

# GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #16  
9th December, 2021



Message from the  
Principal/CEO  
Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

**Changes to the Working Week wef. 1/1/22**

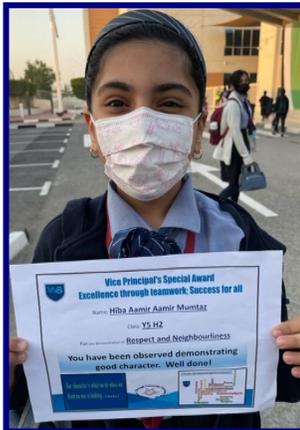
The Media has announced changes to the Working Week (a move to a Monday-Friday

**Working Week, with Saturday-Sunday Weekends, & Fridays having a 12pm finish).** We will let you know further details & if there are any timings or timetable changes when we have Authority confirmation.

As we come to the end of Term 1, we wish to thank our dear parents sincerely for your tremendous support, commitment to your children's learning & character development, & positive suggestions for improvements. **We wish you a very Happy New Year, 2022!**

## Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Thurs. 9th Dec.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students' last day for T1.</li> </ul>
Sun. 12th Dec. to Monday 3rd January 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School closed for Winter Break.</li> <li>Cashier &amp; Registration open throughout on work days (except 23/12 &amp; 30/12/21) 8am-2pm</li> <li>Online fee payment for fees is recommended for safer, convenient fee payment.</li> <li><b>Monday 3rd January is students first day back for Term 2. T2 fees are due, thank you.</b></li> <li>From 1/1/22, the Working Week will be Monday-Friday, with Saturday-Sunday Weekends &amp; Fridays until 12pm.</li> <li><b>All students over age 12 must rejoin with a (72-hour validity) negative PCR Test Result on 2/1/22.</b></li> </ul>



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

# مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم #16  
9 ديسمبر 2021



رسالة من  
المديرة / الرئيس التنفيذي  
السيدة فاليري توميسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر  
الشارقة الأعزاء،

التغييرات الممكنة في أسبوع العمل  
1/1/22

أعلنت وسائل الإعلام عن تغييرات في أسبوع العمل (الانتقال إلى أسبوع العمل من الاثنين إلى الجمعة ، مع عطلات نهاية الأسبوع من السبت إلى الأحد). ومع ذلك ، نحن في انتظار تأكيد السلطة العليا سنخبرك بالتفاصيل وأي تغييرات في الجدول الزمني عندما يكون لدينا تأكيد من الهيئة.

مع اقترابنا من نهاية الفصل الدراسي الأول ، نود أن نشكر أولياء أمورنا الأعزاء بإخلاص على دعمكم الهائل ، والتزامكم بتعليم أطفالكم وتنمية الشخصية ، والاقترحات الإيجابية للتحسينات نتمنى لكم عام جديد سعيد للغاية 2022!

## المواعيد

التفاصيل	التاريخ
توقيت المدرسة خلال امتحانات الفصل الأول — (7:45AM—12:15PM) الخميس 9/12/2021 آخر يوم للطلاب فالفصل الدراسي الأول.	الأربعاء 24 نوفمبر إلى الخميس 9 ديسمبر
المدرسة مغلقة لعطلة الشتاء. لأوقات المدرسة فعطلة الشتاء من الأحد إلى الخميس من الساعة 8:00 صباحاً—2:00 ظهراً (باستثناء يومي 23/12 و 30/12/21) نوصي برفع الرسوم عبر الإنترنت لدفع الرسوم بطريقة آمنة ومريحة. يوم الإثنين 3 يناير هو أول يوم عودة للطلاب للفصل الدراسي الثاني. رسوم T2 مستحقة ، شكرًا لك. سيكون أسبوع العمل من الاثنين إلى الجمعة ، مع عطلات نهاية الأسبوع من السبت إلى الأحد (TBC) يجب على جميع الطلاب الذين تزيد أعمارهم عن 12 عامًا أن ينضموا مرة أخرى بنتيجة اختبار PCR سلبية (صلاحية 72 ساعة) في 1/2/2022	الأحد 12 ديسمبر إلى 2 يناير 2022



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

## Whole School News



مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة  
GEMS Westminister School  
SHARJAH

09/12/2021

Dear WSS Parents,

**Subject: Change of Working Week and Weekend days, from 01/01/2022**

Following this week's announcement by the UAE Government, please note that from 1 January 2022, all GEMS Education schools will be following a four-and-a-half-day week with the weekend now covering Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday.

