

GEMS WESTMINSTER WEEKLY



Newsletter Issue #1
20th August, 2026



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

Dear WSS Parents,

We are very much looking forward to welcoming our students back to WSS from 31/8/26 (new students) & 1/9/26 (returning students). We have missed their smiles & positive energy! The teachers are rejoining from Monday 24/8/26 for Induction training & preparation, so any pending email replies from the team will be shared with you next week.

We hope that you have had a restful, fun & happy summer sharing quality time with friends & family, & that your children are well-rested ready for a challenging & learning-rich new Term. Learning is hard work, so do please help your children to settle back into their school routines of early to bed & lots of healthy lifestyle habits.

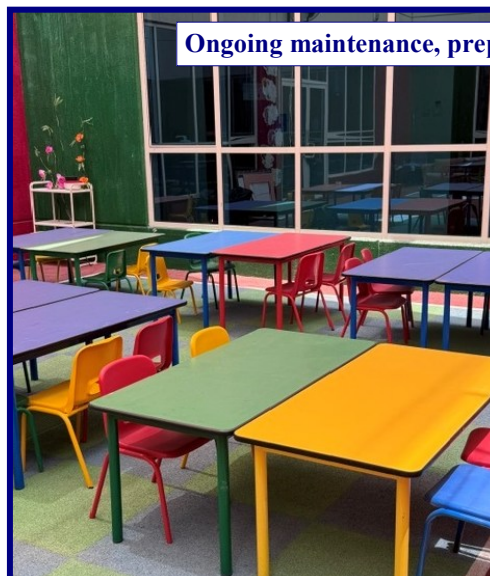
We love to celebrate success in the weekly Newsletter & encourage you to share pictures of your family adventures for the Family First pages & your children's ongoing achievements.

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Saturdays from 22/8/26 through September	- The WSS Cashier & Registration Offices open 8am-1:30pm - Please clear Term 1 fees before proceeding to collect Primary (Y3-Y6) books
Monday 31/8/26	First Day of the new Academic Year for New Joiners. Full T1 Fee & Assessment Fee must be cleared before any child has a class confirmed to join for the new academic year. No T1 Payment Plans. Thank you. Advance Fee Payment Discount deadline (with FAB Credit Card)
Tuesday 1/9/26	First Day of the new Academic Year for returning students. Full T1 Fee & Assessment Fee must be cleared before any child has the class confirmed to join for the new academic year. No T1 Payment Plans. Thank you.



Smart new tiles in selected corridors & classrooms



Ongoing maintenance, preparation & cleaning



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

Contents

Parent Handbook Access QR

“The most important gifts you can give your child are a **quality education** and the **values** that will guide them through life”

Sunny Varkey

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



Newsletter Contents

Page	Includes:
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2 2	Contents • Contents Table • QR Code to Access our online Parent Handbook
3 4 5 5 6 7-9 10 11	Whole School News • WSS Superstar Champions; Board Exam Toppers • Important BBT Bus Transport Notices • FAB Credit Card Advance Fee Payment Discount Programme • Primary Book Collection Schedule • SLICES Optional Canteen Meal Plan (For Y3-13) • THREADS Uniform • Environmental Superstar Champions (Emirates Environmental Group Appreciation Certificate for Recycling Paper) • Superstar Champions (Parent Appreciation Emails) • Staff CPD (Continuing Professional Development)

WSS Superstar Champions—Exam Board Toppers!



A-levels

As Principal, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to our AS and A Level students on their brilliant results. Your dedication, perseverance, and commitment have been truly commendable. I also thank our staff for their unwavering support, guidance, and hard work. Together, you have achieved a milestone that makes our entire school community proud.

Ms. Valerie Thompson
WSS Principal/CEO

Congratulations to our AS and A Level students on your excellent results. Your success is a testament to your resilience, determination, and hard work in overcoming unprecedented challenges. We are immensely proud of your achievements and the character you have demonstrated. Wishing you every success as you embark on the next exciting chapter of your journey.

Alfred Franklin | Assistant Principal



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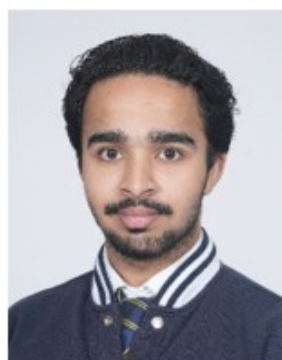
ZEINAH JAFAR MOHD SADEQ ODEH



SALI OMAR BADRAN



YOUSEF MOUFID ABOU ALHOSON



BHIPESH SUNEEL KUMAR

Huge congratulations to these superstar students each achieved three A* Grades at 'A' Level!

