

# GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #6  
1st October, 2020



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

Dear Parents,

### Parents inside School

Following an Authority Health & Safety compliance Inspection on 27/9/20, it was reinforced that parents are not allowed to enter inside school, even for KG drop-off & pick-up. **From Sunday 4/10/20, no parents will be allowed inside school** while students are in session.

I would like to really appreciate the high level of cooperation we are receiving from parents with our one-way corridor/entry/exit systems & other required safety protocols. You are stars, thank you so much! *'Together we return!'*



Date	Details
<b>Saturdays in October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Registration Office &amp; Cashier</b> are open on Saturdays, 8am-1pm.</li> <li><b>Bookstore</b> closed.</li> </ul>
<b>Sunday 27th September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our Blended Programme will start for those students who have signed up for it. Grades will return staggered over the coming month.</li> <li><b>Please see p2 for exact return dates for your child's grade.</b></li> <li><b>Return to school is subject to submitting the following to the Teacher:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The signed Contract</li> <li>A Negative COVID report (for G7-12)</li> <li>The signed Travel Disclaimer</li> <li>Medical Clearance Certificate for Vulnerable students</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<b>Sunday 4th October, 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online Registration system opens for new admissions for September 2021, including the new grade pre-KG/FS1 for age 3.</li> </ul>

We were so happy to finally open our gates & welcome back our WSS families on 27/9/20. Happy new year!

Left, we thank the Amiri Guard Police who support student & parent safety crossing the roads in the mornings & afternoons. We are very grateful for their regular duty at the gate.

Right, a new student looking super smart & cute in his 'professional dress' new uniform!

Parents, please do not engage with teachers or interrupt teaching time at all during lessons. Teachers have been told to keep lesson time for the children only. If you have a query, please email the teacher as usual & she/he will reply during non-teaching time. Thanks.



## *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>



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

As per Authority instructions, Blended students may return to school staggered over September-October in batches of 25%, 50%, 75% then 100%. Grades will return as below:

Day/Date	Return Date for Blended Students		
	Section		
	Junior (KG1-G1)	Primary (G2-5)	Secondary (G6-12)
<b>Sunday</b> <b>27/9/20</b>	<b>KG1</b> <b>KG2</b>	<b>G2</b>	<b>G10, G11 &amp; G12</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>4/10/20</b>	<b>KG1</b> <b>KG2</b> <b>G1</b>	<b>G2</b> <b>G5</b>	<b>G10, G11 &amp; G12</b> <b>G8 &amp; G9</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>11/10/20</b>	<b>KG1</b> <b>KG2</b>	<b>G2</b> <b>G5</b> <b>G3</b>	<b>G10, G11 &amp; G12</b> <b>G8 &amp; G9</b> <b>G7</b>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>18/10/20</b>	<b>KG1</b> <b>KG2</b> <b>G1</b>	<b>G2</b> <b>G5</b> <b>G3</b> <b>G4</b>	<b>G10, G11 &amp; G12</b> <b>G8 &amp; G9</b> <b>G7</b> <b>G6</b>

### How to book your children's uniform

**GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL - SHARJAH**



**THREADS RETAIL SHOP**

Uniforms of GEMS Westminster School - Sharjah will be available at the following Threads Stores.

1. Al Nadha Outlet - Dubai
2. Ramez Mall - Sharjah

**UNIFORMS AVAILABLE AT STORE ONLY FROM 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2020 ONWARDS.**

*Threads*

**Pre-book to stay safe.**



**Step 1:** Pre-book your appointment to visit the store [www.threadsme.com](http://www.threadsme.com)



**Step 2:** Present your appointment confirmation (QR code)



**Step 3:** Enjoy a safe and socially distant shopping experience



**TRIAL SAMPLES ARE SANITIZED AS PER REGULATIONS.**



**ONLINE ORDERING FROM 20<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST ONWARDS**

To free up your time, please order online at [www.threadsme.com](http://www.threadsme.com)

Orders will be delivered to your preferred address.

5-7 working days will be required for the delivery during peak sale period (Aug-Sep).



**MADE TO MEASURE SERVICES**

- Orders to be placed before 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020 for delivery on or before 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020.
- M&M alterations services are available at Threads Outlet at Thread Square Center on all working days.
- This service will be provided at other outlets on specific date and time.
- PRE-BOOK your Made to Measure Service at [www.threadsme.com](http://www.threadsme.com).