This means that our week at school will begin on Mondays and end *no later* than 12pm on Fridays, with Saturdays and Sundays off. We are reviewing the impact of a short Friday on curriculum coverage & will inform you shortly if there are any changes to Monday-Thursday timings, or any further updates from SPEA.

Accordingly, the **new academic Term 2 for our school will begin on Monday, 3 January.**

The move to change the working week in this way has been taken by our national leadership to coincide with many of the country's leading trading partners around the world and to assist families with finding an improved work-life balance.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any further queries about these important changes and, meantime, please accept our warmest best wishes for a peaceful and happy winter break and Happy New Year, 2022!

Warmest regards,

  
Ms. Valerie Thompson  
WSS CEO/Principal

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

The Principal attended a full-day's professional development meeting at the SPEA Training Academy on 8/12/21. The Agenda was around innovation & the environment, sharing good practice on managing change, SPARKS (an innovative Maths programme to reinforce Maths skills & raise attainment through personalised practice activities, & to potentially support the improvement of PISA scores across the Hub), Safeguarding 'Positive Handling' & much more! Thank you to our SPEA School Improvement Advisor Ms. Lynn, Dr. Hunada & the SPEA Academy Team for their hospitality & organisation of an engaging day.



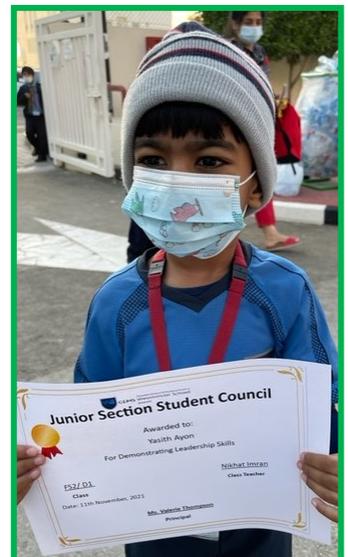
## Happy New Year 2022!!

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





# WSS Superstar Champions!



**Some of our Classcraft Moral Education Champions**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Aarav Bhandari Y9-BD1</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Celino Jayasinghe Y8-BD1</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mohamed Ali Yousif Y8-BD1</b></p>

**'I follow FAB 5 and I love to help my peers'.  
Celino Jayasinghe Y8 BD**

**Classcraft Award**  
 Name: Aatika Asim Khan  
 Class: Y4S1  
 Date: 25/10/21  
**Awarded for Class Championship**  
*Congratulations!*  
 Principal WSS  
 Ms. Valeria Thompson

**Wico Principal's Special Award**  
 Excellence through teamwork; Success for all  
 Name: Mariam Khaled Ahmed Sadiek Mousa  
 Class: Y4 F1  
 For demonstrating **Tolerance and Respect**  
 You have been observed demonstrating good character. Well done!

# WSS Superstar Champions!



FS2 Pizza Party Champions of Term 1 with Ms. Neha & Ms. Sonia M. A Pizza Party is awarded to one FS2 & one Y1 class per Term for their exceptional behaviour, character & learning, as reflected by earning the highest number of marbles in their jar.



