## GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH









**Newsletter Issue #3** 10th September, 2020





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

Dear Parents,

Parent Session; Top Tips for Supporting Your Child's Learing at Home

We really appreciate how hard parents are working at home & how challenging it can be at times to support their chil-

dren's online learning. THANK YOU!

Ms. Rema, our Head of Inclusion, will be delivering an online parent session soon, to share success strategies for parents supporting their children with home learning. Dates/times will be confirmed shortly.

#### **Re-opening Plans for Blended Students**

We are ready to welcome Blended students back & were so disappointed about the unavoidable reopening delay. Latest Authority updates is that the rejoining date will be from Sunday 27/9/20. However, we must first receive SPEA confirmation & will keep parents informed. Meanwhile, your Teachers through online platforms.

#### Threads Uniform

If you still need to purchase uniform for your WSS children, please note the Threads flyer on p5. Threads are urging parents to pre-book for your convenience & safety, to ensure social distancing & the avoidance of crowds.

#### **Pre-KG (FS1, age 3-4)**

We are happy to share that we are now fully approved & Licensed to offer the Pre-KG/FS1 (age 3-4) grade at WSS. We are planning to open this new grade from September 2021. Children will have to be aged 3 by 31/8/21, & admission registration will be as per other grades. Enrollment registration for September 2021 will open later this Term.

#### **Online Safety**

Technology & Social Media can be wonderful communication & learning tools if used safely. However, our children can be exposed to inappropriate messages & influences, so please monitor your children's use of their devices & the appropriateness of the sites & Apps they are accessing to ensure their safety.

# nates for Your Diarw

Date	Details
Saturdays in Sept.	<ul><li>Cashier open 8am-1pm for fee payments.</li><li>Registration Office open.</li></ul>
Sunday 27th Sep- tember	<ul> <li>Our Blended Programme will start for those students who have opted for it. Grades will return staggered over the following few weeks. We are so excited to be welcoming back our students soon.</li> <li>Exact return dates will be informed by the Teacher.</li> <li>Return to school is subject to submitting to the Teacher:</li> <li>The signed Contract</li> <li>A Negative COVID report (for G7-12)</li> <li>The signed Travel Disclaimer</li> </ul>

#### Authority Approvals

We have received a message from SPEA reminding us that parare continuing to deliver innovative, engaging learning ents must approach the school only to resolve their educational issues. School GRE Ms. Lama will apply to SPEA for approvals through the proper process. This process does take time as per their system, but we are here to support. Parents are requested by SPEA not to approach SPEA directly. Thank you for your cooperation.

#### **Quarantine after Travel—Message from the Clinic**

Please note that all students must quarantine for 14 days after overseas travel, before returning to school.

(G2S1) hard at work online with Ms. Anshy & his classmates.



### 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



## Whole School News; Stay at Home if Unwell Policy



#### STAY AT HOME IF UNWELL POLICY FOR COVID-19

#### Purpose:

To prevent the spread of disease by breaking the chain of infection in order to ensure the continuous health and safety of our community.

#### Aims/objectives:

- An important way to reduce the spread of any communicable illness is to keep sick people away from those who are not sick.
- To ensure that any member of the school community (student/staff/employee) stays at home when they are feeling unwell and/or exhibiting any COVID-19 associated symptoms.
- Students or staff will not be permitted to enter the school's premises or will be isolated
  according to the incident management protocol if their illness becomes evident during the day.
- Medical clearance is required to return to school premises following any period of physical absence.
- To protect our community of students/ staff during this ongoing CoVid, -19 pandemic.

#### Responsibilities of Parents:

 Do a quick self-assessment every morning before you/your child leaves home. (See Appendix 1: Staff Self-Assessment Tool)

Watch out for the presence of the following symptoms:

- -Fever 37.5C and above
- -Cough
- -Body ache or fatigue
- -shortness of breath
- -sore throat
- -headache
- -sneezing and runny/congested nose
- -new loss of smell or taste
- -Diarrhea/nausea/vomiting
- If you/your child displays any symptoms of COVID -19 or are feeling unwell prior to leaving home, you should refer to a health care facility for testing and advise.

