PRIMARY CURRICULUM



At Savannah International School, we believe that the primary years are a time of rapid growth, curiosity, and increasing independence. Our learning programs are carefully selected to support children at each stage of their development. Our approach goes far beyond academics. We aim to develop well-rounded individuals who are adaptable, reflective, and confident in themselves and their abilities. Through rich, age-appropriate experiences, we help students build the knowledge, skills, and personal qualities they need to thrive in an ever-evolving world.

International Primary Curriculum (IPC)

Developing Knowledge, Skills and Understanding Through Meaningful Learning

In the Primary Section, our students follow the International Primary Curriculum (IPC), a comprehensive and globally recognised program that nurtures both academic learning and personal development. The IPC is carefully designed to support primary-aged learners through exciting, thematic units that build connections across a wide range of subjects.



Learning through Thematic Units

Children explore rich and engaging topics—such as "We Are What We Eat" or "Hooray! Let's Go on Holiday"—that spark curiosity and link subjects together in meaningful ways. Each unit provides opportunities for students to investigate real-world ideas from different angles, helping them make sense of the world around them.

As students move through the primary years, the themes they explore become increasingly sophisticated. In the upper grades, children take on more complex and globally-relevant units such as "Space Explorers", "Champions for Change", or "Going Global". These units encourage deeper thinking, promote the development of advanced skills, and challenge students to consider their place in the wider world.

Subjects Taught

- Science
- History
- Geography
- Health & Well-being
- Design, Technology and Innovation
- International
- Art
- Music
- Physical education.



By integrating subjects within thematic units, students gain a deeper understanding of each discipline and develop the skills needed for effective problem-solving and critical thinking.

A Curriculum Tailored to Each Stage of Development

The IPC is designed to meet children at their developmental stage. In the early primary years, hands-on experiences and active learning support children's natural curiosity and enthusiasm. As they progress, the curriculum introduces greater complexity and promotes more independent thinking. Units are carefully sequenced to ensure that learning builds over time—allowing children to consolidate skills and apply them in increasingly abstract or real-world contexts.

IPC Personal Goals

The IPC emphasises personal learning goals that go beyond academic learning, supporting children's social and emotional development. These goals include qualities such as being:



- resilient
- adaptable
- a communicator
- a thinker
- ethical
- collaborator
- respectful
- empathetic

At Savannah, these goals are embedded into everything we do. They are not just part of the curriculum—they are central to our school culture and drive our vision for the type of learner we aim to develop. All members of our school community, from students and teachers to support staff and leadership, are expected to model and demonstrate these values in their daily interactions. By consistently reinforcing these personal goals, we help children grow into reflective, responsible and compassionate individuals who are well-prepared to navigate the complexities of the modern world.



Literacy

Developing Confident Readers, Writers and Communicators

Our approach to literacy in the Primary Section is carefully designed to support children as they grow into fluent, thoughtful readers and effective writers. Through a balance of phonics, grammar, reading, and writing instruction, students are guided from learning to read, to reading to learn.

Jolly Phonics – Laying the Foundations

In the early years of Primary (Grades 1 and 2), we use the Jolly Phonics programme to give children a strong foundation in reading and writing. This structured, multi-sensory approach introduces the 42 main letter sounds in English and teaches children how to:

- Blend sounds to read words
- Segment words to support spelling
- Form letters correctly
- Recognise tricky and irregular words

Children engage with songs, actions, stories and games, making the process of learning to read and spell fun, interactive and memorable. These essential decoding and encoding skills help children build the confidence they need to become independent readers and writers.

Jolly Grammar – Deepening Understanding

From Grade 1 onwards, children also begin Jolly Grammar, a natural extension of the phonics programme that runs through to Grade 6. As they move beyond basic decoding, children explore the structure and rules of language, learning about:

- Parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.)
- Sentence construction
- Punctuation and capitalisation
- Verb tenses and grammar conventions
- Spelling patterns and rules

Jolly Grammar lessons are active and engaging, helping students understand how language works and how to use it effectively in their own writing. By revisiting and extending these concepts each year, children gain confidence in communicating their ideas clearly and creatively.

Together, Jolly Phonics and Jolly Grammar provide a strong, consistent framework for literacy development, supporting every child's journey toward fluency and self-expression.

French Literacy

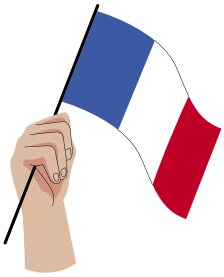
At Savannah, we value the development of literacy skills in both English and French. In the final term of Year 1, children are introduced to early French reading through the imaginative programme **La Planète des Alphas.**



This playful and story-based approach introduces the sounds and letters of the French language through a cast of engaging characters from a whimsical world. Each character represents a sound, making phonics in French both memorable and enjoyable. Children begin to decode simple words, recognise sound blends, and gain confidence as early readers in French, all within a nurturing and highly engaging environment.

