

# GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #2  
2nd September, 2021



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

Dear WSS Parents,

### Let's be COVID-Safe!

We want to help protect your safety & the safety of all our children. Please note:

1. **Immediately** inform **school** if your child is a COVID Close Contact or Confirmed Case.
2. **Never send your sick child to school**, even if suffering from one COVID symptom (fever of 37.5 or more, runny nose, cough, headache, body ache etc)
3. When coming to school for Admin work, please if **only one parent comes**. This will help to avoid unsafe crowds in Reception

### We Appreciate Your Patience

As always the few weeks leading up to the start of the new Academic Year are extremely busy in Reception as we process 3,100+ students' re-enrollment or admission. We thank you for your patience as we thoroughly check documents & Clinic records to ensure that we will be able to properly Register new children with the Authorities. The time we invest now ensures that there are no future Registration problems.

We thank parents for sharing your development suggestions & we will consider these to improve the process for next year. However, it is always more convenient & quieter to complete re-enrollment, fee payments & admission processes much in advance of the start of the Term/Year.

Please excuse any inconvenience & we look forward to a calm, happy & productive Term ahead. Thank you.

### Threads Uniform

We love to see smart, business standard uniform & a HUGE thank you to the many parents who are sending their children to school so smartly dressed. We understand that some Threads uniform items are out of stock, so will relax the uniform rule for F2F students for the time being. If your child does not have proper uniform, please send your children in smart, but practical clothes so that they feel that they are coming to their 'Office' daily.

### Books

Have you bought your books? This included the required Student Planner & the Ministry required full bundle. Books can be **ordered online** & collected the following working day for your convenience.

## Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Saturday 4th Sept..	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WSS Fee Counter, Bookstore &amp; Registration Dept. open 8am to 2pm for convenient fee payment, book collecting &amp; enrollment processes.</li> </ul>
From Sunday 29th Aug. 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start of new Academic Year 2021-2022.</li> <li>All students over age 12 should have a <u>valid (72 hours) negative PCR test</u> result before rejoining school.</li> <li>Please click <u>accept the online Home-School Contract &amp; BYOD Acceptable Use Contracts</u> that we will email to you before rejoining school.</li> <li>The Authorities are strongly recommending that <b>all students over age 12 years are fully vaccinated</b> (both doses) for their own safety.</li> <li>If your child attends the Blended programme (Face-to-Face), we are now able to provide water coolers, but please <b>send in a personal water bottle &amp; snack daily</b>. The canteen will not be open.</li> <li><b>Full T1 fees must be paid before any student has their class confirmed to be admitted for the new academic year</b> (for both Blended &amp; Online DL (Distance Learning)).</li> <li>Please Budget accordingly—there will be <b>no Payment Plans in T1</b> (no exceptions). Thank you.</li> </ul>
Sunday 12th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deadline to clear T1 fees &amp; submit any outstanding documents (new admissions) to keep your booked seat. After this date we will assume that you do not want your seat &amp; will offer it to the Waiting List. Please email the Principal if you need a week's extension.</li> </ul>



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

## Whole School News; Letter from GEMS Chairman, Mr. Sunny Varkey



August 25, 2021

Dear Parents,

I would like to personally welcome you to the new term and, for our British, IB and American curriculum schools, the new academic year. I hope you, your children and your families are all refreshed and reinvigorated after the summer break. Most of all, though, I hope you are safe and in good health.

The summer months saw GEMS students achieve record-breaking results across A-levels, GCSEs, IBDP, CBSE and ICSE assessments. Their remarkable accomplishment, in what can only be described as challenging conditions, is good news not only for the bright young individuals involved, but also for every member of the wider GEMS family.

That's because the results prove that our schools are continuing to provide an excellent education and that our students are continuing to learn and make progress. This should not be taken for granted, given that in many parts of the world school communities have struggled, yet I want to assure you that we are firmly focused on ensuring no one is left behind.

As we begin a new term and school year, with more and more choosing to return to in-school learning, we must of course all remain vigilant. But we can draw confidence from the fact that the robust health and safety measures of our schools and our transport providers, supported of course by the regulators and health authorities, have been proven to be successful. Our number priority remains to keep our children safe, and we will also continue to promote the wellbeing of all students in our care.

