

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #19
26th January, 2023



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

Dear WSS Parents,

Thank you for a Successful PTM

A huge thanks to most of our parents who joined us for F2F PTM on 19/1/23. It was such a pleasure to welcome you back into school & to share your child's progress, achievement & next steps as a positive team. If you were unable to make PTM, do please feel free to contact the Teacher of ORE so that we can arrange another meeting for you. Working in partnership is critical for your child's success!



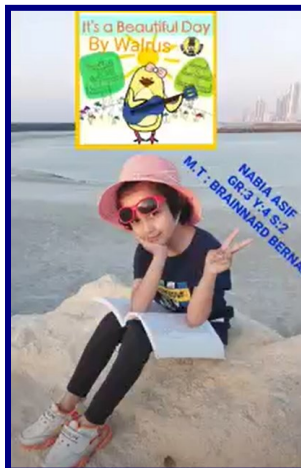
FS1 practicing pouring skills to improve their fine muscle motor control.

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Friday 17th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-enrollment for September 2023 opens. Re-enrollment for Sept. 2023 may only be completed once full T2 fees have been cleared. Deadline to click re-enroll online with intentions is Friday 17th February (re-enrollment fee payment not required until 10/4/23)
Mon. 10th April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline to pay the re-enrollment fee is Monday 10th April (please ignore any other system-generated letter dates, & apologies for any confusion) Un-booked & unpaid seats beyond the given deadline would be given to the Waiting List. Seats are limited, so to avoid stress & disappointment, do please complete re-enrollment & re-enrollment payment by the given deadlines.
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. Re-enrollment fee payment deadline to reserve seats for Sept. 2023. After this deadline, unpaid seats would be given to the Waiting List.
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.



Positive Parent Partner!



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

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم 19
26 يناير 2023



رسالة من
المديرة / الرئيس التنفيذي
السيدة فاليري توميسون

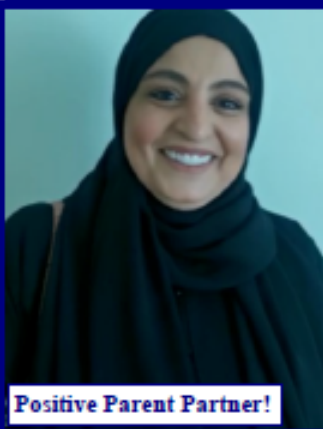
أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر
الشارقة الأعزاء،

شكرا لك على نجاح PTM

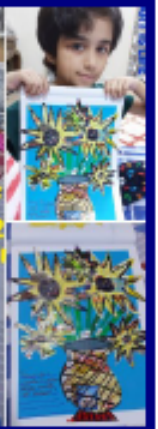
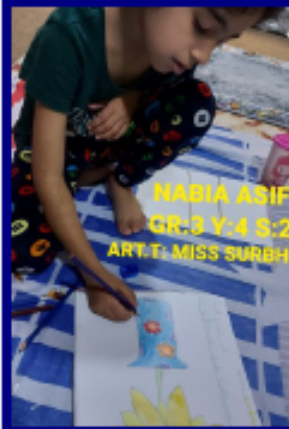
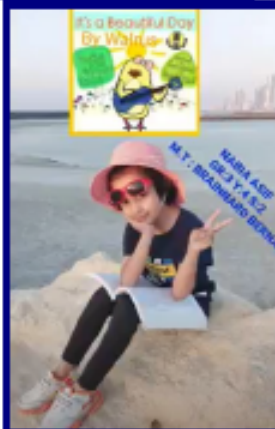
شكراً جزيلاً لمعظم الآباء الذين انضموا
إلينا في F2F PTM في 19/1/23. كان
من دواعي سروري أن أرحب بكم مرة أخرى في المدرسة
ومشاركة تقدم طفلك وإنجازاته والخطوات التالية كفريق
إيجابي. إذا لم تتمكن من إجراء PTM، فلا تتردد في الاتصال
بمدرس ORE حتى تتمكن من ترتيب اجتماع آخر لك. العمل
في شراكة أمر بالغ الأهمية لنجاح طفلك.



FS1 practicing pouring skills to improve their fine muscle motor control.



Positive Parent Partner!