**UNIFORM GUIDE**

To download the uniform guide/catalogue [www.threadsme.com](http://www.threadsme.com)

**BOOK NOW TO SAVE YOUR SLOT**

800-8473237

support@threadsme.com

[www.threadsme.com](http://www.threadsme.com)

# Whole School News; *How can we Celebrate World Teachers' Day on 5/10/20?*



First whole school House Competition of the year!  
Celebrate World Teachers' Day @WSS on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October

**Excellence Through teamwork; Success for All.**

## Celebrating teachers around the world! 😊



What is the purpose of the UNESCO World Teachers' Day?

Its point is to centre around "acknowledging, evaluating and enhancing the instructors of the world" and to give a chance to consider the issues identified with educators and the teaching process in general.

WSS will celebrate on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct

## Which house can be the most creative and celebrate their teacher the best?

### THE CHALLENGE!

World Teachers Day falls on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct and here at WSS we challenge all students to demonstrate their appreciation of the hard work shown by their wonderful teachers to celebrate World Teachers' Day.

There is nothing more valuable than a kind thoughtful word 😊

### Students - What can you do? (create and send the following)

- Personal e-cards of appreciation direct to their teacher.
- Random Acts of Kindness.
- Leave messages of appreciation and respect on the WSS World Teachers' Day Padlet Wall (give your name, class and the teachers name)  
[https://padlet.com/andreww\\_wss/pw9bdqdutj3ztybb](https://padlet.com/andreww_wss/pw9bdqdutj3ztybb)
- Group celebration Songs / Digital Poems / Short videos up to 59 seconds / be creative.
- Any gesture to show you care about the teacher.
- Anything to show how you care about the hardworking teacher you have.

**(No physical gifts, flowers, treats or cards please in these COVID-19 times)**

WSS VISION  
*Excellence Through Teamwork; Success For All*

OUR MISSION IS...

**T** Teachers, students & parents support each other to be aspirational, inspirational & innovative

**E** Everyone is committed to the wellbeing & happiness of others, in WSS & beyond

**A** All in the WSS Community contribute, collaborate, & engage in life-long learning to be leaders and globally-minded citizens

**M** Motivation: to achieve, to explore, to create

**W** We demonstrate good character and nurture others to do so

**O** Opportunities to be ourselves, be better, belong and go beyond

**R** Responsible citizens Reduce-Reuse-Recycle; we are committed to the wellbeing of our environment

**K** Kindness, respect and values are the keystones of WSS culture

GEMS Westminster School  
Surrey

The idea is to develop character of students @ WSS  
Let this day demonstrate  
**#respect** and  
**#neighborliness**  
A great quality shared by  
Sheikh Zayed

Can you demonstrate good character?



### The Student House Competition

- The MOST **#respectful** Class from Junior / Primary / Secondary – boys and girls
- Best House for demonstrating **#neighborliness** and **#communityspirit**
- Best Individual Prize certificate for a student in each grade for demonstrating – (Teacher **#respect** on the day Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct)

## Whole School News; 'Ready for School' Booklet from SPEA

Regarding "Ready for School" booklet

**Dear Private Schools Principals,**

Sharjah Private Education Authority is pleased to extend its warmest greetings to you.

Complimentary to our "Together We Return" campaign, the Child Safety Department in the Supreme Council for Family Affairs, in collaboration with SPEA, have issued the "Ready for School" booklet. This booklet includes games, activities and riddles for everyone in the family and aims to prepare children for going back to school. The booklet also aims to educate children on how to stay safe. We kindly ask that you circulate this booklet amongst students and parents.

Download the booklet from the following link:

<https://bit.ly/2DEQbpa>

**Best Regards...**

**السادة/ مديري المدارس الخاصة المحترمين**

يطيب لهيئة الشارقة للتعليم الخاص أن تهديكم أطيب التحيات وصادق الأمنيات...

في إطار سعي الهيئة لتعزيز ثقافة الوعي الصحي واتباع الإجراءات الاحترازية من قبل الطلبة ضمن حملتها " معاً نعود " وذلك تمهيداً لعودتهم إلى فصولهم ومدارسهم، فقد أطلقت إدارة سلامة الطفل بالمجلس الأعلى لشؤون الأسرة وبالتعاون مع الهيئة كتيب تفاعلي بعنوان "مستعد للمدرسة" والذي يتضمن عدداً من الألعاب والأنشطة والألغاز لجميع أفراد العائلة، لمهينهم للعودة إلى المدارس، وثقيفهم حول كيفية الحفاظ على سلامتهم في جميع الأوقات، وعليه نرجو منكم التكرم بالتعميم على الطلبة وأولياء الأمور للاستفادة من هذا الكتيب التفاعلي الهادف.

