

# GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #17  
14th January, 2021



## Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

### Grade-Year Equivalency; FYI

Our curriculum & admission ages are fully aligned to MOE/SPEA requirements, with our students correctly taking international IGCSE, A/S & ‘A’ Level examinations in Grade 10, 11 & 12. Sharjah English National Curriculum (British) schools will gradually start using the UK naming system ‘Years’ instead of ‘Grades’ over the next year or so, in line with SPEA requirements. The name ‘Year’ & ‘Grade’ do not refer to the same age, eg. Grade One is the same age as Year 2. Please see the table below for a full list of Grade-Year equivalency. We will be moving to the Year naming system in September 2021. This will just be a simple name changing exercise, with nothing else to manage or change. We will share further details with you in Term 3.

| AGE REQUIREMENT in England | Year (ENC schools in UK) | Grade in WSS (as per Sharjah naming system)    |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 3 YEARS                    | FS1                      | Nursery (available in WSS from September 2021) |
| 4 YEARS                    | FS2                      | KG1  |
| 5 YEARS                    | YEAR 1                   | KG2  |
| 6 YEARS                    | YEAR 2                   | Grade 1  |
| 7 YEARS                    | YEAR 3                   | Grade 2  |
| 8 YEARS                    | YEAR 4                   | Grade 3  |
| 9 YEARS                    | YEAR 5                   | Grade 4  |
| 10 YEARS                   | YEAR 6                   | Grade 5  |
| 11 YEARS                   | YEAR 7                   | Grade 6  |
| 12 YEARS                   | YEAR 8                   | Grade 7  |
| 13 YEARS                   | YEAR 9                   | Grade 8  |
| 14 YEARS                   | YEAR 10                  | Grade 9  |
| 15 YEARS                   | YEAR 11                  | Grade 10                                       |
| 16 YEARS                   | YEAR 12                  | Grade 11                                       |
| 17 YEARS                   | YEAR 13                  | Grade 12                                       |

## Dates for Your Diary

| Date                               | Details  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Sun 10th- Thurs. 21st Jan.         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>T1 Report Cards have been published online.</li> <li>Online TEAMS Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTM) to discuss T1 Report Cards &amp; general progress, achievement &amp; ‘Next Step’ targets. Individual times will be sent by the Teacher shortly.</li> </ul>  |
| Wed. 3rd Feb.                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>T2 fees were due on Sunday 3/1/21. If you have not yet cleared T2 fees, kindly do so urgently. Regretfully, we will have to start Fee Defaulter exclusions from Blended/ RLP from 3/2/21.</li> <li>To avoid disruption of learning, if you require a T2 Payment Plan, please clear January fees, then request a Payment Plan form from the Cashier <a href="mailto:jelin.j_wss@gemsedu.com">jelin.j_wss@gemsedu.com</a> Thank you.</li> </ul> |
| Tues. 16th to Sat. 20th Feb.       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School closed for Mid-Term 2 Break</li> </ul>   |
| Fri. 26th March to Sat. 10th April | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>T2 Spring Break (2 weeks)</li> </ul>  |



Superstar winners of our Support Staff Recycling Competition—Ms. Sofia collected an impressive 1,654 & Ms. Roshana 1,370 bottles! Amazing job, team WSS!

## Our Vision; ‘Excellence Through Teamwork; Success For All’

For details of policies & procedures, please refer to our Parent Handbook found at: <https://media.gemseducation.com/media/58401/parent-handbook-3620.pdf>



**Do you need help with a Math or Science with your children in Primary?**

**E-learning for kids is a non-profit organization providing free, fun, curriculum based quality primary education to all children world wide. The foundation was launched in the USA in 2004 and in the Netherlands in 2007.**

**E-learning for free**

With e-learning for kids the site offer free curriculum based learning for **children ages 5-12 in Math & Science**, including Environmental skills, Health, and Life skills.

The site currently offer 550+ e-lessons and are continuously developing new ones. This includes the entire primary education grade KG to 6 in Math and Science.

World curriculum offers 336 e-lessons and Science World curriculum offers 213 e-lessons.

All e-lessons are currently in English. All you need is a computer with a web browser in it!

