

# GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #15  
14th December, 2023



Message from the  
Principal/CEO  
Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

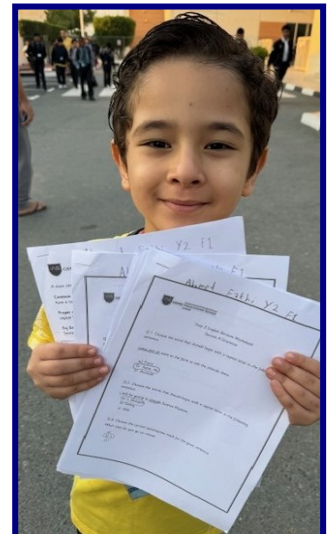
*Thank you very dear parents for all your support of your child's learning & to WSS over 71. Your engagement with your child & your support of school is so important to their success. Wishing you all a wonderful festive season. Happy Christmas to those who celebrate, & a very blessed, successful, healthy & Happy New Year 2024 to all!*

## Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
<b>Sat.30th Dec. 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online fee payment of T2 fees is strongly recommended to avoid queues. However, the <b>Cashier will be open</b> for parent convenience, 8am-2pm</li> </ul>
<b>Mon. 18th Dec—Mon. 1st Jan. 2024</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>School closed for Winter Break (2 weeks).</b></li> <li><b>School opens on Tuesday 2nd January, 2024.</b></li> <li><b>T2 Fees due by 2/1/24. Thank you.</b></li> </ul>



Thankyou for your kind gesture



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



# مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 15  
14 ديسمبر 2023



رسالة من المديرية / الرئيس التنفيذي  
السيدة فاليري تومسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر  
الشارقة الأعزاء،

شكرًا لأولياء الأمور  
الأعزاء على دعمكم  
الكامل لتعلم طفلكم ولـ  
WSS عبر

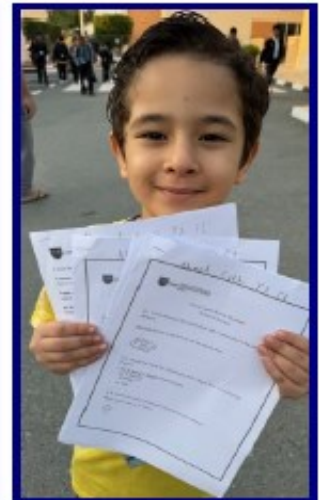
T1.

إن تفاعلك مع طفلك ودعمك للمدرسة مهم  
جداً لنجاحه. أتمنى لكم جميعاً موسم احتفالي  
رائع.



عيد ميلاد سعيد لأولئك الذين يحتفلون،  
وعام جديد مبارك ونجاح وصحي وسعيد  
2024 للجميع!

## المواعيد

التاريخ	التفاصيل
السبت 30 ديسمبر 2023	يوصى بدفع الرسوم عبر الإنترنت لرسوم T2 لتجنب قوائم الانتظار. ومع ذلك، سيكون أمين الصندوق مفتوحاً لراحة الوالدين، من الساعة 8 صباحاً حتى 2 ظهراً
الاثنين، 18 ديسمبر - الاثنين، 1 يناير 2024	المدرسة مغلقة لحلة الشتاء (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	<b>Dates for Your Diary</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Message from the Principal; Date for Your Diary, general notices</li> </ul>
3	<b>Contents</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contents Table</li> <li>QR Code to Access our online Parent Handbook</li> </ul>
4 5 6 7 8 9 10-12 12 13 14-15	<b>Whole School News</b> WSS Superstar Champions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UAE IGCSE Toppers for Maths, &amp; Art &amp; Design</li> <li>PIRLS International Benchmarking Assessment Champions</li> <li>Century Tech Champions</li> <li>Support Staff &amp; Admin. Term 1 Superstars</li> <li>Principal's Selection for the SPEA Principals' Council for 23-25</li> <li>Admin Staff, Drivers &amp; Safecor Superstar Champions of T1</li> <li>Recycling Competition Superstar Champions</li> <li>Staff CPD (Training)</li> <li>Storyboard Top Tips; 1) The Joy of Giving, 2) Making the Most of Winter Holiday Time</li> <li>Happy Birthdays</li> </ul>
16-18 19-20 21 22 23 24 25-30	<b>Junior Section News</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Junior Section Superstar Champions</li> <li>Junior Superstar staff of Term 1</li> <li>Junior Section Wellbeing Report</li> <li>Learning Activities (General)</li> <li>Learning Activities in FS2</li> <li>Fun Party Day with Y1S2</li> <li>Learning Activities with Y2</li> </ul>
31 31 31-32	<b>Primary Section News</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary Section Superstar Champions</li> <li>BRAINOBRAIN Gold Champion!</li> <li>Primary Teachers Term 1 Superstars</li> </ul>
33-35 35 36 37-38 39-40 41	<b>Secondary Section News</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Century Tech Winners</li> <li>KS4 Girls celebrating UAE National Day</li> <li>Secondary Section Superstar Champions (Class Superstars)</li> <li>Secondary Teachers Term 1 Superstars</li> <li>Preparing for Future Success; Mock 1 Examinations in full exam conditions</li> <li>KS4 celebrating UAE National Day, 29/11/23</li> </ul>