NADIA ASIF
GR: B Y: 4 S: 2
ART: T. MISS SURBH



آخر يوم رسمي في العام الدراسي

29/6/23

استراحة منتصف المدة (يوم واحد)

17/4/23

استراحة منتصف المدة (يومان)

الأربعاء 15 والخميس 16 فبراير

عطلة الربيع (أسبوعان)

27/3/23 إلى 6/4/23

يبدأ الفصل الثالث يوم الاثنين الموافق 10/4/23. رسوم T3 المستحقة ، شكراً لك.

• الموعد النهائي لدفع رسوم إعادة التسجيل لحجز المقاعد في سبتمبر 2023. بعد هذا الموعد النهائي ، سيتم منح المقاعد غير المدفوعة لتقائمة الانتظار.

• الموعد النهائي لدفع رسوم إعادة التسجيل هو يوم الاثنين 10 أبريل (يرجى تجاهل أي تواريخ رسائل أخرى من إنشاء النظام ، والاعتذار عن أي لبس)

• الموعد النهائي للتفرغ على إعادة التسجيل عبر الإنترنت بنية النية هو يوم الجمعة 17 فبراير (دفع رسوم إعادة التسجيل غير مطلوب حتى 10/4/23)

• قد يتم الانتهاء من إعادة التسجيل في سبتمبر 2023 بمجرد سداد رسوم T2 بالكامل.

فتح باب التسجيل في سبتمبر 2023.

الجمعة 17 فبراير

التفاصيل

التاريخ

المواعيد

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

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



Whole School News


Newsletter Contents

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1, 2	Dates for Your Diary & general notices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dates for Your Diary
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10 11	Junior Section Superstar Champions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellbeing Champions Sheikh Zayed Drawing Competition Winners Class Superstar Champions
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14-15 16 17 18-23	Junior Section News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assembly Time with FS2D1 ME Projects Learning Time with FS1 Learning Activities in Y2
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32 33 34 35-36	Secondary Section News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y10 Leadership; Positive Learning Environment Presentations Y10-13 Careers Fair, 23/1/23 Teambuilding in KS3 to Reduce Bullying; Wacky Wednesdays! Thoughtful Thursdays; Wellbeing Initiative



Whole School News; WSS Acronyms

See p4-6 of
our Parent
Handbook

 WSS Acronyms	
	<i>Meaning</i>
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALC = Arabic Learning Coach (for Arabic, Islamic Studies & Social Studies for Arabs Teams) • AMSF = Assistant Manager School Facilities • APJ, APP, APS = Assistant Principal Junior/Primary/Secondary • ASP = After School Programme (Activities, Intervention Programme, sporting teams, competitions)
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BASE = a Reception Baseline Assessment
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAT4 = Cognitive Abilities Test • CNL = Class Newsletter (published Termly) • Conf = Conference room (Rm) • Coord = Coordinator • CPD = Continuing Professional Development (or PD) • CV = GEMS 4 Core Values (Global Citizenship, Growing by Learning, Pursuing Excellence, Leading Through Innovation)
D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHoP = Deputy Head of Primary • DOJ = Date of Joining • DP = Development Plan • DSL = Designated Safeguarding Lead (ie. Head of Inclusion & Principal)
E	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EID = Emirates Identity Card • ELL = English Language Learners • ENC = English National Curriculum ('British' Curriculum)
F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOH = Front of House (Receptionists, PRE, Registration Team)
G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GC = Guidance Counselor (Inclusion, careers, Alumni, counseling, IEPs) • GCO = GEMS Corporate Office • GEMS = Global Education Management Systems (our parent company) • G&T = Gifted & Talented • GRE = Government Relations Executive (Arabic Secretary)
H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB = Staff Handbook • HL = Home-learning (formerly HW) HOD + Head of Department (secondary subject leader) • HoI = Head of Inclusion (was SENDCO) • HR = Human Resources • H&S = Health & Safety
I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT/IT = Information, Communication Technology (computer studies) • IBP = Individual Behaviour Plan (for ongoing behaviour concerns) • IEP = Individual Education Plan (for Wave 1-3 SofD SEND students) • IGCSE = International General Certificate of Studies in Education • IR = Incident Report • IRV – Improvement Review Visit (SPEA)
J	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JD = Job Description
K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
L	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LC = Learning Coach • LFQ = Learning Focus Question (WALT) • LM = Line Manager (TL, LC, HOD, Supervisor, SLT) • LO = Lesson Observation • LSA = Learning Support Assistant (for Wave 3 SofD students) • LW = Learning Walk • LWD = Last Working Day (in school)
M	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MC = MARCOM, Marketing Coordinator • MLT = Middle Leadership Team (Phase Leaders, Coordinators, HOD, TL) • MOE = Ministry of Education • MSO = Manager School Operations (Admin Officer) • Mtg. = Meeting
N	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ND = National Day (UAE celebration) • NL = Newsletter (for Parents) • NLS = National Literacy Strategy (UK NC) • NNS = National Numeracy Strategy (UK NC)
O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P = Principal • PASS = Performance Assessment of Self-care Skills • PE = Physical Education • PISA = Programme for International Student Assessment • PPT = Powerpoint presentation (or ppt) • PRE = Parents Relations Executive • PRT = Parents Relations team (FOH; PRE, Registrar, Receptionist, Admissions Secretary) • PTM = Parent-Teacher Meeting
Q	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QAT = Quality Assurance Team

