

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #18
19th January, 2023



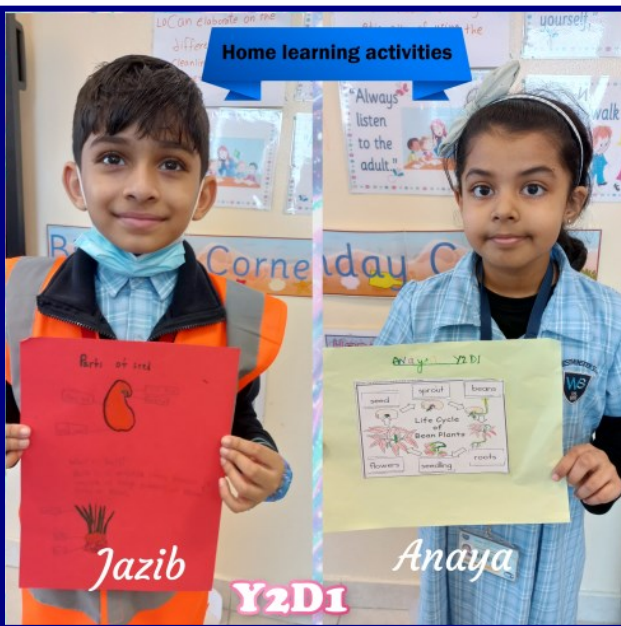
**Message from the Principal/CEO
Ms. Valerie Thompson**

Dear WSS Parents,

I hope that you enjoy the Newsletters as much as I do putting them together. They are packed with examples of some of the learning, fun, engagement & innovative initiatives that take place at WSS each week, designed to take your child's learning to the next level.

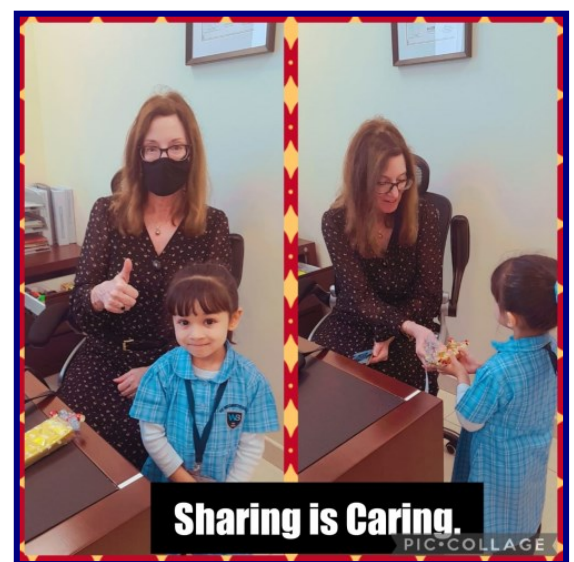
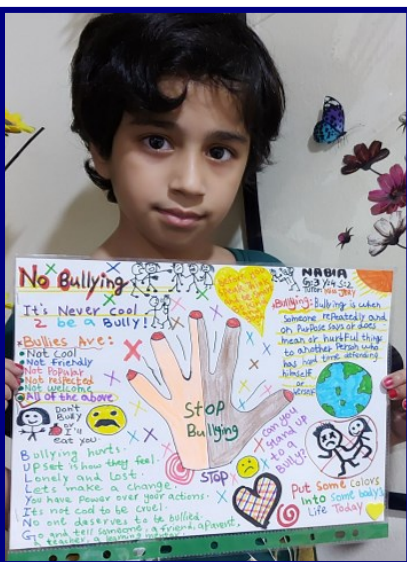
Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
2nd Jan. 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First day of Term 2. T2 fees due, thank you.
Mon. 16th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Re-enrollment for September 2023 opens.</u> Re-enrollment for Sept. 2023 may only be completed once <u>full T2 fees have been cleared.</u> <u>Deadline for online re-enrollment & paying the re-enrollment fee is Monday 10th April.</u> From Tuesday 11th April, un-booked seats would be given to the Waiting List.
Wed. 15th & Thurs. 16th Feb.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mid-Term Break (2 days)
27/3/23 to 6/4/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring Break (2 weeks) Term 3 starts on Monday 10/4/23. T3 fees due, thank you.
17/4/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> T3 Mid-Term Break (1 day)
29/6/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official last day of the academic year.



A huge thank you to all our parents who attended PTM on Thursday 19/1/23. It was a particularly special day because it was our first Face-to-Face (F2F) PTM since COVID started & we were very pleased to welcome you back on campus.

Although some parents expressed concern about lost learning time, we felt that providing this enrichment experience for students to meet their teachers together with their parents as part of our Assessment for Learning (AFL) strategy, was a valuable investment of time.



