

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #11
9th November, 2023



Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

Have your Say & Contribute to Our School Development

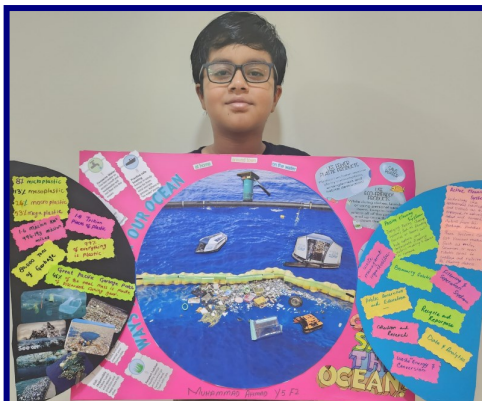
The annual GEMS Parent Survey will be released on Monday 13/11/23, giving our parents the opportunity to have a 'Voice' in celebrating what is going well & contributing specific ideas for 'Next Steps'. We would like to encourage all our parents to take a few minutes to complete the Parent Survey. Guidelines are outlined on p4-5 FYI. GEMS encourages healthy competition between schools, so we are looking forward to your positive support. Many thanks.

Happy Diwali to all our families who celebrate this festival



Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Term 1 Exams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FS1-Y6 T1 exams from Monday 4th to Thursday 14th December. Y9 Exams from Monday 27th November to Thursday 14th December.
Mon. 13th Nov.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEMS Parent Survey scheduled for release. Parents are kindly requested to take a few minutes to complete it positively to support on-going school development. Please see the document on p5-6 for guidance. Thank you.
Wednesday 29th or Thurs. 30th Nov. (TBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSS will be celebrating UAE National Day. Staff & students may come dressed in the UAE flag colours & bring traditional food to share with classmates (optional)
Sat. 30th Dec. 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online fee payment of T2 fees recommended to avoid queues. However, the Cashier will be open for parent convenience, 8am-2pm
Mon. 18th Dec—Mon. 1st Jan. 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School closed for Winter Break (2 weeks). School opens on Tuesday 2nd January 2024. T2 Fees due by 2/1/24. Thank you.



Our Vision; 'Excellence Through Teamwork; Success For All'

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 11
9 نوفمبر 2023



رسالة من المديرية / الرئيس التنفيذي
السيدة فاليري توميسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر
الشارقة الأعزاء،

شارك برأيك وساهم في تطوير مدرستنا

سيتم إصدار استبيان GEMS السنوي
لأولياء الأمور يوم الاثنين الموافق

13/11/23، مما يتيح لأولياء الأمور
فرصة الحصول على "صوت" للاحتفال

بما يسير على ما يرام والمساهمة بأفكار
محددة من أجل "الخطوات التالية". نود أن نشجع جميع أولياء الأمور

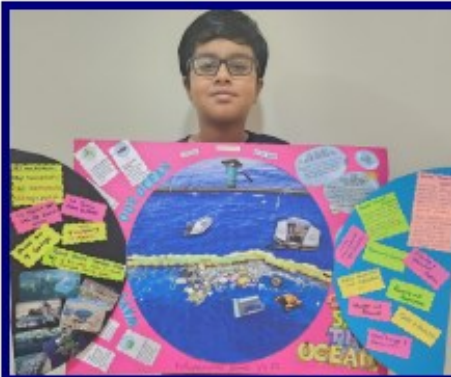
على تخصيص بضع دقائق لإكمال استبيان أولياء الأمور. تم توضيح
الإرشادات في الصفحات 4-5 لمعلوماتك. تحتفظ GEMS بجدول

الدوري التفاضلية + بين المدارس، لذلك نحن نتطلع إلى دعمكم
الإيجابي. تشكرات.

المواعيد

التاريخ	التفاصيل
امتحانات الفصل الأول	اختبارات FS1-Y6 T1 من الاثنين 4 إلى الخميس 14 ديسمبر.
	اختبارات Y9 من الاثنين 27 نوفمبر إلى الخميس 14 ديسمبر.
الاثنين 13 نوفمبر	من المقرر إصدار استبيان أولياء أمور GEMS ويرجى من أولياء الأمور تخصيص بضع دقائق لإكماله بشكل إيجابي لدعم التطوير المستمر للمدرسة. برجاء الاطلاع على الوثيقة ص 5-6 للحصول على إرشادات. شكرًا لك.
الأربعاء 29 أو الخميس 30 نوفمبر (يحدد لاحقاً)	سوف تحتفل WSS باليوم الوطني لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة. يمكن للموظفين والطلاب الحضور مرتدين ألوان علم دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة وإحضار الأطعمة التقليدية لمشاركتها مع زملاء الدراسة (اختياري)
السبت 30 ديسمبر 2023	يوصى بدفع الرسوم عبر الإنترنت لرسوم T2 لتجنب قوائم الانتظار. ومع ذلك، سيكون أمين الصندوق مفتوحاً لراحة الوالدين، من الساعة 8 صباحاً حتى 2 ظهراً
الاثنين 18 ديسمبر - الاثنين 1 يناير 2024	المدرسة مغلقة لعطلة الشتاء (أسبوعين). تفتح المدرسة يوم الثلاثاء 2 يناير 2024. رسوم T2 مستحقة بحلول 2/1/24. شكرًا لك.