Having said that, we take great pride in our e-learning and technology capabilities – they have already served so many of our students and teachers well over the past year, and they will continue to be made available for all those who choose or need them. I firmly believe that the best place for any young learner is in school, surrounded by friends and teachers, but I also know that this is not always possible.

I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely recommend to parents that they take advantage of the school transport service offered by their school, if at all possible. Many of you will have noted the news from the United Nations and other sources about the effect of our daily traffic on climate change. However, if all our children in the UAE took the school bus, that would go at least some way to helping to minimise this impact.

Finally, let me wish you all a safe, fulfilling and above all happy new term with GEMS. We are privileged to be able to serve you and your families, and we look forward to continuing our open, collaborative partnership with all our parents focused on providing our students with the best education possible.

Kind regards & God bless,

Sunny Varkey  
Founder and Chairman



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📱 @GEMS\_ME



## *Junior Section News; Important Dates!*

**WS**

**GEMS**  
EDUCATION

**B A C K t o**

**GEMS Westminster School Sharjah**

Welcome to the academic year 2021-2022. Despite the many challenges of the current situation, we are excited and committed to offering our students the best education. Teaching your child is a tremendous and exciting opportunity and we are looking forward to it this year. Please note the following dates for online and face to face learning:

Year group	Whole class online learning	Face to face learning commences from:
FS1 (Pre-KG)	29 <sup>th</sup> August – 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	5 <sup>th</sup> September onwards
FS2 (KG1)	29 <sup>th</sup> August – 9 <sup>th</sup> September	12 <sup>th</sup> September onwards
Year 1 (KG2)	29 <sup>th</sup> August – 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	5 <sup>th</sup> September onwards
Year 2 (G1)	29 <sup>th</sup> August	30 <sup>th</sup> August onwards

**DISTANCE LEARNING**

**BLENDED LEARNING**

**face to face learning**

**SCHOOL**

## Whole School News





## WSS Superstar ME Champions!



**Davin; Meet Subash, Omar Al Deeb; Omar; Vihaan; Yaseen; Zayed**

### Some more of our Classcraft Moral Education champions



**Ayesha; Maryam; Meerab; Nazneen; Salma; Zainab**



# Positive Reviews





**Mostafizur Rahman**  
★★★★★ 4 hours ago  
*The user didn't write a review, and has left just a rating.*

GEMS Westminster School Sharjah (owner)  
Just now  
*Thank you for rating us.*



**Maha Siddiqui**  
★★★★★ 5 hours ago  
its an awesome school

GEMS Westminster School Sharjah (owner)  
Just now



## WSS Superstar IGCSE Champions!



**IGCSE Topper Moh'd Ashthaq Ahamed can feel rightly proud of his outstanding achievement of 7 A\*s!**

**Congratulations to him & all our high achievers!**

**Congratulations to Primary Teacher Ms. Lavita, for being the first Teacher to be awarded a Raffle prize for her excellent practice from our new Learning Coach Dr. Lisa!**

IGCSE Toppers	
Name	Grades
MARYAM NOAMAN	7A*
DUAA FATHIMA KHAN	7A*
NATIELA ASHEBIR ALEMU	7A*
THARINSA THASANDI RATHNAYAKE	7A*
CHATHIL SENUJA GAMAGE LOKU DOREMURE GAMAGE	7A*
MOHAMED ASHTHAQ ARSHAQ AHAMED	7A*



Dear Ms. Archana,

Thank you and we are happy to see your mail.

Together with your commitment and with whole team of professionals in the school, we are pretty sure that our daughter Durgha will further excel in her studies and achieve greater heights.

Our support to our daughter enhancing your efforts in providing greater learning to her, will be unconditional and as rightly pointed out by you, yes, we are together in this journey for great success for all.

Once again thank you for your mail..!!

Best Regards,

Saju Kizhakkekara &  
Radhika Das

Dear Ms. Valerie,  
Greetings to You!

My son, Darshan, has completed A-levels at your school this year and has got excellent grades.