Four are going on to University to study Medicine. We wish them all every continuing success.

WSS News; Important **BBT BUS** Updates!

1. For New BBT Bus Transport Registration:

- The new registration deadline was 15th August. However the application Link is still active.
- **Any parent who registered /is registering after 15 August will receive an auto email informing they are on waiting list.**
- BBT Service Delivery Executive will review the bus application based on seat availability and route coverage.
- Please note that approval is subject to seat availability and route coverage, and placement on the waiting list does not guarantee a seat on the school bus service.

2. First Day of School for New Joiners– 31st August 2026 (who booked the bus before 15/8/26)

- Transport service will **not be available in the morning**. Parents must drop their children at school.
- Parents are requested to **meet bus drivers in the school auditorium** to;
 - Collect Parent/Guardian ID cards
 - Confirm pickup/drop-off locations and timings
 - Request any required changes immediately
- **Afternoon transport (school to home) will be available on the same day.**

3. ID Cards (Critical for entering school)

- New Student ID Cards will be distributed by the class teacher on 31st August 2026.
- **Existing Bus students** will receive their ID cards on Tuesday 1/9/26 when they first board the bus or from the Class Teacher
- **Guardian ID Cards:** new parents using BBT Bus transport will receive Guardian ID cards directly when they meet the driver in school on the first day.
- **Guardian ID cards for new OT students** will be issued by the class teacher.
- **Existing Guardian ID cards are already issued.** If any parents needs a new/ additional/updated ID card, the **charges will be applicable for the new card AED 10/-, add with an additional AED 10/- for a yellow lanyard and pouch (available at the school fee counter).**
- ID cards will be printed once the T1 fees have been cleared & the child has been allocated a Class

4. General Information

- BBT will share the bus number and driver's contact number with all BBT parents and keep them informed of any further changes, if applicable.
- Please note that **timings & routes are flexible & may need to be adjusted from time-to-time**, according to traffic issues & student route registration.
- **Safety is a priority**—please reinforce the importance to your children of **sitting safely & quietly on the bus with their seat belt on** whenever the bus is moving.

BUS STUDENT NOTICE

GEMS Westminster School, Sharjah

Ramadan Dispersal

- 12:20 PM – Student Dispersal
- 12:35 PM – Bus Doors Close
- 12:40 PM – BBT Dispersal Drill
- 12:42 PM – Bus Departure

Regular Dispersal

- 2:05 PM – Student Dispersal
- 2:20 PM – Bus Doors Close
- 2:25 PM – Dispersal Drill
- 2:27 PM – Bus Departure

Late Policy

- 1st – Verbal warning
- 2nd – Parent call
- 3rd – No boarding + Parent pickup + Warning letter
- 4th – No boarding + Parent pickup + 1-day suspension
- 5th+ – No boarding + Parent pickup + 2-day suspension

Be on time • Go straight to your bus • No running or pushing

STOP Bus leaves on time for safety
Safe, Timely, Smart

STS Group

WSS News; Advance *Fee Payment Discount* with *FAB!*

GEMS EDUCATION

— IMPORTANT UPDATE —

ADVANCE TUITION FEE DISCOUNT

DEADLINE EXTENDED

Take advantage of the offer by the new deadline ►

NEW DEADLINE

MONDAY

31

AUGUST 2026

GEMS EDUCATION

FAB
First Abu Dhabi Bank

world

MORE TIME. MORE OPPORTUNITIES.

Primary Book Collection

We are pleased to inform you that **Primary Section books for Years 3 to 6** will be available for collection from the school according to the schedule below:

Date	Collection Time
Monday, 17 August to Thursday, 20 August	8:30 AM to 1:00 PM
Saturday, 22 August	8:30 AM to 1:00 PM
Monday, 24 August to Thursday, 27 August	8:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Saturday, 29 August	8:30 AM to 1:00 PM

Important Information:

- Parents are kindly requested to collect the books during the designated collection timings.
- **New parents must complete the admission process before collecting the books.**
- Please note that **book collection will only be possible once Term 1 fees have been fully cleared.**

We encourage parents to collect the books within the scheduled dates and timings to ensure students are fully prepared for the start of the academic year. Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

WSS News; Slices Optional Canteen Meal Plan (For Y2-13)!



slices

Fuel Their School Day with
Healthy & Delicious Meals!

**Subscribe to the Slices
Meal Plan Today**

Nutritious, balanced meals prepared fresh every day to keep your child energised, focused and ready to learn.