ديوالي سعيد لجميع عائلاتنا التي تحتفل بهذا المهرجان



رؤيتنا؛ "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعي؛ نجاح للجميع"

☐☐ The most important gifts
you can give your child are
a **quality education** and the
values that will guide them
through life ☐☐

Sunny Varkey

Whole School News

Newsletter Contents

Page	Includes:
1, 2	Dates for Your Diary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Message from the Principal; Date for Your Diary, general notices
3	Contents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contents Table
4-5 6 7-8 9-10 11 12 13 14	Whole School News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent Survey Guidelines GEMS New Wellbeing Charter WSS Hosts the Northern Emirates Soccer Tournament, 7th-9th November Staff CPD Environmental & Recycling Superstar Champions Colin the Character Camel; Charity for Gaza Storyboard Top Tips; 1) Wellbeing, 2) Attendance & Punctuality Happy Birthdays
15-16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23-28	Junior Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior Section Superstar Champions Assembly Time with Y2F1 Assembly Time with Y1H1 Learning Activities (general) Learning Activities in FS2 Learning Activities in Y1 Learning Activities in Y2
29 30 30 31 31 32-33 34	Secondary Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Club Investiture Ceremony Mock Mentoring Month Flag Day Awareness Sessions GEMS Climate Change Survey Participation Social Media Responsible Cyber Security Awareness Session KS4 Trip Time to 'Green Planet'! Anti-Bullying Week!



Find our updated **Parent Hand-book** through this QR code. Check-out school policies & procedures to be familiar & comfortable with our system.



Thank you to superstar Nabia, who regularly shares fun & energizing videos related to her learning! Thank you Nabia & to her very hard-working, supportive Mother!



Whole School News; Parent Survey Guidelines



مدرسة جنيس وستمنستر الشارقة
GEMS Westminster School
SHARJAH

Date: November, 2023

Dear Parents,

Subject: GEMS Parent Survey

GEMS Parent Survey is scheduled for re-release. Parents are kindly requested to take a few minutes to complete it positively to support ongoing school development. Please see

At WSS, we are committed to engaging with our parents to achieve our vision, 'Excellence Through Teamwork; Success for All'. We aim to provide the very best possible learning experience and outcomes for your child, so value your balanced, regular feedback on what is working well, and what can be improved further. In order to gain further parent feedback, GEMS will shortly issue a Parent Survey link to your registered email. We would highly appreciate you taking some of your valuable time to complete this to share your valuable insights on matters within the school's control (please do not consider areas such as fees, Books with fees & buses that are outside school control. Thank you).

في WSS ، نحن ملتزمون بالتواصل مع أولياء الأمور لتحقيق رؤيتنا، "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعي؛ النجاح للجميع". نحن نهدف إلى تقديم أفضل تجربة تعليمية ونتائج ممكنة لطفلك، لذا نقدر ملاحظاتك المتوازنة والمنتظمة حول ما يعمل بشكل جيد، وما الذي يمكن تحسينه أكثر. " من أجل الحصول على المزيد من ملاحظات الوالدين، ستصدر GEMS قريباً رابط استطلاع رأي أولياء إلى بريدك الإلكتروني المسجل. سنكون ممتنين للغاية لتخصيص بعض من وقتك الثمين لإكمال هذا لمشاركة أفكارك القيمة حول الأمور التي تقع ضمن سيطرة المدرسة. (يُرجى عدم الأخذ في الاعتبار مجالات مثل الرسوم والكتب ذات الرسوم والحافلات التي تقع خارج نطاق سيطرة المدرسة.) شكراً لك

FYI, please note:

Score	What this means	Some examples for scoring
10	Top score! Parent is a Promotor & would highly recommend WSS to family & friends أعلى نتيجة! الأباء هم المروجون ويوصون WSS للعائلة والأصدقاء بشدة.	Very happy & satisfied with school & management in all areas that are within school's control. Any queries/issues have been responded to promptly & solved. Child is making very good progress & is very happy with Teacher & to attend lessons. Parent feels that school is fully committed to improvement & high standards. سعيد جداً وراضٍ عن المدرسة والإدارة في جميع المجالات التي تقع تحت سيطرة المدرسة. تم الرد على أي استفسارات / مشكلات على الفور وحلها. يحرز الطفل تقدماً جيداً للغاية وهو سعيد جداً بالمعلم وحضور الدروس. يشعر ولي الأمر أن المدرسة ملتزمة تماماً بالتحسين والمعايير العالية.
9	Good score! Parent is a Promotor . Parent would recommend WSS to family & friends نتيجة جيدة! الأباء هم المروجون ويوصون WSS للعائلة والأصدقاء بشدة.	Generally happy & satisfied with school & management in most areas that are within school's control. Any queries/issues have been responded to & solved where possible. Child is making good progress & is happy with Teacher & to attend lessons. Parent feels that school is generally committed to improvement & high standards. بشكل عام سعيد وراضٍ عن المدرسة والإدارة في معظم المناطق التي تقع تحت سيطرة المدرسة. تم الرد على أي استفسارات / مشكلات وحلها حيثما أمكن ذلك. الطفل يحرز تقدماً جيداً ويسعد بالمدرس وحضور الدروس. يشعر ولي الأمر أن المدرسة ملتزمة عموماً بالتحسين والمعايير العالية.

Whole School News; Parent Survey Guidelines

7-8	<p>Average score. Parent is 'Passive'</p> <p>متوسط درجة. الوالد "غير فعال"</p>	<p>Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Child's generally likes school & learning, but individual needs are only partially met for reasons within the school's control. Parent unsure whether they wish to continue at WSS due to aspects of the learning environment that are within the school's control.</p> <p>لا راض ولا غير راض. يحب الطفل عموماً المدرسة والتعلم، ولكن يتم تلبية الاحتياجات الفردية جزئياً فقط لأسباب تخضع لسيطرة المدرسة. الوالد غير متأكد مما إذا كانوا يرغبون في الاستمرار في WSS بسبب جوانب بيئة التعلم التي تقع تحت سيطرة المدرسة.</p>
0-6	<p>Low score. Parent is a 'Detractor'</p> <p>Parent would not recommend WSS to family/friends.</p> <p>درجة منخفضة. الوالد هو "منتقد"</p> <p>لن يوصي الوالدان بـ WSS للعائلة / الأصدقاء.</p>	<p>Parent/child not comfortable with the WSS learning environment/management/Teachers for reasons within the school's control. School does not respond to queries/issues or solve them where possible. Parent feels that school is not fully committed to improvement & high standards.</p> <p>الوالد / الطفل غير مرتاح لبيئة التعلم / الإدارة / المعلمين الخاصة بـ WSS لأسباب تحت سيطرة المدرسة. لا تستجيب المدرسة للاستفسارات / المشكلات أو تحلها حيثما أمكن ذلك. يشعر ولي الأمر أن المدرسة ليست ملتزمة تماماً بالتحسين والمعايير العالية.</p>

We look forward to your feedback to support achievement of our vision, *'Excellence Through Teamwork; Success for All!'*

Thank you, dear parents.

Regards,

Ms. Valerie Thompson
WSS Principal/CEO

نتطلع إلى تلقي ملاحظاتك لدعم تحقيق رؤيتنا، "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعي؛ النجاح للجميع!"

شكراً لك الأباء الأعزاء.

مع تحياتي،

السيدة فاليري طومسون
مدير / WSS الرئيس التنفيذي

Whole School News; GEMS New Wellbeing Charter!

GEMS WELLBEING CHARTER

A commitment to students and staff

At GEMS Education, wellbeing means cultivating safe, healthy, and caring environments that build empowered, thriving, and resilient communities

- GEMS schools have a clear vision and plan to promote mental health and emotional wellbeing at all levels with a focus on the development of individual's strengths, and their ability to empower themselves.
- GEMS schools understand the diverse needs for mental health and emotional wellbeing and provide effective provision for staff to become emotionally literate and equipped towards cultivating a positive learning environment.
- GEMS schools actively connect with other organisations and specialists to form trusted partnerships assisting in supporting a learning culture of inclusivity and care.

This leads to:

- A culture of care and positive emotions
- Empowered and resilient communities
- High retention rate of students and staff
- Increased motivation and engagement
- Thriving schools, better outcomes
- Higher level of self-esteem, self-efficacy, and improved emotional wellbeing

CARE...TRUST...THRIVE!

Wellbeing is fundamental to quality education.

GEMS
EDUCATION
THE NEW GENERATION SCHOOLS

Whole School News; WSS Hosts the Northern Emirates Soccer Tournament, 7th-9th November



This was a very-well organized, student-led Tournament. We were proud of our girls' team who reached the semi-finals. Well done! Thank you to Mr. Jishar & the PE Team for your support & hard work.