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

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم 18
19 يناير 2023



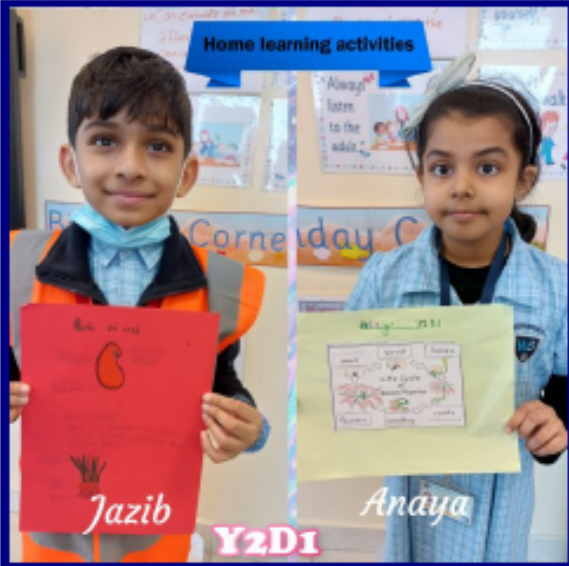
رسالة من
المديرة / الرئيس التنفيذي
السيدة كاتري توميسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر
الشارقة الأعزاء،

أمل أن تستمتع بال نشرات الإخبارية بقدر
ما أستمتع بتجميعها معًا. إنها مليئة بأمننة
عن بعض مبادرات التعلم والمرح
والمشاركة والمبادرات المبتكرة التي
تحدث في WSS كل أسبوع ، والمصممة
لنقل تعلم طفلك إلى المستوى التالي.

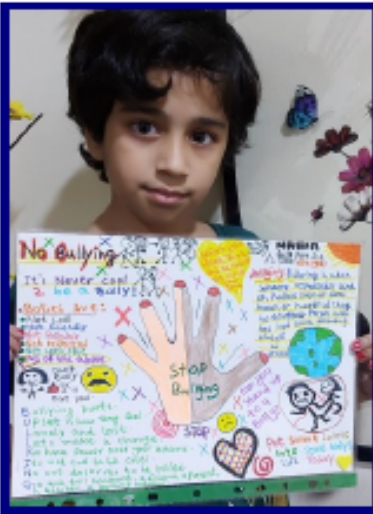
المواعيد

التفاصيل	التاريخ
اليوم الأول من الفصل الدراسي 2.	2nd Jan. 2023
مرسوم المستحقة ، شكرًا لك.	
• فتح باب التسجيل في سبتمبر 2023.	Mon. 16th January
• لا يمكن إكمال إعادة التسجيل إلا بعد سداد رسوم T2 بالكامل.	
• الموعد النهائي لإعادة التسجيل عبر الإنترنت ودفع رسوم إعادة التسجيل هو يوم الاثنين 10 أبريل. اعتبارًا من يوم الثلاثاء 11 أبريل ، سيتم منح المقاعد غير المحجوزة لقائمة الانتظار.	
استراحة منتصف المدة (يومان)	Wed. 15th & Thurs. 16th Feb.
• عطلة الربيع (أسبوعان)	27/3/23 to 6/4/23
• يبدأ الفصل الثالث يوم الاثنين الموافق 10/4/23. رسوم T3 المستحقة ، شكرًا لك.	
استراحة منتصف المدة (يوم واحد)	17/4/23
آخر يوم رسمي في العام الدراسي	29/6/23



يوم الخميس 19/1/23. لقد كان يومًا PTM شكرًا جزيلًا لجميع أولياء الأمور الذين حضروا
ويسعدنا جدًا أن COVID منذ أن بدأ (F2F) وجهاً لوجه (PTM) خاصًا بشكل خاص لأنه كان أول
ترحب بك مرة أخرى في الحرم الجامعي.

على الرغم من أن بعض براءات الاختراع أعربت عن قلقها بشأن ضياع وقت التعلم ، فقد شعرنا
أن تجربة الإثراء للطلاب من لقاء معلمهم مع أولياء أمورهم كجزء من إستراتيجية التقييم من
كانت استمرًا شيئًا للوقت. (AFL) أجل التعلم



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

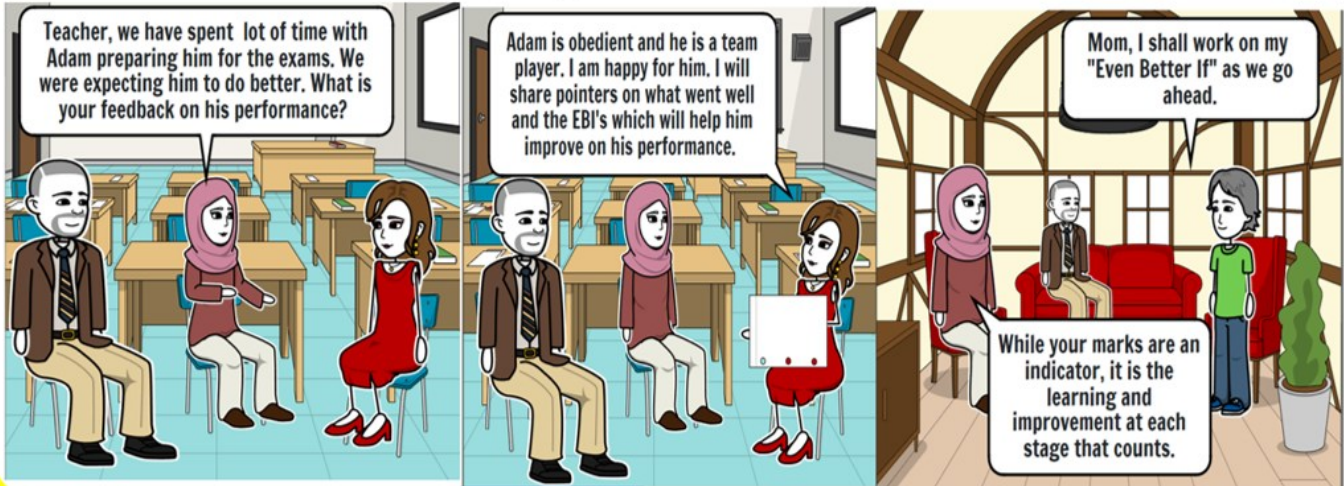
Page	Item	Includes:
1, 2	Dates for Your Diary & general notices	•
4	Whole School News	• Storyboard Top Tips; Getting the most from PTMs & Developing Self-Confidence
5		• Welcome to F2F PTM
6		• SPEA Excellence Day
7-8	Whole School Superstar Champions	• Inter-School Quran Champions
9-11	Junior Section Superstar Champions	• Class Champions & Teddy Goes Home winners
12-13	Junior Section News	• Community Service Week
14-15		• Y2-Y3 Transition Day
16		• Staff CPD (Training)
17		• FS2 Learning
18-19		• Y1 Learning
20-23		• Y2 Learning
24	Primary Section Superstar Champions	• Y6-Y7 Transition Meetings • Healthy Eating Day
25	Primary Section News	• Assembly Time with Y5H2
26		• Assembly Time with Y3H2
27		• Y6-Y7 Transition Meetings
28		• Healthy Snack Day
29		• PPP Volunteers
30	Secondary Section News	• Preparing Students for their Future; Murdock University Winter Camp
31		• The PASS Survey
32		• Student Council Meeting with VP
33-34		• Metacognition Session
35		• Sixth Form Admission Session
36		• Geography Club A Y10G Initiative!
37		• Head Girl attends a character building session at GWA, 'Being Positively Relentless'