Why Parents Choose Slices

- ✓ Freshly prepared every day
- ✓ Well-balanced meals designed by nutrition experts
- ✓ Wholesome ingredients to support healthy growth
- ✓ Convenient and hassle-free school meals
- ✓ Delicious variety your child will enjoy

Serving 46 schools, 20,000 healthy meals everyday.

**Special
Subscription Offer**
Save More This Term!

**10% OFF
Meal Plan
Subscriptions**

**5% Early-bird
discount**
if you Subscribe before
Friday, 22 August

Give Your Child the Best Start Every School Day.

Subscribe Today!

Fresh, healthy, & Nutritious
f @ in
+971 456 7890 | customersupport@slices.ae

Subject: Slices Annual Meal Plan - Save Up to 15% Before 22 August

Dear Parents,

As we prepare for the new school year, we are delighted to invite you to renew or register for your child's **Slices Annual Meal Plan**, offering nutritious, freshly prepared meals every school day.

Why subscribe to the Annual Meal Plan?

- Meal plans from as low as **AED 17 per child, per school day**, including a wholesome main meal and dessert
- **10% discount** on all Annual Meal Plans
- An additional **5% early bird discount** when you register by 22 August, giving you a total saving of up to **15%**

New this year: exclusive rewards for Annual Meal Plan subscribers

- **Monthly Mascot Hunt:** Four winners every month, each receiving an educational and activity hamper
- **Annual Golden Ticket Hunt:** One grand prize winner will receive an Apple MacBook

Only students subscribed to an Annual Meal Plan are eligible to participate in the monthly and annual prize draws.

Register by 22 August to benefit from the full early bird discount and be eligible to participate in this year's Slices prize draws.

WSS News; Uniform!

The New School Year Is Almost Here

Uniforms, essentials and more – your back-to-school destination.



مدرسة جيمس وستمينستر الشارقة
GEMS Westminster School
SHARJAH

As the countdown to the new school year soon begins, we're looking forward to welcoming both new and returning families to Threads.

Whether you're preparing for your child's very first day or returning for another exciting year, our team is here to help make getting ready for school as simple and stress-free as possible. We can't wait to welcome you into our stores and community.

Read on to discover what's new for this back-to-school season, from easier ways to shop to exciting rewards and community initiatives.

THE THREADS APP IS NOW LIVE !

BOOK YOUR UNIFORM APPOINTMENT TODAY.

Our new **ThreadsME** app makes preparing for the school year easier than ever. Book your uniform appointment in just a few taps, manage your bookings, and choose the store, date and time that works best for your family.

As a welcome, simply download the App, register your account, and receive a **FREE AED 25** Welcome Voucher, redeemable in-store.

With the ThreadsME app you can:

- Book uniform appointments in seconds
- View, manage and amend your bookings
- Choose your preferred Threads store
- Receive instant booking confirmations
- Access your bookings anytime, anywhere

SCAN THE QR
TO DOWNLOAD NOW



AVAILABLE FOR ALL STORES.

GIVE YOUR UNIFORM A SECOND LIFE.

We're proud to partner with Beit Al Khair Society to give pre-loved Threads school uniforms a new purpose.

Until 15 September 2026, donate your uniforms at any Threads store across the UAE to help support families in need and contribute to a more sustainable community.

Simply book your donation slot through our Mobile App, bring your uniforms to your nearest store, and receive an **AED 25** in-store voucher as our Thank you.



Donate at any Threads Store | 29 July – 15 September 2026.



Order your uniform on Mumzworld with next-day delivery & free easy returns. Use code: MWT to get **15% off** school essentials & toys.



mumzworld.com



Official
School
Uniforms



Yalla
Next-day
Delivery



Free
& Easy
Returns



WSS News; *Uniform!*

Plant a tree with your back-to-school purchase.



We're proud to partner with Evergreen to help create a greener future. For a limited time, families making a purchase at Threads can claim a complimentary tree to be planted through our sustainability initiative.

Simply visit the Tree Gifting Station in-store to redeem your tree. Available on a first-come, first-served basis.

One Tree Per Family | Supporting a Greener Future | Visit Our Tree Gifting Station - All Stores.

SCHOOL UNIFORMS ARE AVAILABLE HERE



Location : BurJuman Mall - Dubai

: Sharjah Central Mall - Sharjah

Appointment Booking Mandatory

THREADS
STORES

Open now!

Parents can visit our flagship Threads store, where the full collection of uniforms, accessories, and additional services are available.



NEW

Introducing Westminster School Bags

Spend **AED 400**
& Get a **Free**
Official School Backpack

Available from 15th Aug 2026.



Scribble Street

Your back-to-school stationery destination.

Find all your school stationery essentials conveniently under one roof.

We can also support schools and corporates with stationery solutions and bulk supply requirements.

