

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #13
23rd November, 2023



Message from the
Principal/CEO
Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

Student Safeguarding; Device Use

Safeguarding our children is a priority & we need your help.

Parents, please monitor your child's Device use at home also for content & access to SM sites, & be especially vigilant about VPN use, so that they are protected from inappropriate material. Thank you.

ID Cards

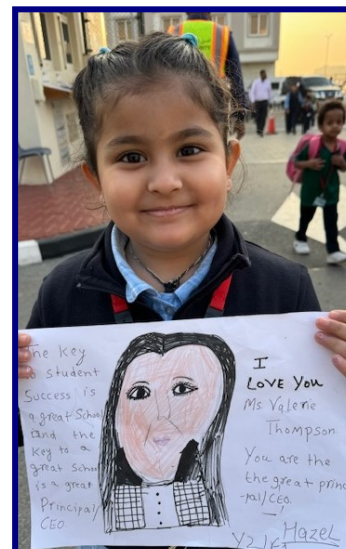
Many thanks to the student & parents who are diligently wearing their ID card to enter school daily, thereby helping us to keep our children safe & for us to meet the requirements of company Safeguarding Audits.

A good tip to help children remember to bring their ID card daily is if they put it in their school bag once they leave school at the end of the day.

Failing to wear the ID card is a disciplinary issue, so to avoid Incident Reports, please ensure that your child always wears their ID to school. If they need to buy a new ID card, please contact the BBT office in Reception (cost AED25/-). Many thanks.

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Mon. 13th Nov.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEMS Parent Survey open. Parents are kindly requested to take a few minutes to complete it positively to support ongoing school development. Please see the document on p6-7 for guidance. Thank you.
Mon. 20th Nov.— Mon. 11th Dec.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class & Portrait Photographs (optional). Exact date has been shared by your child's Teacher. The online Link to select, order & pay for required photos will be shared with parents.
Wednesday 29th Nov.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSS UAE National Day celebrations. Staff & students may come dressed in the UAE flag colours & bring traditional food to share with classmates (optional)
Mon. 4th— Thurs. 14th Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All students on exam timings, 7:20am-12:30pm. Buses will leave at 12:30pm. Babysitting available until 2:20pm if required
Sat.30th Dec. 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online fee payment of T2 fees recommended to avoid queues. However, the Cashier will be open for parent convenience, 8am-2pm
Mon. 18th Dec—Mon. 1st Jan. 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School closed for Winter Break (2 weeks). School opens on Tuesday 2nd January 2024. T2 Fees due by 2/1/24. Thank you.



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

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 13
23 نوفمبر 2023



رسالة من المدير / الرئيس التنفيذي
السيدة قليري تومسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر
الشارقة الأعزاء،

حماية الطلاب؛ استخدام الجهاز

حماية أطفالنا هي الأولوية ونحن بحاجة
لمساعدتكم. أيتها الآباء، يرجى مراقبة
استخدام جهاز طفلك في المنزل أيضاً
للمحتوى والوصول إلى مواقع SM،
وتوخي الحذر بشكل خاص بشأن استخدام
VPN، بحيث يكون محميًا من المواد غير
المناسبة. شكرًا لك.

بطاقات الهوية

شكرًا جزيلًا للطلاب وأولياء الأمور الذين يرتدون بطاقة الهوية الخاصة
بهم بعناية لدخول المدرسة يوميًا، مما يساعدنا في الحفاظ على سلامة
أطفالنا ولكي نتمكن من تلبية متطلبات عمليات تدقيق الحماية للشركة.

من النصائح الجيدة لمساعدة الأطفال على تذكر إحضار بطاقة الهوية
الخاصة بهم يوميًا هي وضعها في حقيبتهم المدرسية بمجرد مغادرة
المدرسة في نهاية اليوم.

بعد عدم ارتداء بطاقة الهوية مشكلة تأديبية، لذا لتجنب بلاغات الحوادث،
يرجى التأكد من أن طفلك يرتدي بطاقة الهوية الخاصة به دائمًا إلى
المدرسة. إذا كانوا بحاجة إلى شراء بطاقة هوية جديدة، فيرجى الاتصال
بمكتب BBT في الاستقبال (بتكلفة 25 درهمًا إماراتيًا)
شكرًا لك.

المواعيد

التاريخ	التفاصيل
الاثنين. 13 نوفمبر	• استبيان أولياء أمور GEMS مفتوح. ويرجى من أولياء الأمور تخصيص بضع دقائق لإكمالها بشكل إيجابي لدعم التطوير المستمر للمدرسة. برجاء مراجعة الوثيقة على الصفحة 6-7 للحصول على إرشادات. شكرًا لك.
الاثنين. 20- الاثنين. 27 نوفمبر	• التصوير الفوتوغرافي الصفّي والبودي. التاريخ المحدد الذي سيتم مشاركته من قبل معلم طفلك. • ستم مشاركة الرابط عبر الإنترنت لاختيار الصور المطلوبة وطلبها ودفع ثمنها مع أولياء الأمور (اختياري) • يوم تعويض الصور الفائتة بسبب الغياب هو يوم الاثنين 27/11/23.
الأربعاء 29 نوفمبر	• احتفالات WSS باليوم الوطني لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة. يمكن للموظفين والطلاب الحضور مرتدين ألوان علم دولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة وإحضار الأطعمة التقليدية لمشاركتها مع زملاء الدراسة (اختياري)
الاثنين. 4- الخميس. 14 ديسمبر	• مواعيد الامتحانات لجميع الطلاب من الساعة 7:20 صباحًا حتى الساعة 12:30 ظهرًا • ستغادر الحافلات الساعة 12:30 ظهرًا. • تتوفر خدمة مجالسة الأطفال حتى الساعة 2:20 ظهرًا إذا لزم الأمر.
السبت 30 ديسمبر 2023	• يوصى بدفع الرسوم عبر الإنترنت لرسوم T2 لتجنب قوائم الانتظار. ومع ذلك، سيكون أمين الصندوق مفتوحًا لراحة الوالدين، من الساعة 8 صباحًا حتى 2 ظهرًا.
الاثنين. 18 ديسمبر - الاثنين. 1 يناير 2024	• المدرسة مغلقة لعدة أسابيع (أسبوعين). • تفتح المدرسة يوم الثلاثاء 2 يناير 2024. • رسوم T2 مستحقة بحلول 2/1/24. شكرًا لك.