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

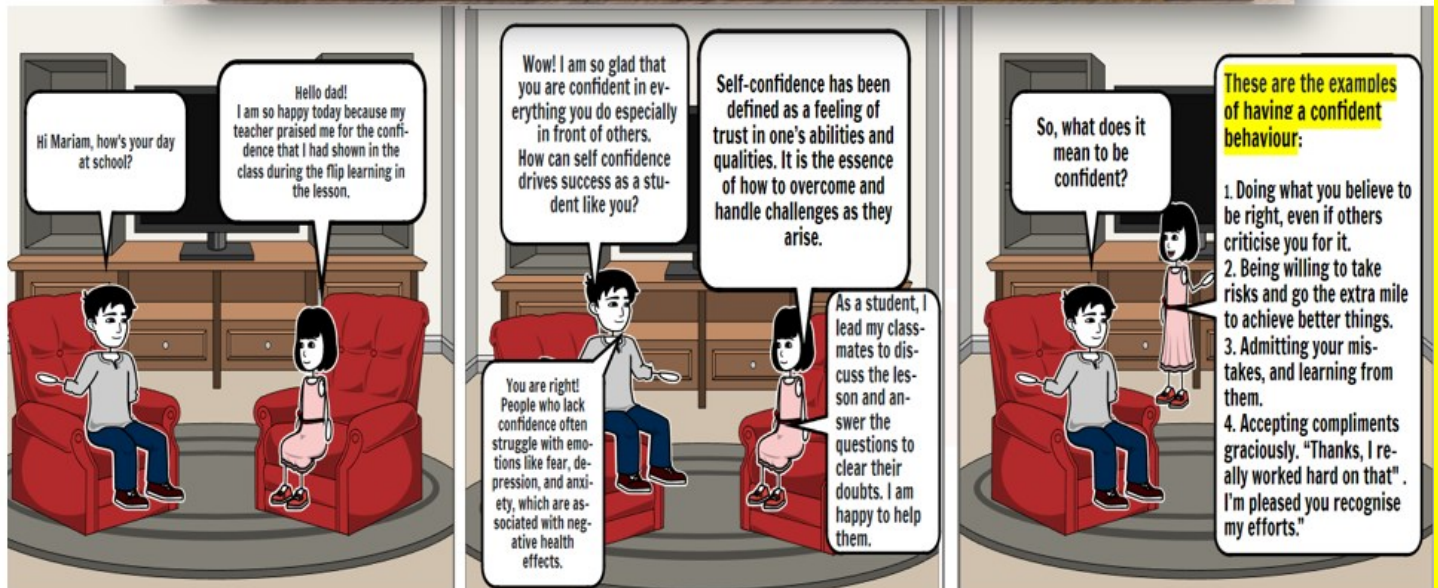


Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!

Providing Constructive Feedback



SELF CONFIDENCE



Whole School News; Welcome to F2F PTM, 19/1/23!

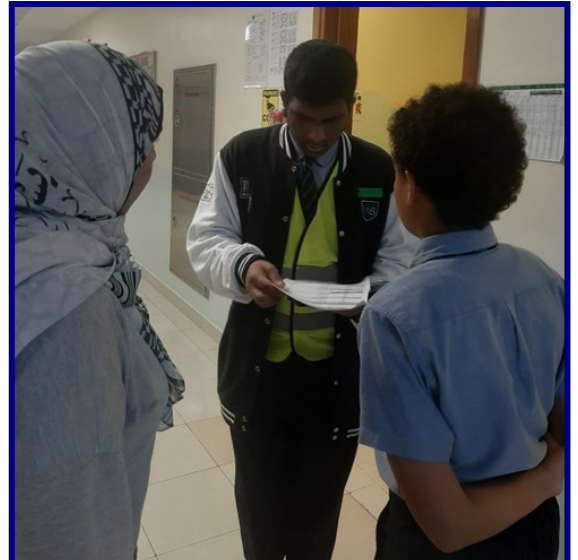
Our first full F2F PTM since COVID, we were absolutely delighted & thrilled to welcome back our families into WSS for a live PTM.

