

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #1
26th August, 2021



Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,
We are proud to share that WSS student achieved some of the best IGCSE, AS & 'A' level results across GEMS in this recent June series. Huge congratulations to the team of students, parents & their super, hard-working & committed teachers. Massive congratulations!! Please see p3-4 for some of the highlights.



COVID-19
Please remember to inform the WSS Clinic of any confirmed COVID case in our immediate family, & to Isolate your child at home for 10 days.



Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Saturdays, from 21st Aug.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSS Fee Counter open on Saturdays from 21st August, 8am to 2pm for convenient fee payment, until further notice.
Wednesday 25/8/21, 12pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will send home a parent survey on Monday 23/8/21 regarding T1 educational programme options. We will also send home an information letter detailing the programmes. Please check these carefully. 12pm on 25/8/21 is the deadline to reply to this emailed survey to confirm your educational programme choice for T1. If we do not hear from you by the deadline, we will assume that you want the Online programme. For future changes to the programme choice, please apply to the PRE for a Transfer Form for our review, subject to seat availability.
From Sunday 29th Aug. 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start of new Academic Year 2021-2022. Your child's exact start date will be confirmed next week. All students over age 12 should have a <u>valid (72 hours) negative PCR test</u> result before rejoining school. Students who have <u>travelled outside UAE over Summer should have completed 10 days' quarantine</u> before rejoining school. Please complete the emailed Travel Declaration form before rejoining school. Please click accept the online <u>Home-School Contract & BYOD Acceptable Use Contracts</u> that we will email to you before rejoining school. The Authorities are strongly recommending that all students over age 12 years are fully vaccinated (both doses) for their own safety. There may be additional regular PCR tests required for students, however, we are waiting for Authority confirmation for Sharjah schools. If your child attends the Blended programme (Face-to-Face), we are now able to provide water coolers, but please send in a personal water bottle & snack daily. The canteen will not be open. <u>Full T1 fees must be paid before any student has their class confirmed to be admitted for the new academic year</u> (for both Blended & Online DL (Distance Learning)). Please Budget accordingly—there will be no Payment Plans in T1 (no exceptions). Thank you.

Missing Our School!!

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

Whole School News; Please update your Contacts with us!



Date: _____

Updated 8/7/21

Dear Parents,

Subject: Updating SMS and Email Contacts

For your child’s wellbeing, it is very important that we can contact you in case of any emergency, as well as using digital communication for our important parent updates. Please complete this form & return it to school at the earliest (email or hardcopy, as you wish) so we can update our records. If your contacts change at any time, please update us at the earliest. Thank you.

<i>Please ✓ all as appropriate:</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> My contacts have changed & need updating	<input type="checkbox"/> My children are returning students. All contacts are exactly the same as last year.

<i>New or returning?</i>		<i>Children’s names as in their Emirates ID/Passport</i>	<i>WSS ID:</i>	<i>Class:</i>
<i>Please ✓</i>	<i>Returning student</i>			
<i>New joiner</i>	<i>Returning student</i>			

<i>Contacts</i>
Father’s mobile:
Father’s email:
Mother’s mobile:
Mother’s email:
Any other emergency mobile contact in case parents’ mobiles are not picked up:
Tel (Res):
Driver’s mobile (<i>if applicable</i>):
LSA’s mobile (<i>if applicable</i>):

Regards,
Ms. Valerie Thompson
WSS Principal/CEO

Whole School News; Message From Threads re. Uniform

*threads*TM DGT Trading L.L.C.

Dear

Due to difficulties and unforeseen circumstances / problems in the Countries of production (COVID and Weather related) which are beyond our control, deliveries of certain Uniform styles have been delayed.

We are working closely with our Manufacturers / Shipping partners and are doing everything we can to resolve these delays.

This is however a Global problem and we, like many other Companies are doing our best to get our goods shipped as soon as possible.

Our sincere apologies for the disruption in your preparation and any inconvenience these delays may cause. We assure you that we are working hard to resolve this issue.

Always assuring you of our best attention and service.


Jacques Rheeder
Managing Director

It is compulsory for students attending school F2F to wear uniform. However, if you have been unable to get uniform items due to a Threads supply issue, please just inform the teacher accordingly & we will excuse your child. Thank you.

European Business Centre, Office: 154, First Floor, Dubai Investment Park-1, Dubai - U.A.E.
P.O. Box: 391123, Dubai - U.A.E., Tel.: +971.4.813 5277, Fax.: +971.4.813 5145

www.threadsme.com || 800-THREADS (8473237)

Whole School News; Threads Maps (for Uniform)!