Whole School News; WSS Achievement in the Northern Emirates Soccer Tournament, 7th-9th November



Best Goal
Keeper



Whole School News; Staff CPD!



Mr. Franklin & Ms. Sreeja, Secondary Assistant Principals, led a CPD session for other GEMS schools on Century Tech, one of the AI programs we are implementing to promote personalised learning across the school.

The meeting, held at Wellington School, was a good learning experience. The event was attended by Primary TLs and the KS3 team from WSS. The delegates from other GEMS schools were highly appreciative of the strategy shared by us during our session. A graph was shared by the Century Tech team, showing the usage of Century Tech across GEMS schools. A big cheer went up for WSS who were leading the field! Congratulations to the KS2 and KS3 teams for embedding the practice at WSS.



The Principal Ms. Valerie attended the GEMS Principals' Conference on 8/11/23 in Dubai along with the other GEMS Principals & Management. The Agenda was 'Children's Services'. We worked in groups looking into WWW & EBI of provision for Safeguarding, G&T, GEMS For Life & more.

Whole School News; SPEA SIA Ms. Lynn's Beacon Schools Stretch & Challenge - Maths Session 2, 9/11/23!



WSS HOD Maths Ms. Sherin & Primary Maths Coordinator Ms. Sasi led the 2nd Beacon Schools Stretch & Challenge - Maths Session 2, 9/11/23 for 30 Sharjah British curriculum schools Maths leads.

We thank our SPEA School Improvement Advisor (SIA) for attending & supporting this collaborative training session.

Environment & Recycling Superstar Champions!



Whole School News; Colin the Character Camel!

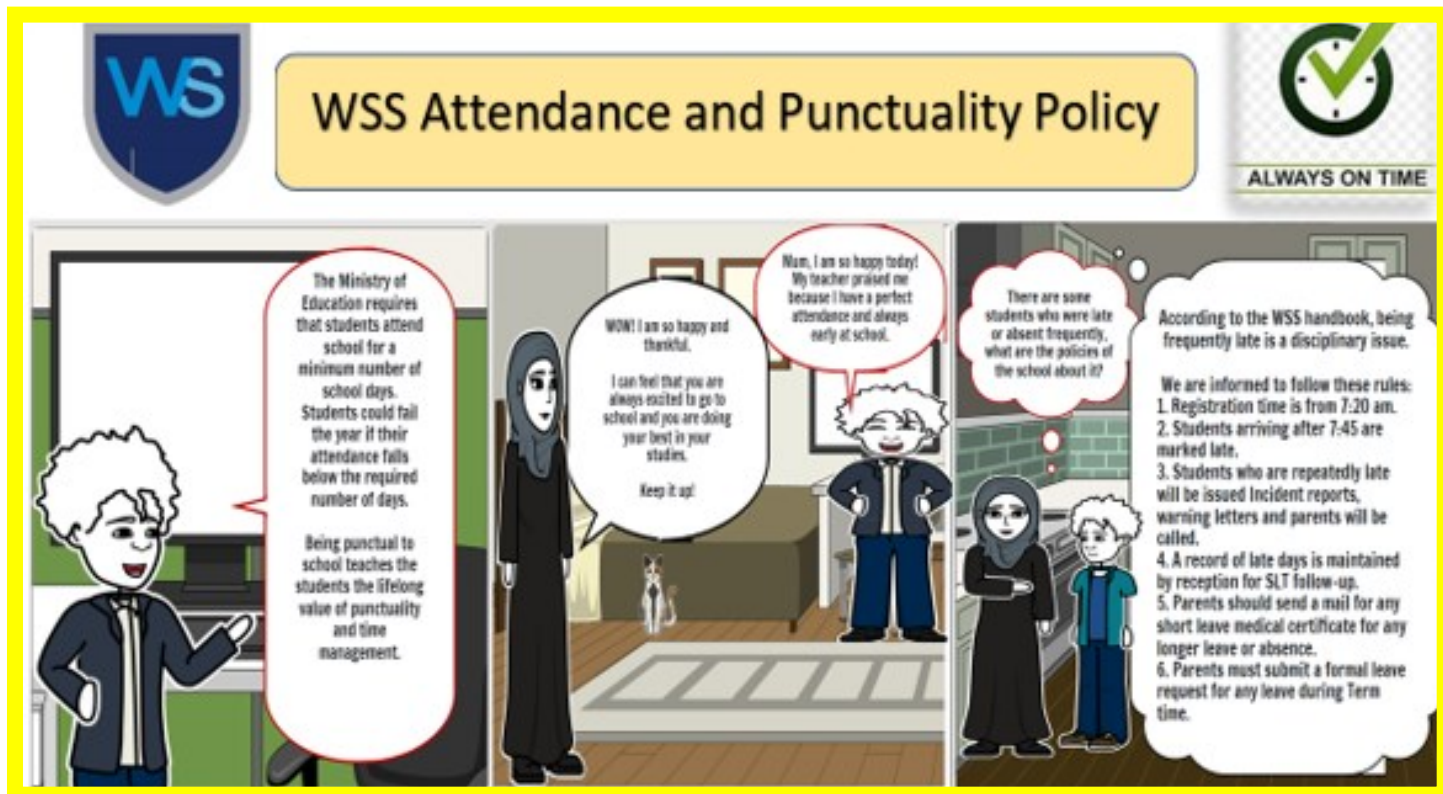
*Awarded for demonstrating Good Character
(Respect, Charity, Kindness & Community Spirit)*