**How does it work? Do I need to sign up?**

All the e-learning for kids lessons are available online via internet at no cost! There is no need to sign-up. Your children can start immediately, either online or offline.

Just type [www.e-learningforkids.org](http://www.e-learningforkids.org) in your web browser or scan the QR Code given here.

**NOTE: GEMS Education and WSS do not own any website/ tool given in our Newsletter. Our team reviews the online tool/site, and suggest them for students and parents.**

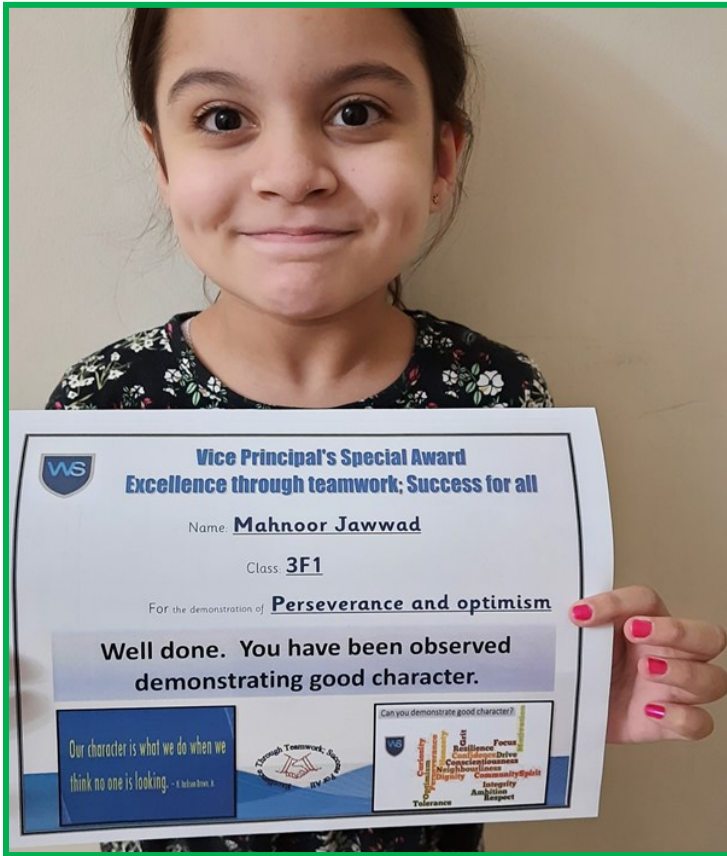


مدرسة جيمس وستمينستر الشارقة  
**GEMS Westminster School**  
SHARJAH



**#DigitalResilience #LearnWithWSS**

# WSS Superstar Champions!



## Whole School News

All educational staff must get SPEA approval to work in Sharjah schools. However, in addition, the MOE is introducing a Licensing exam based on a new Leadership Licensing framework. The 4 aspects of leadership included in this framework cover the areas of Ethical, Strategic, Educational & Operational Leadership. Currently, the Leadership Licensing exam is for Principals & Vice Principals, but we understand that other senior school leaders will be included in the future.

Both SPEA & GEMS are offering training & preparation sessions to ensure the upskilling of school leaders & readiness for the exam. Here is a picture of the SPEA session organized at a Sharjah school for 27 senior leaders on 14.1.21, attended by Ms. Valerie & Mr. Andrew.

We thank SPEA & GEMS for the additional professional development opportunities.



Congratulations to all the Support Staff, who collected over 3,000 plastic bottles for recycling. The Champion Recycler was Ms. Sofia, & runner-up Ms. Roshana! Thank you Mr. Andrew for organizing this important competition.

# Junior Section News; Frozen Day!



Happy Birthday to Izmah (GIHI)



Frozen day celebration @ KG1D2

Ifrah with her frozen dress 🥰🥰

# Junior Section News

## Frozen Day Fun – KG 2 D1

With Ms. Beena



G1 Art lesson with Ms. Maha. Students were learning how to draw landscapes using 2-D shapes and different lines (linked to Maths).

# Junior Section News



Frozen Day on 12/1/21 with KG1. Students are learning all about Winter in a totally immersive, fun way!