Find our updated **Parent Hand-  
 book** through this QR code.  
 Check-out school policies & pro-  
 cedures to be familiar & com-  
 forttable with our system.





## *WSS Top in UAE Cambridge Board Toppers!*

# WSS STUDENTS @ OUTSTANDING CAMBRIDGE LEARNER AWARDS CEREMONY



We are super-proud of Humayra (Top in UAE for IGCSE Maths) and Nameer (Top in UAE for IGCSE Art & Design) receiving Cambridge Outstanding Award at a special ceremony hosted in Dubai by the Cambridge Board. Congratulations to these superstar students, their parents & teachers!





GEMS Westminister School  
SHARJAH



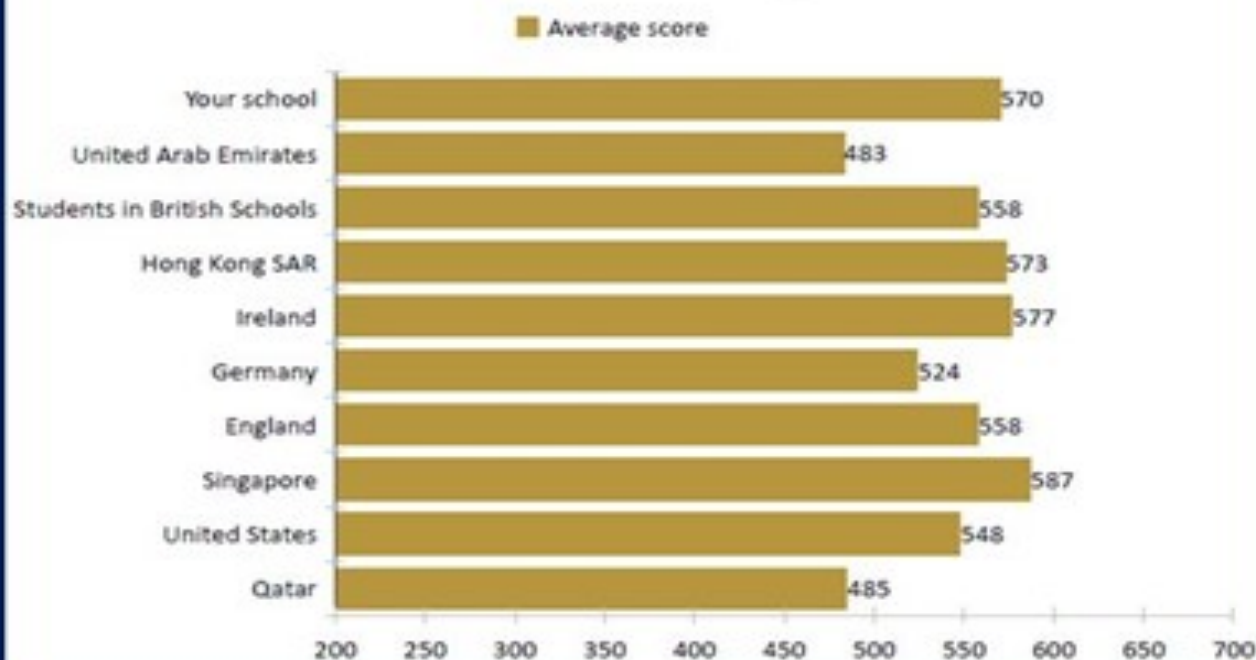
## PIRLS 2021 Results

WSS Students had an average reading score of **570** in the PIRLS 2021 assessment. We are above in comparison to the average reading scores across schools in UAE, Germany, England and the USA, as well as Students in British Schools.

We want to congratulate our students and parents who always support our school improvement plans designed to support our students' achievements.

Proud moment for us all.