لتحميل الكتيب يرجى الضغط على الرابط التالي:

<https://bit.ly/2DEQbpa>

**وتفضلوا بقبول فائق التقدير والاحترام...**

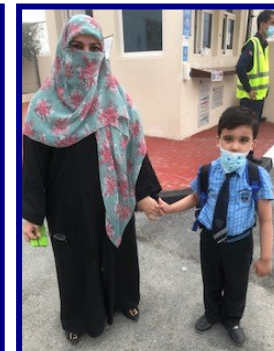
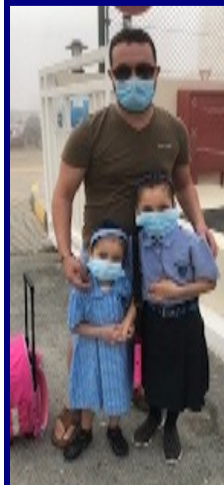
Learning & fun with KG2D2 & Ms. Farah



Samaira KG2D2 - Learning about human body parts.



# Whole School News; Day 1—Welcome Back to School!



# Whole School News; Day 1-Welcome Back to School!

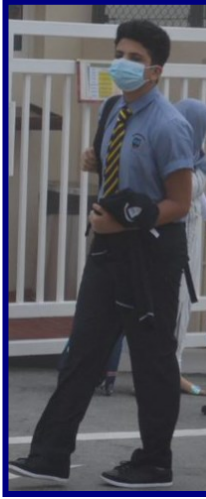


# Whole School News; Welcome back to school!



Sunday 27/9/20 may have been foggy, but our hearts were bright! We happily welcomed back our WSS families to school.

*Whole School News; Welcome back to school!*





*Whole School News; Welcome back to school!*

**WE ARE OPEN FOR  
REGISTRATION**

**ENROL NOW**

KG 1 to Grade 12 for  
2020/21 academic year

**Hurry  
Up**

**Limited Seats**

## *WSS Superstar Champions!*

### Success Roadmap for the Sheikha Fatima Award, by Nourhan Tamer (G11GH1)

Many thanks to WSS management for honoring me with the nomination for the prestigious Sheikha Fatima Award (SFA) for this academic year, which is one of the significant events in my professional career so far. In this regard, I want to send special thanks to my parents & my teachers who supported me to attain this achievement.

Last year was my first experience with SFA. I put in a lot of effort to pass through the first & second round of interviews till I reached the final round of interview with Principal and Vice Principal. During the interview, I felt that my initiatives and action plan need to be improved a lot to be up to the mark. After the interview, I felt depressed initially, however I took the matter positively. I

evaluated myself, put my fingers on the weak points and decided to take the SFA challenge again if WSS offered me the opportunity during the next academic year. For this reason, I prepared myself from day 1 in the past academic year. I noted down many points based on my day-to-day observations in WSS which supported me to prepare an effective and realistic action plan to reflect my colleagues' feedback and my past 7 years' experience in WSS.

I was more than happy when I received the invitation email the first round of SFA this year. The feedback received during the 1<sup>st</sup> round made me feel that I was on the right track. Based on that I started to improve myself further and I received wonderful feedback during the 2<sup>nd</sup> round interview. I waited for the invitation for the final round and I was happy and energetic to receive it, and I prepared myself thoroughly. The interview with the Principal and Vice Principal was great, I had one of the most interactive and valuable discussion in my life. In 10 minutes' time, the discussion was fruitful and in-depth. I was able to express myself in good way which made me feel that I was very close to the award. In the next day it was a great surprise when the Principal informed me that I am the SFA Awardee for Academic year (2020-2021)!

I thought to share my story with you all and sorry if you found it long. My advice to all of you is always stay positive and motivated, believe in yourself, properly plan and act to achieve your goals. Always believe that if there is a will, there is a way.

Wish|you always the best.



The prestigious GEMS Sheikha Fathima Award for Excellence is a scholarship programme, awarded to one female student per school per year. This year our focus was on inspirational self-development and impactful student leadership. We congratulate all our candidates who reached the final round of interview—you were all impressive in your own unique way!