THE TAILORING STUDIO

Premium Tailoring for Children & Adults

Introducing the Threads Tailoring Studio — offering premium tailoring and alteration services designed for modern families.

Services include:

- Suit tailoring
- Blazer alterations
- Uniform adjustments
- Bespoke fittings

Where craftsmanship, comfort, and confidence come together.



ORDER ONLINE



Families can also shop online anytime at www.threadsme.com

*Delivery in 3 working days.

Free Delivery on Orders Above AED 800

*Valid from 15th July - 5th Aug 2026.

BOOKING YOUR APPOINTMENT



STEP 1

Visit www.threadsme.com and select your preferred store location.



STEP 2

Present your appointment confirmation **QR code** upon arrival.

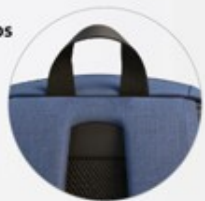


BACKPACK

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOLS



Ergonomic Wide Shoulder Straps
Designed to distribute weight evenly, reducing shoulder strain and improving comfort during extended use.



School logo



ID Card Holder



GEMS Branding on strap



USB charging port



Threads Branding



Padded Back Panel (Air Mesh Cushioning)
Provides ventilation and reduces sweating during long wear.



Multiple Compartments
Organized storage for books, stationery, and personal items



NEW Introducing Westminster School Bags

Spend **AED 400** & Get a **Free** Official School Backpack

Available from 15th Aug 2026.



FOLLOW US FOR THE LATEST PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

800-8473237(THREADS)

support@threadsme.com

www.threadsme.com

Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!



مجموعة عمل الإمارات للبيئة
EMIRATES ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP



Proudly presents

Certificate of Appreciation

to

GEMS Westminster School - Sharjah

In recognition of volunteering **53** hours,
collecting **1,315** kg of paper waste, and securing **1** tree.

As part of the
“Recycle. Reforest. Repeat” Project
17.06.26 – 26.07.26


Dr. Habiba Al Mar'ashi
Co-Founder & Chairperson

Huge thanks & congratulations to Ms. Indira, Mr. Davis & the enthusiastic & proactive WSS environmental group for their important sustainability & recycling efforts. We look forward to continuing commitment to sustainability in the coming academic year.

WSS Superstar Champions!

Dear Mrs Valerie,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for your outstanding leadership and dedication to every detail in the school throughout this year .

Your commitment to creating a positive, supportive, and inspiring learning environment has made a meaningful difference in the lives of students and families. Your hard work, vision, and care are reflected in the school's achievements and in the confidence and happiness of the children.

Thank you for your continuous efforts to ensure that every student receives the best possible education and opportunities to grow both academically and personally. Your passion and dedication are truly appreciated.

Wishing you continued success and happiness as you lead the school community. I hope you have a great vacation filled with love and happiness ahead .

With gratitude and respect,

Dr Mai Badre El Dein

Dear WSS team,

I'm pleased to share that my daughter **Fatima Zahra (Y11GD/ 11640)** has received her IGCSE results. She has received **4A* and 2A**. Alhamdolillah :)

I would like to sincerely **thank you all for your guidance, encouragement, and support throughout her journey in WSS.**

We truly appreciate the hard work and dedication of all her teachers and the school. Your efforts have played an important part in her achievement, and we are very grateful.

I am attaching her result.

Regards

Sidrah Aijaz

Dear Miss Keerthy,

I hope you are doing well.

As a new parent at GEMS Westminster School, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for everything you have done for Suleiman during this past year.

Among all the teachers we have met, you are truly exceptional. From the very beginning, you have supported us at every step, always responding to emails promptly and guiding us whenever we needed help. Your kindness, patience, and dedication have made a world of difference.

Because of your care and encouragement, Suleiman never felt like he was a new student. You helped him settle into his class, adjust to a new environment, and feel comfortable and confident. This smooth transition was only possible because of your genuine commitment to your students.

You are truly a gem of GEMS Westminster School. Your punctuality, professionalism, and unwavering support are qualities that every parent deeply appreciates. We are incredibly grateful to have had you as Suleiman's teacher.

Thank you so much for all your hard work, care, and encouragement throughout the year. Your efforts have had a lasting impact on Suleiman, and we will always remember your kindness.

With sincere appreciation,

Arshia Asad
Parent of Suleiman

WSS News; Staff CPD (Continuing Professional Development)!



New joining teachers started their Induction Programme from 19/8/27 with our dedicated Learning Coach Ms. Christine. & other SLT members. High standards of teaching & learning are an expectation at WSS!



On 20/8/26 our Bus Conductors received special training from SPEA.