### PIRLS 2021 Overall Reading Score



*Excellence Through Teamwork, Success For All*

## *WSS Century Tech. Superstar Champions!*

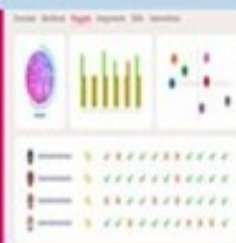


GEMS Westminster School  
SHARJAH

GEMS  
EDUCATION  
We see genius in every child



CENTURY WINTER CUP  
**TOP FIVE!**  
2023



Innovate Create  
Collaborate Century  
Connect Communicate  
21st Learning  
evaluate



*Excellence Through Teamwork, Success For All*



## WSS Superstar Century Tech. Champions!

During the final week of the Century Tech. Winter Cup competition, WSS KS2 and KS3 students answered around 104,000 questions on the platform. This means, throughout the whole Winter Cup competition, our students answered a fantastic 588,000 questions!

Based on WSS user-base, an average of 329.0 questions were answered per student, which puts WSS at 5th place overall in our category across the world — a magnificent effort indeed!

Here is the Social media badge that was awarded to WSS students as shared by the Century Tech team. Congratulations to the entire KS2 and KS3 team, & great teamwork between Primary & Secondary to share resources & ideas!!



On 13/12/23, SPEA hosted a meeting of Sharjah Principals' Committee. The Principals' Committee works closely with SPEA & colleagues as an advisory body & schools' voice. Candidates presented their vision for the role to other Principals, followed by a vote. We are happy to share that WSS Principal Ms. Valerie was selected.

We thank SPEA for their commitment to engaging schools in dialogue relating to educational development & providing the opportunity for Principal voice.

## WSS Support Staff Term 1 Superstar Champions!



## *WSS Admis Staff Term 1 Superstar Champions!*



## *WSS Support Staff Term 1 Superstar Champions!*





## *WSS BBT Drivers Term 1 Superstar Champions!*

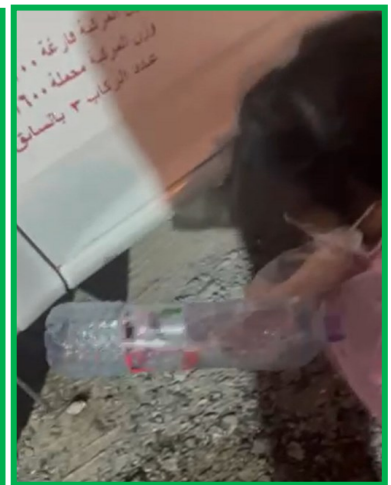


## *WSS Safecor Security Term 1 Superstar Champions!*





## Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!



Well done & thank you to this little Sustainability Superstar, Seerat Rawal (FS2S2) who collected bottles from the roadside to clean up her environment & help save the Planet!



## Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!