The 'Tarahum for Gaza' collection of food & other grocery items is going very well. Thank you dear parents & students for your generosity & care. The last date for submitting items in WSS is Thursday 9/11/23. Thank you.



Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!



Happy Birthdays!



WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!



WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions; Take-Home Teddy!



Hello Dear. Karen and the Gems School Group,

I hope this message finds you well and in good spirits, wishing you a pleasant morning and a wonderful day ahead. 😊

I'd like to express my deepest gratitude for the tremendous effort and constructive ideas you offer to our children. It's truly fostering their competitive spirit, creativity, and special skills.

"My son Mousa was fortunate to have Tim, the Teddy Bear, this week. We've had a fantastic time together.

Thank you, Miss. Karen and Miss. Vinnarasi, for all your support. Mousa Loves you both immensely. 🥰

I wanted to share a short video capturing Mousa's adventures with Tim during this weekend break, allowing you to also share in our joyful moments.

Thank you, Gems Westminster School Group; your efforts are truly appreciated. ❤️



WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!

Dear Miss Jobelle and Monika,

We want to thank you for such a beautiful and energetic event. Kids performance, discipline and specially idea of costumes was amazing.

Everyone in the class did a great job to their best.

We want to appreciate your efforts in that regards and looking forward for more wonderful events in the future.

Regards

Ayman's Parents



Junior Section News; Assembly Time with Y2F1, 9/11/23!



Y2F1's lovely Assembly was about 'Taking Care of Ourselves & Others'. We learnt to make smart choices about eating, sleep & exercise. We also learnt about being kind & respectful to others.



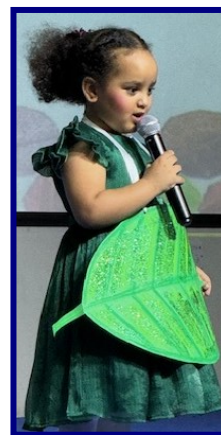
Junior Section News; Assembly Time with Y1H1, 9/11/23!



The theme of Y1H1's Assembly was 'The Importance of Family'. We learnt how to be helpful family members by loving & respecting each other



Junior Section News; Assembly Time with FS2D1, 9/11/23!



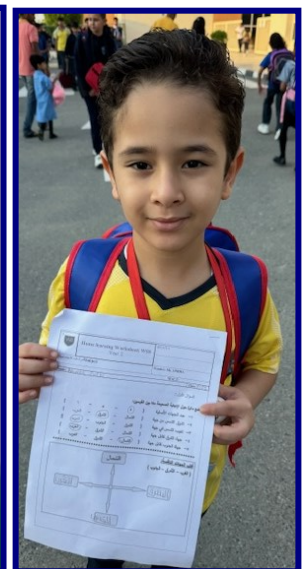
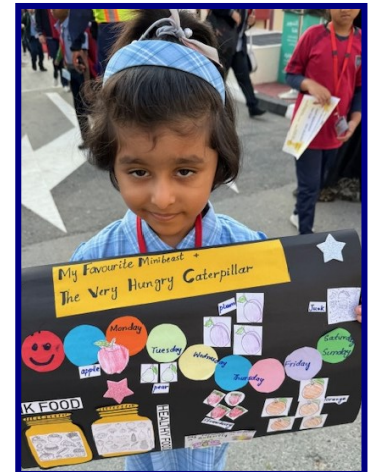
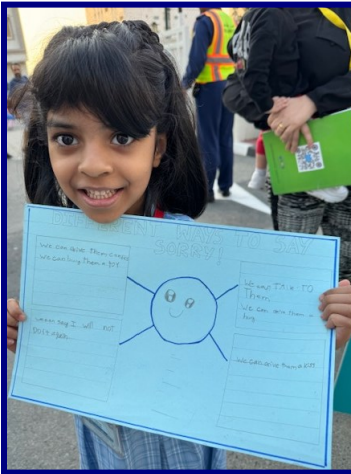
FS2D1 taught us about healthy eating through dramatizing the story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. It was a very cute Assembly. Many thanks to all the many parents who attended this week. We loved having you!