This F2F meeting was arranged in response to parent feedback which expressed their desire to meet their teachers in person. It was not a 'off day' for students; accompanying their parents to meet their teachers in person as a family, sends a powerful message of home-school teamwork around the child, & that the child has a responsibility for self-development within the learning triangle of home-school-child. Discussions around their strengths, targets, learning journey, attainment & progress are very powerful to boost motivation & application.

Parents who were unable to attend are most welcome to schedule a later TEAMS or F2F meeting with their teachers.

Home-school meetings can always be arranged through the teacher directly, or through the PRE Ms. Aiysha as required.

Primary & Secondary Student Leaders supported the day by helping parents navigate PTM. This is leadership in action! Thank you!



Whole School News; SPEA Excellence Day, 17/1/23

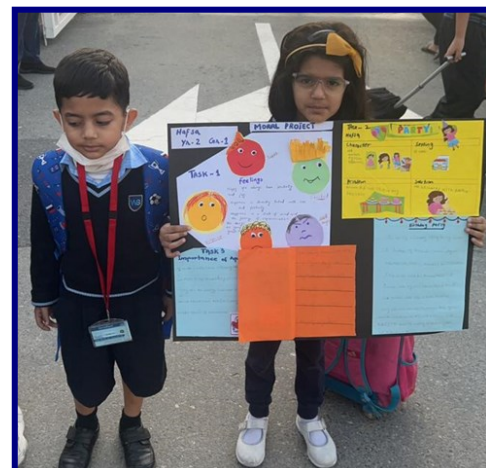
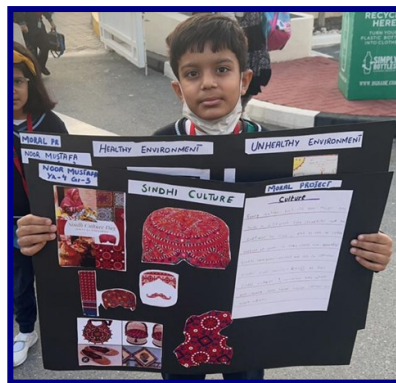
WSS SLT & MLT representatives attended the recent SPEA British Curriculum schools SIA Ms. Lynn's 'Excellence Day' on 17/1/23. The day was designed for Principals & Senior S/leaders to share expertise and attend workshops on the latest development in education as presented by Oxford. Thank you SPEA for outing on tis event to support school development.

Ms. Sreeja, Assistant Principal, Secondary, shared that they were able to meet with our SPEA School Improvement Advisor (SIA) Ms. Lynn & GEMS Principal & our LAB (Local Advisory Body) member Ms. Albie. It was a very productive day.

Some of the programme details were as follows:

- Dr. Jonathan Osborne's session discussed 'Challenges and New Directions in Science Education.'
We understood how just knowledge is not enough to sustain good teaching. How can we build more trust in Science education by removing unnecessary myths in science?
The discussion also included the importance of building the reliability of the search engines used by students during research.
The most significant bit was about the new skill that would be tested in the following PISA (2025): the ability to research, evaluate and use scientific information for decision-making.
- There was an exciting session on strategies to accelerate reading skills by Mr. Paul Woodfall. He recommended multiple exciting strategies to improve reading skills, like habit formation, reading circles, perspective-taking, etc.
- Some other sessions included strategies to embed well-being across the school and how to engage six-year-olds to be taught about sustainability and climate change.

Thank you SPEA & Ms. Lynn for this wonderful training initiative!



Learning about Other Cultures

WSS Inter-School Quran Competition Superstar Champions!



Many thanks to parents, Ms. Mukhsana, Mr. Issam & Mr. Abed for their extra support of our students to prepare, practice & compete in this important Al-Amana inter-school competition. WSS students won 3 top prizes!



Congratulations to:

- Anas Rashad won 2nd place
- Fatima won 3rd place in the Azan competition & Anas Rashad 3rd place.



WSS Inter-School Quran Competition Superstar Champions!

Our Islamic students are
a source of pride for us

Inter-school
competition



Congratulations to:

- Anas Rashad won 2nd place
- Fatima won 3rd place in the Azan competition & Anas Rashad 3rd place.

WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!



Our Superstars



We are the stars ★



Our Wellbeing Champions



FS2H1 receiving marble jars and showing their writing work.



Congratulations to Star Student Ashar Ahmed (Y1H2) for improving his writing skills using the self-assessment checklist provided by his teachers. Thanks to Ms. Beena and Ms. Mina for building up their students' independent learning skills.

WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!

Dear Ms. Israa,

I feel so blessed to have a teacher like you for my daughter Haya Sherif FS2H2 I'm a witness on how dedicated you are in teaching your students.

Thank you so much for everything you have done for her.

I appreciate all of your help both in and out of the classroom through sending all interesting resources. You have made a real difference with her as she wants to learn more about Arabic.

Thank you for encouraging her, supporting her, and caring about her. You truly care about your students.

Thank you and may you keep up the good work!

Please find attached Haya's video and I will attach the other one in another email .

Best Regards,
Dr. Ragaa



Teaching is more than imparting knowledge; it is inspiring change. Learning is more than absorbing facts; it is acquiring understanding.

– William Arthur Ward

JS Teaching Champions of the week!

Celebrating
Outstanding teaching
practices!



Congratulations to Ms. Nadiya, Ms. Jobelle and Ms. Punya for being this week's JS Teaching Champions!

Ms. Jobelle, for the support in the JS free-play centre.

Ms. Punya for effectively adapting Junior Section ways of teaching.