# Junior Section News; Frozen Day!



**KG1 D1**



**Frozen celebration**

PIC•COLLAGE



**KG1 D1**

**Creative play**



PIC•COLLAGE



**KG1 D1**



**KG1D1 busy with estimation activities**



**Imaginative play**



PIC•COLLAGE



**KG1 D**

**Pretend play**



PIC•COLLAGE

**Frozen Day on 12/1/21 with KG1D1 & Ms. Nikhat**



*Junior Section News; Frozen Day!*



Frozen Day on 12/1/21 with KG2S1 & Ms. Sadiqa

# Junior Section News; Frozen Day!



Frozen Day on 12/1/21 with KG1S2 & Ms. Kishwar



*Junior Section News; Frozen Day!*

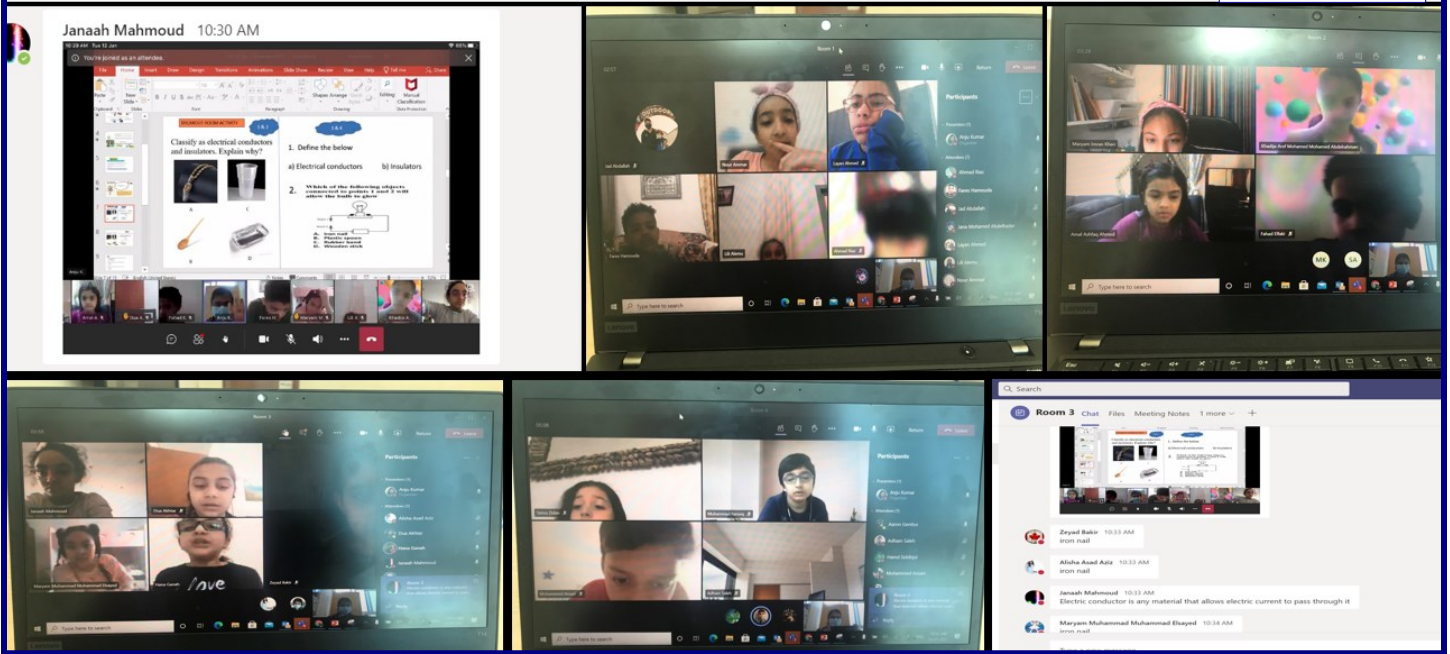


Frozen Day on 12/1/21 with KG1S2 & Ms. Maria

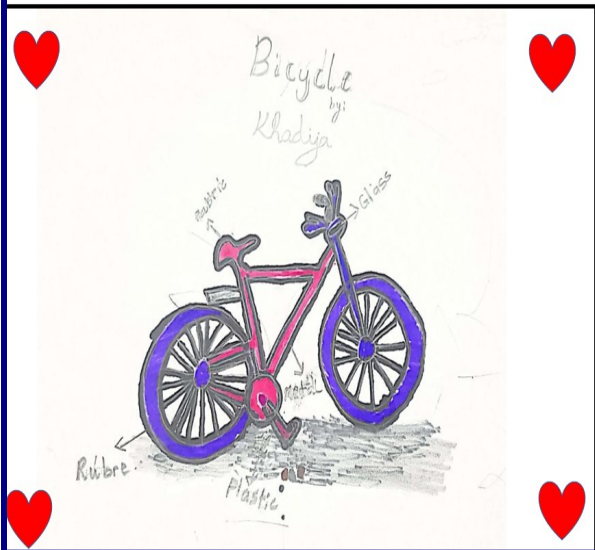
# Primary Section News; Breakout Rooms & T1 Parent-Teacher Meetings

## 4H1 BREAKOUT ROOM ACTIVITY ON ELECTRICAL CONDUCTORS & INSULATORS

With Ms. Anju



Khadija's (4H1) drawing for science lesson showing different materials used in a bicycle



# Secondary Section News; Environmental Ambassadors

## REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTALIST INTERVIEW

As part of the BEEAH Competition on Best Environmental Magazine, a thought-provoking interview session was conducted on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. Secondary students of WSS interviewed Ms. Abhilasha, Principal of Shining Star International school, Abu Dhabi. She is the Ambassador for The Climate Action Project, UAE, a Teach SDG Ambassador and also a Global Goals Team facilitator.