رؤيتنا؛ "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعي؛ نجاح للجميع"

☞ 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

Newsletter Contents	
Page	Includes:
1, 2	Dates for Your Diary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Message from the Principal; Date for Your Diary, general notices
3	Contents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contents Table
4 5-6 7 7 8 9 10-11	Whole School News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEMS Wellbeing Charter Parent Survey Guidelines Environmental & Recycling Superstar Champions WSS Alumni Report Colin the Character Camel Storyboard Top Tips; 1) Patience & Perseverance, 2) Teamwork Happy Birthdays
12-13 14-16 17 18 19 20 21 22-27 28-32	Junior Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior Section Superstar Champions Junior Student Leaders Investiture Ceremony, 21/11/23 Assembly Time with Y2H2, 23/11/23, on 'Teamwork' Assembly Time with Y1D1, 23/11/23, on 'Children's Day' Learning Projects Learning Activities in FS1 Learning Activities in FS2 Learning Activities in Y1 Learning Activities in Y2
33-34 35 36 37 38	Primary Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Section Superstar Champions Assembly Time with Y5D1 on 'Conquer Your Fears!' Learning Projects Learning Activities in Y3 & Y4 Learning Activities in Y6
39 40-41 42 43 44-45 46	Secondary Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Superstar Champions Secondary Section Century Tech. Superstar Champions Secondary Library Competition Winners Talented Artist Wellbeing Week The GEMS Sheikha Fatima Scholarship Award

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



Whole School News; GEMS Wellbeing Charter!

WELLBEING CHARTER | A commitment to students and staff

At GEMS Education, wellbeing means cultivating safe, healthy and caring environments that build empowered, thriving and resilient communities.

GEMS schools have a clear vision and plan to promote mental health and emotional wellbeing at all levels with a focus on the development of individual's strengths, and their ability to empower themselves.

GEMS schools understand the diverse needs for mental health and emotional wellbeing, and provide effective provision for staff to become emotionally literate and equipped towards cultivating a positive learning environment.

GEMS schools actively connect with other organisations and specialists to form trusted partnerships assisting in supporting a learning culture of inclusivity and care.

This leads to:

- A culture of care and positive emotions
- Empowered and resilient communities
- Less turnover of students and staff
- Increased motivation and engagement
- Thriving schools, higher outcomes
- Higher level of self-esteem, self-efficacy and improved emotional wellbeing



CARE | TRUST | THRIVE!
Wellbeing is fundamental to quality education.

Whole School News; Parent Survey Guidelines



Date: November, 2023

Dear Parents,

Subject: GEMS Parent Survey

At WSS, we are committed to engaging with our parents to achieve our vision, 'Excellence Through Teamwork; Success for All'. We aim to provide the very best possible learning experience and outcomes for your child, so value your balanced, regular feedback on what is working well, and what can be improved further. In order to gain further parent feedback, GEMS will shortly issue a Parent Survey link to your registered email. We would highly appreciate you taking some of your valuable time to complete this to share your valuable insights on matters within the school's control (please do not consider areas such as fees, Books with fees & buses that are outside school control. Thank you).

في WSS ، نحن ملتزمون بالتواصل مع أولياء الأمور لتحقيق رؤيتنا، "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعي؛ النجاح للجميع. نحن نهدف إلى تقديم أفضل تجربة تعليمية ونتائج ممكنة لطفلك، لذا نقدر ملاحظتك المتوازنة والمنتظمة حول ما يعمل بشكل جيد، وما الذي يمكن تحسينه أكثر. " من أجل الحصول على المزيد من ملاحظات الوالدين، ستصدر GEMS قريباً رابط استطلاع رأي أولياء إلى بريدك الإلكتروني المسجل. سنكون ممتنين للغاية لتخصيص بعض من وقتك الثمين لإكمال هذا لمشاركة أفكارك القيمة حول الأمور التي تقع ضمن سيطرة المدرسة. (يُرجى عدم الأخذ في الاعتبار مجالات مثل الرسوم والكتب ذات الرسوم والحافلات التي تقع خارج نطاق سيطرة المدرسة.) شكراً لك

FYI, please note:

Score	What this means	Some examples for scoring
10	Top score! Parent is a Promotor & would highly recommend WSS to family & friends أعلى نتيجة! الآباء هم المروجون ويوصون WSS للعائلة والأصدقاء بشدة.	Very happy & satisfied with school & management in all areas that are within school's control. Any queries/issues have been responded to promptly & solved. Child is making very good progress & is very happy with Teacher & to attend lessons. Parent feels that school is fully committed to improvement & high standards. سعيد جداً وراضٍ عن المدرسة والإدارة في جميع المجالات التي تقع تحت سيطرة المدرسة. تم الرد على أي استفسارات / مشكلات على الفور وحلها. يحرز الطفل تقدماً جيداً للغاية وهو سعيد جداً بالمعلم وحضور الدروس. يشعر ولي الأمر أن المدرسة ملتزمة تماماً بالتحسين والمعايير العالية.
9	Good score! Parent is a Promotor . Parent would recommend WSS to family & friends نتيجة جيدة! الآباء هم المروجون ويوصون WSS للعائلة والأصدقاء بشدة.	Generally happy & satisfied with school & management in most areas that are within school's control. Any queries/issues have been responded to & solved where possible. Child is making good progress & is happy with Teacher & to attend lessons. Parent feels that school is generally committed to improvement & high standards. بشكل عام سعيد وراضٍ عن المدرسة والإدارة في معظم المناطق التي تقع تحت سيطرة المدرسة. تم الرد على أي استفسارات / مشكلات وحلها حيثما أمكن ذلك. الطفل يحرز تقدماً جيداً ويسعد بالمدرس وحضور الدروس. يشعر ولي الأمر أن المدرسة ملتزمة عمومًا بالتحسين والمعايير العالية.

Whole School News; Parent Survey Guidelines

7-8	<p>Average score. Parent is 'Passive' متوسط درجة. الوالد "غير فعال"</p>	<p>Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Child's generally likes school & learning, but individual needs are only partially met for reasons within the school's control. Parent unsure whether they wish to continue at WSS due to aspects of the learning environment that are within the school's control.</p> <p>لا راض ولا غير راض. يحب الطفل عموماً المدرسة والتعلم، ولكن يتم تلبية الاحتياجات الفردية جزئياً فقط لأسباب تخضع لسيطرة المدرسة. الوالد غير متأكد مما إذا كانوا يرغبون في الاستمرار في WSS بسبب جوانب بيئة التعلم التي تقع تحت سيطرة المدرسة.</p>
0-6	<p>Low score. Parent is a 'Detractor' Parent would not recommend WSS to family/friends. درجة منخفضة. الوالد هو "منتقد" لن يوصي الوالدان بـ WSS للعائلة / الأصدقاء.</p>	<p>Parent/child not comfortable with the WSS learning environment/management/Teachers for reasons within the school's control. School does not respond to queries/issues or solve them where possible. Parent feels that school is not fully committed to improvement & high standards.</p> <p>الوالد / الطفل غير مرتاح لبيئة التعلم / الإدارة / المعلمين الخاصة بـ WSS لأسباب تحت سيطرة المدرسة. لا تستجيب المدرسة للاستفسارات / المشكلات أو تحلها حيثما أمكن ذلك. يشعر ولي الأمر أن المدرسة ليست ملتزمة تماماً بالتحسين والمعايير العالية.</p>

We look forward to your feedback to support achievement of our vision, 'Excellence Through Teamwork; Success for All!'

Thank you, dear parents.

Regards,

Ms. Valerie Thompson
WSS Principal/CEO

نتطلع إلى تلقي ملاحظاتك لدعم تحقيق رؤيتنا، "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعي؛ النجاح للجميع؛

شكراً لك الأباء الأعزاء.