Whole School News; WSS Acronyms

R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rm = room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SAR = Social Academic Report SDP = School Development Plan SEF = Self Evaluation Form SEND = Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (Students of Determination) SENDCO = Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Coordinator (now called HoI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLT = Senior Leadership Team (P, VP, AP, LC, Deputy Heads of Section, MSO) SofD = Students of Determination (SEND) SPEA = Sharjah Private Education Authority (our MOE) SSC = Schools' Support Centre (GEMS Corporate Office) St = student/s
T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TA = Teaching Assistant TBC = To be confirmed TIMSS = Trends in International Maths & Science Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tr. = Teacher/s Tchg = Teaching
U	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
V	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VP = Vice Principal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WALT = We are learning to... (the learning objective) WB = Weekly Bulletin (staff notices, information, diary dates) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WILF = What I am looking for (What the st. has to produce; the learning outcome) WL = Warning Letter WSS = GEMS Westminster School, Sharjah
X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> YTL = Year Group Team Leader (was GTL) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Z	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">

Whole School News; Positive Parent Partners (PPP)-VP SEF Session, 23/1/23!

Many thanks to our wonderfully supportive PPP team, who met with the VP on 23/1/23 to review & unpick our school Self Evaluation Form (SEF) to support parent engagement in & contribution to school development.



Whole School News; WSS Inter-School Quran & Hadith Competition, 26/1/23!



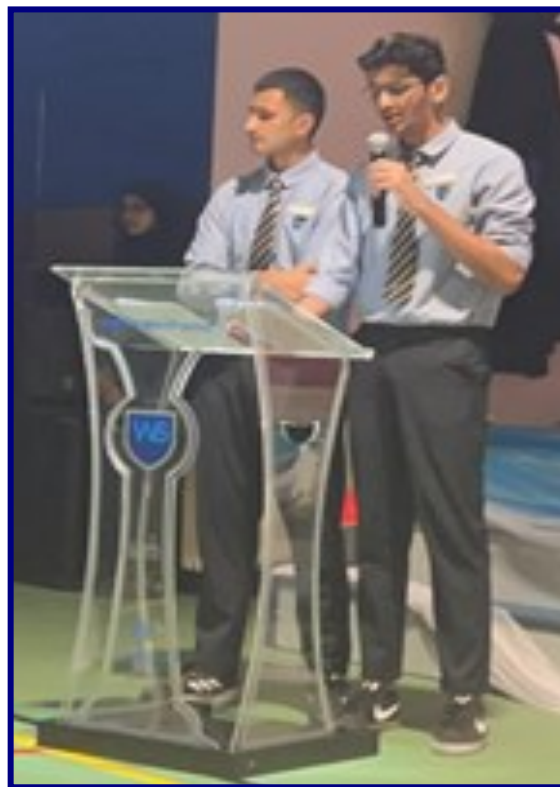
WSS hosted our annual Inter-school Quran & Hadith Competition on 26/1/23. Despite the inclement weather, 14 UAE schools participated—our biggest competition ever! Respected Auqaf guests were our VIP Judges.



Whole School News; WSS Inter-School Quran & Hadith Competition, 26/1/23!



Congratulations to our 3 WSS winners!



WSS Environmental Recycling Superstar Champions!



Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!

POSITIVE PARENT PARTNER

Hi mum, how was the parent-teacher meeting? I hope my teacher discussed to you my progress and areas of improvement in studies.

Hello my lovely daughter! I met your teacher during the PTM and we talked about your progress in academics and behaviour. I am happy to hear that you really did a great job in Term 1.

Is there any concerns that my teacher said to you for my improvement in any aspects of life?