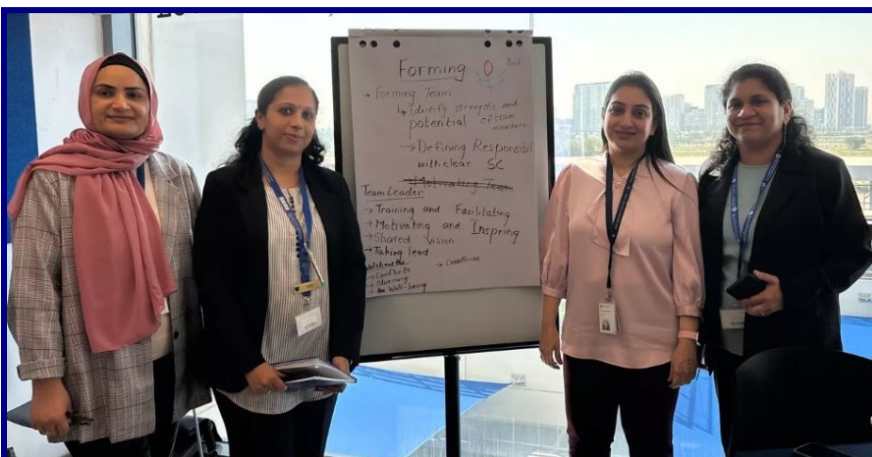




## *Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!*



## *Whole School News; Staff CPD!*

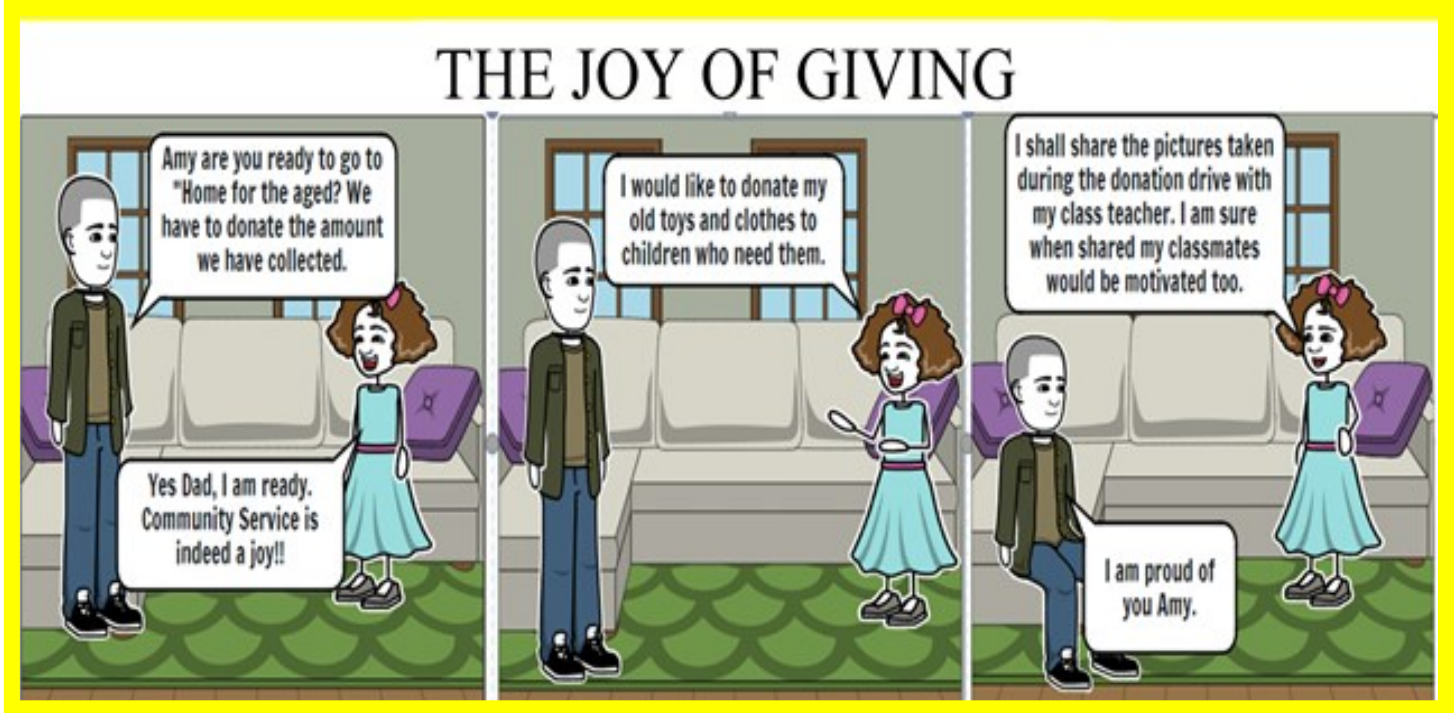


Some of our MLT have signed up for the prestigious UK-qualification NPQSL, designed for Middle Leaders to further hone leadership skills ready for career development. This was Module 2 on Evaluation for Change and Improvement which was held at GEMS International School on 7/12/23.

The PD was insightful and helpful to increase awareness on personal style, and how to maximize situation flexibility.



## Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!





# Happy Birthdays!





## Happy Birthdays!



Happy Birthday Nabia! Thank you for brining healthy fruit treats for your friends to support our healthy lifestyles policy!





# WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!





## WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!

Y2H1 with Ms. Roomana and Ms. Aqueen

Recycling champion



Teddy goes home



Our champions



Dear ma'am (Ms. Uzma),

Thank you for all the love, care, and dedication that you put into teaching our child Nihaan. We are beyond grateful for your guidance and support. Thanks to Miss Askia too, who always there to support and care.

Have a wonderful holiday season and Best wishes for the new year and new term 🍎

From Nihaan's parents

## *WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!*



**Congratulations to swimming Superstar Ibrahim Mohd (Y1H1) who has achieved first place in a Swimming competition!**

Dear Teachers,

As we reach the end of this first term, I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for the exceptional efforts of the teaching team at Gems WSS.

I extend my sincere thanks to Mrs. Sabiha Malik for her unwavering dedication to enhancing the qualities of my daughter, Laiba Rasheed, in Year 2-H2. Her commitment to creating a positive and engaging learning environment has played a significant role in Laiba's development.