### Whole School News; Stay at Home if Unwell Policy

- If your child displays any symptoms above during the work day, your child will be isolated and
  referred to a health care facility for a PCR test. You must then see a doctor and get your child
  tested
- Children who are well but who have a sick family member at home with COVID 19 should inform
  the Clinic without delay.
- Your child may return to school only when symptom-free, & with a medical clearance certificate.

#### Self-isolation

If your child has COVID-19, or is feeling unwell, it's critical your child stays at home and recovers. Your child must be isolated even while you are waiting for your COVID-19 PCR test results.

If you/your child has been told you need to self-isolate, you must do so immediately.

How long is the isolation period for Coronavirus?

A person who is newly infected with Coronavirus will remain in isolation for a period of 14 days.

What are the conditions to end isolation?

- Completion of 14 days from the date of obtaining the test result and Improvement in symptoms
- The patient is not feverish and has a body temperature that's less than 37.5 degrees Celsius for three consecutive days without taking any medication to reduce fever.
- Conditions for return to work include providing a de-isolation medical clearance certificate from the treating health care facility.

If you/your child are in self-isolation due to a positive PCR test or in quarantine due to exposure or close contact with a positive case, follow these precautions:

- While you/your child is unwell, do not invite or allow social visitors, such as friends, family and, colleagues to enter your home.
- Quarantining/isolating yourself/your child at home means staying at home and avoiding contact
  with others for a certain period of time, usually 14 days.
- Only those living in the same household can remain home, outside visitors are not allowed.
- If the person in home quarantine develops COVID-19 symptoms then those living in the same household will be considered to be in contact with a confirmed case and so should be home quarantined as well.
- While in home quarantine, you will receive regular calls from the DHA monitoring and asking about your health and wellbeing
- It is important to take preventive measures like washing your hands regularly for 20 seconds to avoid spreading the virus.
- Maintain a distance of at least two meters from family members and only use your own designated items. Sleep in a separate room and use a separate toilet.
- After completing 14 days in quarantine without developing any symptoms it is safe to continue on with your child's normal life and go back to school with a medical clearance certificate.

### Whole School News; Stay at Home if Unwell Policy

#### Tips on what to do during home quarantine:

- Maintain a daily routine and think positively, remember that the quarantine period will soon pass.
- Maintain your relations with others through social media channels.
- Work from home, exercise and give your children fun activities, chores or homework.
- Use this period to do things that you never had the time to do like drawing and reading.
- Proper nutrition during home quarantine
- Weight gain occurs when there is an imbalance between the calories you consume and the calories you burn. During the home quarantine period, your body's need for energy is less than normal, especially if you are less mobile.
- Stay hydrated; drink at least eight glasses of water per day.
- Eat a well-balanced meal including foods that supply the body with energy such as whole grains, rice and pasta.
- Children in particular should eat foods that promote growth such as eggs, meat, fish, and dairy products
- · If you are opting for canned meat, choose healthier options such as canned tuna and sardines
- East fresh foods including plenty of fruits and vegetables as it helps increase the body's resistance
  against diseases. Add in foods Vitamin C rich foods such as guava, kiwi, green pepper, orange,
  strawberry and lemon.
- The recommended amount of exercise per day is a minimum of 30 minutes for adults and 60 minutes for children.
- Reduce the intake of high calorie food such as processed foods, which are high in fat and sugar.
   Avoid foods such as biscuits, chocolates and fried foods and swap with healthier options such as fruit, which has natural sugar.

#### For inquiries or assistance, you can contact:

- Ministry of Health and Prevention 80011111
- Service by Abu Dhabi Health Department 8001717 عرفية الماء عند ال
- Dubai Health Authority 800342

## Whole School News; Uniform



## WSS Superstar Champions!

IGCSE & 'A' Level Examination Board Results

We are very proud of our students, their parents & Teachers for the following examination success 'WOW'! stories. We congratulate each one for their commitment to learning & hard work, especially during the challenges of the COVID-19 situation:

#### IGCSE:

A total of 1314 entries were made for IGCSE qualification.