The School team, led by Ms. Laneetha, Ms. Remya Loyd and Ms. Deepthi, was very inquisitive throughout the session. Many research-oriented questions were asked that were well appreciated and answered by the faculty of the day. The interaction helped students generate a vivid perspective on the chief environmental threats of the modern times, how technological advancement helps sustain life on Earth, scope and responsibilities of NGOs, the required practical steps and actions as environmentalists for climate change etc. The reflective dimensions of thought enabled these students to decide that they should become the ambassadors of environment contributing to the cause of nature, climate and communities.

|      |                  |
|------|------------------|
| 7GF1 | LEEN SULAIMAN    |
| 7GF1 | FATMA BARAMI     |
| 8GH1 | FATHIMA ATHIKA   |
| 7GF1 | RAGHDA EHAB      |
| 9GH1 | PARWANA          |
| 9BH  | AADIL NAWAB KHAN |




❖ *The Ambassador for The Climate Action Project, UAE,*

❖ *Teach SDG Ambassador*

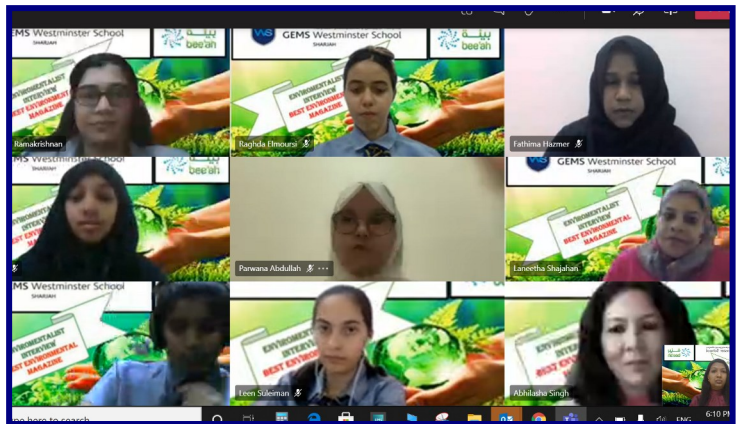
❖ *The Global Goals Team facilitator*

❖ *MIE expert*

**Ms. Abhilasha**  
The Principal,  
Shining Star International school,  
Abu Dhabi



Many thanks to Ms. Abhilasha, Ambassador for Climate Action UAE, for meeting with WSS students to discuss critical climate change issues & the steps we can take to help save our planet..