Yeah! She told me that you need to strengthen your leadership. You should develop your relationship with others through getting along with your peers and classmates. You can do it my dear!

As a parent and a partner of your teacher, we are here to support your studies and wellbeing.

I am so happy that you support my teacher, mum. I got points in a class dojo because you have been so supportive in all school activities as a positive parent partner.

As a positive parent partner, it is my responsibility to involve myself in school activities whenever your teacher or management needs my services. I am happy to serve!

Thanks to WSS for establishing the harmonious relationship between students, parents, teachers and administrators.

SUSTAINABILITY

Good Morning Ms. Amy, I have recycled a waste cardboard box and made a skeletal system.

Amazing Karim!! You have shown an example of sustainability using a recyclable resource.

Ms. Amy, I always switch off the lights and the AC in classroom when we are away. I do my bit to conserve energy.

I did my bit too! I took part in the clean up and plantation campaign to help in keeping our environment neat and clean.

Wonderful!! I am pleased to see you participate in activities focusing on sustainability which will make our planet a better place to live in. Keep up the good work.

WSS Junior Section Wellbeing Superstar Champions!



Well being champions of
Y2F2 ~ with Ms. Raquel
and Ms. Catherin

First, I would like to thank Ms. Shamail and Ms. Raghi for their continuous guidance and support to the teachers in Junior.

Second, I want mention that I am as a parent so Lucky with Saif's teachers

So I find it good opportunity to thank all of them so

My thanks and appreciation to Ms. Shehwar for her support to my son, as I noticed a great development in his academic level in reading, writing English and mathematics, as well as in his personality through the opportunities provided by her to express himself. All thanks and appreciation to the virtuous teacher.

Thanks and appreciation to the Ms. Saida for her efforts in helping him develop his Arabic language, as I am satisfied. All satisfaction with Saif's level in the Arabic language and confidence to represent himself and I would like to thank Ms. Saida a million times because his development in the Arabic language helped him to develop in Islamic and SST through his ability to read

and great thanks and appreciation to MS Nancy and her high ability to simplify the difficult terminology of SST

Thank you for all and I wish all the best for all of you

Thanks & Regards,
Basma Albasuony

WSS Junior Section Sheikh Zayed Competition Superstar Champions!



FS1 with Ms Kishwar



WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!



Service Leadership; we are proud of our young JS student leaders, who thoughtfully perform their duties with an impressive, professional approach, in service of their friends & school.



Thank you to Mr. Abed, who took a lot of care & extra time to prepare our JS students for their Quran Competition.



Dear Ms. Nikhat,

I take this opportunity to thank you for all the efforts you are taking to polish my son Alyan. I'm so grateful and blessed to have a teacher like you for my son. I have seen great improvement in Alyan and that shows your and Ms. Afroz's hard work. Alyan doesn't get enough of talking about you both at home. He loves to come to school every day and is more focused now in studies. He was so happy to get the teddy home this week and kept on playing with it and even while sleeping he hugged the teddy 😊. All the thanks to you for giving so much of love, hard work and appreciation to him.

Best Regards,
Naheed Usman

WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!

“The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.”

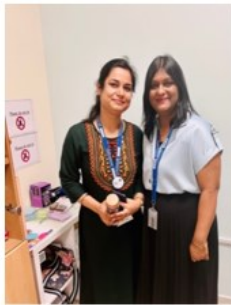
— William Arthur Ward

JS Teaching Champions of the week!

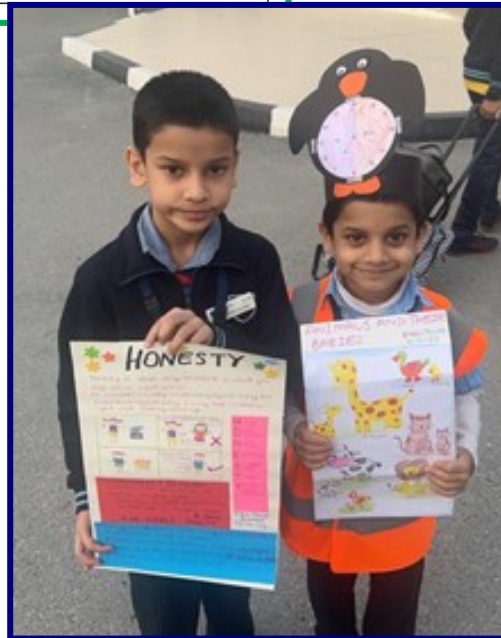
Congratulations to **Ms. Beena, Ms. Mani and Ms. Monica** for being this week's JS Teaching Champions!



