at hand. You must have completed this form prior to your child's first day.

   For Accompanying Adults who do not live in the child's household, please submit a **Visitor Health Declaration Form**.

2. Please have your child and accompanying adult complete a **Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) every morning** before coming to school, and if the result is positive, keep your child at home and contact us. If your child has any symptoms of Covid or is feeling unwell or lethargic, please also refrain from coming to school.

3. Please print out this **Daily Temperature and RAT Form**. In the form, y**ou must do the following daily**:

   - Fill in your child's temperature before you leave home
   - Check that you are re-affirming the Health Declarations made in #1 above
   - Sign to confirm that your child has a negative result from the RAT for that day.

   PLEASE NOTE THAT IF THE RAT CELL IS BLANK AND/OR THE FORM IS NOT SIGNED, YOUR CHILD CANNOT ENTER THE CAMPUS,

4. Please have your child come to school in a properly fitting mask, and prepare an extra one for their school bag. If your child refuses to wear a mask properly at school they will be unable to attend school.

5. The campus will open 10 minutes prior to your group time. Please line up where indicated along the school fence and avoid crowding the entrance. Please also note that due to Covid measures, all children should enter the campus with only one additional adult.

6. **Foundation Accompanying Adults must also have completed a negative daily RAT test and sign-in via the Leave Home Safe App with valid Vaccination Pass**, to come on campus. Accompanying adults should also check their temperature at the front desk, complete the visitor sign-in sheet, and obtain a visitor lanyard.

7. For any other adults coming to campus for special events such as orientation or volunteer activities, the Vaccination Pass Requirement continues to be in force, which means that adults will need to fulfil the Vaccination Pass Requirements using the Leave Home Safe App unless otherwise exempt, to enter the campus. (Pending any further changes from the government). Visitors will also need to declare that they have tested negative on RAT on the day of the visit.

FIRST WEEK ARRANGEMENTS

Monday 22 August - Parent Orientation and Practical Life Montessori Seminar at Mid-Levels campus 2:30pm - 4:00pm

This Orientation is an opportunity for you to learn more about Foundation Group logistics and Montessori philosophy from your child's teachers. ***Please note that this orientation is not designed for children***, so please make child care arrangements as required.

Tuesday 23 August 2022 - First Day

Your child and **one adult caregiver** are invited to come in the classroom for **30 minutes** with 3 other families to gain familiarity with the environment. Your child's first day schedule will be from **2:00pm - 2:30pm**. We encourage you to help your child find their new cubby, change into indoor shoes, and then take a quiet and slow walk around the environment with your child, and point out familiar objects. By being positive and relaxed in the environment, you will show your child that it is a safe and fun place. We will approach your child gently when it is a good time and may invite you to join us in a short activity to help engage your child. Your child may also be happy to just observe the environment, and watch the interaction of others.

Towards the end of the 30 minute visit, we will invite you to separate for a short time while we have circle time. You may stay in the environment off to the side if your child needs that support, or if they are feeling confident, you can step outside the room for a moment. The aim of the visit is to help familiarise the child with the room, and for them to see their parents engage positively with their new teachers.

Wednesday 24 August 2022 - Second Day

Children attend Foundation group for 30 minutes (2:00-2:30pm) on the second day, **we ask parents/caregivers to bring their child to the cubby area and then separate as quickly as possible.** During this short time of separation, parents/caregivers are encouraged to wait in the waiting area at the Atrium after bringing the child into the cubby area. It is helpful to wait in a location that is out of sight of the environment to minimise separation issues and help your child adjust to Foundation Group more easily.

Thursday 25 August - Friday 26 August 2022

Children will come into the classroom for **ONE hour**. Your child's schedule will be from **2:00pm - 3:00pm** or as arranged by the teacher.

We ask parents/caregivers to separate as quickly as possible at the cubby area with a cheery goodbye and reassurance you will see them soon.

Separation anxiety is a natural part of the process of joining a group for the first time. This is a big step for both parent and the child! Given positive support, confidence from caregivers, and time, every child will make a smooth transition. We thank you in advance for understanding that this is a gradual process. As Dr. Montessori always said, have faith in the child! Please wait in the Atrium to minimise separation issues and help your child adjust to Foundation Group more easily. Once in the environment, teachers will interact with your child, and lead them to an activity, and give them plenty of reassurance. When your child is ready, we will help them prepare for home, and walk them back to you.

Monday of the Second Week (29 August) - Normal group hours commence for all settled children, i.e. Foundation C - **2:00pm - 4:00pm**.

We look forward to meeting you for our **Parent Orientation on Monday 22 August from 2:30pm to 4:00pm**.

Again, welcome!

Warm Regards,

Sushmita John
Curriculum Director