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Shop # M2/M3 Mezzanine floor Rameez Mall, beside Sharjah Municipality, near Sharjah Cricket Stadium, Sharjah - UAE. | Tel.: +971.6.5332 645

Whole School News; Threads Maps (for Uniform)!

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مدرسة جيمس وستمينستر الشارقة
GEMS Westminster School
SHARJAH

Your School Needs
You!!

We Are Looking
For **Positive**
Parent Partners!

Get Involved!

WSS believes that positive teamwork between the two greatest institutions in the world, 'school and parents' is critical in preparing our children to be successful in this complex world.

If interested in joining our WSS Positive Parent Partners team, please email your completed PPP application form to PRE aiysha.k.wss@gemsedu.com Thank you!

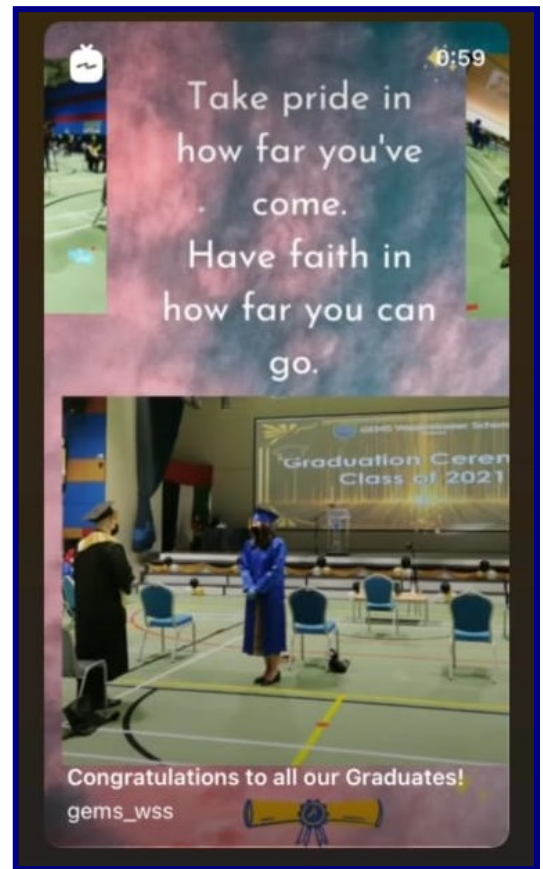
Excellence Through Team Work, Success for All!

Whole School News

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

Sunny Varkey

SPEA posted the video of our G12/Y13 Graduation Ceremony on their Instagram feed!



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



We said farewell to our Teaching & Learning Coach Ms. Annika & welcome Dr. Lisa.



Calling all GEMS Alumni

If you attended a GEMS Education school, you can play an important role in growing the GEMS global alumni community by registering for the GEMS Alumni Programme.

The alumni network is a powerful collective of former GEMS students spanning a variety of industries, continents, and generations. We'd like to invite any GEMS staff member that is also an alumni to sign up and join the programme, via the GEMS Alumni App.

As part of this exclusive community you will have the opportunity to broaden your professional network, attend and contribute towards dedicated webinars and access special discounts and offers. It is also a platform to showcase your career development and achievements.

[Register](#) today if you are a GEMS alumni.

If you face difficulties or have any questions, please reach me on alumni@gemseducation.com