Junior Section News; Learning Activities!



Flag Day
By Yahya Shafiullah



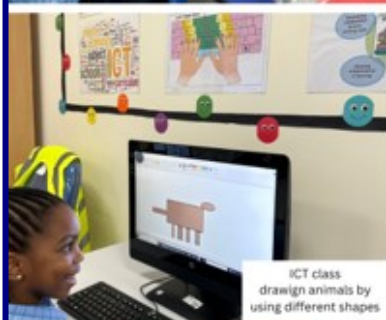
Junior Section News; Learning Activities in FS2!



Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y1!



learning about
the time



ICT class
drawn animals by
using different shapes



Flag day



THANK
YOU



Home learning



Donation to Gaza



Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y2!

Y2D1 Class activity Picture

TR: Jinitra Rajesh & TA: Asma Mohamed



Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y2!

Y2H1 with Ms. Roomana and Ms. Aqueen



Y2H1 with Ms. Roomana and Ms. Aqueen



Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y2!

Y2S2 Class Activities

With Ms. Safia & Ms. Fiza

Parental Engagement

Flag day

PE Lesson

Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y2!

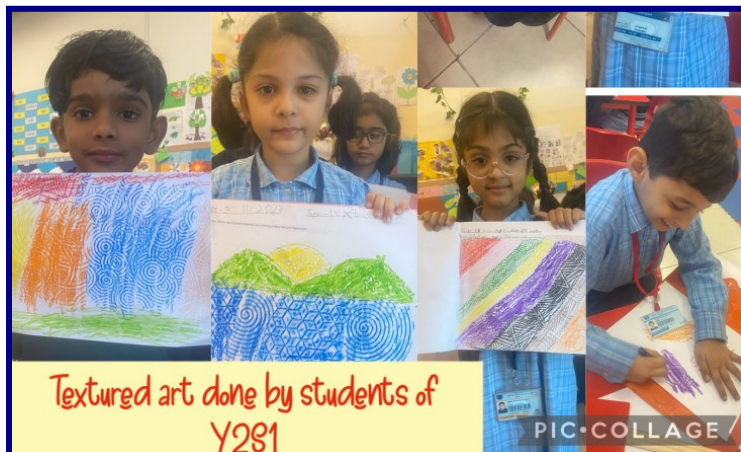
Y2D1 Class activity Picture

TR: Jinitra Rajesh & TA: Asma Mohamed



Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y2!

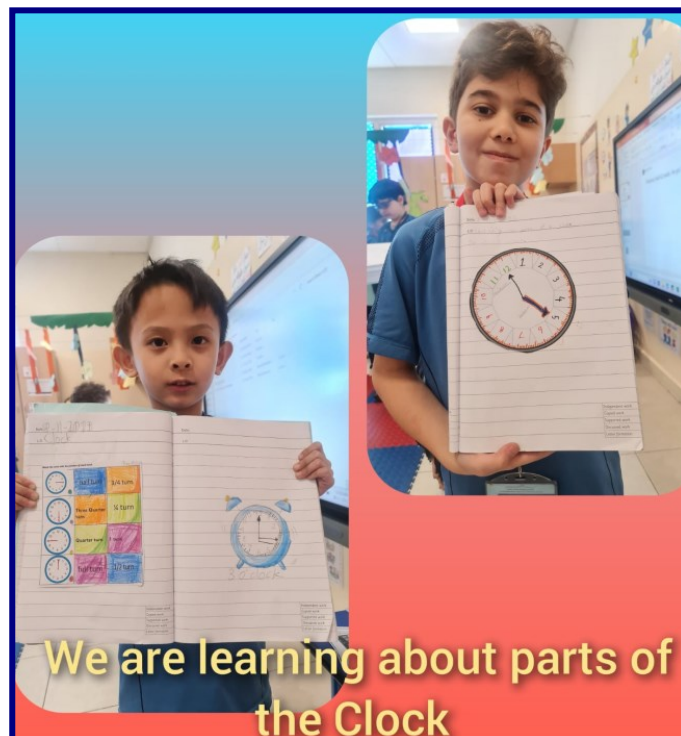
Y2S1 Exploring in science lesson with Ms. Sara and Ms. Catherin



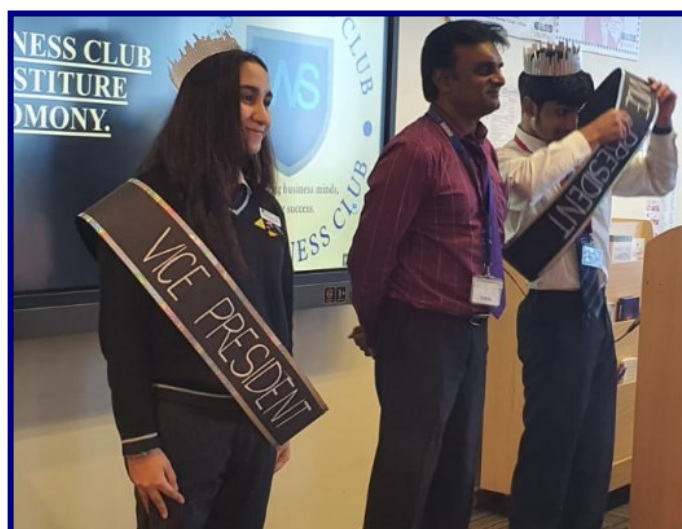
Textured art done by students of Y2S1



Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y2!