Ms. Beena, for an outstanding lesson and highly effective teaching strategies
Ms. Mani: Highly supportive teaching assistant.
Ms. Monica, for the support in the JS free-play centre.



Y2F1; Teddy goes home...



Congratulations to **Yasin Fernando and Theo Tian** (Y1D2) for excellent skills in ICT and transferring their literacy skills to meet the challenge set by Mr. Jowie and Ms. Fozia. Thanks to Mr Jowie for a well-planned lesson that allowed great transfer of learning and application of new ICT skills.

Junior Section News; Assembly Time with FS2D1!



Junior Section News; Assembly Time with FS2D1!



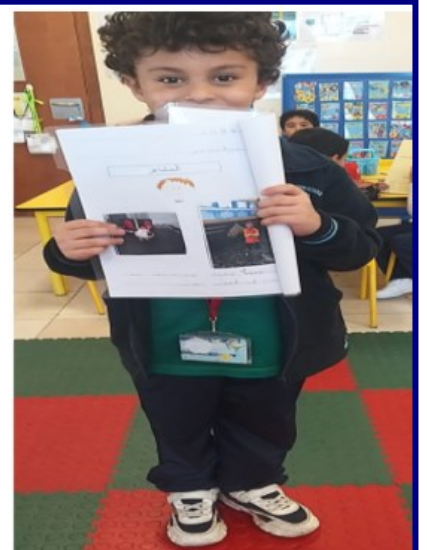
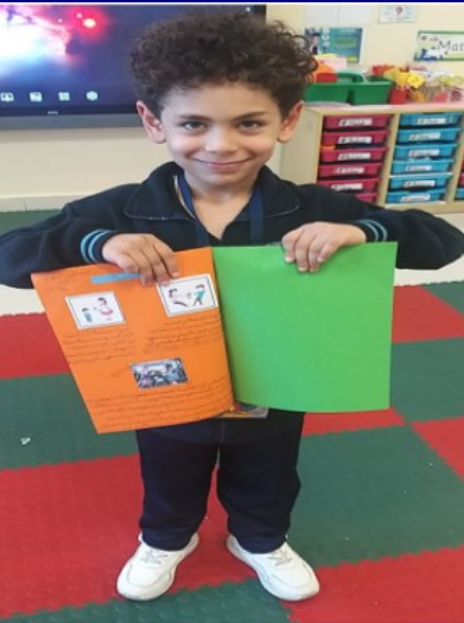
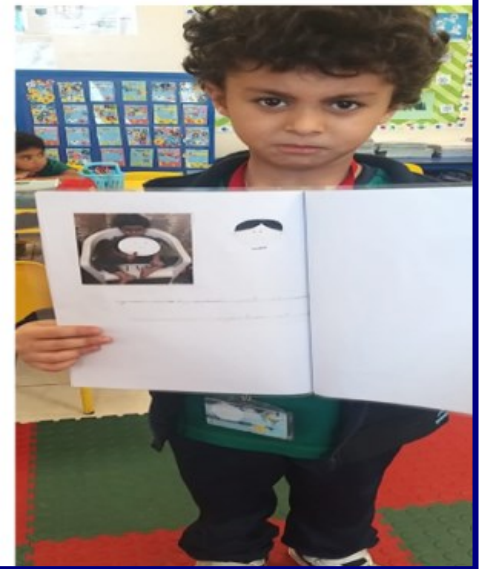
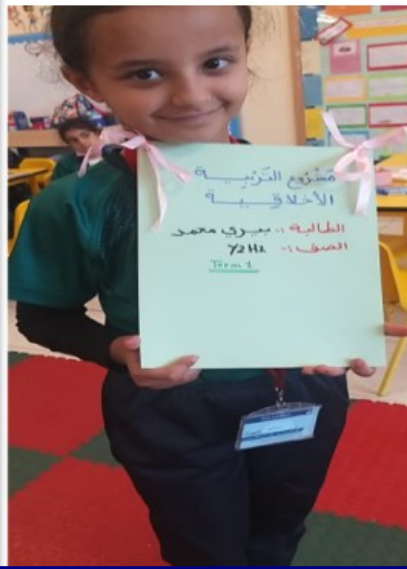
FS2D1 Parents joining their children for Assembly Time with Ms. Nikhat. Thank you dear parents for taking the time to attend!