Huge congratulations to Nourhan, who particularly impressed the interview panel with her strategic & impactful student leadership (Arabic Leader) and her inspirational commitment to her own character & academic development. Well done!

# WSS Superstar Champions!



TEXAS STATE  
LBJ INSTITUTE FOR  
STEM EDUCATION AND RESEARCH



NASA  
EPDC  
STEM  
ENGAGEMENT &  
EDUCATOR  
PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
COLLABORATIVE

## Certificate of Achievement

### Educator Professional Development Event


Partner

**Explore Flight: Smart Skies**

Presented by Sara Torres

On Wednesday 09/23/2020

**Presented to: Muhammad Muzzamil**

1.0 instructional hours (TEA Provider #105-501)

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هيئة الشارقة للتعليم الخاص  
SHARJAH PRIVATE EDUCATORS AUTHORITY



أكاديمية الشارقة للتعليم  
Sharjah Ed. Center Academy

## CERTIFICATE Of COMPLETION

This certificate is awarded to

**ANJU RAJEEV KUMAR**

For successfully completing

**21st Century Learning Skills and  
Hybrid Learning**

Published on 03/09/2020

  
Dr. Muhadditha Alhashimi  
Chairperson of  
Sharjah Private Education Authority

Teachers are availing of the new SPEA Academy online courses to stay current & upskilled.

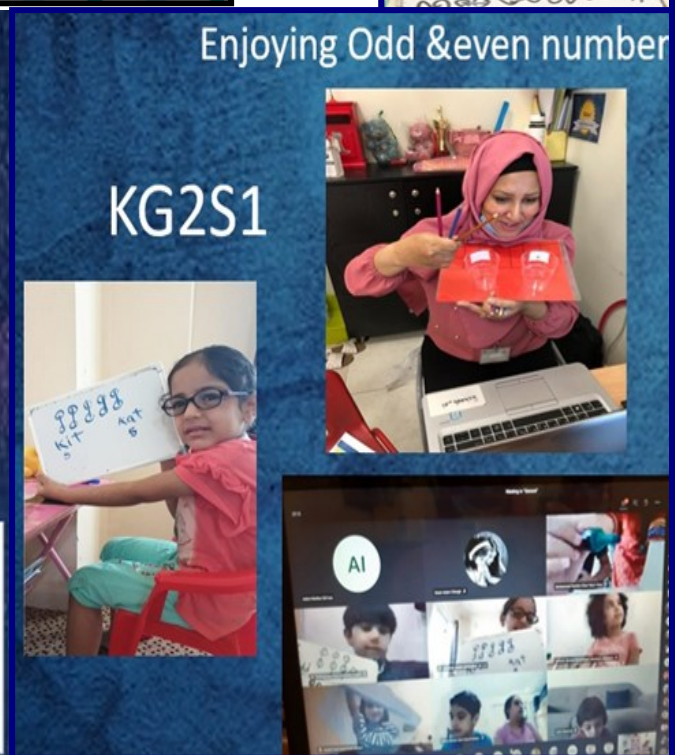
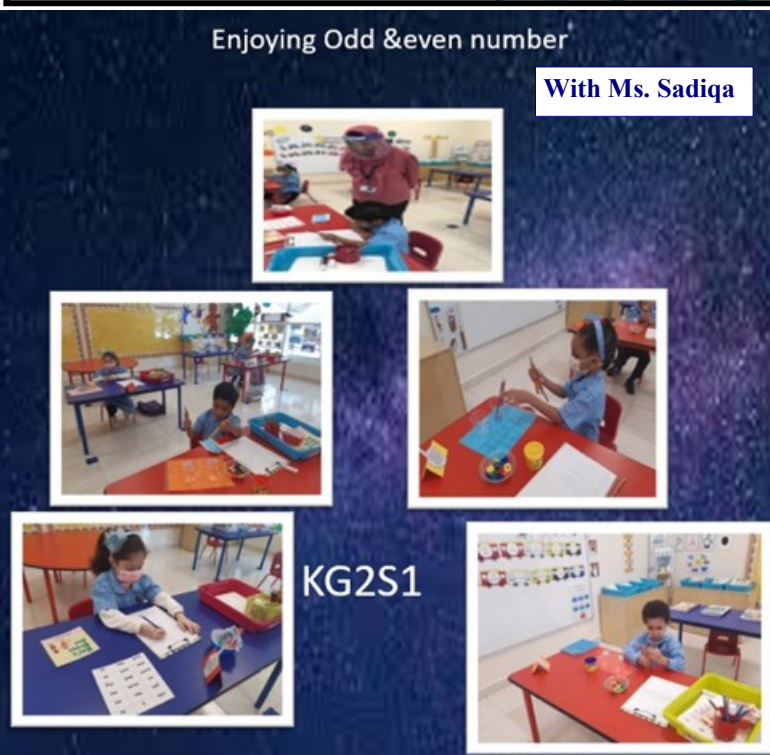