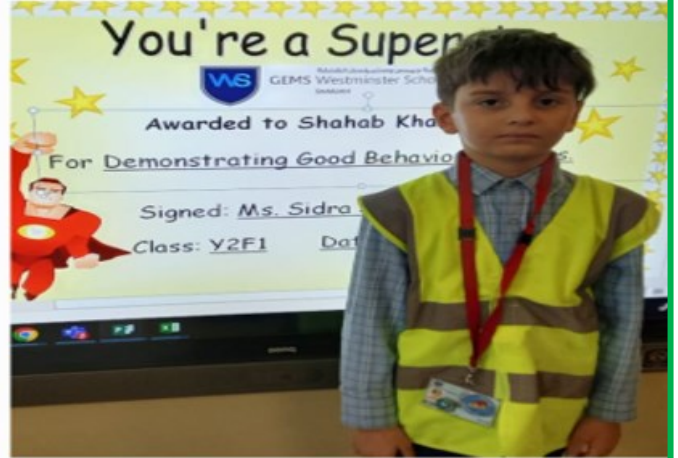
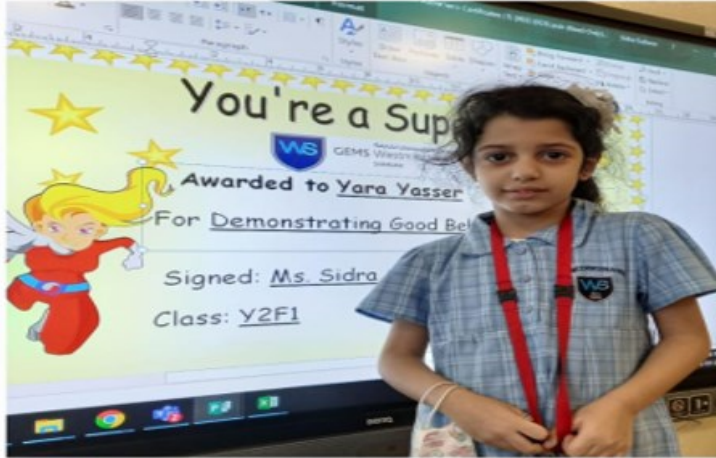
Ms. Nadiya: Highly supportive teaching



Thank you to Salama (Y2), one of our wonderful Junior student Leaders, who went out of her way to send a 'get well soon' video to one of her sick teachers. This showed great kindness & made the recipient very happy!

WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!

Y2F1 | Teddy goes home...



Happy to bring Topsy and Tim home



Congratulations!

Junior Section News; It's Community Service Week!



Talha basit



Y2 D2

Talha is helping farmer in planting

Talha is helping his mama by cleaning his room



Junior Section News; It's Community Service Week!



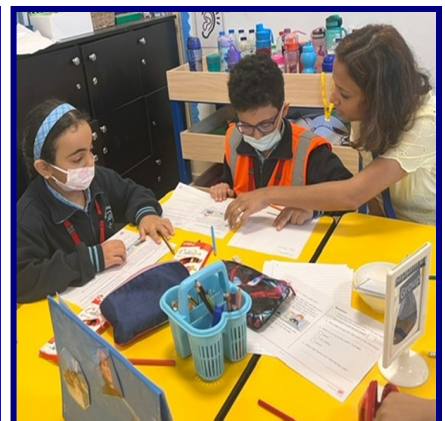
Junior Section News; Y2-Y3 Transition Session!



Preparing Students for their Future!



Primary Teachers, Student Leader & SLT visited Y2 classrooms to introduce themselves & to see Y2 learning & the students in action, so they can better understand & prepare for the learning needs of the new Y3 batch in September to smooth their transition process into Primary.



Junior Section News; Y2-Y3 Transition Session!



Junior Section News; Staff Continuing Professional Training (CPD)!



Ms. Aneza led a CPD (training) session for our Assistant Teachers this week. The Theme was the teaching of, & support for, EAL (English as an additional language). Since almost all our students join WSS as EAL students, this is really critical CPD. We love how Ms. Aneza modelled how she applies strategies to her teaching, thus clearly demonstrating effective pedagogy & practical strategies. This is a highly effective training model. Thank you, Ms. Aneza!



Junior Section News; Outdoors Too, With FS2!



With Ms. Maria Khan

Junior Section News; Fun in Y1!



Junior Section News; Fun in Y1!