The Theme was on Healthy eating, linked with their Term Literacy theme around the story, 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'.

It was our first FS assembly since before COVID. The children performed excellently and it was an extraordinary assembly. All parents showed great joy and happiness to their children's performance. The event was appreciated by our parents with many appreciation emails.



Junior Section News; Moral Education Projects!



Junior Section News; Learning in FS1!



Busy with our activities



FS1H with Ms. Kishwar



Fun @Free play Area

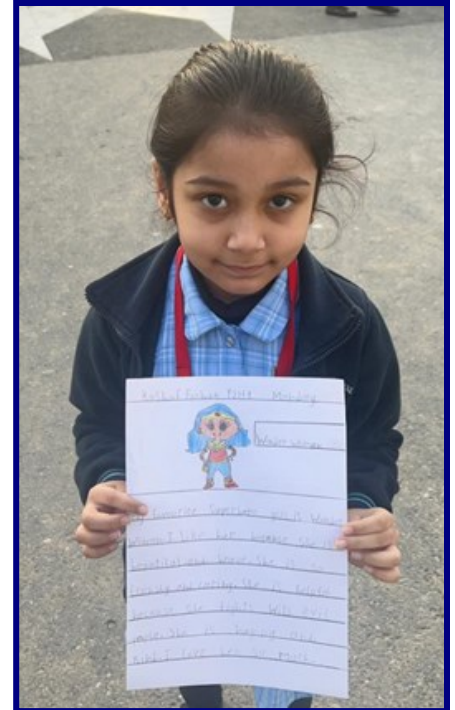


Junior Section News; Learning in Y2!



Malek Ramy video

Thank you to Malek for sharing your super confident & clear video teaching us about the concept of adding. We love how you have taken ownership of your own leaning & linked addition to your real life & your topic of superheroes! Well done!



Y2 F1 with Ms. Sidra and Ms. Aqueen in the OLA.



Junior Section News; Learning in Y2!



We are helping Mr. Olaf to reach his destination by giving directions.



We are learning English a-e words



Discussion time



We are learning directions

Importance of apology

Thank you Noah for your practical video about saying sorry & sensible problem-solving.

NOAH GRACE
Y2DI



VA0019

With Ms. Sabiha & Ms. Krishnapriya

Ms. Aqueen engaging with Y2F1 students learning about the classification of animals in a science lesson.



Junior Section News; MOE Subject Learning in Y2!



Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y2!



Dear Ms Thompson,

I hope this email finds you well. We attended the PTM yesterday, our first one at WSS as we have joined the school just last year. I just want to appreciate the administration for holding this meeting in the school premises and organising it so well. While there have always been ample opportunities to have online meetings with the teachers whenever the parents have desired so, this in person experience was much needed and went so well.

I especially want to express gratitude to the wonderful teachers of both my children in year 7 and year 4. They were extremely warm, encouraging, open to suggestions and offered valuable advice for further improvement of the students. We left the school content with the knowledge that our children are in capable competent and kind hands.

Thank you to the entire administration and teachers at WSS for providing a safe, robust and thriving environment to the students.

Warm regards,

Sadia Sajad

Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y2!