مع تحياتي،

السيدة فاليري طومسون
مدير / WSS الرئيس التنفيذي

Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!

Ms. Ashmabi was invited to be a guest judge for the 'Climate Catalysts' Inter-School Competition held on Saturday 18/11/23 at Woodlem Park School, Dubai.

Ms. Ashmabi reported that, “Being involved as a judge for this competition, representing WSS was an immensely rewarding experience. I judged the event ‘The Green Deeds: Bridging Islam with Climate Action’ for grades 6 to 8 (age 11 to 13) It was an honour to contribute to the judging process and witness the incredible efforts put forth by the participants. Evaluating their projects and ideas was a challenging yet fulfilling task. It was heartening to see how these young minds are actively engaged in finding practical solutions to combat climate change and promote sustainability.

I am thrilled to share some valuable takeaways that I believe can be implemented for the benefit of our students and our esteemed school, Insha'Allah.”



WSS Alumni Report!



Then & Now; we are very happy & proud to meet WSS Alumni (Y4 in 2013-2014), Moaz again, who is now studying Dentistry in Egypt.



Whole School News; Colin the Character Camel!

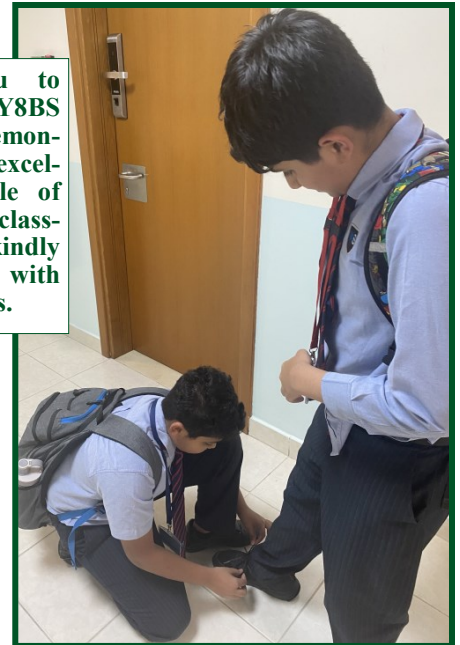
Awarded for demonstrating Good Character

(Charity, Community Spirit, Honesty, Kindness & Respect)

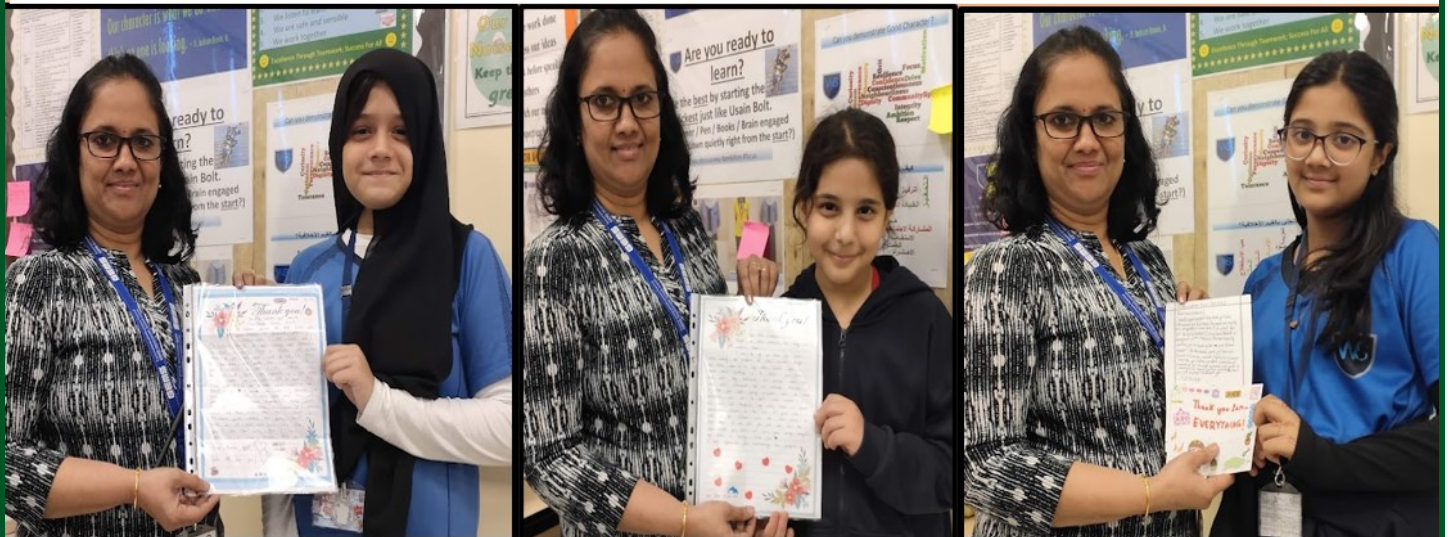


Charity for Gaza.
Thank you!

Thank you to Shameer (Y8BS) (who demonstrated an excellent example of helping a class-mate by kindly helping him with his shoelaces.



Spirit of gratitude and kindness -Appreciation Day

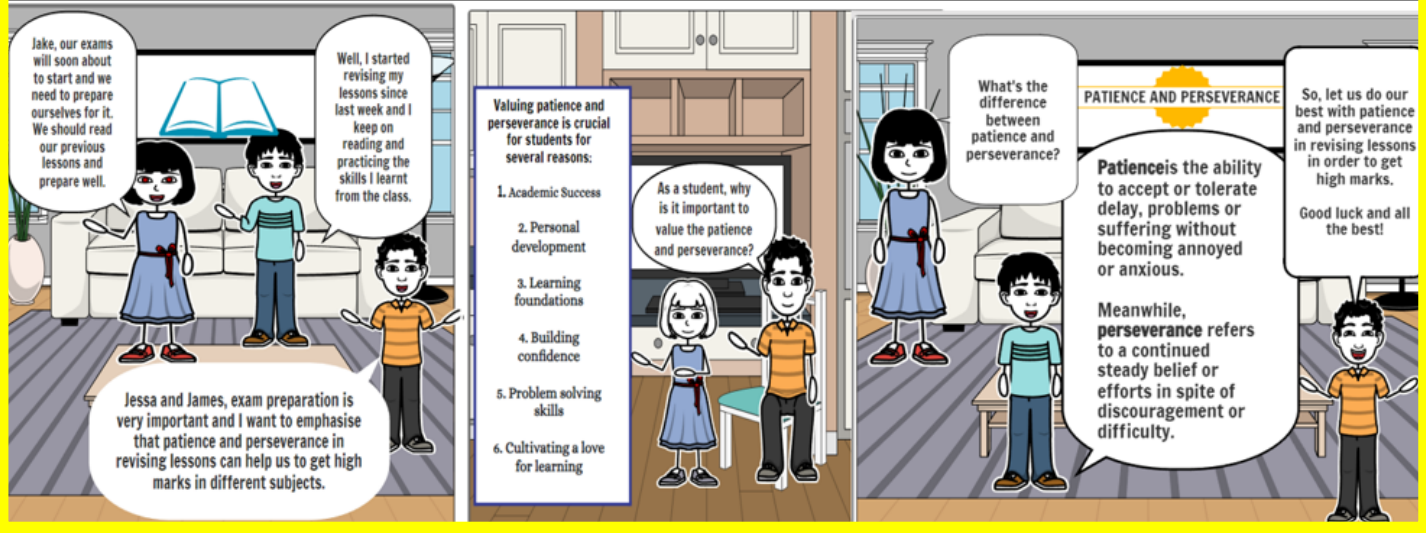


Thank you letter given to Ms. Lakshmi from Y6GD students -Abeeha, Lara Diaa and Tiara