I would also like to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of Miss ( Fathima ) Ashiq, Miss Basma, Sir Jowie , Miss Sheema, Miss Jaspreet and Miss Benish, who have all been instrumental in shaping Laiba's educational journey during this term.

The conclusion of this term prompts reflection on the growth and achievements Laiba has experienced under the guidance of these exceptional educators. A special note of gratitude goes to Mrs. Valerie Thompson for her visionary leadership, setting a standard of excellence at Gems WSS.

Additionally, I want to express appreciation for Miss Shumail, the assistant principal, and Miss Raghi, the deputy head, for their crucial roles in maintaining a positive and enriching learning environment.

As we bid farewell to this term, I am sincerely thankful for the positive influence these teachers and administrators have had on Laiba's educational experience. Wishing the entire school community, a restful break and looking forward to continued success in the upcoming terms.

Best regards,

Laiba's Parent  
0552991400



## *WSS Junior Section Superstar Teacher & AT Champions!*





## *WSS Junior Section Superstar Teacher & AT Champions!*





## *Junior Section News; Wellbeing Report!*

### **WSS Junior Section Parental Engagement Activities**

The intrinsic key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.

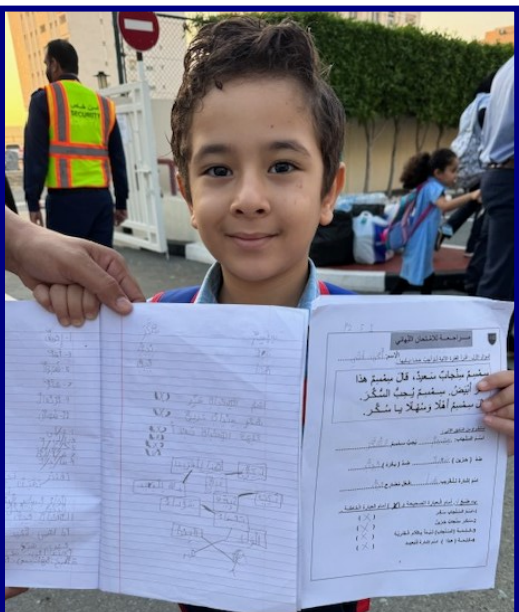
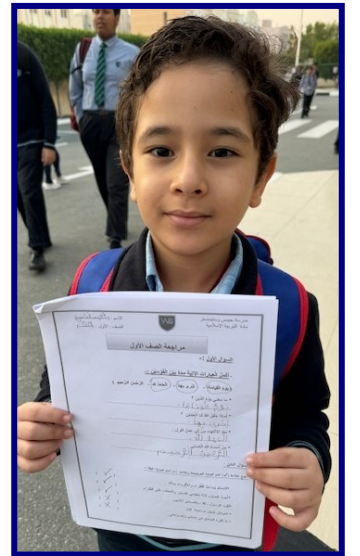
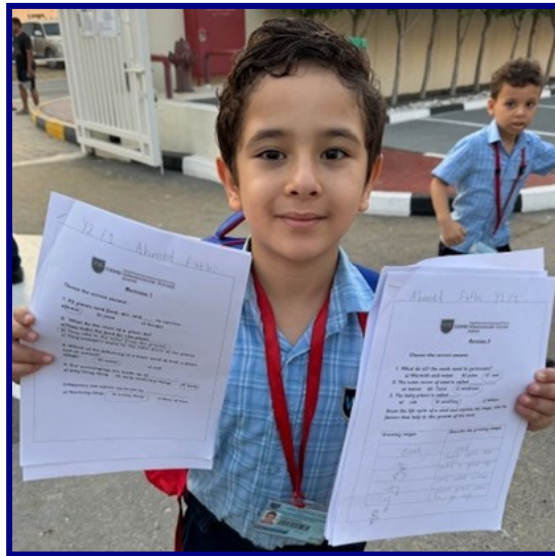
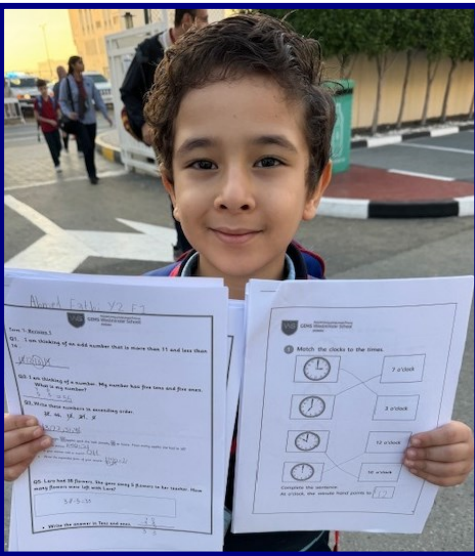
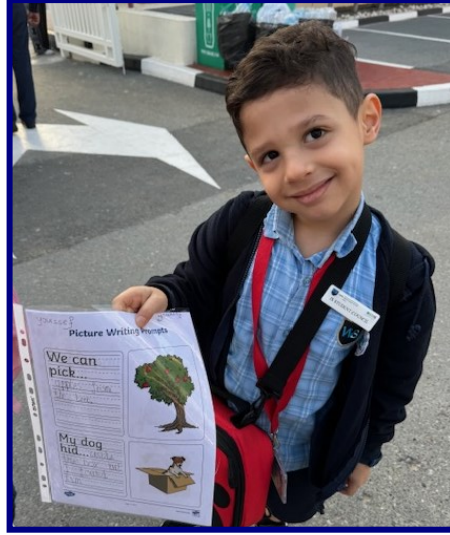
Parents of FS1 to Y2 were invited to explore and get involved in activity-based learning alongside their child in the classroom. Parents grabbed the opportunity and attended in large numbers.