**Examination WOW!! Stories** 

- 931 entries (Large Majority, 71% of our students) have attained A\* B. 1183 entries (Most 90% of our students) have attained A\* C. This results to a 'Very Good' judgement of KS4 as per Framework.
- In Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Arabic as a First language (Most, 90% of our students) have scored A\* B.
- In Accounting, Art and Design, Business Studies, Combined Sciences, Economics, English, ICT and Mathematics, (Large Majority, 61% have scored A\* - B)
- In Environmental management, Geography and Travel and Tourism, (Majority, more than 50% of our students) have scored
   A\* B grades. This results to a 'Good' judgement of these subjects as per Framework.

#### A Level:

A total of 30 entries were made for A level qualification.

- 19 entries (Large Majority 63% of our Grade 12 students) have attained A\* B. 27 entries (Most 90% of our Grade 12 students) have attained A\* C. This results to a 'Very Good' judgement of KS5 as per Framework.
- In 6 Subjects which includes, Accounting, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, ICT, Mathematics (Majority, more than 50% of students) have scored A\* B. This results to a 'Good' judgement of these subjects as per Framework.

#### A-level Performance System (ALPS):

(ALPS-is a UK based company specializing in analyzing A-level data and rating the quality of 'Sixth Form' education provided in comparison to the schools across the world that provide the same qualification.)

We are proud to inform that as per the rating received from ALPS, WSS has received a highest Quality Indicator score of '1' as a provider of 'A-level' education. The report shows that 80% of our A-level students and 94% of our AS level students have either met or exceeded the MEG (personalized target grade set by ALPS)





Super star who came so promptly with father for the G7-12 COVID-19 test on 9/9/20. Thank you much dear parents for your support & flexibility in this challenging situation.

### Whole School News

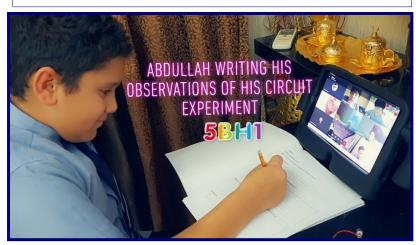


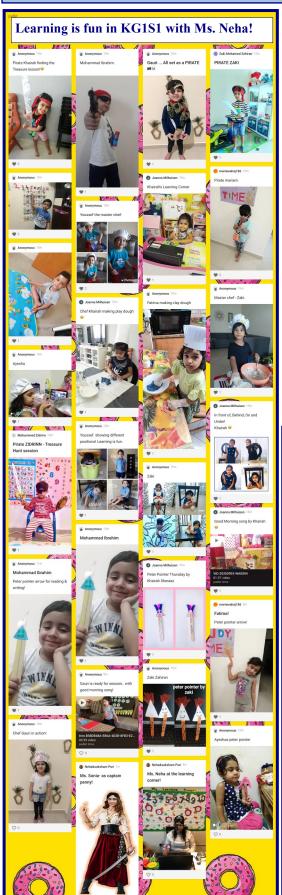
During September, we are welcoming prospective families for school tours & admission, as well as keeping the Cashier open for convenient Term 1 fee payment. Below, our school Doctor Dr. Ouafa delivered SPEA COVID training to all our staff.





Learning is now in full swing throughout the school, with practical activities, scientific experimentation, creative writing (in Arabic & English), story sequencing & more. We hope that your children are enjoying their online studies.