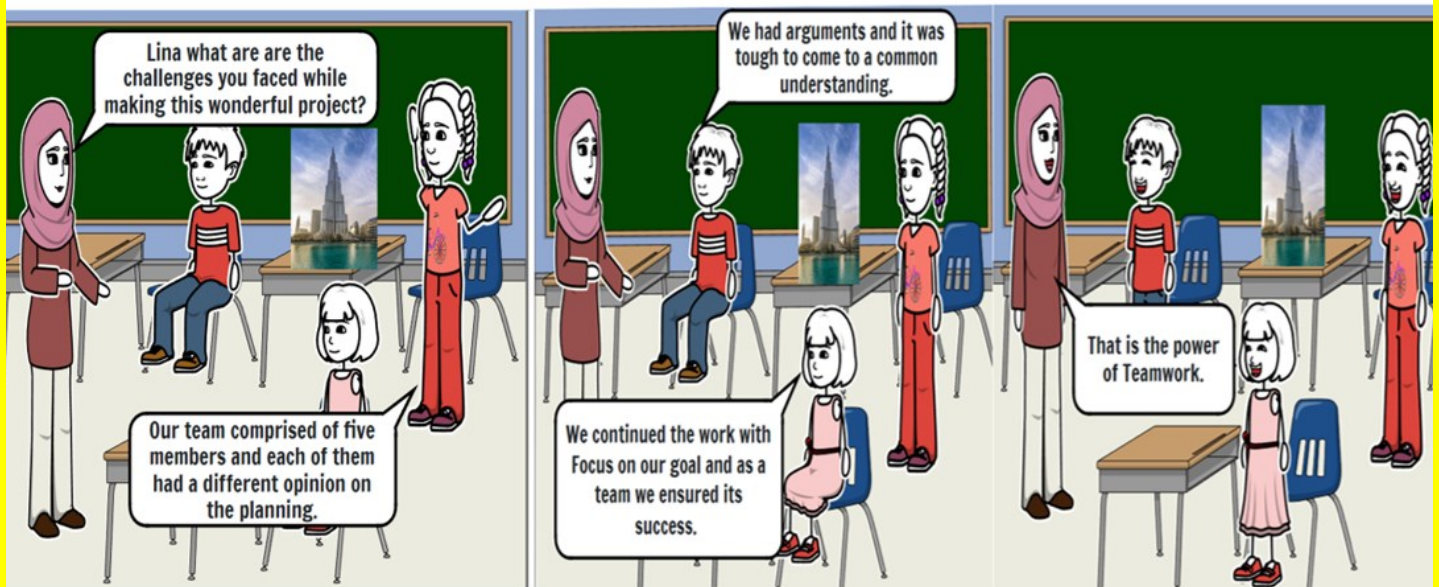


Whole School News; Story Board Top Tips!

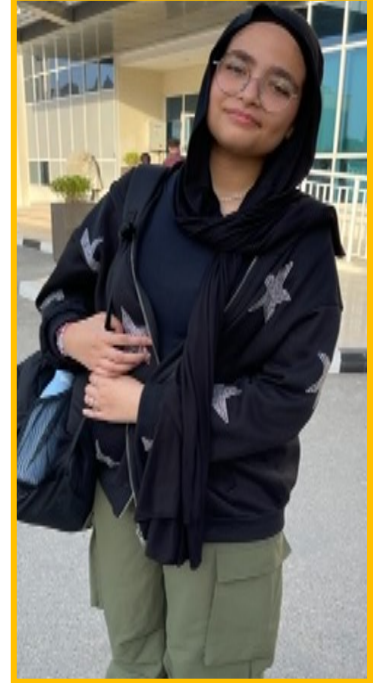
Patience and perseverance



Teamwork



Happy Birthdays!



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
MAHMOUD**



Thank you Soufian's mom
for following our birthday
policies.



Happy Birthdays!



WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!



Wellbeing Champions of the Week!

Dear our lovely Ms Karen and Ms Vinnarasi ,

I am writing this message after today's morning assembly for our class f52 s2 to tell you a special thank you . Thank you for this nice day that left us , all parents , really proud and touched by our little ones roles and achievements. You made a big effort with every child to help them do their best and to be afraid of nothing and to speak in front an audience with this confidence.

I appreciate all your support to Youssef and Aylaa , for today and every other day .

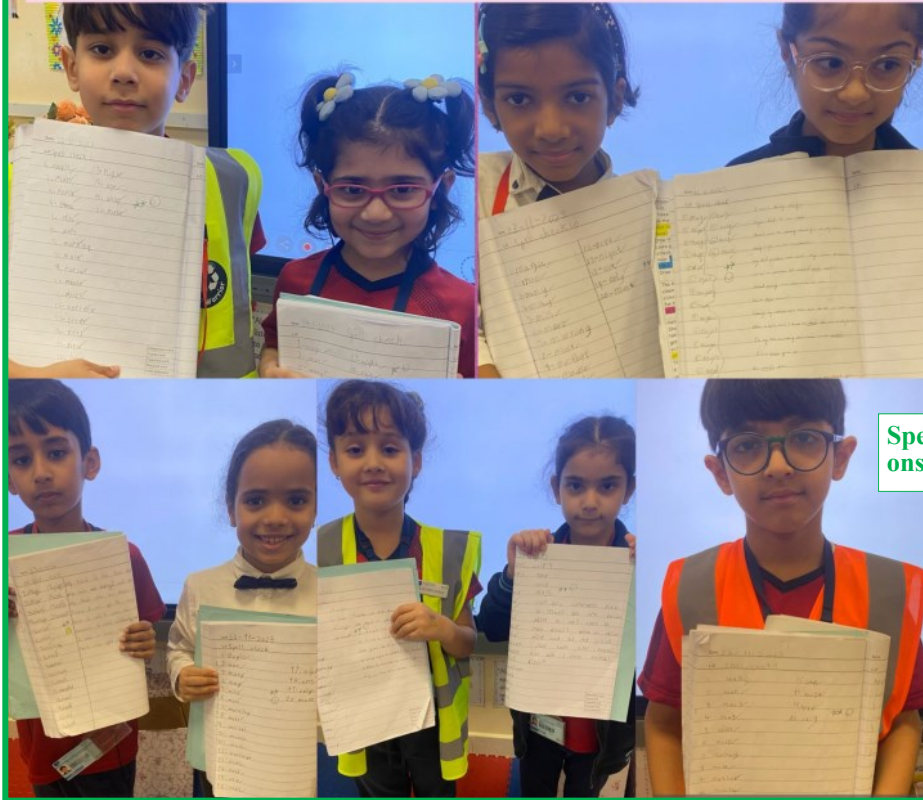
And of course, to our section heads , Ms Shamail and Ms Raghi , your continuing support and advice for us is a main reason for Youssef's improvement and development in many several ways .