**Parental Engagement Day**





## Junior Section News





## *Junior Section News; Learning Activities with FS2D1!*





## *Junior Section News; Fun Activities with Y1S2, 14/12/23!*



*Term End Party* 🎉🎊🎈  
*Y1S2*

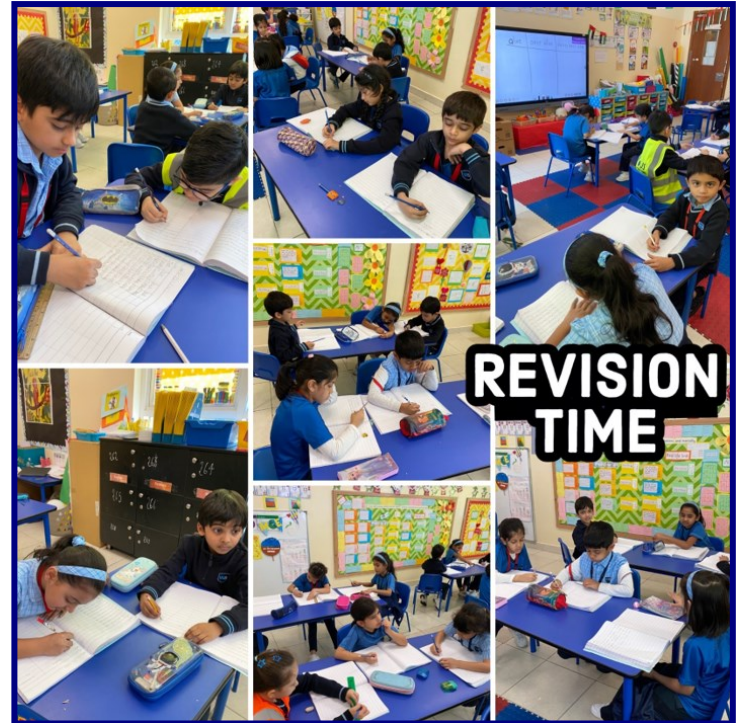


## Junior Section News; Learning Activities with Y2D1!



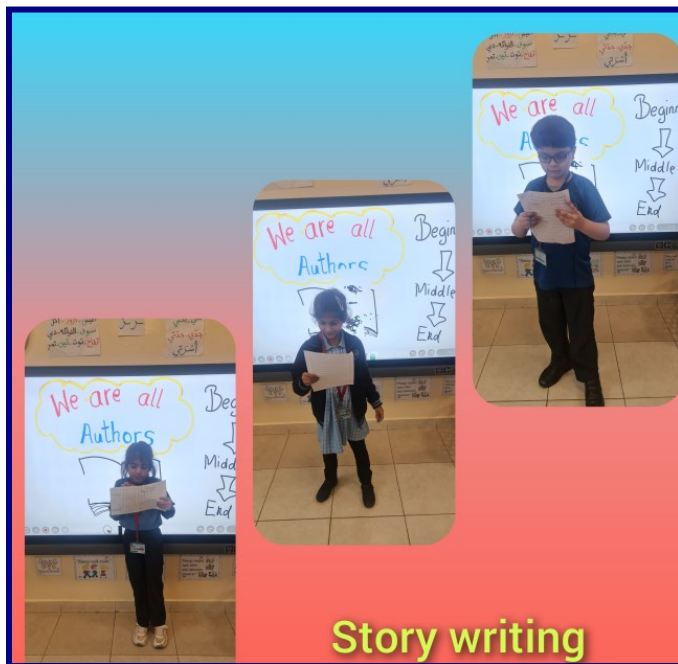


## Junior Section News; Learning Activities with Y2D1 & Y2H2!



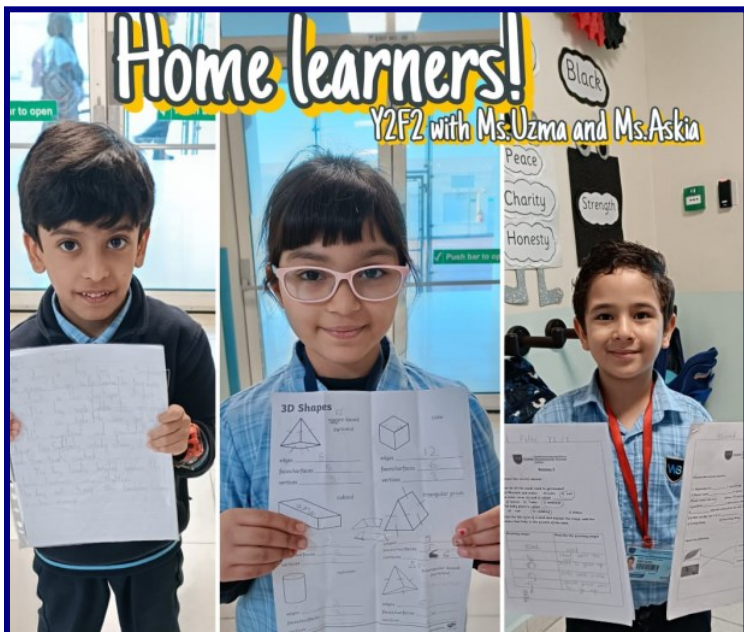


## *Junior Section News; Learning Activities with Y2D2!*





## Junior Section News; Learning Activities with Y2F2!





## *Junior Section News; Learning Activities with Y2H1!*

### *Y2H1 with Ms. Roomana and Ms. Aqueen*



### **Our ICT lesson with Mr.Jowie**



### *Our Music session*

## **Enjoying national day**





## Junior Section News; Learning Activities with Y2H2!





## WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!



Arbiya Hasan (Y4F2) won a Gold certificate in the 25/11/23 BRAINOBRAIN Abacus competition. 2,000 children from 14 countries participated & she won Gold!! Arbiya, we are very proud of you!



Rabie of Y5F1 earned the highest Dojo points in the class. Congratulations!



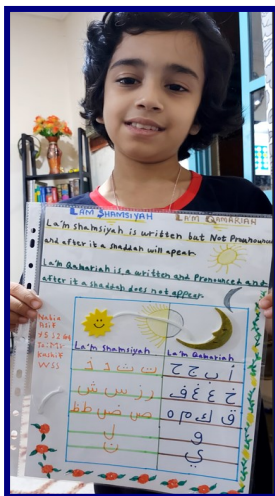
Maryam of Y5F1 is a consistent reader of the books allotted in the Purple Mash. Congratulations!

## WSS Primary Section Superstar Teacher Champions!





## WSS Primary Section Superstar Teacher Champions!



Dear Ms Susweta,

Hope this email finds you well. As we approach the end of Term 1 for the academic year 2023-2024, I wanted to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude for your exceptional dedication and teaching skills in guiding Yahya throughout this term.

Your teaching style has made a significant impact on Yahya's academic journey. Your approach is not only remarkable but also incredibly effective in fostering a love for learning. I appreciate how you manage to create a friendly and positive classroom environment that motivates the children to take a keen interest in all subjects.

Moreover, your prompt responses to queries have been invaluable. It's reassuring as a parent to know that there is open and effective communication with you. Your commitment to providing support and addressing concerns promptly has not gone unnoticed, and it is genuinely appreciated.

Thank you once again for your tireless efforts and for being an inspiring educator.

I wish you a well-deserved break during the upcoming holidays and look forward to continued success in the next term.