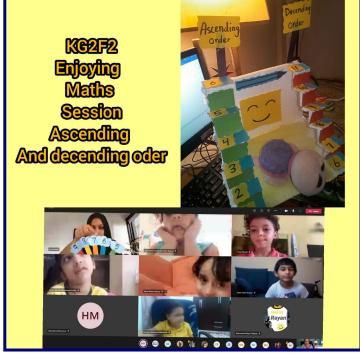












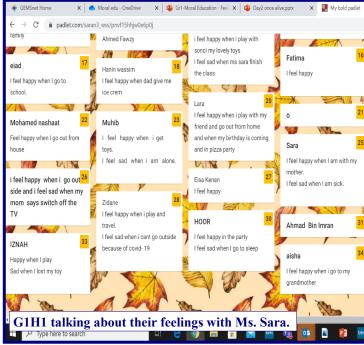


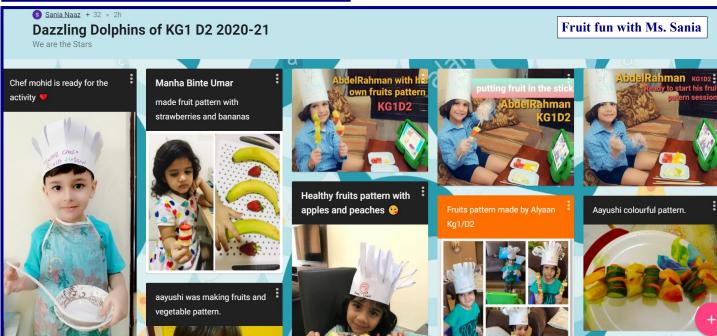


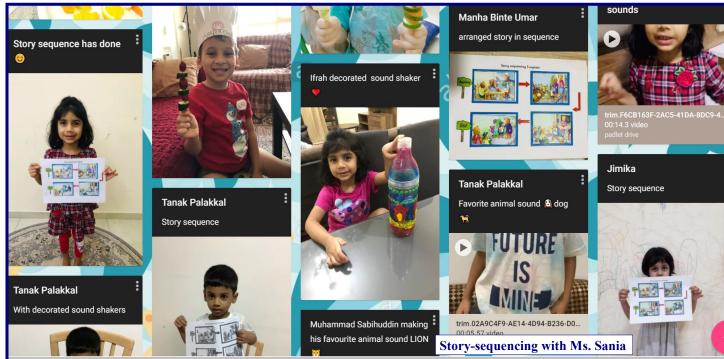
Our wonderful KG Assistant Teachers are fully 'in the groove' supporting our children's learning. Right, Team buddies Ms. Raquel & Ms. Iram.