## Fun Activity– Bird Feeder



*Secondary Section News; Making a Bird Feeder!*

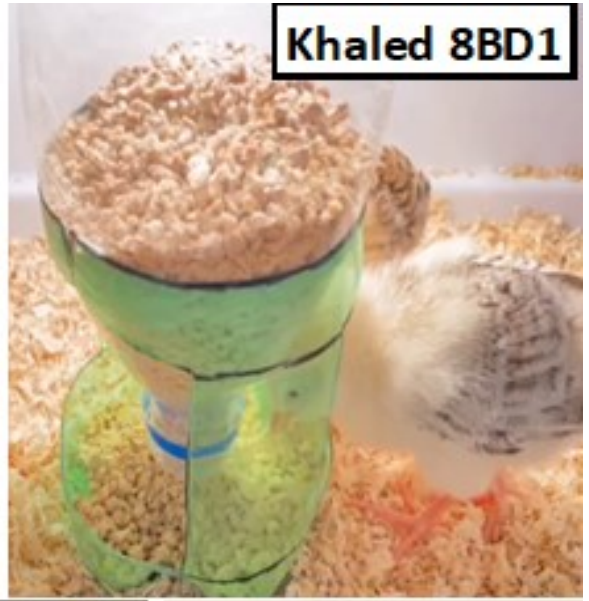
**Aleeza 6GS1**



**Raidah 6GS1**



**Khaled 8BD1**



**Mariel 7GD1**



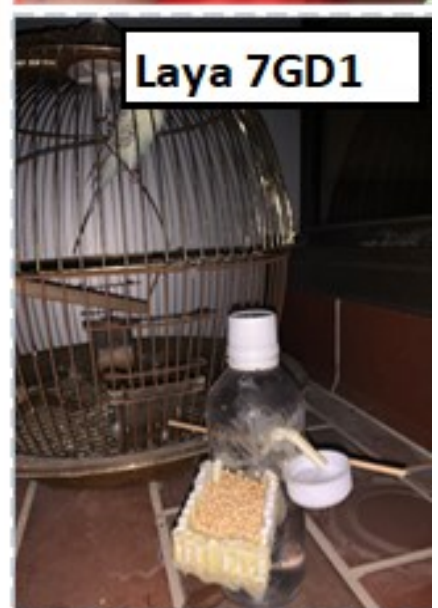
**Ayesha 8GF1**



**Manasa 6GH1**



**Laya 7GD1**



**Aya 8GH1**



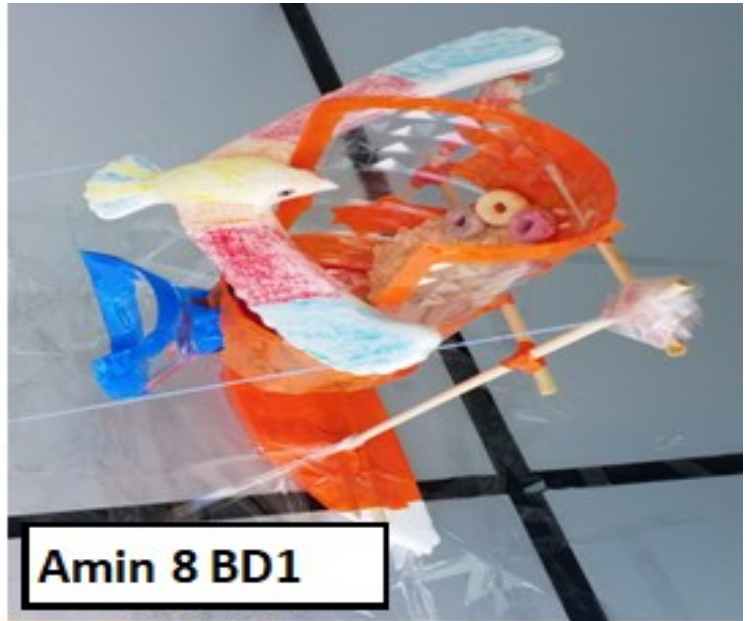
**Mayass 8GH1**



*Secondary Section News; Making a Bird Feeder!*



**Abdul 8 BF1**



**Amin 8 BD1**



**Harun 8 BS1**



**Hussein 8BH1**



**Omar 8 BD1**



**Sarah 8 GH1**



**Syed 8BD1**



**Mai 8 GD1**