With warm regards,

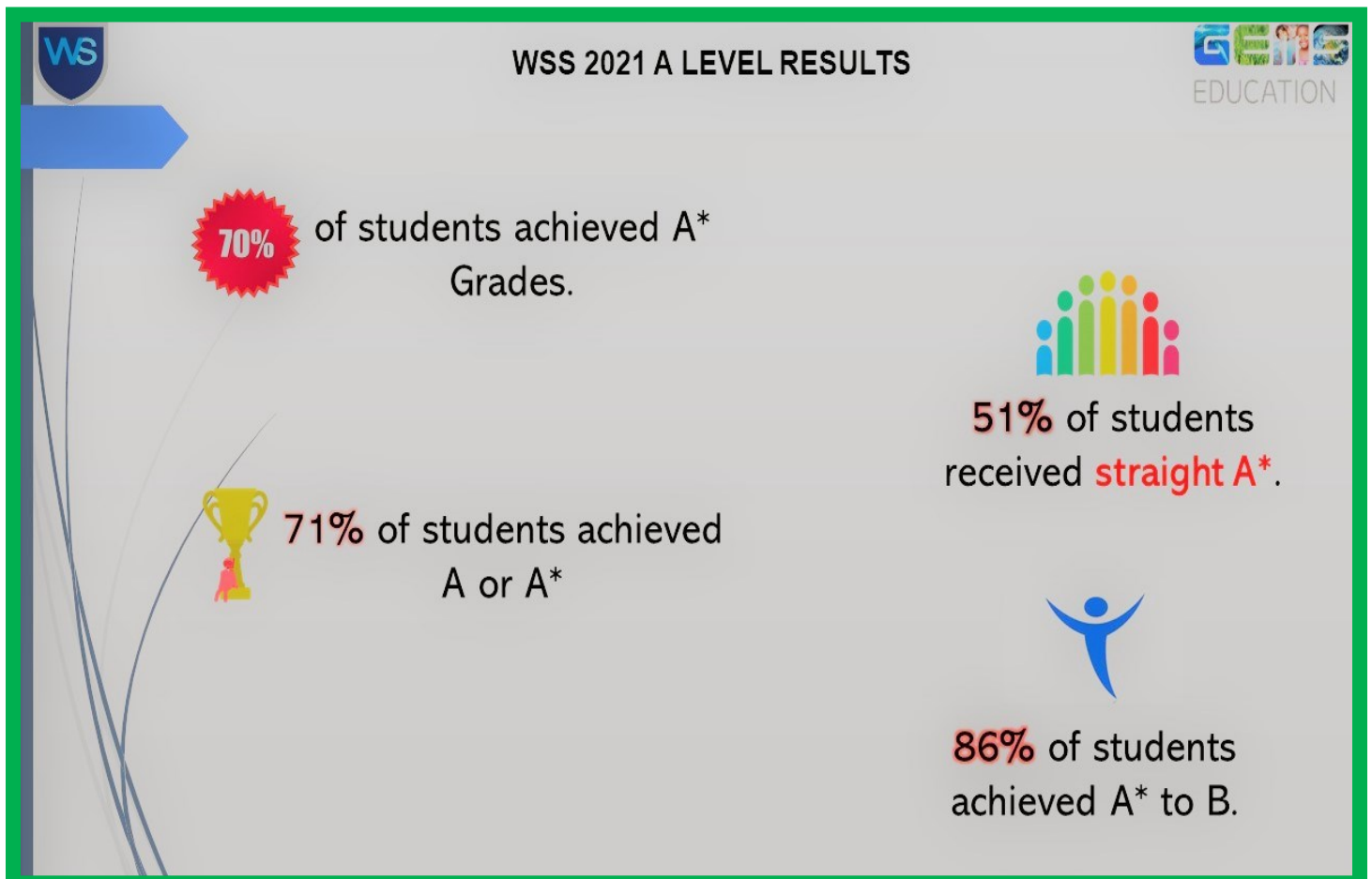
Tara Haddad,
Alumni Relations Coordinator

WSS Superstar Champions; Examination Board Toppers!

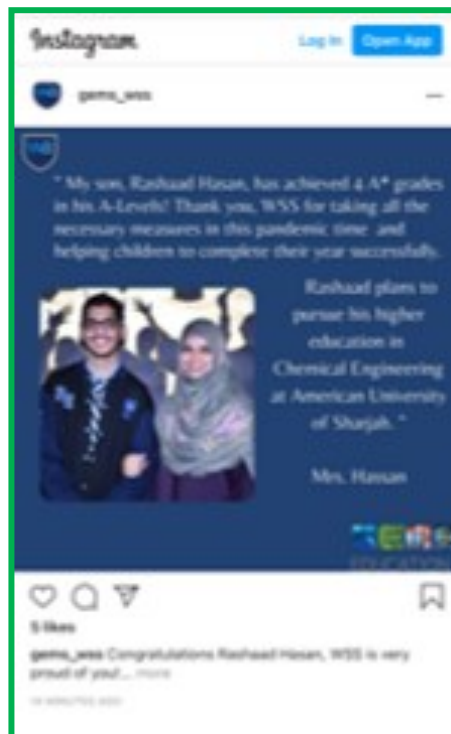
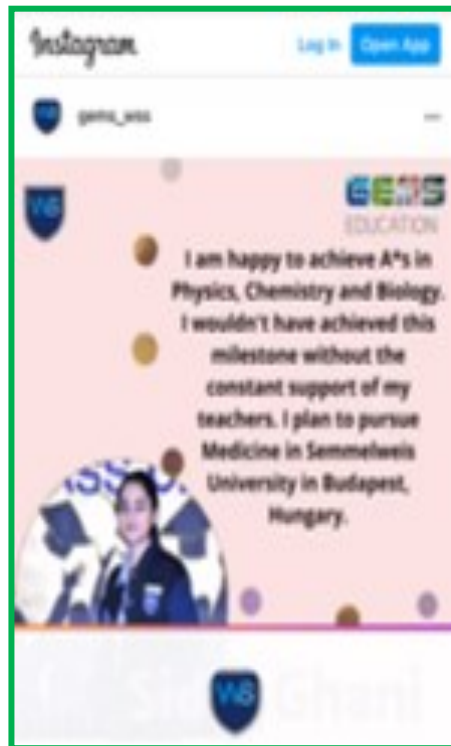
'A' Level Toppers	Result
MUHAMMAD SHAHEER ASAD	4A*
RASHAAD HASAN	4A*
SAIF AMR MAHFOUZ SALEM HEMIDA	4A*

