

## Teaching English in Cyprus

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Kyperounda Primary School  
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My name is Alison Billias, and I was born in Florida. I went to NYU and lived in New York City for six years, and now I am here in Kyperounda, Cyprus.

### **The Program**

I've been here since September 8<sup>th</sup> and I will be here for nine months. I am an English Language Teaching Assistant, so I teach grades year 1 through 6 five days a week, about English and American studies.

### **A typical day at Kyperounda Primary School**

A typical day is I wake up, I go to school and teach three to four classes a day, with another teacher. I may help out in another grade, then I come home and have lunch with my landlord and his wife, who is also the President of Kyperounda, and I might go to someone's house for dinner, or - you know- spend the afternoon with some of the people in the community.

### **The Blog**

I created a blog, I am collaborating with my friend who is a teacher at the Princeton day school in New Jersey, and the purpose of the blog is to create an authentic cultural exchange between year-four students and year-six students. There are several sections of the blog, so they are able to write about their favorite movies, things that are going on in the community or their school, and they are able to have instantaneous feedback with each other, because it is on the Internet. And it is teaching them a new form of communication, and it's been really successful so far.

### **Living in Kyperounda**

Living here has exceeded my expectations. I absolutely love living in Kyperounda. The hospitality of the people here has been really so overwhelming, really. I wasn't expecting it and they've just embraced me and I've embraced them, it's really just... I've made so many wonderful friendships, and you know, there are going to be life-long connections, I feel really lucky to be here.

### **Connecting with the people**

Kyperounda is a small village, but there's many-many people to meet, and there's always things going on, activities at the youth center, dinners at people's houses... I mean, it's really a beautiful place to live. And there's lots of fresh fruit, you can really just go to the fields and pick apples, they have a fresh pomegranate tree right outside my apartment. My view is beautiful, with the mountains, and it's a really lovely place to be.

### **With thanks to Teachers and Pupils of Kyperounda Primary School**

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