In my perspective, I have seen him work hard for months, but, it is not only his success but also his teachers'. To be quite frank, at times I too sat near him during his classes and was very happy with the teachers, their methods of making the students understand and keeping them engaged. They really helped him whenever he was struggling.

I know A-levels can be quite exhausting and I would like to thank the guidance counselor, Ms. Regina, for being there not only for Darshan but, for all the students.

Ms. Leena, Ms. Swapnali, and of course, Mr. Francis, I am extremely grateful for your hard work put into Darshan. I know where he was in math and I see where he is now.

My heartfelt thanks extend to every member of your team who made this year a successful year for the students, amidst a pandemic nonetheless.

Yours sincerely,  
Dakshinamurthy Balasubramaniam  
Father of Darshan Dakshinamurthy



## *Whole School News; Safe PE Lessons With COVID Protocols!*



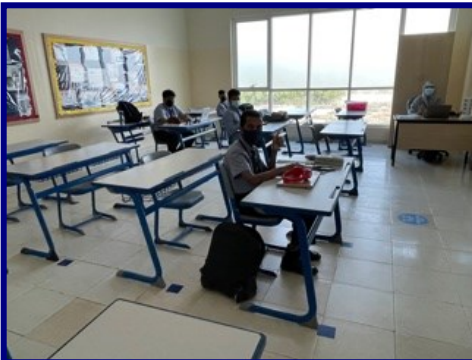


## *Whole School News; First Day Back, 29/8/21!*





## *Whole School News; First Day Back, 29/8/21!*



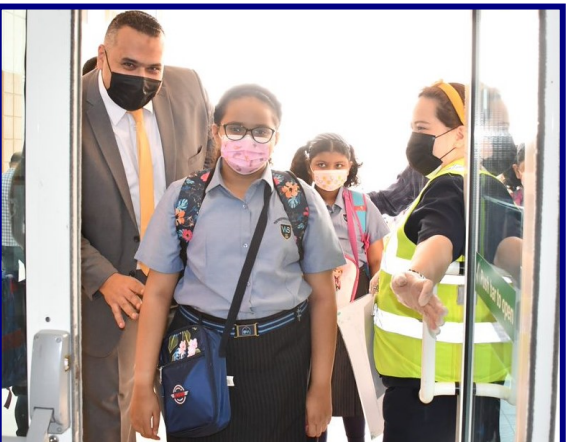
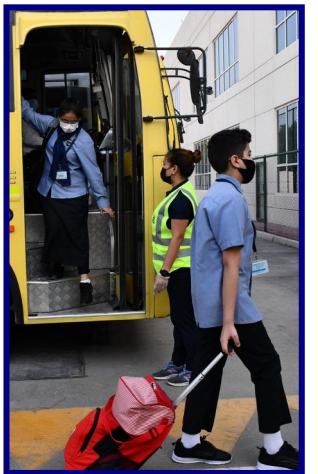


## *Whole School News; First Day Back, 29/8/21!*





## *Whole School News; First Day Back, 29/8/21!*





## *Whole School News; First Day Back, 29/8/21!*





## *Whole School News; First Week Back!*





## *Whole School News; First Week Back!*





☞ 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

GEMS Awareness Day was held on Thursday 26/8/21 for all new teachers. Over 1,600 new Teachers across the UAE network of 43 schools attended this induction session. Mr. Dino Varkey, GEMS CEO, addressed the gathering, sharing a message about the key role of teachers to inspire, lead & nurture learning.



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



Last year, WSS students, Parents & Staff were superstar recyclers of water bottles. Let's continue this tradition of environmental responsibility by putting all our empty water bottles in the school recycle bin! Thank you!