Student Preparation for Future Success

IGCSE Toppers	Result
Maryam Noaman Noaman Shamim	7A*
Duaa Fathima Mohammed Feroz Khan	7A*
Tharinsa Thasandi Rathnayake Mudiyansele	6A* 1A
Natiela Ashebir Alemu	6A* 1A
Chathil Senuja Gamage Loku Doremure Gamage	6A* 1A



WSS Superstar Champions; Examination Board Toppers!



WSS Superstar Champions; Star Staff of TERM 3, April-June 2021!

	Staff Awards; WSS Staff Stars of Term 3			Term 3: April-June 2021
				
Ms. Uzma Kanwal	Ms. Fathima Ashika	Ms. Lakshmi Bala Deepa	Ms. Rapunzel Rocio	
Teacher of the Term Junior	Assistant Teacher of the Term; Junior	Teacher of the Term Primary	Teacher of the Term Primary	
				
Mr. Manoj Chandaloor	Ms. Anju Cherian	Mr. Sijo Stephen	Mr. Laxman Tamang	
Teacher of the Term, Secondary	Secondary Teacher Award of the Term	Admin. Staff Award of the Term	Support Staff of the Term	

WSS Superstar Champions; Home-School Teamwork!

Dear Ms. Divya,

Greetings, hope this email finds you safe and well.

I am writing you this e mail on behalf of Yasmina and as an appreciation note to your efforts put to action with the children including my daughter in this academic year.

With the guidance and support of Gems WSS management and staff; I trust our children will reach and exceed their potential and contribute to a brighter future.

Thank you very much and wish you all the best.

Best regards,

Mohamed Mostafa Maher Ahmed

Thanks to all
the hard-working
TEACHERS!
We appreciate
your dedication
to our kids!



Good evening Ms. Divyamol

Thank you for being the most dedicated, caring, and collaborative teacher throughout the year. You've given us the most fun and active lessons ever this year with your astonishing spirit that lead us here. Actually science lessons this year made me have a motivation to always be active and answer every day. I reallyyyyyy hope you become our teacher next year too or at least have a perfect teacher like you

You've been such a great role model to all of us and my parents are pleased to thank you as well ❤️ have a wonderful holiday!!

Regards,
Fatima Saleh
7GF1

Dear Ms-Anju

Good Morning

I am writing to thank you for the astounding job you have provided to my children. I realize that teaching is often a thankless job, and we see how you gave them special attention in daily lessons. Thank you so much for your dedication to help my children to achieve their targets.

Thanks and Regards
Samid
Father of Alyan and Adyan

Well I am writing this email to sincerely thank you for all your support and warmth extended towards my Son - Ivan Valsan Sherrice during his very first school year. COVID 19 Pandemic has raised alot of panic for parents with schools being shut or half functional. As a parent , I was very concerned about how the studies will happen online and how it will benefit my kid. Especially as last academic year (KG1/ FS2) was his first school year with his classroom being limited to only a laptop. We all started with alot of concern in our minds. I am sure, you also would have wondered how you would manage the KG1 class with kids who have not known what a real school is yet.

But as a parent I would like to assure you that you and Ms Soumya have done a wonderful job. It exceeded my expectations. You have been patient throughout with all kids and have understood their areas of need. I have seen you focus on areas where our kids need more attention, constant repetition helped our ward understand it better even though the mode of study was online. I was also concerned about how my child will learn to write in online study. But believe me, as we have almost come to the end of this academic year, I can proudly say that my child has understood the concepts in math, understanding the world, communication and he is able to write and read too. As a working parent, I had my limitations in being available for him during the class. But I am so glad that you were his teacher for his first year in school. You did your job very well.

Thank you once again for your love, care, affection, attention, patience, hard work and continuous enduring support throughout the academic year for my son. It means alot to me.

If there's anything that you would like to advise me on my ward's performance, I would really appreciate it as I can help him improve in those areas during the vacation break.

And please advise if there will be any class tmrw for him or not, as the school is closing at 11am.

Yours sincerely,
Nisha
Ivan's mother

WSS Superstar Champions; Home-School Teamwork & 'Schools Without Borders'!