## WSS Superstar Champions!

Sashen Mindula Y4S1



## Students Wellbeing – Term 1 Pizza Party Winners Y2 H1



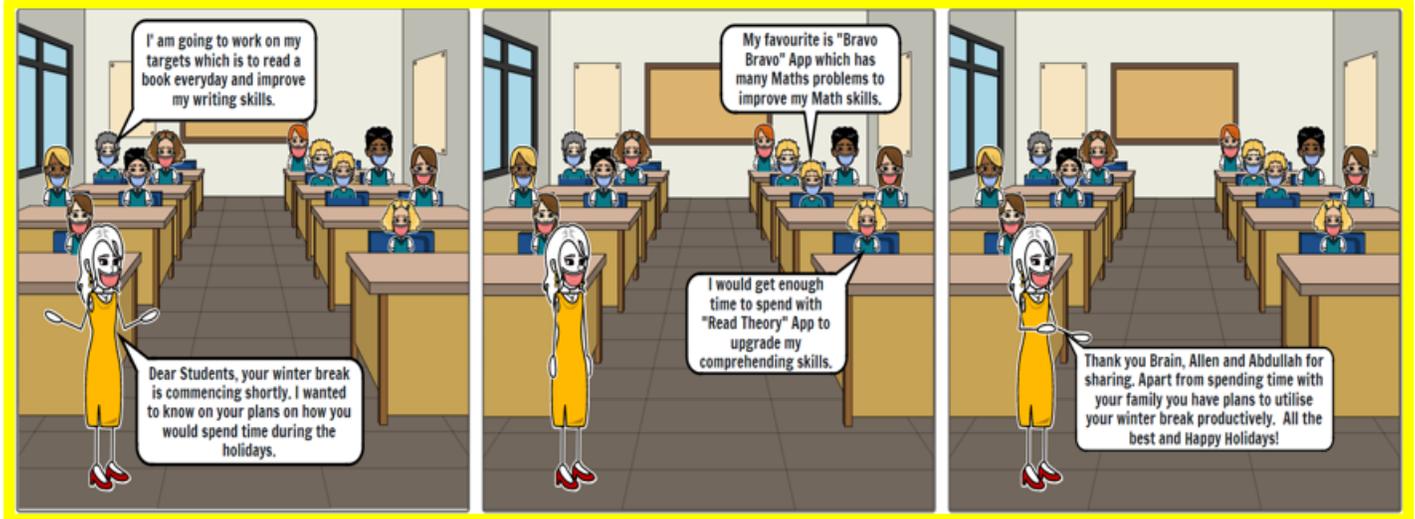
With Ms. Sabiha & Ms. Fathima

# WSS Superstar Environmental Champions!

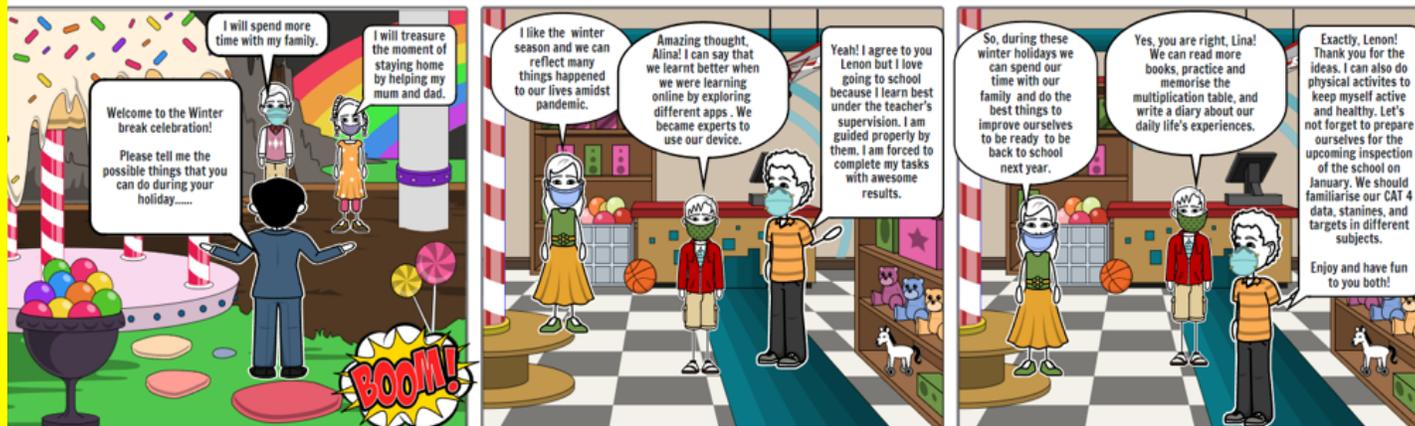


# Whole School News

## HAVING A PRODUCTIVE WINTER BREAK



## A Reflection on what Productive Activities we can do During our Holidays



**Vice Principal's Special Award**  
**Excellence through teamwork; Success for all**  
 Name: Moez Ahmed Nasr Satwat Mohamed  
 Class: Y4 F1  
 For the demonstration of Focus and Curiosity  
**You have been observed demonstrating good character. Well done!**

Our character is what we do when we think no one is looking.