## Junior Section News



Fun activity



Enjoying fun activity



Enjoying fun activity



Enjoying fun activity





## Junior Section News

### Enjoying fun activity



Y1D2 with Ms. Aysha



### Fun activity



Fun Activity



We are creative

FS2 D1



We are creative

FS2 D1



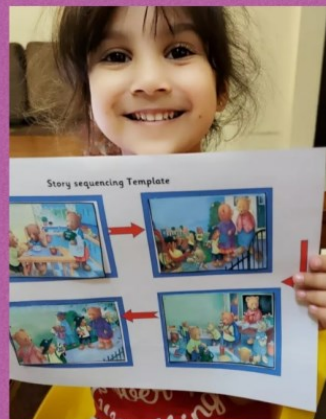
Mixing dry ingredients

Adding color, water and

Making dough

Making letter

FS2 D1

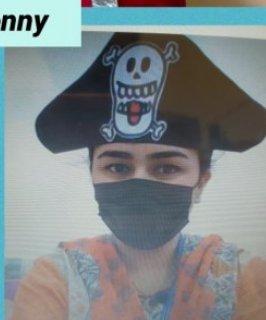


Busy sequencing story cards



FS2 D1

On a treasure hunt with captain Penny

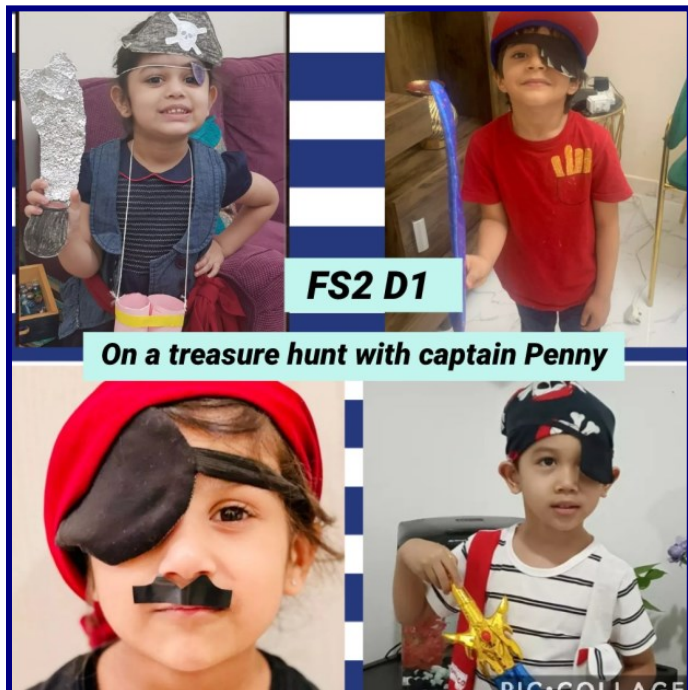


With Ms. Nikhat



# Junior Section News

With Ms. Nikhat



Busy sequencing story cards

FS2 D1



With Ms. Mariam



## Junior Section News





## Primary Section News

### Regular physical activity can improve your muscle strength and boost your endurance PE Lesson - Y5H1



Building a stronger heart,  
bones and healthier muscles.

Encouraging healthy growth  
and development.

Improving self-esteem.



- Providing an opportunity to socialise.

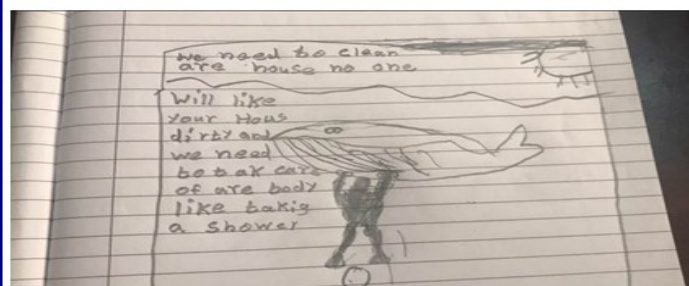
- Increasing concentration.

- Improving academic scores

Y5 S1 - Lauramour Matar's Healthy Breakfast Plate 😊



Poster by Vihaan Solvin on Healthy Living Practices



Y5S1 PSHE lesson on 'Healthy Living' with Ms. Vaijayanthi



## Secondary Section News; Personalisation of Learning!

Our key School Development Plan targets for last 2 years have centered around the personalisation of learning for our students, to improve their progress and achievement. This includes the rigorous use of specific assessment data, such as CAT4 bias & Progress Test results to ensure we include appropriate challenge and skill development in lessons and the curriculum. Last year in a Key Stage 3 (KS3; Y7-9) focus group, we added a third dimension to our critical data set to fully understand individual learning needs to support the best possible achievement outcomes; we added PASS (Performance Assessment of Self-care Skills) data to inform the way we differentiate and personalize individual learning activities. PASS is an assessment that looks at a student's attitude to school, teachers, self and learning. Research shows that learning has an emotional and psychological dimension, therefore understanding and managing attitudes, beliefs and values can help us unlock a child's learning potential.