Respected teachers,

Thank You very much for being such a good and helpful teacher to my child. As a parent, I know perfect teachers are hard to find, but for me, you are the best teacher for my child. Because of you my child wanted to attend his classes and showed interest in his studies. Thank you for your love and efforts you have given to my child each day. I truly appreciate that. My child has become a better person because of a wonderful teacher like you and I really mean it. The confidence you have given him from day one has made him try his best to work hard and give good results. I have seen tremendous change in Ameer's personality and confidence. You have no idea how grateful I am to you for helping Ameer cope up with the pressure of studies during this RLP session, he might have studied hard but I know that the credit for his progress goes to a helpful teacher like you. Thanks a lot.
Kiran Dar

To: Sadiqa Bano <sadiqa.b_wss@gemsedu.com>

Subject: a big thanks for mam sadiqa

Hi mam. I hope you are doing well. It's a great support and pleasure to have you as my son's teacher. you always show care, love, affection to him. Your way of delivering the concept is super easy and undoubtedly the best. you always made them a unit either dealing with blended or rlp. It is because of you I chose rlp for him. It didn't show any differentiation that I am not sending him to the school, you always gave an immediate response whenever we need you thank you maam for your efforts in every aspect to increase his confidence and enhancing his concepts.



This is the proud first batch of super-keen students in QEGS school, UK, who participated with Mr. Andrew & HOD Arabic Mr. Osama in our 'Schools Without Borders' Arabic-Islamic Initiative. We are looking forward to developing this Twinning initiative in the coming Academic Year.

Good evening Ms. Mariam and Ms. Aneesa,

We appreciate a lot teaching our child for the last academic year thank you for taking care of Nouran.

Thanks to you Nouran love so much her teachers and her school, you were a part of our family we hear you every day during classes and we were your hidden students that you don't see but you feel, these days we miss your presence at home and we feel that something is missing in our life.

Thanks to the rest of the teaching team and all admin staff for the welcome smile especially from Ms Vallerie when we go to school in the morning.

These are a few words and I think not enough towards all of you.

Thank you

Nouran parents

On Wednesday, July 7, 2021, 07:50:40 PM GMT+4, Mariam Rizwan <mariam.r3_wss@gemsedu.com> wrote:

Dear Mr. Waleed ,

I hope this mail finds you well.

Thanks a lot for your efforts and supporting all the students who you teach including my son John Fady G8 BH1.

Thanks for making the classes even the online classes interesting beside useful to help the student remember the elements of the lessons,

Thanks for your regularly revisions in grammar and all Arabic language branches.
so all the students like Arabic and your lessons as they like you.

Thanks for helping my son to participate in a competition which helped him to be less shy so really you deserve a certificate of appreciation or trophy.

I hope you have a nice holiday .

Best regards,

Nermin

The mother of John

WSS Superstar Champions!

My learning experience in KG2/Y1 F2
Khalid bin Abdulaziz

Umar
Thanks Mrs Aysha Alshua
Really appreciate your support
and kindness if you help with the
understanding the difficult
situation of being alone.
Attending the lessons and
explaining to her well. Thanks a
lot for help/support for our kids.

Zein
I want to say that it was a
difficult academic year for kids &
parents and we couldn't make it
without the great effort from
Mrs Aysha & Miss Fozia.
You both really had a great
impact on kids especially Zein
in the classroom system.
I wish that I could have
more time with you to acquire more
experience.
Thank you for being the
teachers for these little kids and
good luck in the coming year.
Basma (Zein's
Zain's mom)

Muhammad Samee
Alhamdulillah
Miss Zein
Miss Fozia

Sameer
Alhamdulillah
Miss Zein
Miss Fozia

Sameer
Thank you teacher Aysha Ward
Fozia. We're really happy
daughter to be her best and for
being her guide for when
she needed help. I could have
thank you enough. She will
miss you 😊

Sameer
Thank you Mrs Aysha and Mrs
Fozia for your support and
effort, thank you Mrs Aysha
especially for understanding
Nouran's personality and always
consideration.
I hope to meet you again at
school again. 😊
Nouran will miss you 😊

Sameer
Thank you Mrs Aysha and
Fozia
Your efforts working for my
child appreciated.
Thank you for being such a kind
helpful and dedicated teachers.
We were lucky to have you both
well.
Thank you.

Ahmed
Thanks so much Mrs Aysha
and Miss Fozia for being such
great teachers and mentors for
my daughter. I really appreciate
our hard work and sincere
concern towards our kids, our
hardly-earned cloth and.

Ahmed
Thank you teachers for all your
efforts and support throughout
difficult academic year. We hope
you'll meet all of your
academic work in the school.

Feedback for Ms. Aysha Malik & Ms. Fozia



Congratulations to Mohammad Muqtasid Samee (G3/Y4 D2) for his growth mindset & hard work to achieve these certificates!

WSS Superstar Champions!