Can you demonstrate good character?

- Respect
- Kindness
- Patience
- Cooperation
- Neatness
- Responsibility
- Generosity
- Integrity
- Ambition
- Respect
- Tolerance



# Junior Section News



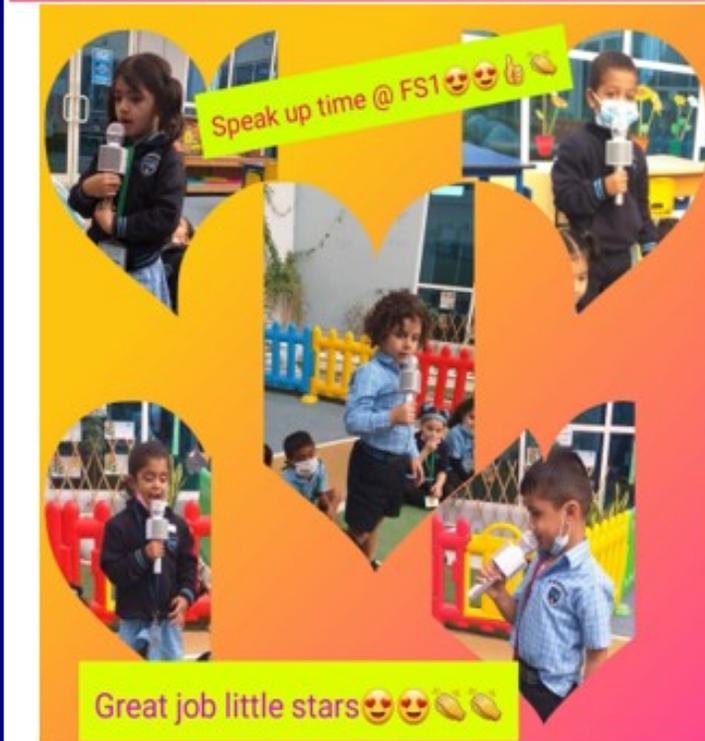
With Ms. Sonia M.



With Ms. Sonia M.

# Junior Section News; Fun in FS1!

Amazing week with MS Christine & MS Karunya @ FS1



# Junior Section News; Celebrating UAE's 50th National Day!

Celebrating UAE National Day



Y1D2 with Ms. Aysha M.