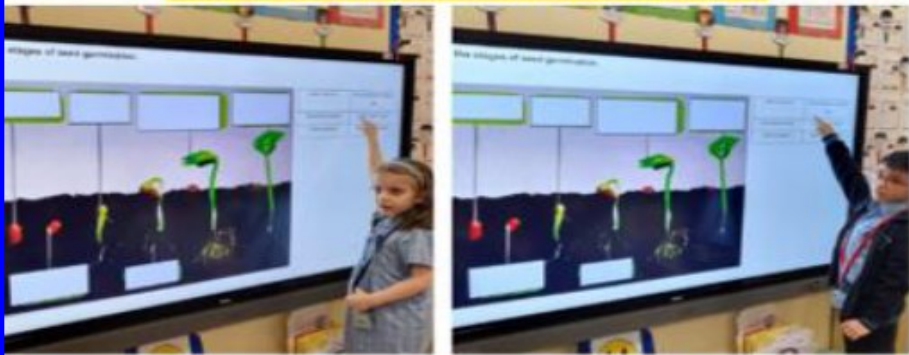
With Ms. Mariam



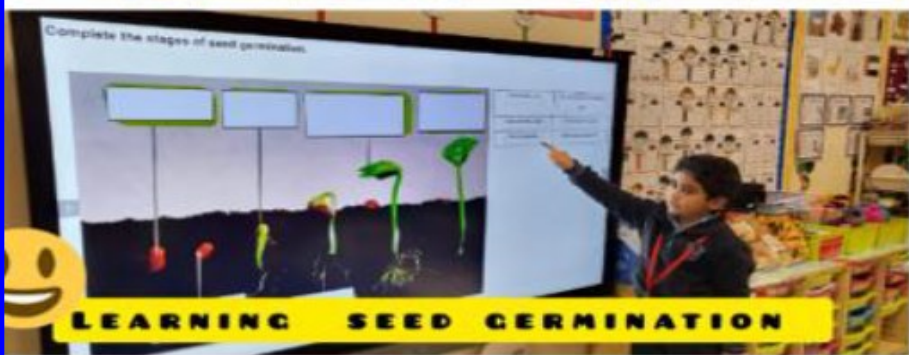
Junior Section News; News from Y2!



We are learning Maths Skipping numbers



We are enjoying OLA 3



LEARNING SEED GERMINATION



Teddy goes home



Hurray ! We got a Marble

Y2H2 with Ms. Krishnapriya

Junior Section News; News from Y2!



We are taking care of plants



Learning about 2D and 3D shapes



FS2 S1 with Miss Jobelle and Miss Monika



Having so much fun at West playground



We are matching the puzzle



Junior Section News; News from Y2!



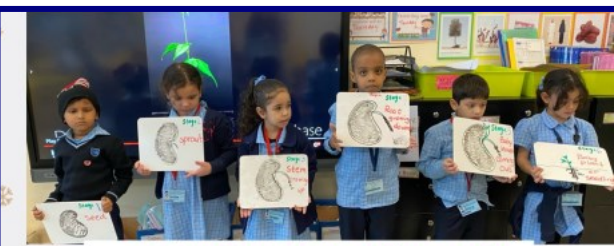
Y2D1



I.C.T lesson with Mr. Jowie



Maths activities with Ms. Shari and Ms. Ashika



Growth stages of a seed

In Y2F2



Adjectives lesson



Y2 F1 with Ms. Sidra and Ms. Aqueen in WEST PLAY AREA



PIC-COLLAGE



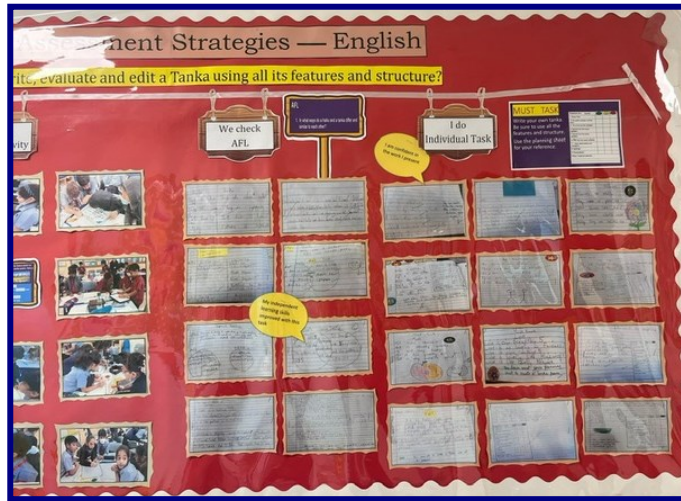
Split a-e digraph

PIC-COLLAGE

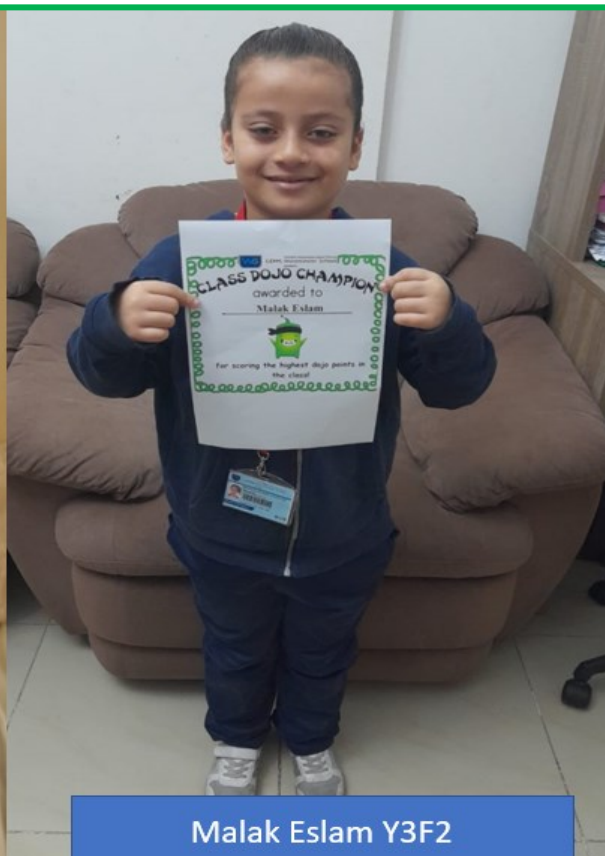
Junior Section News; News from Y2!



WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!



Wonderful to see the terrific Teamwork to achieve display board upgrades. Thank you!



Primary Section News; Assembly Time with Y5H2!



The theme of this Assembly was 'Hard Work Pays Off!' What a great theme to remind us that success & achievement are hard-won, not given.