## Colin the Kindness Camel (Respect, Community Spirit & Neighbourliness)

### Secondary Colin the Kindness Camel Awards

S.No	Date	Grade	Section	Name	Reason
1	15th -30th September 2020	11	BD	Abdul Rahuman Mohamed Riyas	For being helpful to form tutor and classmates
2	15th -30th September 2020	11	BF	Mansoor Kalemzai	For constant support and help to the form tutor
3	15th -30th September 2020	11	GH	Joanne Mathews Anil Mathews Thomas	For being supportive and helpful to her classmates in resolving digital platform issues.
4	15th -30th September 2020	11	GH	LOUJAIN FERAS MRYOUD	For taking up the responsibility of sanitizer monitor.
5	15th -30th September 2020	12	BS	Mustafa Muataz Maher Al-Juboori	For being helpful during registration times.
6	15th -30th September 2020	12	GF	Hamna Hoor Ashfaq Ahmed	For helping the form tutor in smooth functioning of the class

# Junior Section News; Back to School!



# Junior Section News; Back to School!



KG2S1 with Ms. Sadiqa

# Junior Section News; Back to School!



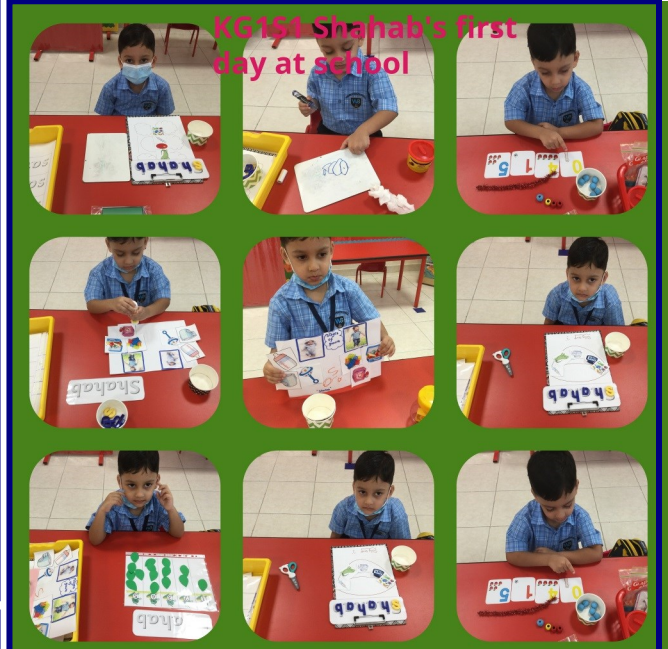
KG2S1 enjoy a puppet show to share a story with Ms. Sadiqa