French Across the Primary Years

From Grade 2 to Grade 6, students continue to develop their French literacy through a curriculum that is broadly based on the French National Curriculum but adapted to suit our international school setting. Rather than being taught as a second language, French is approached as a core literacy subject.



The programme focuses on:

- Building phonemic awareness and reading fluency in French
- Developing vocabulary, spelling, and grammar in a structured way
- Engaging with French texts through guided reading and written responses
- Writing for different purposes using appropriate grammar and punctuation
- Developing oral confidence through structured speaking and listening tasks

The curriculum is designed to support both native French speakers and non-native speakers within an inclusive classroom environment. With an emphasis on both language competence and a love of reading and writing, our French programme ensures that children develop strong foundational skills and an appreciation for francophone culture and language.

Numeracy



Making Mathematics Visual, Meaningful and Engaging

At Savannah, we use the Numicon approach to support children's mathematical development from Grade 1 through to Grade 6. Numicon is a highly visual, hands-on programme that helps children develop a deep understanding of number relationships and mathematical concepts by making abstract ideas concrete and accessible.

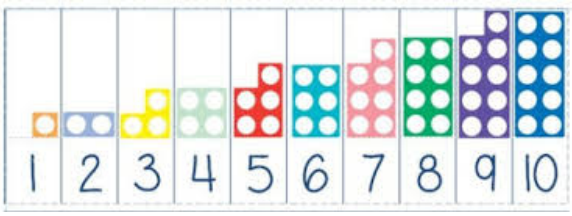
Through the use of Numicon shapes, number rods, patterns, and structured resources, students learn to see the connections between numbers, build fluency in calculation, and develop confidence in reasoning and problem-solving. The programme is rooted in the principles of mastery, ensuring that students truly understand a concept before moving on.

A Progression from Concrete to Abstract

The Numicon programme encourages children to explore mathematics using practical equipment and pictorial representations before moving to more abstract methods such as written algorithms and mental strategies. This approach supports all learners, especially those who benefit from visual and tactile experiences, while laying a strong foundation for later mathematical thinking.

Key areas of focus include:

- Number recognition and relationships
- Place value and number bonds
- Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division
- Fractions, decimals and percentages
- Patterns, measurement, geometry and data handling



A Whole-School Approach to Mathematical Understanding

Numicon is used throughout the primary years to ensure consistency and continuity in the way mathematics is taught. As students progress, they move from manipulating physical resources to working with more complex concepts, always supported by strong visual models and clear mathematical language.

By combining exploration, discussion, and structured practice, our mathematics programme fosters curiosity, persistence, and logical thinking. The aim is not only for students to 'get the right answer' but to understand the 'why' behind the maths—preparing them to tackle real-world problems with confidence and skill.

Assessment and Reporting

Supporting Every Learner Through Thoughtful, Ongoing Assessment

At Savannah, assessment in the Primary years is first and foremost a tool to support learning. Our approach **focuses on assessment for learning**—helping teachers understand each child's needs and tailor instruction accordingly—rather than assessment of learning for its own sake.

Teachers use a wide range of ongoing, informal assessment methods, including observations, checklists, class discussions, written work, projects, and presentations. Weekly spelling assessments are linked directly to the phonics and word patterns being taught, while end-of-topic reviews may be used to consolidate understanding. These assessments are conducted in a supportive and low-pressure environment, without formal tests or exam conditions.

Throughout the year, children also participate in "Exit Points" at the end of their IPC units—special events where they showcase their learning. These often include creative displays, performances, or hands-on demonstrations, and parents are regularly invited to attend and celebrate their child's progress.

Reporting and Parent–Teacher Conferences

To ensure strong communication with families, we provide **two written reports each year**—one mid-year in July and one at the end of the school year in November. In addition, teachers send home student copy books weekly so families can follow their child's learning journey more closely.

We also hold **two formal parent–teacher conferences** each year (in March and September), with the option for teachers or parents to schedule additional meetings at any time. These regular points of contact help ensure that each child is fully supported both at home and at school.



Grade 6 Completion and Secondary Options

At the end of Grade 6, students at Savannah International School do not sit for the Mauritian National Exam, currently known as the PSAC. When applying to private secondary schools, parents use the child's Grade 5 and Grade 6 school reports as part of the admissions process. Each private secondary school has its own admissions policies and requirements. Parents who wish for their child to pursue admission to a State College may choose to register them to sit the National Exam privately.

Looking Ahead

At Savannah International School, we are committed to providing an education that prepares children not only for the next stage of their learning, but for life in a dynamic and interconnected world. Our carefully chosen programmes are designed to nurture curiosity, independence, and a strong sense of self, while building essential knowledge and skills. We warmly invite you to learn more about our vibrant school community and discover how we can support your child's journey through the Primary years and beyond.