Thanks and regards  
Ayesha Farrukh  
Mother of Yahya Farrukh  
Y4 H2



## WSS Secondary Section Century Tech. Superstar Champions!





## *WSS Secondary Section Century Tech. Superstar Champions!*





## *WSS Secondary Section Century Tech. Superstar Champions!*



## *Secondary Section News*



**KS4 girls capturing the spirit of the UAE as part of their UAE National Day activities**

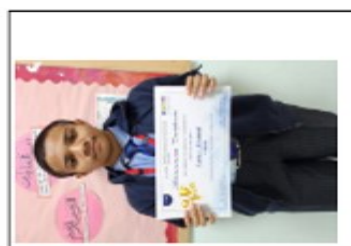
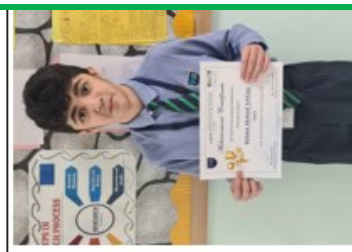
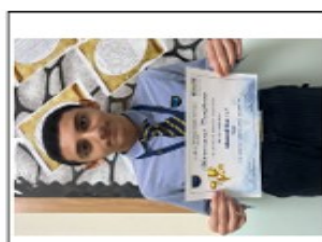
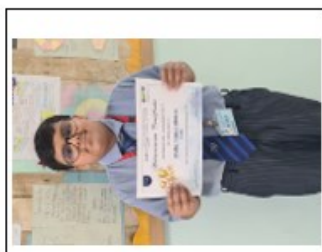
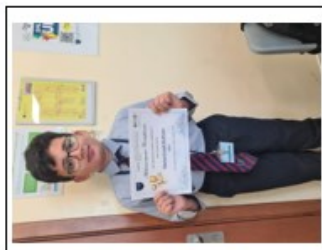
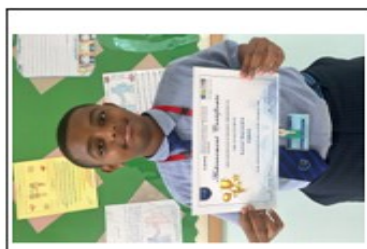
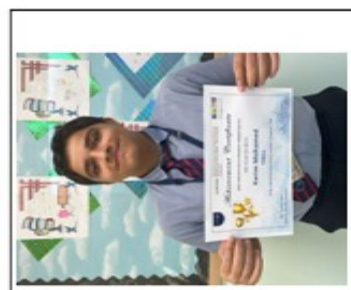
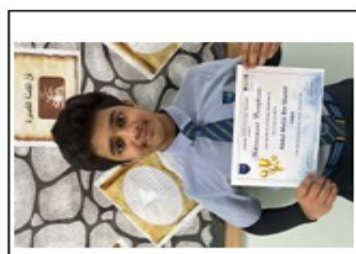
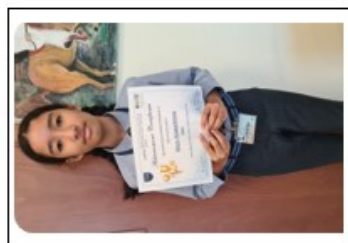
Good evening miss (Maha), I'd love to thank you for your amazing performance with the students as well as the delightful atmosphere which you create that leads to the students loving the subject, and the way you use to make students understand the topic. Thanks from all my heart

Best regards,  
Omar Ahmed



# WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!

## KS3 STAR STUDENTS





## *WSS Secondary Section Century Teacher Superstar Champions!*





## *WSS Secondary Section Century Teacher Superstar Champions!*





## *Secondary Section News; Preparing for Future Success; Mock 1 Examinations!*



Mock exams serve as an invaluable tool in the preparation process for Cambridge Board examinations by providing students with a realistic testing experience, helping them identify weaknesses, and allowing for targeted improvement in both knowledge and exam-taking skills.

Ensuring that school maintains a high level of examination practice helps school protect its Examination Board Centre Accreditation for the benefit of our students & convenience of our families. To maintaining the important status of a Cambridge Examination Center, they require full adherence to best practice guidelines, protocols, integrity and standards set by the Cambridge International Examination Board & others.





## *Secondary Section News; Preparing for Future Success; Mock 1 Examinations!*

### Sixth form students

**#Mocksexams #Academic success**



Sixth form students were engaged in Mock Exams, a crucial step in their academic journey. Wishing all our students success and confidence in their assessments!





## Secondary Section News; WSs Celebrates **UAE National Day**, 29/11/23!



As a part of UAE National Day celebration at WSS on 29/11/23, KS4 boys created a UAE corner in their form class to express their love & respect for UAE.