Primary Section News; Assembly Time with Y3H2!



The theme of this Assembly was 'Perseverance'. Students learnt that investing in repeated effort is more likely to lead to achieving your goals.



Learning Math is always fun!!!

Primary Section News; Y6-Y7 Transition Meetings!



Y7 Teachers, Student & Sixth Form Leaders met with current Y6 students to talk about what they can expect from Secondary Section next year. We will have further Transition Meetings later in the year also to ensure our Y6 students feel ready for the next step of their learning adventure! Huge thanks to our wonderful student leaders for supporting this important initiative.



Primary Section News; Healthy Snack Day, 19/1/23!



It's SNACK ATTACK!! We all love to snack, but how healthy are yours? What food can you add or avoid to make snack time healthier
How fun & creative can you be with nuts, seeds, fresh fruit & vegetables?



In Y3F2

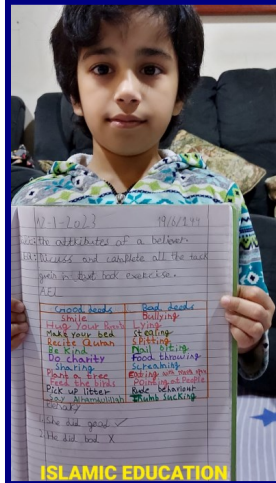


Sharing their knowledge on oral health and importance of eating healthy.

Primary Section News



**NABIA ASIF
GR:3 Y:4 S:2
ISLAMIC EDUCATION
WEST MINSTER SCHOOL**



ISLAMIC EDUCATION

Project-based learning of Human Skeleton

Karim Ramy Magdy Y3H1



Thank you to our wonderful PPP who are volunteering in Primary classes to support our Maths Focus of closing the COVID gap. Here is a PPP member helping out in Y3F2. Thank you for your precious time!



Learning with parent partner

Secondary Section News; Preparing Students for their Future!



Sixth Form students recently attended 4-day winter camp conducted by Murdoch University, about their future prospects, finance & cryptocurrency and exploring career opportunities.

Areej Moin, (Y12G) said, *“We really had a wonderful time, learned a lot and also got some clarity of the career path we feel most passionate about and would want to pursue in the near future.”*



Secondary Section News; PASS Assessment & PASS Data Application!

Students recently undertaking PASS Assessments. While CAT4 & GL Progress Tests provide us with academic-type data, PASS provides data of an attitudinal and social nature. Since learning occurs most effectively when a student is positively motivated & has a positive self-learner image, it is helpful to school that we have this holistic data. Data provides information on social and personal areas that school can promote to improve the personalisation of our students learning & wellbeing. One of our school development priorities is the identification & support for 'Fragile learners'. PASS data tells the students' social story, helping educators identify and support fragile learners whose achievement is held back by factors such as a lack of confidence, motivation, or connection to school.

Arshaq (Y13BH) said, “(This) Survey gave students an idea about (their own) well-being and health.”



Secondary Section News; This Week's Student Council Meeting With VP Mr. Suj!



This week, the VP Mr. Suj met with Secondary Student Council leaders to discuss their Digital Footprint, & the importance of having a positive & professional reputation to support future education & employment. This is what students said about the meeting:

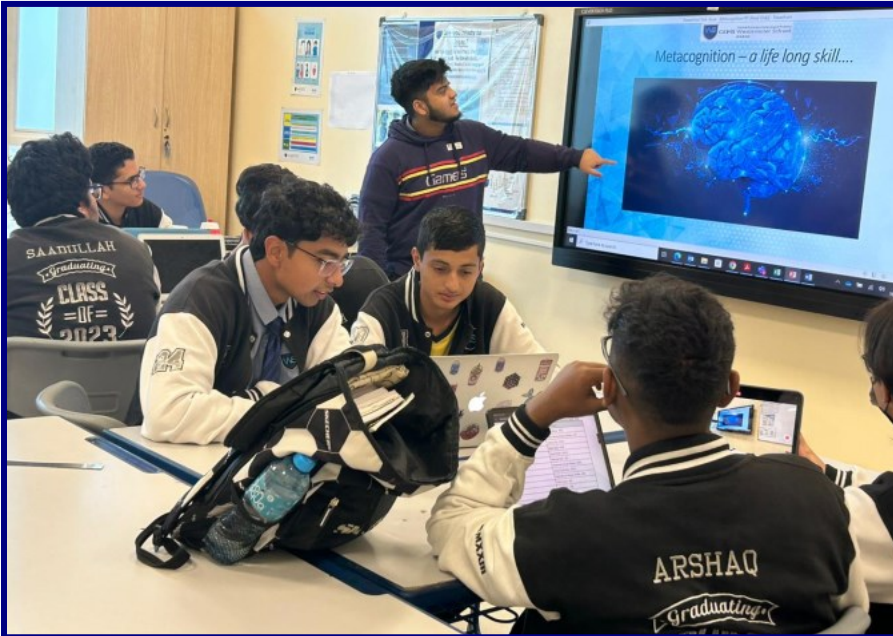
Ahmed Raza (Y13BH – Scorpion House Leader), *“We had a valuable discussion on our Goals that we achieved last term, which had a positive impact on our studies and social skills.”*

Arjun Sujeev (Y9BH1- Digital Leader - Secondary Section), *“We discussed the importance of keeping a positive digital footprint. Group activities promoted teamwork. The discussion gave me insight into what we, together as a team have achieved. I enjoyed it and it was a fun experience.”*

Mr. Suj said, *“Being able to reflect on our achievements & celebrate our successes is very important.”*



Secondary Section News; Learning How We Learn - Metacognition!