With Ms. Sonia



KG1S1 Youssef's first day at school



KG1S1 Shahab's first day at school



KG1S1 Anaya's first day at school

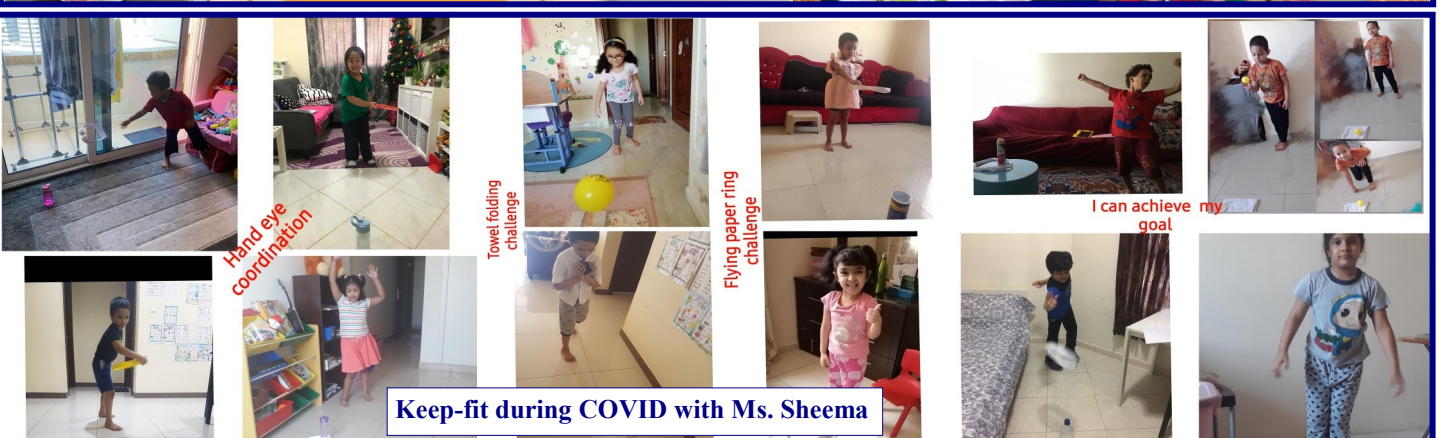
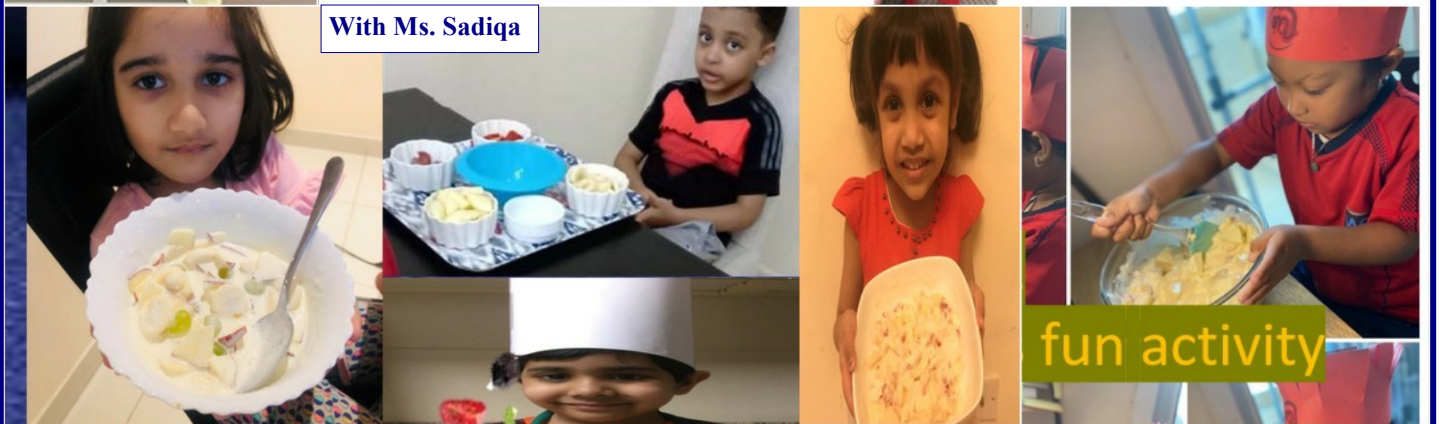


KG1S1 Zimal's first day at school

# Junior Section News; Back to School!

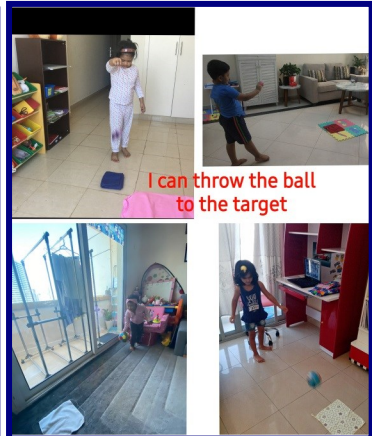
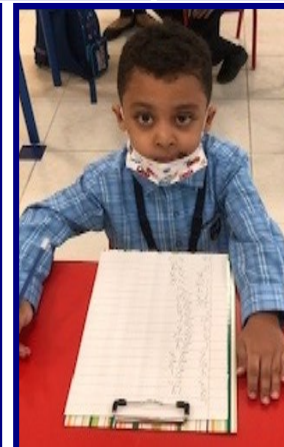
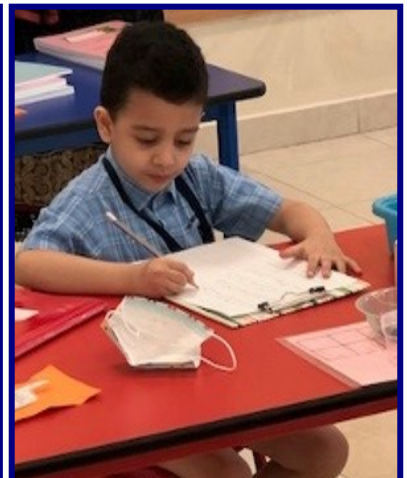