We have story time and roleplay



We are doing maths clock activity

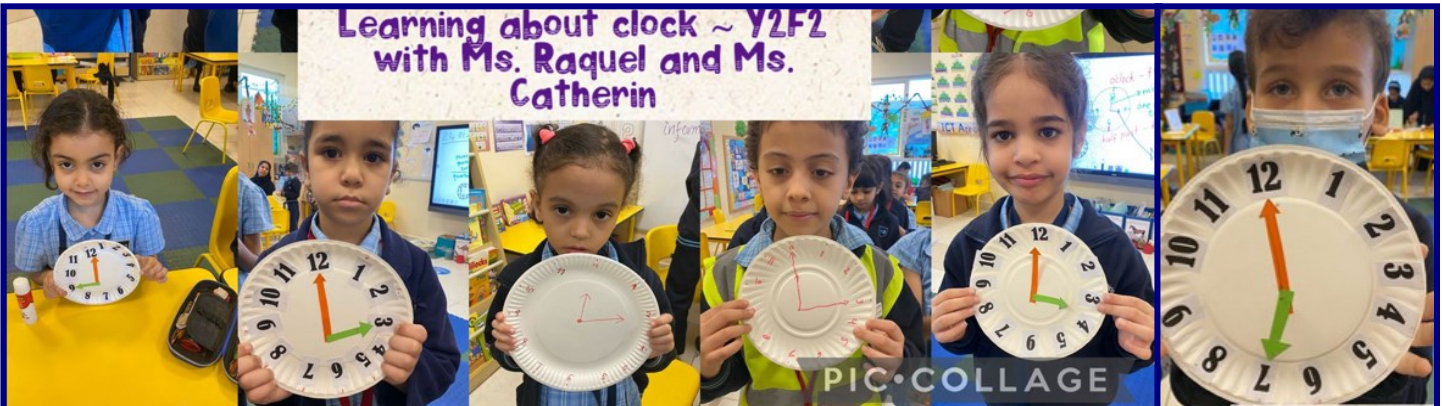


Our Sheikh Zayed drawing competition winner



Y2 H2 With Tr- Sabiha, AT - Priya

Junior Section News; Learning Activities in Y2!



WSS Primary Section Y3 Community Service Superstar Champions!



WSS Primary Section Y4 Community Service Superstar Champions!



WSS Primary Section Y6 Class Superstar Champions!



WSS Primary Section Y6 Break Time Book Buddies!

Y6 Book Buddy Superstars have been reading to younger students during their Break times. Thank you & well done for this great example of Community Service!



WSS Primary Section Y6 Break Time Book Buddies!

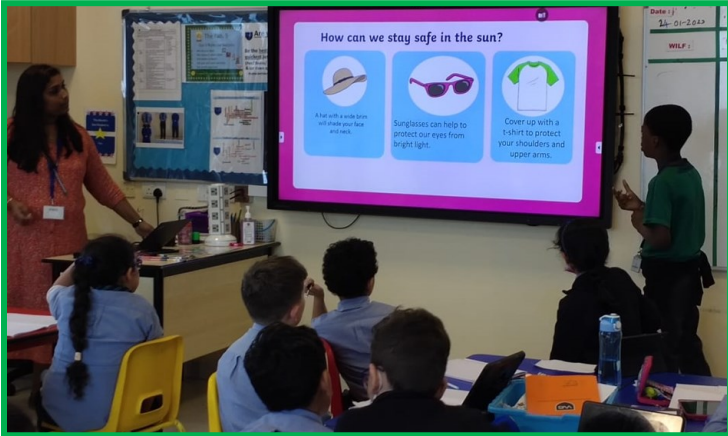
Literacy is one of the most critically important domains of education. Here we have Y6 Book Buddy Superstars have been reading to younger students during their Break times. Thank you & well done for this great example of Peer-Peer support & Community Service!



WSS Primary Section Y6 Lesson Buddies!

Superstar peer teacher Feranmi (Y6BH) has been Buddy Teaching with Ms. Anshy in Y3H2 during his Library periods. We thank him for investing his time to help younger students. How cool is that!

The following Science initiative is named, 'Wizard of Obs(ervation)!'



WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!

Y3H1 Term 1 Achievers



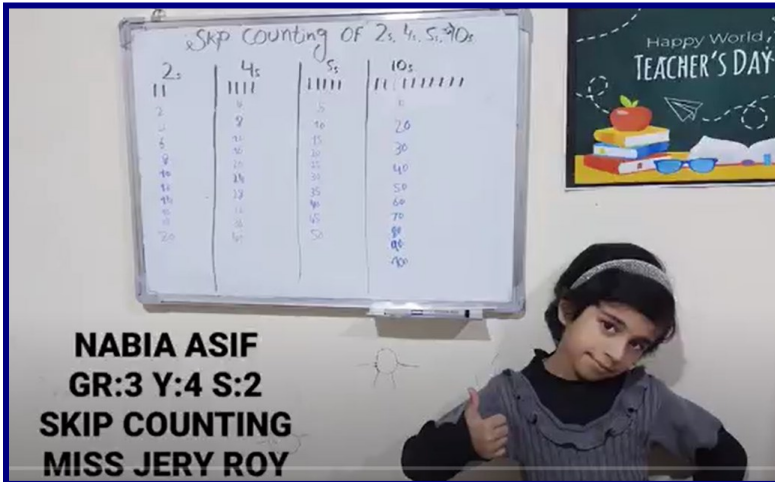
Primary Section News; Assembly Time With Y6GH; Goals in Life!