Secondary Section News; Business Club Investiture Ceremony!



Secondary Section News; Mock Mentoring Month!

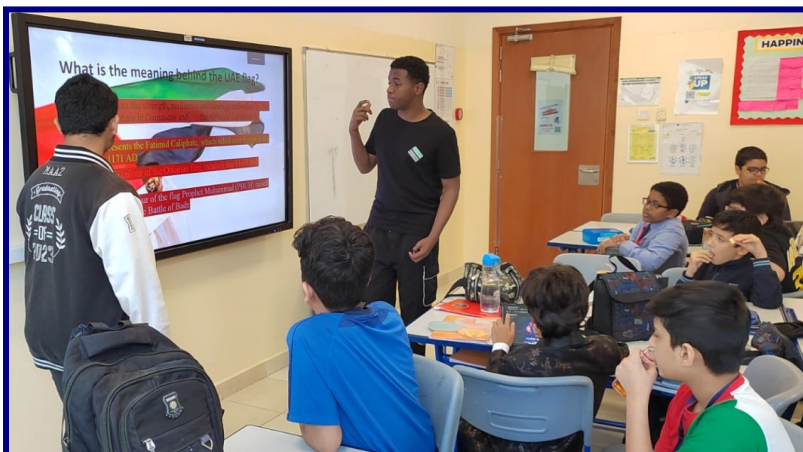


Sixth Form Mock Mentoring Month.

Activity: one month of Peer Mentoring for the upcoming Mock-1 exams.

Anticipated outcome: Improved study strategies, clarification of doubts, and increased confidence in exam preparation are anticipated outcomes

Flag Day Awareness Sessions!!



Secondary Section News; GEMS Climate Change Survey!



Thank you to Ms. Laneetha for leading on the GEMS Student Climate Change Survey. In line with GEMS sustainability goals & COP28 aims, we conducted the survey for our Secondary Section students on 8/11/23. WSS actively encouraged almost all secondary students to participate, and we believe that their valuable input will contribute significantly to the ongoing conversation about the climate crisis, climate change education, sustainability, and the future of our environment and planet.



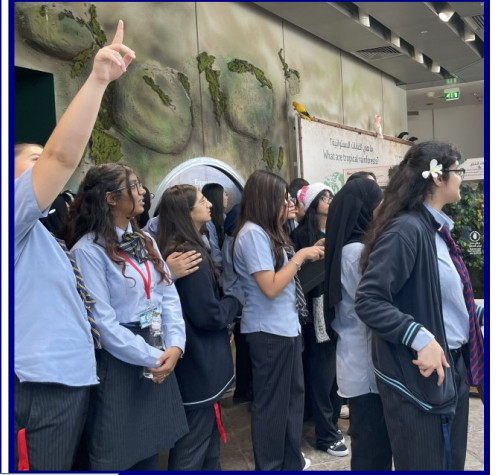
Social Media Responsible Cyber Security Awareness Session!!