With Ms. Sadiqa





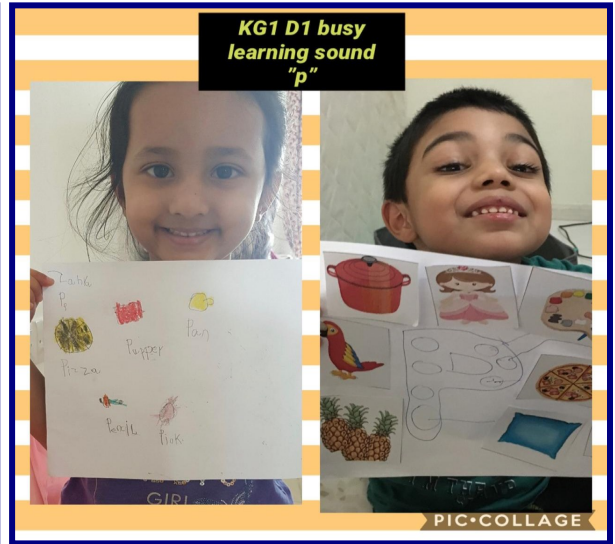
# Junior Section News; Back to School!



# Junior Section News; Back to School!



The spots help us with Social Distancing in the corridors.



KG1 D1 busy learning sound "p"

# Junior Section News; Back to School!



# Junior Section News; Back to School!



KG1S1 Kārma excited with the activities



KG1S1 Excited with the activities

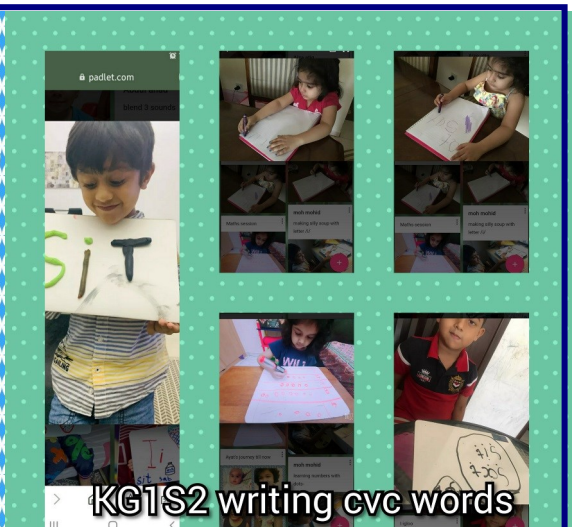
With Ms. Sonia M.



KG1S2 with Ms. Maria

KG1S2 making their own caterpillars.

KG1S2 making beautiful caterpillars.

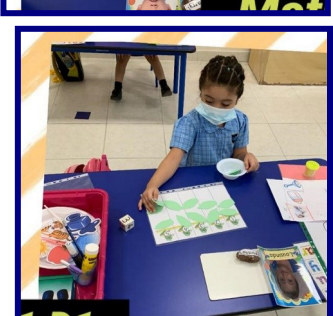
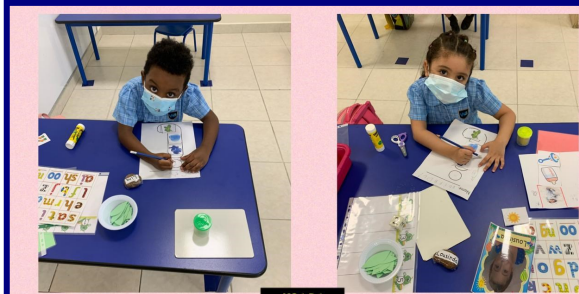