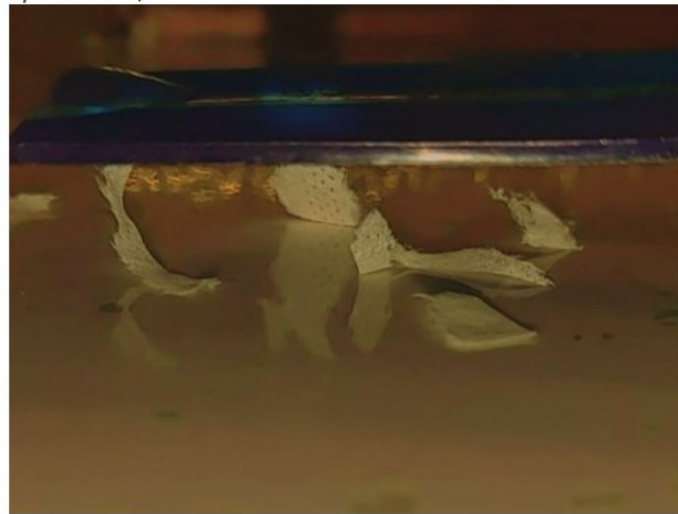
The results of this KS3 initiative showed marked improvement in learning across the focus group with the addition of PASS data into lesson planning to further personalize the students' learning experience. We will be extending the initiative into additional groups across the school over the coming academic year.

LFQ: HOW TO CHARGE AN INSULATOR?

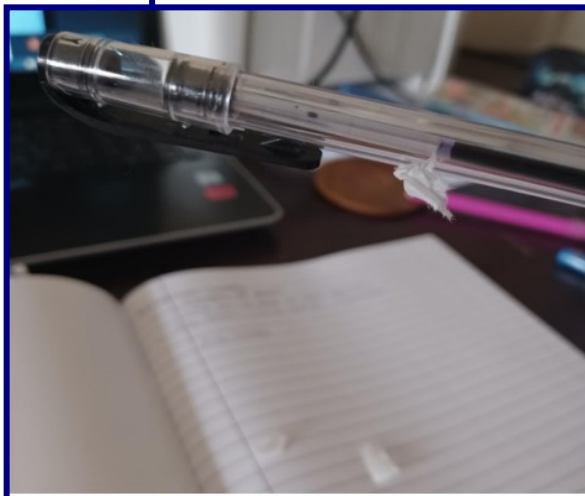
Charged plastic ruler attracting small paper pieces.



By Joel Paulose,



by Shiza Qayyum,



Suhaimah Anwar.

The application of critical concepts & learning skills has started with Ms. Deepthi!



## Secondary Section News

ME Class Craft lessons with Ms. Susan

Ayesha Tazeem

### CLASS CRAFT

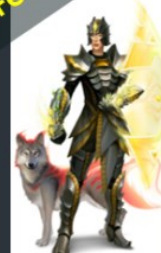
- My experience in class craft has been very wonderful.
- I am currently in level 11, and I have an amazing gear with pets in training.
- I love the way class craft engages me into completing the quests by the gamingly look it provides for its users, with curiously awesome pets and equipments further on.
- I also have many pets and I love them all, Especially Ferra (wolf) and Daggerbite (gladiator).



Me with Daggerbite  
(still training):



Me with Ferra:



My sincerest thanks to Mr. Andrew for recognising Vihaan's effort. I congratulate management team to have a system in place to recognize effort of students.

Much appreciated.

Please refer to the attached pic. Hope this is ok and do feel free to drop me a line in case any other input is needed from my end. Have a wonderful weekend.

Best Regards  
Ravi Sinha  
Parent of Vihaan

Many thanks for the great news  
Actually Classcraft is a great idea made the children interested in school subjects and enjoy it.  
I have attached my son Photo holding the certificate  
I wish WSS continuous success.

Maha, Parent of Yaseen

**Parent response**