Appreciation message for GC Ms. Rejina, from student Hamna Hoor, "I've had the most amazing 7 years experience at WSS. And one of the reasons why my time here ended up being amazing is thanks to our schools amazing counselor, Miss Rejina. Just like any other teenager I had my ups and downs too, had a rough phase and almost hated waking up for school. But things took a U-turn when I started meeting Miss Rejina. Talking to her everyday always made me feel much more confident and made me ignore the negative energy around me. She taught me how to be a stronger and a more positive person, always had my back and always motivated me with her wise words. Her advice and care made all the pain and suffering vanish. And so, with the passage of time I made great achievements at school, made myself a better version of myself, as well as even made it to become the Deputy Head Girl; all credits going to Miss Rejina. No words can express how thankful I am for her time and effort. It was her friendly and kind approach that ways made me feel secure and knew I would never be judged around her..."



WSS Superstar Recycling Champions!

Dear Simply Bottle Ambassadors,

Happy End of School Year and 4th year of **Simply Bottles** school initiative!

With your continued support and great participation, we have had a very successful year despite the Covid-19 pandemic and new rules and regulations. The Simply Bottles initiative expanded a little further and we are pleased to announce that we now have 200 member schools in the UAE!

Though many schools were still working online, we managed to meet you online, helped students with their school projects where students learned or showcased their knowledge on plastic pollution, recycling and sustainability.

We would like to thank **each and every one of you** for all your hard work this past year helping to recycle and create awareness of Simply Bottles recycling and DGrade's closed-loop process.

Your Simply Bottles School 2020/2021 Achievements

6.5 tonnes of plastic bottles recycled*

Thank you to all the students, teachers, parents, and school staff for making this happen!

The plastic collected will be recycled by DGrade into items like uniforms, caps, bags, house t-shirts and more! Please keep us in mind next year for your uniforms, gym kits and event t-shirts and caps – DGrade can make these from the plastic you recycled!

Many of you have requested a blank recycling certificate so you can write the names of your students, staff or Eco-club members, please find this attached to the email.

We are working towards a new program for 2021-2022 and will resume collections from September.

We hope our relationship will stay and get even stronger next year! We look forward to continuing these successes with you in the new school year.

Have a great summer, stay well and safe and see you in September!

Sincerely,

Ella Clemits & the entire DGrade Team



Plastic Bottle Recycling Certificate 2020/2021 شهادة إعادة تدوير البلاستيك 2021/2021

This certificate is presented to
تم تقديم هذه الشهادة إلى

For their active participation in recycling plastic water bottles, thereby preventing plastic from going to landfill.
لمشاركتهم الفعالة في إعادة تدوير عبوات المياه البلاستيكية، وبالتالي منع البلاستيك من الذهاب إلى المكب

30 June 2021

Date تاريخ

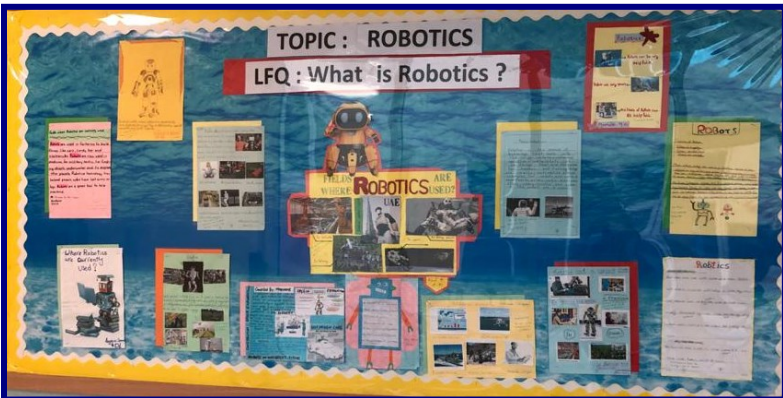
Signatory التوقيع

Last Academic Year, the WSS Community of Students, Parents & Staff collected an impressive 6.5 tonnes of waste plastic water bottles!

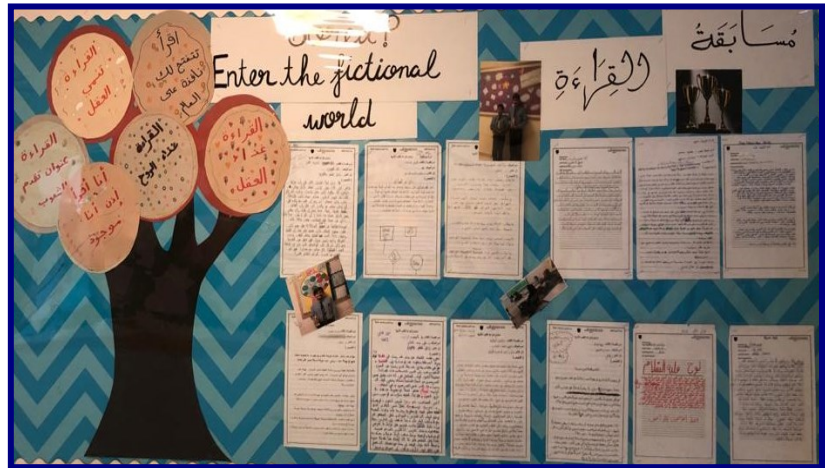
That's an amazing saving for our landfills & planet!