KG1S2 writing cvc words



KG1S2 busy in activities

# Junior Section News; Back to School!



## Primary Section News; Back to School!



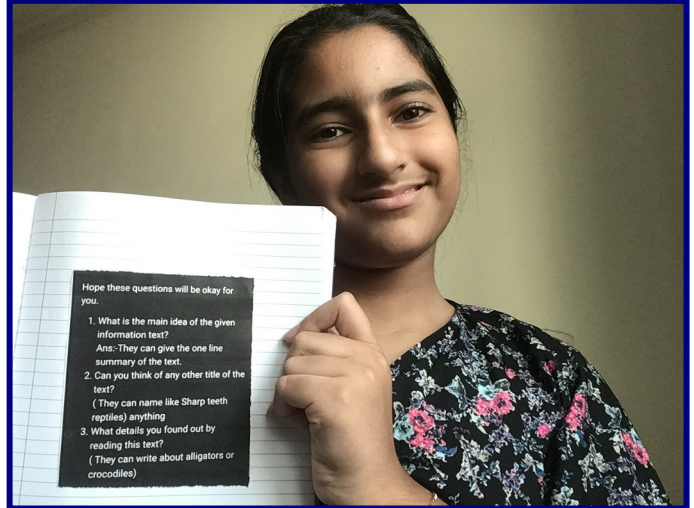
Omar G2H1 linking his science lesson to real life. He has been learning about roots of plants.



Sohaila (G3H2) made a super video about the balloon experiment.



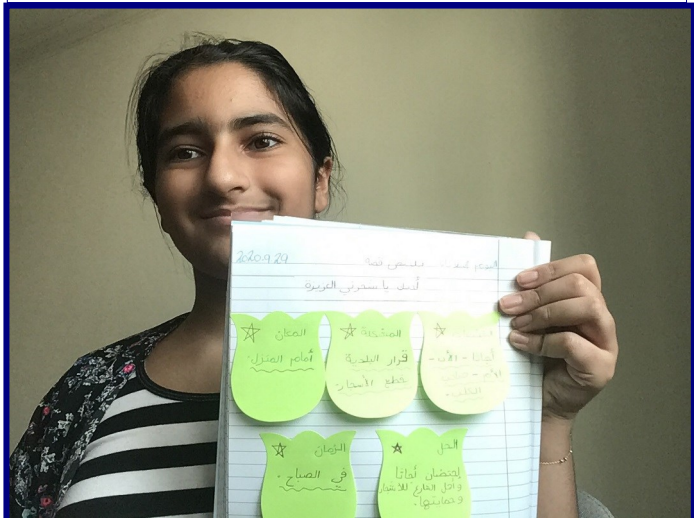
# Primary Section News; Back to School!



Dana (G5GD1) presenting a lesson to her classmates & with her Arabic reading project.



Mark (G2S1) exploring the parts of plants with Ms. Anshy



## Science Investigation – Finding the best streamlined shape



G4F2 with Ms. Anju



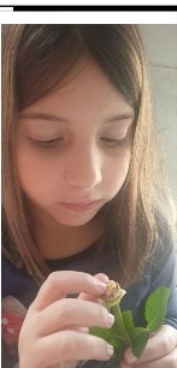
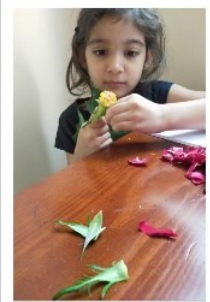
Menna – 4F2



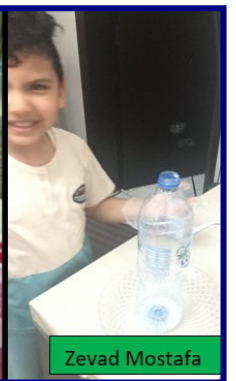
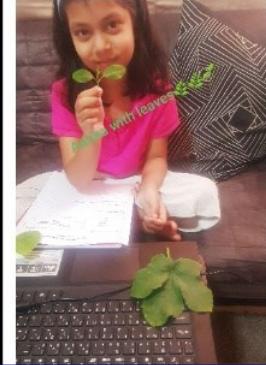
Hamza-4F2



# Primary Section News; Scientists at Work!



G2S1 with Ms. Anshy



With Ms. Lincy

Amna Mahmoud 4D2  
Science Investigation- Water Resistance

Moh'd G2F2 with Ms. Azreen

Dana

Zevad Mostafa

Science with G3S1 & Ms. Saranya



Arwa

Ahmed Salama

Mohammad Azizi

Labiba Khaled Sultan



## Secondary Section News



**Thank you to the Examination Team—on 1/10/20 we successfully held the first external Cambridge Board IGCSE November series for the new academic year. The paper was administered under strict exam protocols as per Board requirements.**