A big thank you from us to you , hoping to always see more from our little ones on all scales , academically and their character as well.

Thank you

WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!

Y2S1's Spellcheck champions of this week with Ms. Sara and Ms. Catherin

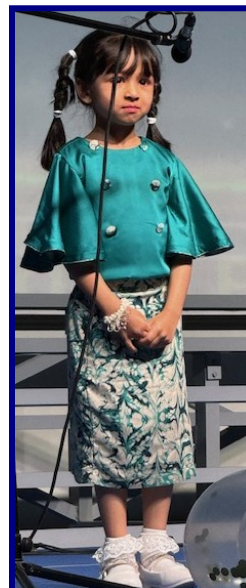
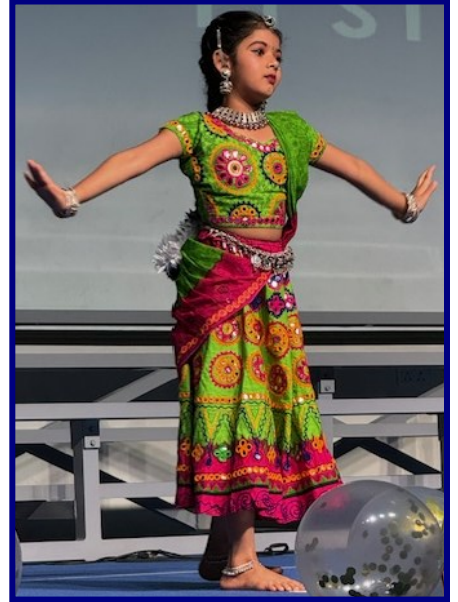
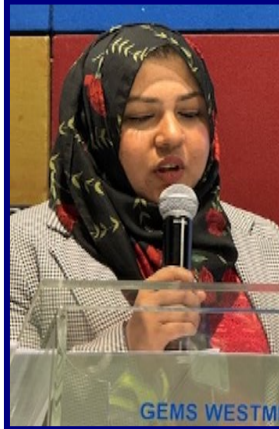


Spellcheck Champions of the Week!

Hurray! We got stickers from Ms Shamail and Ms Raghi.



Junior Section News; Student Leaders Investiture Ceremony, 21/11/23!



Junior Section News; Student Leaders Investiture Ceremony, 21/11/23!



Junior Section News; Student Leaders Investiture Ceremony, 21/11/23!



The Primary Choir also performed at the Student Leaders Investiture Ceremony. The Choir includes Sheinya, a talented Y1 singer, who also performed a fabulous solo.

We also enjoyed an extremely beautiful traditional dance by talented dancer Meenakshi.

Junior Section News; Assembly Time with Y2H2!



Y2H2 presented a really impressive Assembly, linking Teamwork seed germination, to the formation of the UAE, our school vision 'Excellence Through Teamwork, Success for all!' & to real life



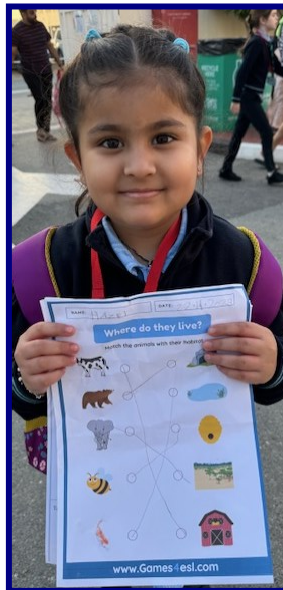
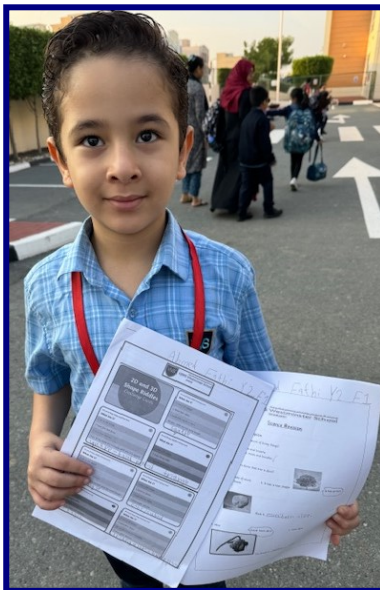
Junior Section News; Assembly Time with Y1D1, 23/11/23!



Y1D1 presented a lovely Assembly related to 'Children's Day' linked to 5 core values that we want to promote & apply to our daily lives; Honesty, Respect, Responsibility, Courage & Kindness.



Junior Section News; Learning Projects!



Junior Section News; Learning Activities in FS1!



Busy bees of FS 1 H!



Ms.Kishwar
Ms.Krishna

PIC•COLLAGE



Amazing Leaders of FS 1 H!!



FS 1 H trip Sharjah Desert Park!

Junior Section News; Learning Activities in FS2H2!



Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y1D2!



Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y1F2!



Learning subtraction
With Ms.Aisha and Ms.Kavitha



Identifying and
sorting nouns



Congratulations



Arabic Home learning



Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y1H2!



Y1 H2 Ms. Beena & Ms. Mani

Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y1H2!