## Happy National Day - Y1/H2

With Ms. Been



With Ms. Been



Y1D2 with Ms. Sadiqa



*Junior Section News; Movie Day on 9/12/21!*



Movie Day in Y1S1 with Ms. Sadiqa

*Primary Section News: Celebrating UAE's 50th National Day!*



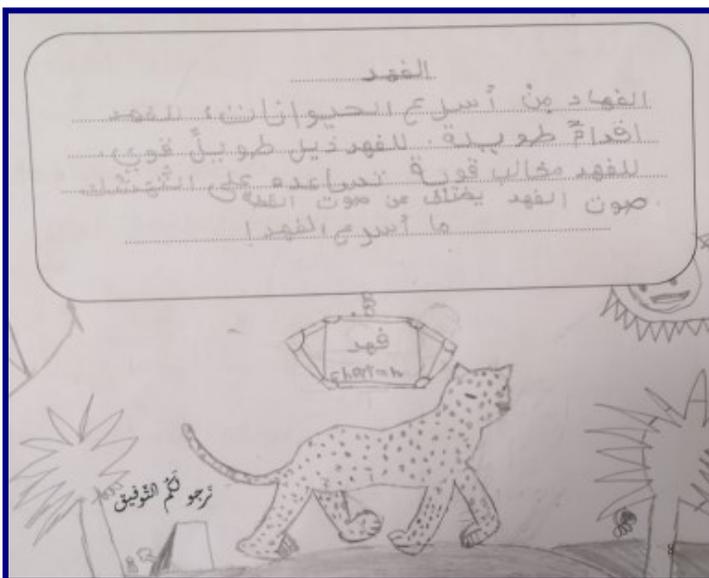
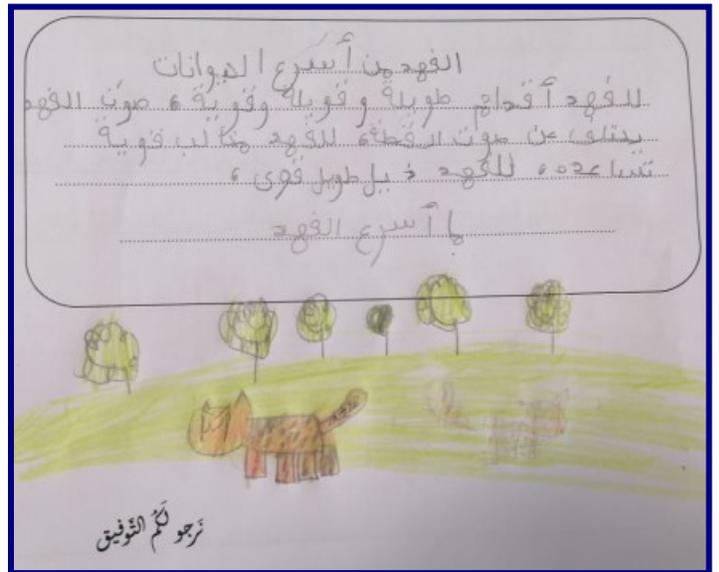
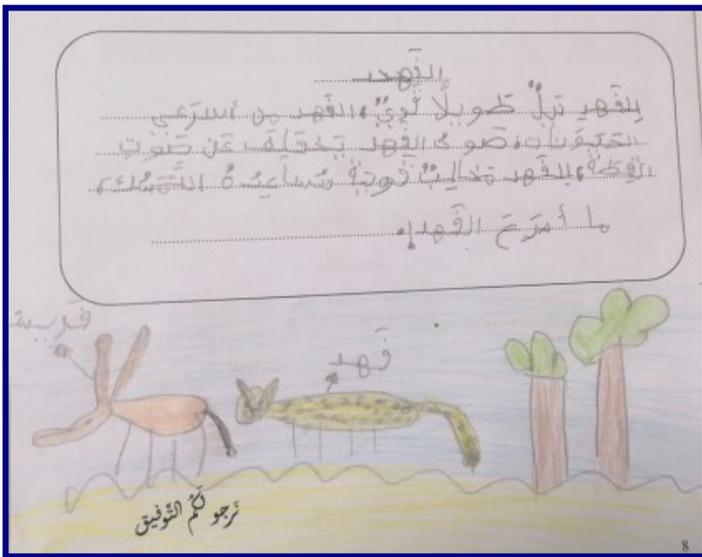
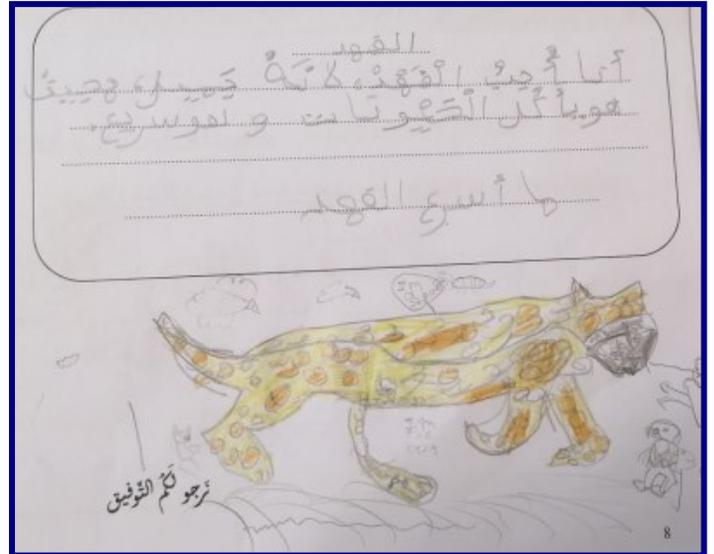
Abdul Hadi (Y3 S3) with his UAE National Day project

With Ms. Been



Y3 S3 STUDENTS VISITED  
Y3 UAE NATIONAL DAY EXHIBITION

# Primary Section News



With Ms. Amal

*Secondary Section News; ME Classcraft!*



**KS3 Classcraft Moral Education Adventurers, level up as they apply moral values.**



**KS3 Classcraft Moral Education Adventurers in their new gear as they level up.**