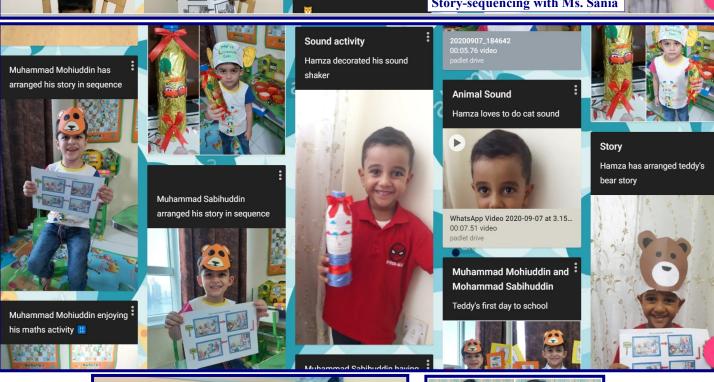
























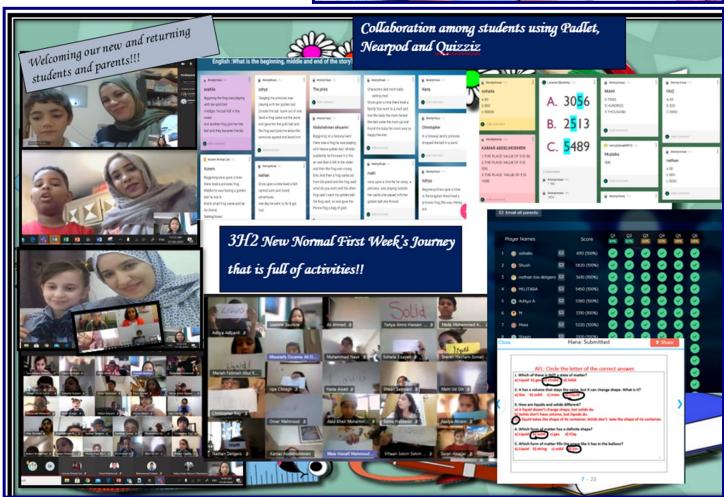


## Primary Section News

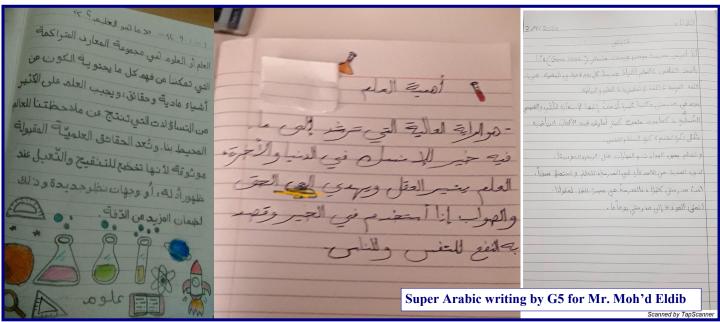


Above, G2S1 students working hard online with Ms. Anshy & their classmates; Aanayah, Nouran, & super-smart Liam.





## Primary Section News



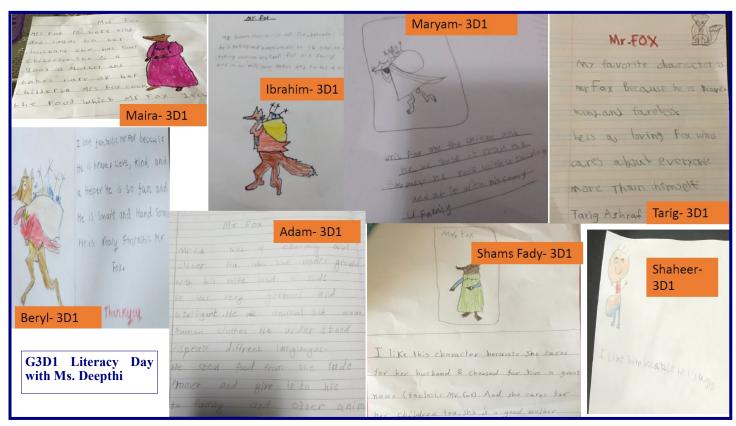






## Primary Section News; G3 Literacy Day





## Primary Section News; G4 Literacy Day

## Literacy Day Activities -4D2













Abdalla Sultan

Mursaleen

**Fawaz** 

Youssief

## Literacy Day Activities -4H1









very regal!









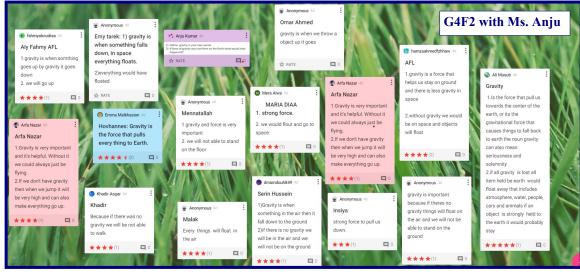


## **Primary Section News**



Investigating electricity in Science with G5BS1 & Ms. Syeda Rizvi.





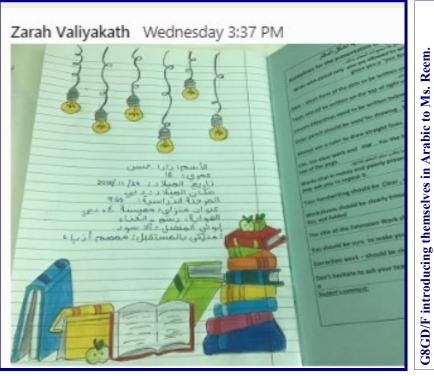
### Secondary Section News



Muhammad Faiz & Bilal Javaid won the Sheera Start-Up Sharjah competition in July. They had an interview on Dubai pulse 95 radio on 7th September. Congratulations again Muh'd & Bilal!

### Secondary Section News







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