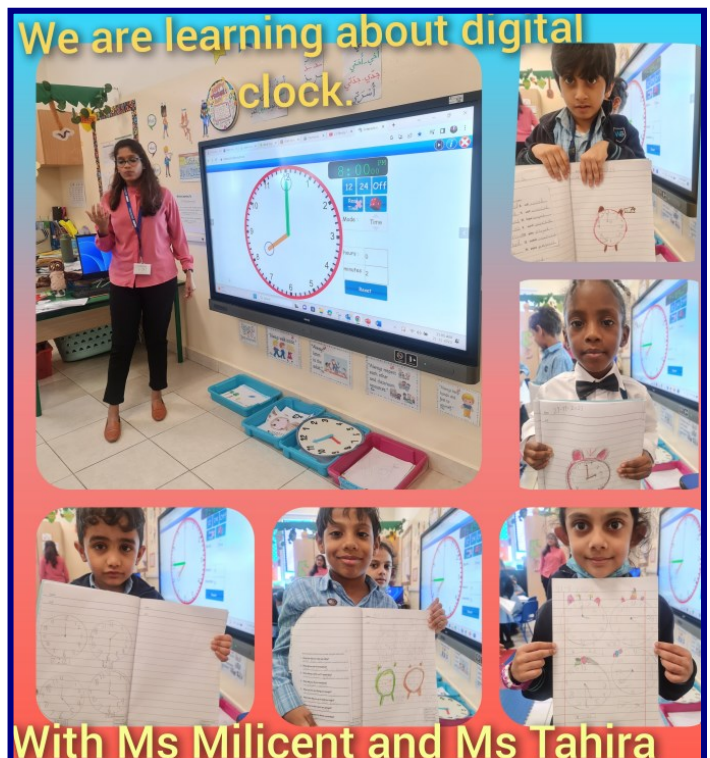
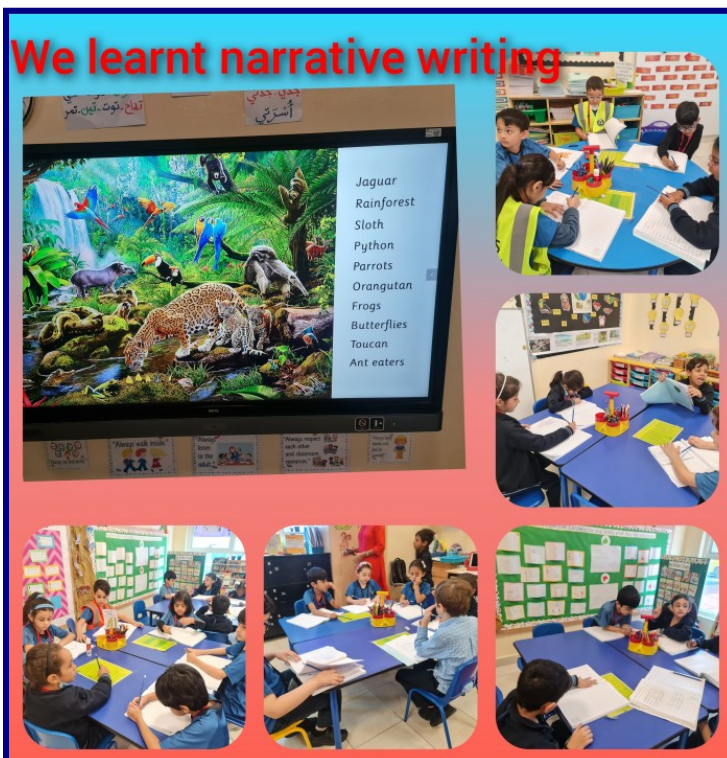
Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y1S2!



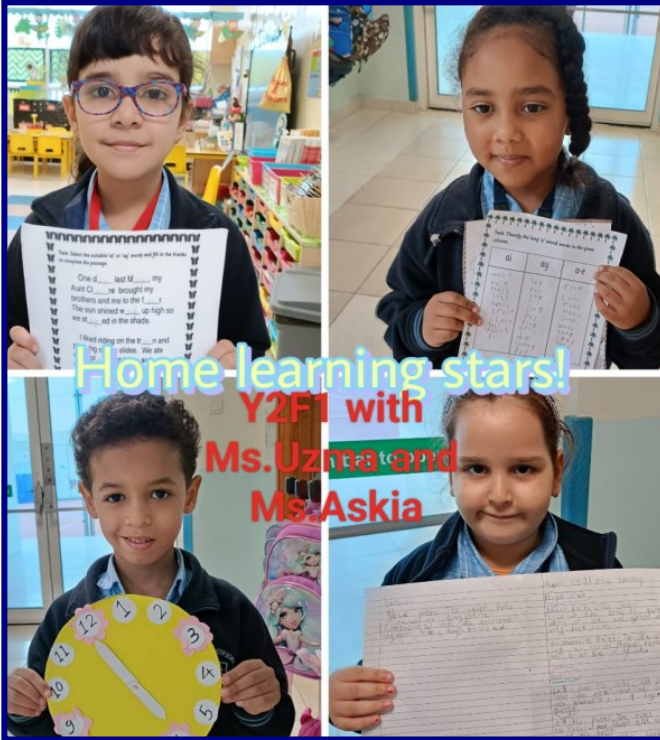
Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y1S2!



Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y2D2!



Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y2F1!



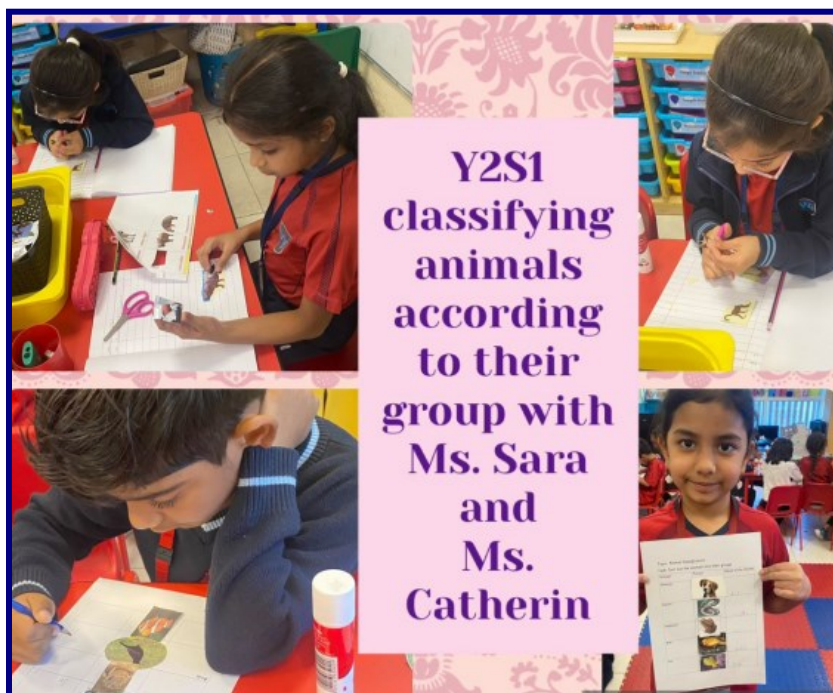
Y2H1 with Ms. Roomana and Ms. Aqueen



Class room activities



Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y2S1!



Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y2S2!

Y2S2 Class Activities

Wellbeing lesson

Maths lesson

With Ms. Safia and Ms. Fiza

OLA time

Phonics lesson

WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!

