



# A bilArabi story For the Love of Arabic

## Key Findings

Overall, the coordinator and the Grade 1 teacher at Kings' School Nad Al Sheba had a very positive experience implementing bilArabi. There were many aspects of the programme they appreciated and found beneficial including:

- How it helped with the development of the 4 main skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking).
- That it was innovative and led to a **better reputation for the school**.
- It **engaged students** with fun songs and interactive online activities.
- Students were **motivated** to learn Arabic.
- The top-notch Arabic **instruction** at the school.
- The **excellent customer support** received from Pearson.

## bilArabi: Supporting Teaching and Learning

**Overall, the coordinator and the Grade 1 teacher had a very positive experience in implementing bilArabi.**

“the support has been fantastic, thank you!”

In April, the teacher was surveyed again and they strongly agreed bilArabi was a good fit for their students, they understood the pedagogical principles of bilArabi, training helped get them started using both the print materials and digital components, that they enjoyed using bilArabi and wanted to continue using it. Further, the teacher's confidence was 100% when performing all bilArabi teaching-related activities.

The coordinator felt that bilArabi was an innovative way to engage students and it enriched their Arabic language communication skills. In addition, the coordinator was happy with the support received from the Pearson team, **“the support has been fantastic, thank you!”**

After implementing bilArabi at the school, the coordinator felt there were 3 goals bilArabi helped them to address, which were:

- Improving the quality of Arabic language instruction at the school.
- Motivating students to learn Arabic.
- Gaining a better reputation through the use of innovative approaches.

“children were fully engaged with learning due to the resources

They found the top 3 most helpful components to be the digital lesson planning, digital extra resources and Teacher's Book. In the coordinator's opinion, **“teachers felt inspired to plan lessons and children were fully engaged with learning due to the resources.”**

After utilising bilArabi, the Grade 1 teacher was asked to rank the top 3 instructional and learning goals they felt bilArabi helped them to achieve and below is their response:

- Providing culturally relevant content and stories.
- Giving students more chances to think critically about text.
- Increasing students' participation in class.

**85%**

**of students appeared engaged and actively participated in lessons incorporating bilArabi**

Further, the Grade 1 teacher believed that the online activities available through bilArabi were particularly effective for that grade.

During 2 classroom observations, the observer noted that an average of 85% of students appeared engaged and actively participated in lessons incorporating bilArabi. They also noted that students showed confidence when using the Student's Book and the level of their engagement in the learning was demonstrated in several ways including:

“when displaying a song from bilArabi platform, the students show a lot of enthusiasm to read and sing (when) it's playing. They also like the online activities the teacher shows on the interactive board and they all want to solve them.”



## About bilArabi

**bilArabi is a new and innovative Arabic language programme for schools from Pearson, the world's learning company.**

It aims to transform the way students learn Arabic with fun and engaging course content, and an inquiry-based approach that makes learning student-centred.

bilArabi is a programme that offers much more than just language learning, with content that aims to develop a passion for Arabic history and culture and inspire trust in a bright future for the language. The course also includes higher-order thinking skills, as part of developing 21st-century skills to prepare students for high-stakes exams and the workplace.

## Overview



**The Kings' School Nad Al Sheba, located in Dubai, United Arab Emirates,**

piloted bilArabi from October, 2018 to April, 2019 with several goals in mind including improving the quality of Arabic language instruction at the school, familiarising

teachers with technology in the classroom and providing differentiated learning for students. The coordinator found that bilArabi was an innovative programme that engaged students and enriched their skills. The teacher felt the programme was a great fit for their students, provided effective activities, gave them a chance to think critically about text, provided culturally relevant materials, and increased their participation in class.

## Background of the School

**UK**

Curriculum

**6**

months of  
bilArabi piloted

**1**

teacher,  
1 coordinator

**24**

students in  
Grade 1

“ Providing culturally relevant content and stories

The top 3 reasons the Coordinator wanted to take part in the bilArabi pilot included:

- Improving the quality of Arabic language instruction at the school.
- Introducing and familiarising teachers with technology in the classroom.
- Providing differentiated learning for students.

Initially in the pilot, the teacher was asked what they hoped bilArabi would help with and below is their answer:

- Providing culturally relevant content and stories.
- Giving students more chances to think critically about text.
- More opportunities for students to work and learn independently.

## Programme Implementation

**bilArabi was used as an enrichment programme in conjunction with the Ministry of Education (MoE) plan already in place at the Kings' School Nad Al Sheba.**

The Grade 1 class participated in the pilot for about 24 weeks where they implemented bilArabi for 2 periods of Arabic per week. They used both the print materials and digital platform, mainly for in-class activities. Specifically, the components utilised were:



**Write-in Student's Book** (two volumes)



**Student's e-Book**



**Teacher's Guide**



**Teacher's Guide e-book**



**bilArabi Digital Platform**



**Product Activation Training**

There was a training session held in October, prior to the implementation of bilArabi and it was conducted with 4 teachers. They found the most useful parts of training to be how bilArabi helped with the development of the 4 main skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening) and how the stories were true-to-life and culturally relevant for students. Regarding the training one teacher stated, **“Good work! Good effort was made on videos, evaluation and presentation.”**

## Conclusion

Overall, the implementation of the bilArabi programme was found to be beneficial for staff.

The Grade 1 teacher felt bilArabi provided culturally relevant material, allowed students the opportunity to think critically and increased their participation in Arabic language learning. Further, they believed it was a good fit for their students and they would like to continue using it.

The coordinator found bilArabi helped the school to improve the quality of Arabic instruction, motivated students to learn Arabic and helped them earn a better reputation through the use of an innovative educational approach. In coordinator's view, bilArabi was a positive fit for their school and was pleased with how the pilot went.



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The pilot showed us an alternative, **innovative way to engage children** with material and it helped us to link learning in a meaningful way.