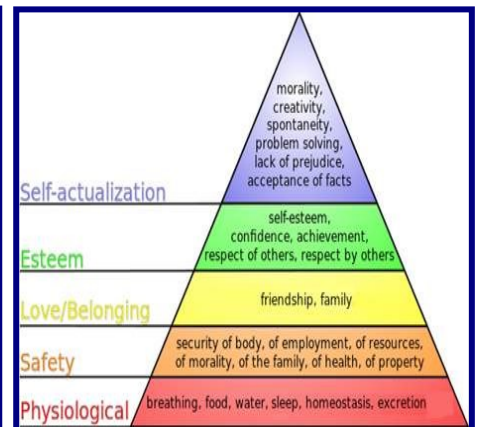
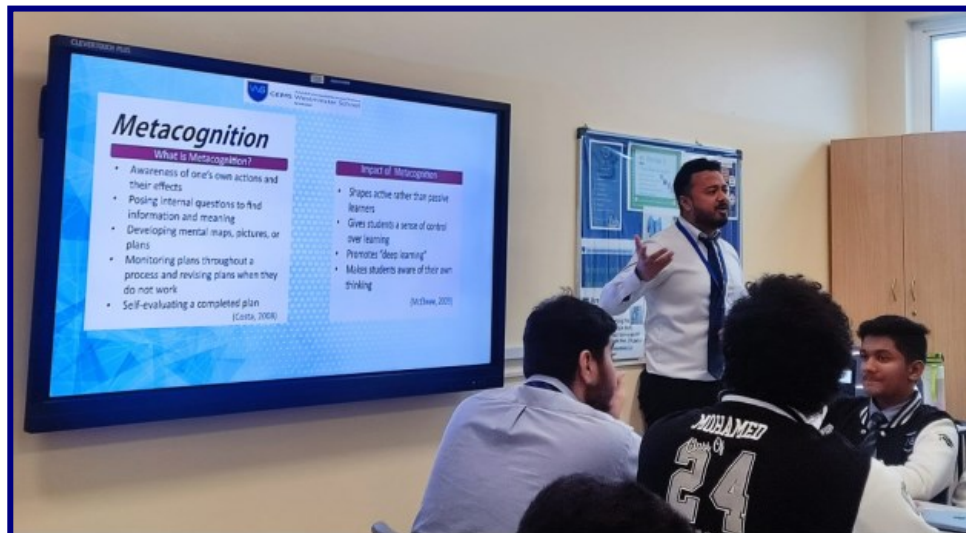


A Metacognition session was conducted in Secondary classes on 17/1/2023. The aim of the session was:

1. To enable students to reflect on their own learning journey and self-evaluate their plans.
2. To give students a sense of control over thinking & learning, promote deep learning and make them active learners.

Section Heads had provided a session to teachers, who led the sessions in their Form Class.

Mr. Franklin & Ms. Sreeja – Assistant Principals, Secondary shared, *“Thinking about thinking’ is known as meta-cognition. Knowing how we learn best has been shown to boost learning significantly!”*



Mazlow's Theory of the Hierarchy of Human Needs

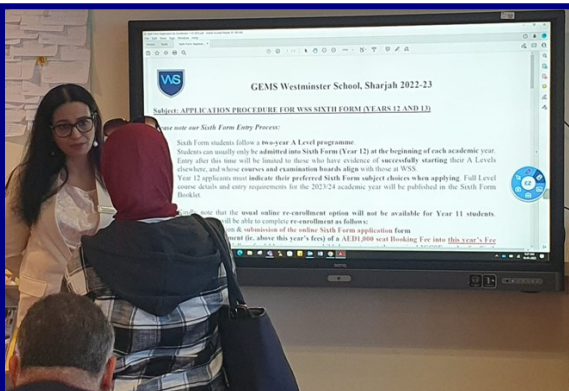
Secondary Section News; Learning How We Learn - Metacognition!



Secondary Section News; Sixth Form Admission Session!



Secondary Assistant Principals Mr. Franklin & Ms. Sreeja ran several sessions on 18/9/23 for Y11 students & parents about the new Sixth Form admission process & how to book seats for next September 2023. Admission into Sixth Form depends on IGCSE grades in the subject choice for 'A' Levels, so preparation for admission needs to start early. Thank you parents &



Secondary Section News; Geography Club!

GEOGRAPHY CLUB: A Student-Led Initiative

Amana Bukhari and Vanessa Debrah Lyanga (Y10GD) have taken the initiative of creating a Geography Club in WSS.

The rationale behind the club is to instill a love for the surroundings and people among the students.

The inaugural meeting of the club was held on 18th January during the first break and was led by Amana and Vanessa. An interactive session followed where the students talked about their expectations about the club's activities and how it would be benefitting them in their lives. They suggested that club activities should include competitions, exhibitions, discussions about current affairs and presentations.



The members have been given the responsibility of creating a logo and name for the club. The meeting was concluded with an online game where students tested their knowledge about the different cities of the world.



Secondary Section News; 'Being Positively Relentless!'



WSS Head Girl, Natiela attended a character development session titled: 'Being Positively Relentless!' on Thursday 12 January 2023 at GEMS World Academy, Dubai.

She reported,

"I had a good time at the session with Mr. David Harkins. It was insightful to learn the importance of questioning the status quo, and learning that doing so opens so many roads and opportunities for innovation and also helps leave a mark of bettering people and society."