Let's keep up the great job of recycling this year too!

Whole School News; We are Ready to Welcome you Back!



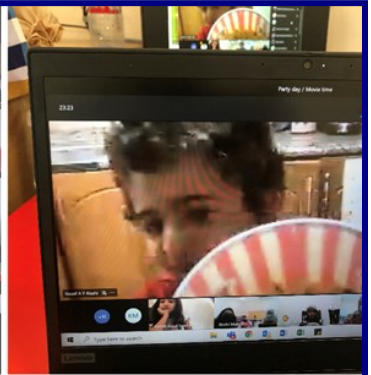
Whole School News; We are Ready to Welcome you Back!



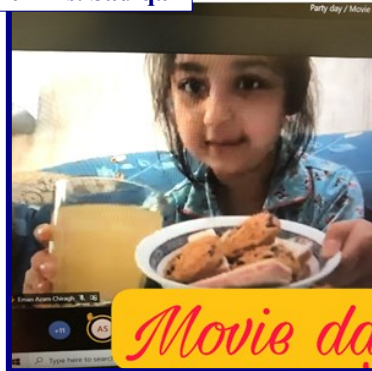
Junior Section News



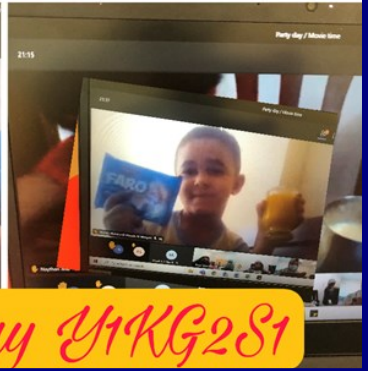
With Ms. Sadiqa



With Ms. Maria



Movie day Y1KG2S1



Getting special Reward from Ms. Shamail



visit to school.



KGI FS2\S2



Junior Section News



Thank you to Nimra for sharing her super confident & cute story-telling video, 'Allah is Everywhere!' She won first place in the Junior Section Story competition! Well done!!



Nabia Asif
Gr 1 Y2 S2

Junior Section News



Junior Section News

All set for the Annual Concert!!
Handa exploring different countries...

KG2/Y1 D1

With Ms. Beena



Fathers' Day Celebration!!
Making Card for their dad...

KG2/Y1 D1



Meet & Greet !!
A Fun Day...

KG2/Y1 D1



Meet & Greet !!
Our Favourite places in school...