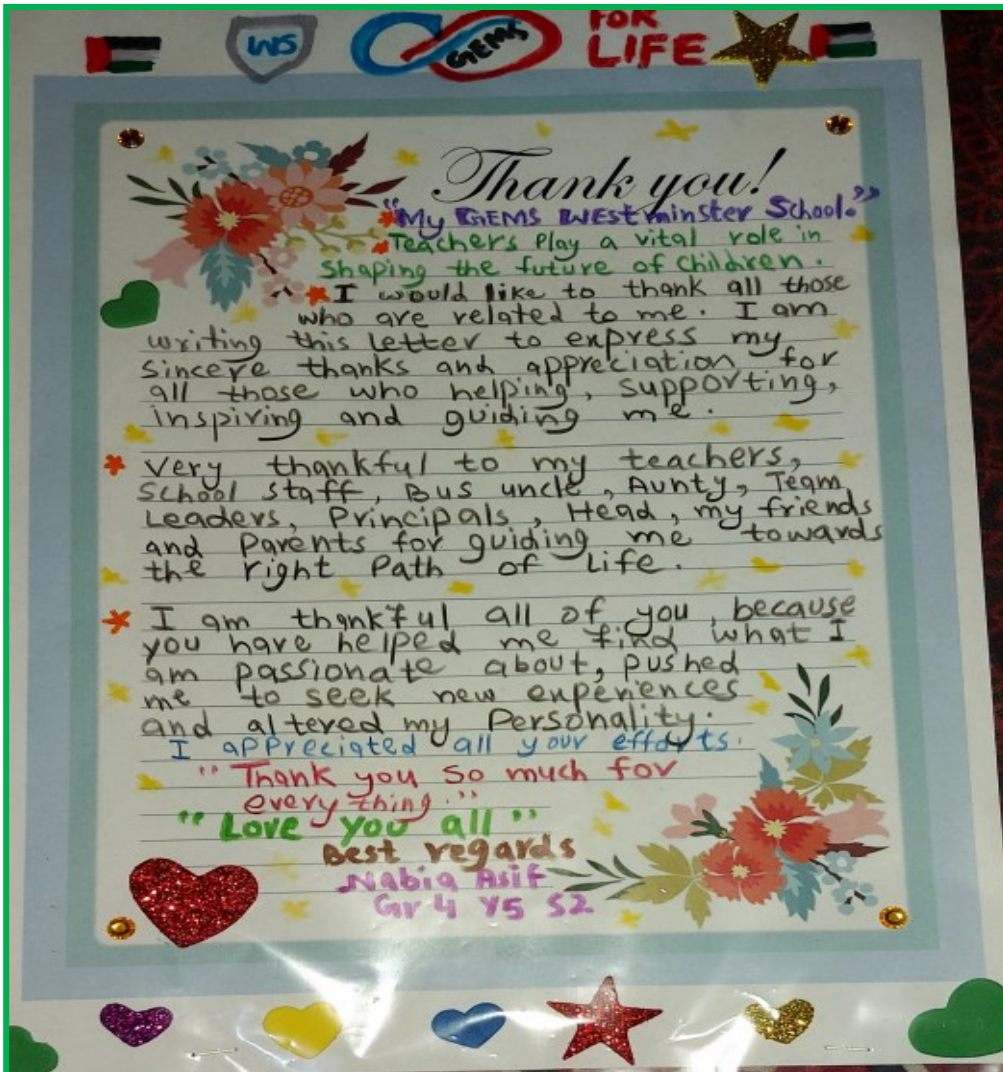


Y5 Class, DOJO
& Reading Superstar
Champions



Y5 Century Tech. Superstar
Champions for October

WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!



Class Champions Y6 GD



Lara Ahmed
Wellbeing champion



Rudranshi
DOJO champion



Abeeha
Wellbeing champion

Primary Section News; Assembly Time with Y5D1, 22/11/23!

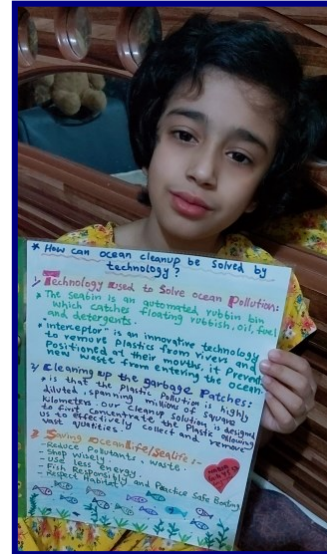
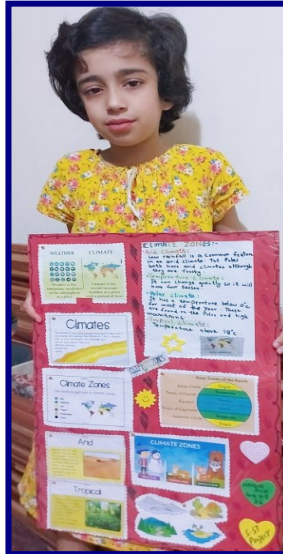
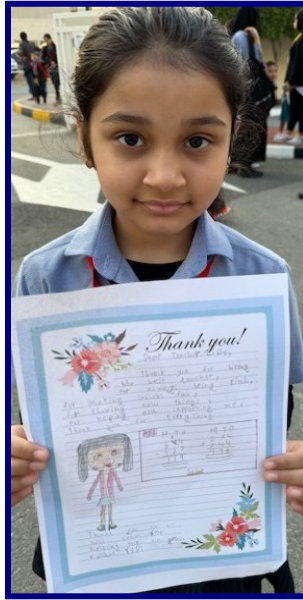
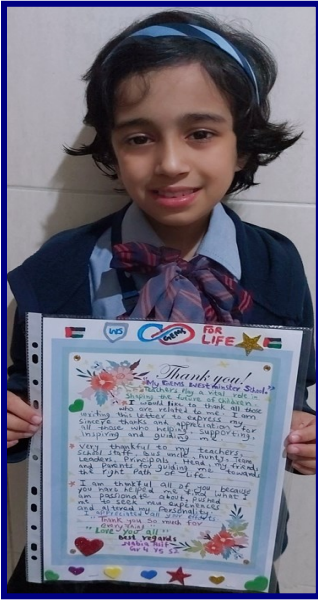


Y5D1 presented an extremely well-prepared, quality Assembly on 'Conquer Your Fears'. We learnt that we need to ask for help from trusted others so we can face our fears & persevere, as fear is just in the mind.

The Skit was particularly well done, with confident acting, clear lines & a meaningful message.



Primary Section News; Learning Projects!



Ms. Dalal tried an interesting activity; she created groups for all the classes she teaches and gave each of them a group name that reflected a desirable characteristic, such as Loyalty group, Work group, Cooperation group, Activity group. This reinforced applying values to their group work.



Primary Section News; Learning Activities in Y3 & Y4!



Innovation: Assessing learning through century tech in Y4H2



20XX

presentation title

Ms Susweta

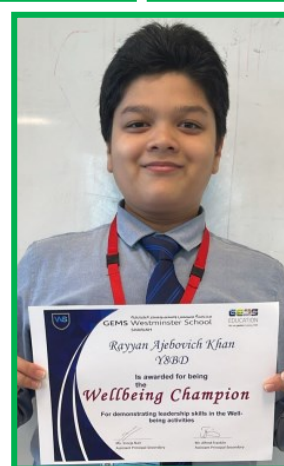
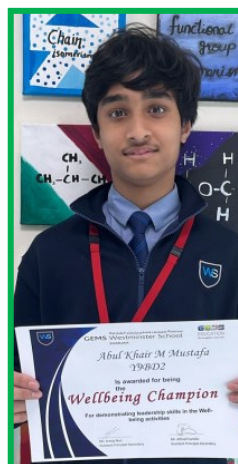
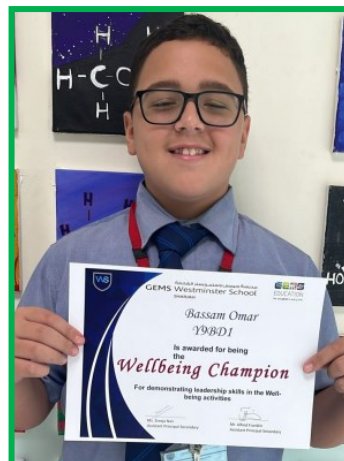
8

Primary Section News; Learning Activities in Y6!