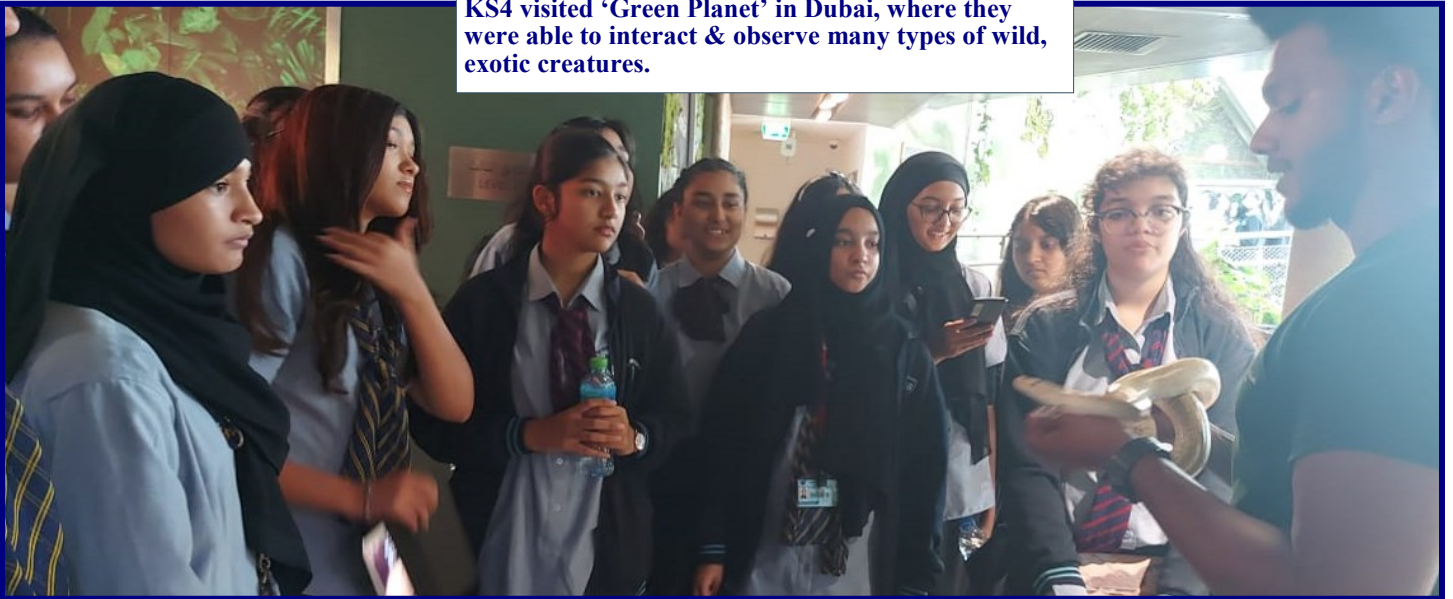
Ms. Anisha led a Social Media Responsible Cyber Security Awareness session for Y13



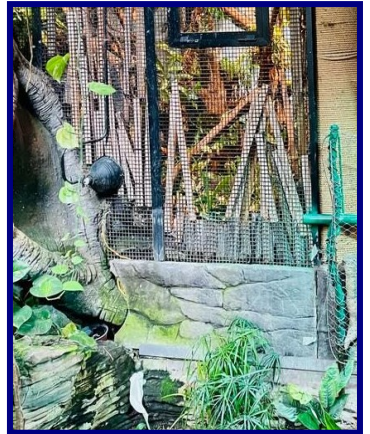
Secondary Section News: KS4 Girls' Trip Time!



KS4 visited 'Green Planet' in Dubai, where they were able to interact & observe many types of wild, exotic creatures.



Secondary Section News: KS4 Boys' Trip Time!



KS4 visited 'Green Planet' in Dubai, where they were able to interact & observe many types of wild, exotic creatures.

Secondary Section News: Anti-Bullying!

ANTI BULLYING - SLOGAN CONTEST

Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school." Albert Einstein.

Rayan Bilal

Kindness can bring worlds together
but bullying can tear them apart

♡ 0

Rizwan Ahmad

Kindness bring worlds together.

♡ 0

Mansoor

"Kindness is Cool: No Place for
Bullying"

♡ 0

azaan y10 bs

be a buddy not a bully 🍌🍌

♡ 0

Yassin Mohamed 10 bs1

- Putting others down won't bring you up.
- Good guys don't bully.
- Kids who bully are afraid. They need help.

♡ 0

Aakif

"Be the Change, Stop the Bullying!"

♡ 0

Sudishe

Putting others down won't bring you up

♡ 0

Muhammad Azaan Y11-BD1

future is sympathy, presence is
empathy and bullying is history.

♡ 0

Firas Irfan Y10BH

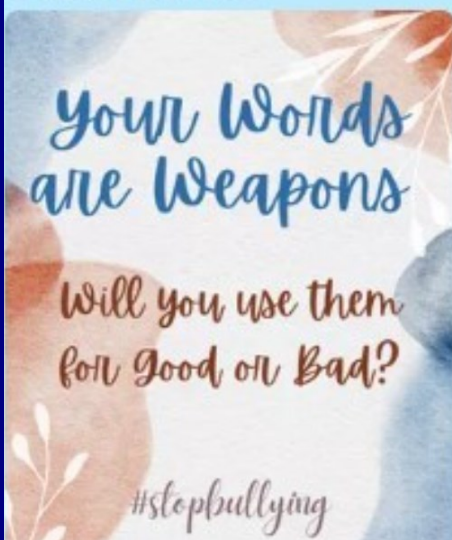
"There is no gain in causing pain"

♡ 0

Bilal Khan

"Kindness Wins: Stand Tall, Speak
Out, Stop Bullying Now!"

Celino. J | Y10 BD



Evan Shibu | Y10 BD



Muhammed Ashaz Farhaj