KG2/Y1 D1

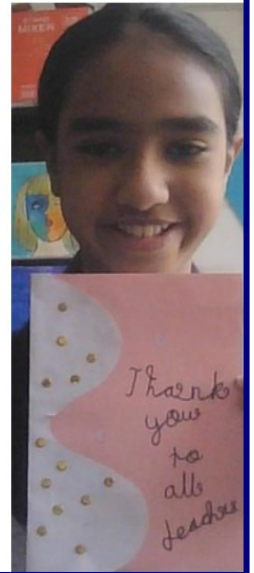
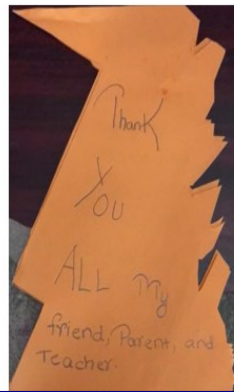
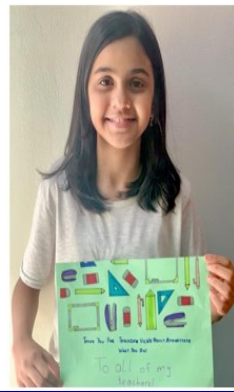
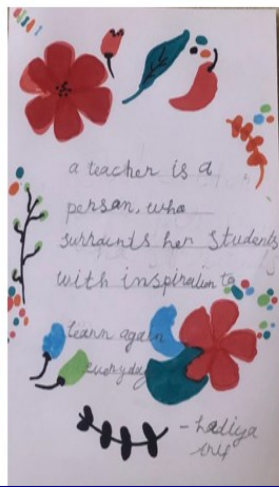
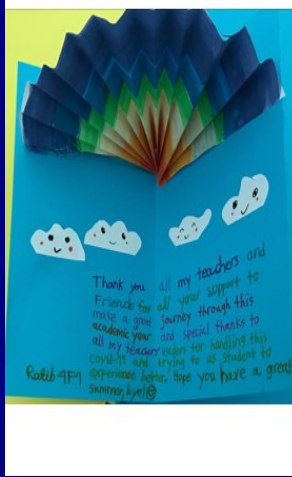
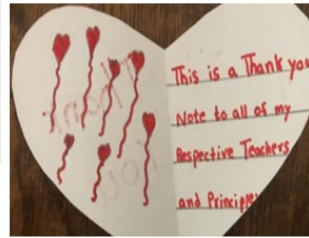
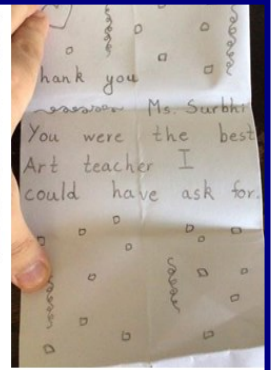
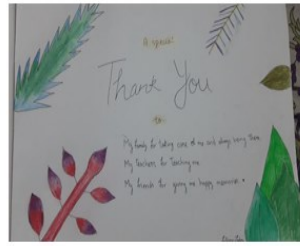
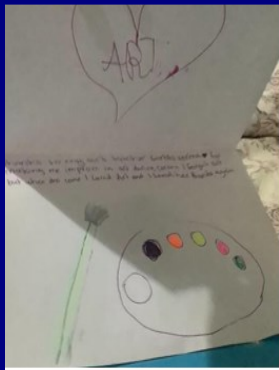


Junior Section News



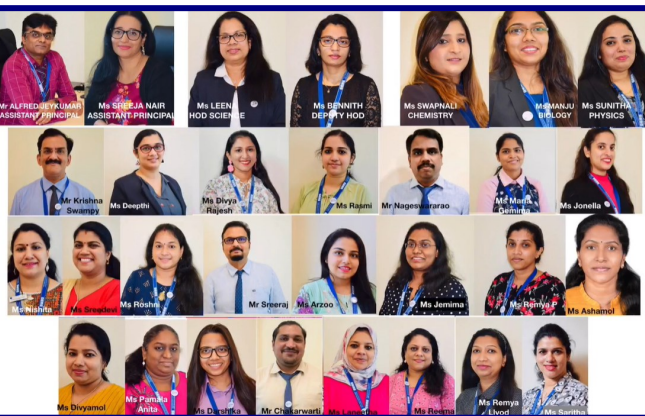
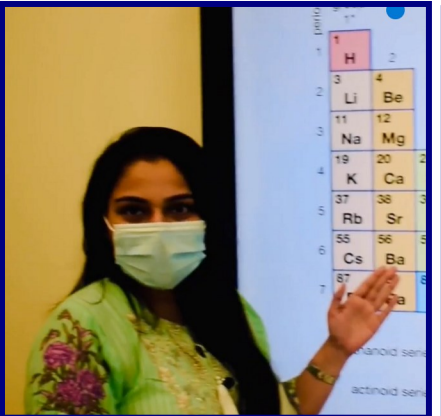
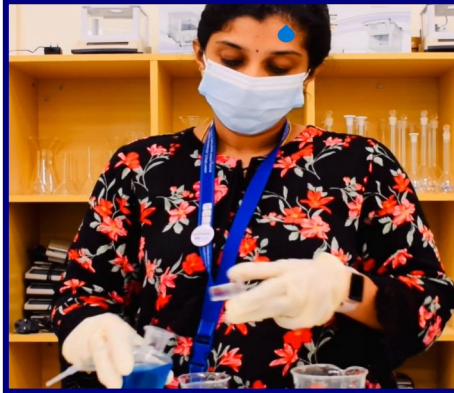
Primary Section News

With Ms. Surbhi



Faiq shared pictures to celebrate his creativity & reading achievement!

Secondary Section News; Scintillating Science—Are you Ready for More?!





TO THE TEACHERS

From our first meeting,
And our first words,
Teachers have been here to guide in the right way.

Through the struggles,
And through the gain,
My teachers have been here to brighten my day.

Nothing shall tear our bond apart,
You forever govern a special place in my heart,
Here's to all the teachers,
Here's to the heroes who inspire every day.



BY - FATHIMA AATHIKA HAZMER
GRADE 8 / YEAR 9 GH1



Secondary Section News; Our Graduating Class of 2021!



Graduation pictures will be available to purchase. Details will be shared with you shortly.