Reflection on Steam sessions by Y6GD with Ms. Lakshmi



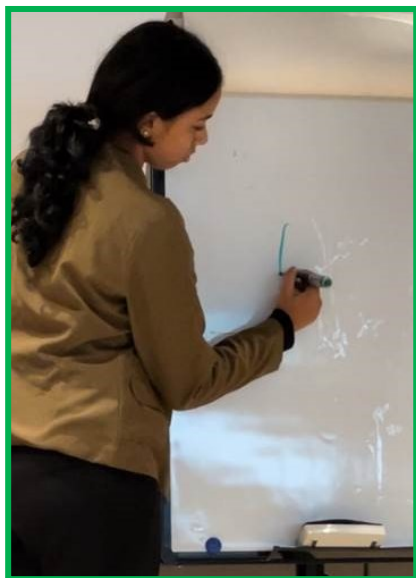
WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!



WSS Secondary Section Century Tech. Superstar Champions!



WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!



Eva Maria Tony (Y13) had completed internship at Sharjah eGovernment during last summer break.

She reported of her experience:

"I had the opportunity to intern at Sharjah eGovernment for a duration of two months. Throughout this period, I had the chance to work in both the Security and Networking departments. What truly fascinated me and influenced my career aspirations was my exposure to virtual servers. During my internship, I got to explore the realm of virtual servers, and it completely captured my interest. This experience has shaped my path, leading me towards a career in technology. I am extremely grateful for the knowledge and inspiration I gained from my time at Sharjah eGovernment. I am excited about pursuing a career that combines my passion with the changing world of technology."



WSS Secondary Section Century Tech. Superstar Champions!



WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!



Thank you Ms. Siji
for organizing the T1
Library Competi-
tions

WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!

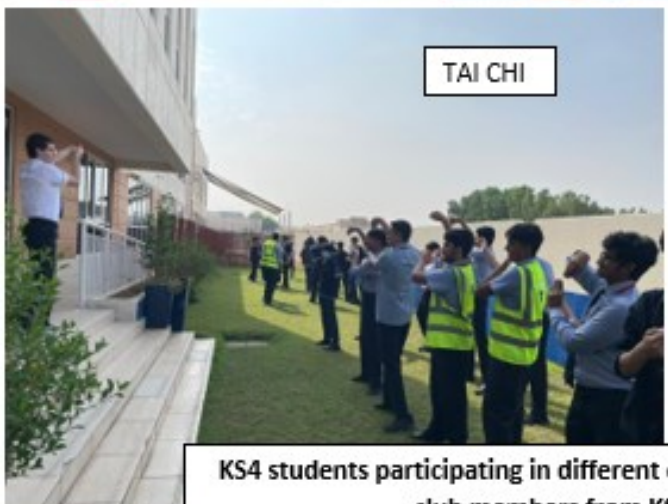


Talented Artist!

Secondary Section News; Wellbeing Week!



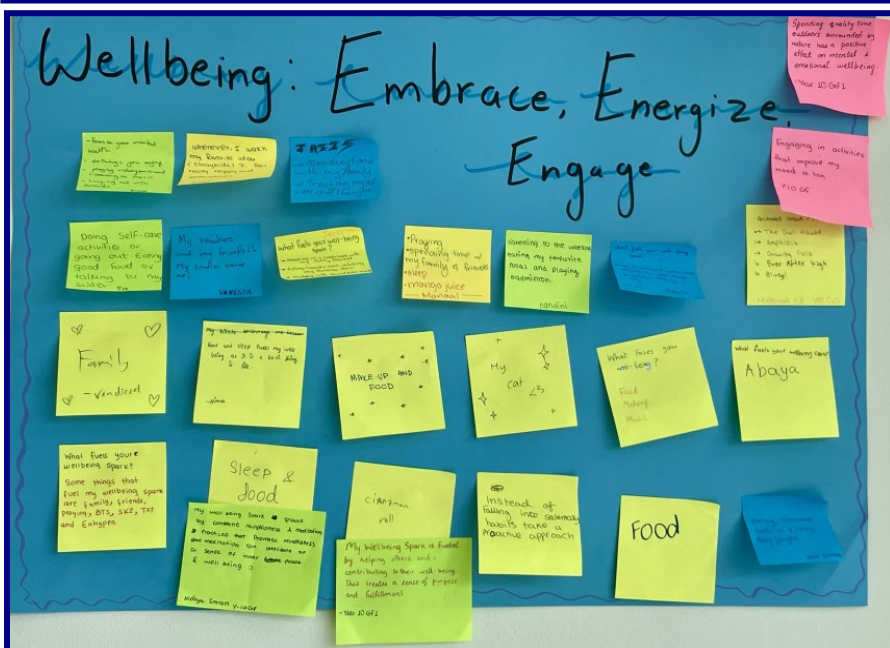
KS4 students creating 'Harmony Canvas' with their wellbeing quotes and messages as a part of KS4 Well Being Week



KS4 students participating in different outdoor wellbeing activities guided by the sociology club members from KS5 as a part of KS4 well being Week



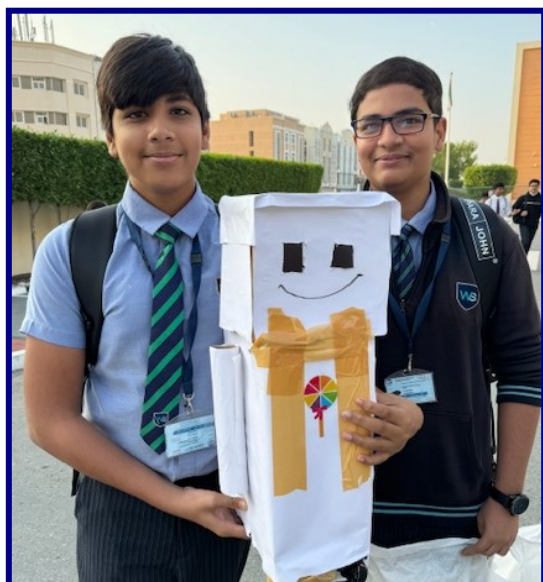
Secondary Section News; Wellbeing Week!



KS4 Girls engaged in well-being activities as part of Well-being Week.

Activities included guided out-door well-being activities to promote mental well-being (grounding exercise & gratitude Reflection), plus students input with quotes & messages on wellbeing.

Secondary Section News; The GEMS Sheikha Fatima Scholarship Award!



1	Syeda Fatima Al Zahra Syed Uzair Ahsan	year 13
2	Soha Maaz Muhammad Maaz Hameed	year 13
3	Leen Nael Abdel Latif Suleiman	year11
4	Nakshatra Preemon Sony	year10
5	Noor Mustafa M R Azizi	year13

The Sheikha Fatima Award for Excellence is a scholarship programme (one year's free tuition) that is awarded to the top female student in each GEMS school. This is a fiercely contested award that draws applications from the best & brightest girls. The award is given for academic success, community service, Leadership, environmental contribution, WSS community engagement & character.

Above were the final shortlisted finalists, with the award for 2023-2024 finally going to Noor Mustafa (Y13G). Congratulations Noor!