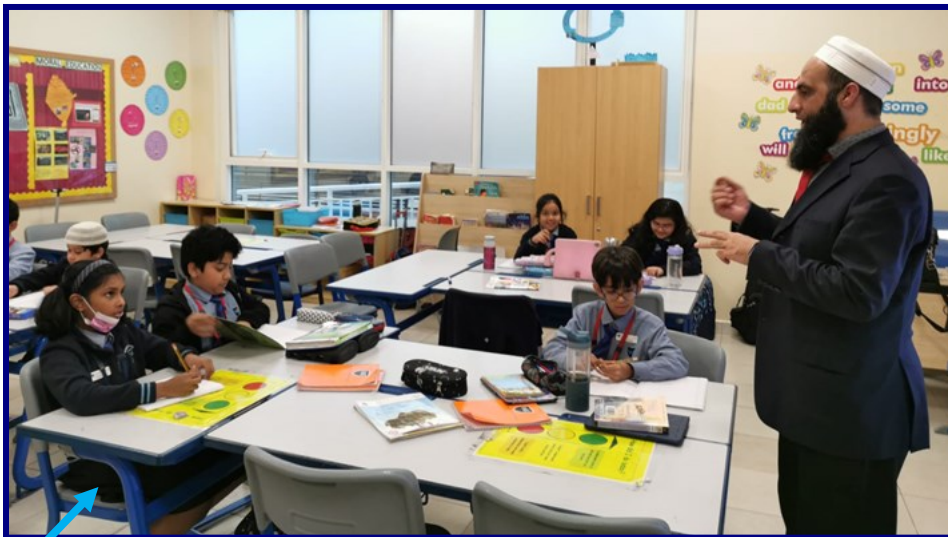
Primary Section News; Assembly Time With Y4H2; Equality!



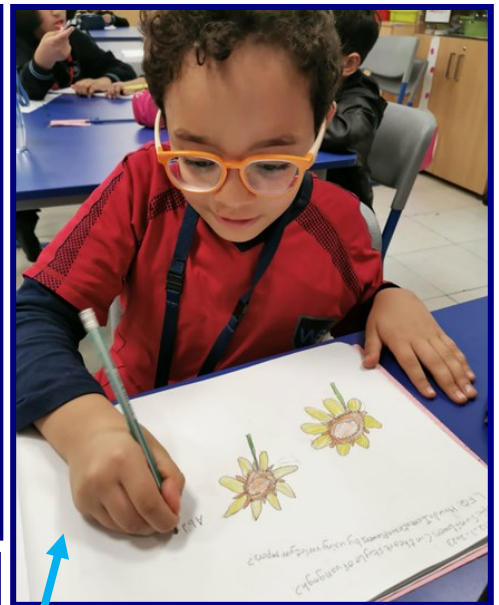
Primary Section News



NABIA ASIF
GR:3 Y:4 S:2
SKIP COUNTING
MISS JERY ROY

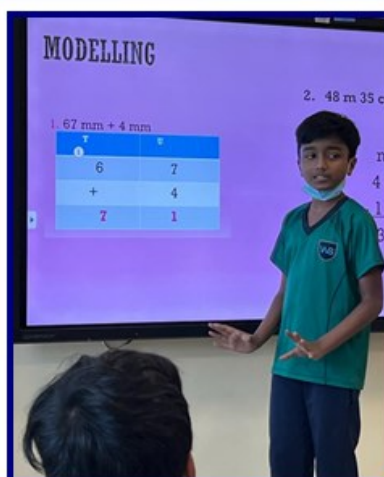


Mr. Kashif is demonstrating the qualities & value of good friends to his Y4 class during an Islamic lesson. These values are applied to our real life!



Abdul Rehman (Y4S2) is exploring his creativity though drawing a sunflower during his art lesson. Observation skills are an extremely important life skill!

Primary Section News; Magic Maths Y6-Y3 Peer Mentoring!



Secondary Section News; Y10 Leadership!

Year 10 class leaders presenting behaviour PPT to peers to reinforce a positive learning environment.



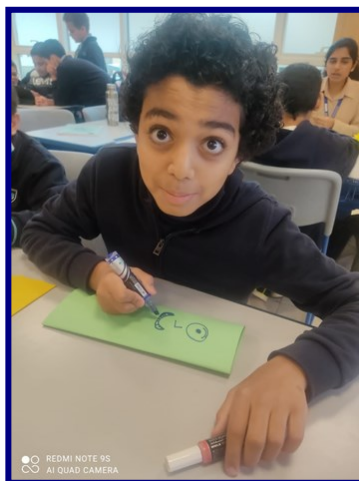
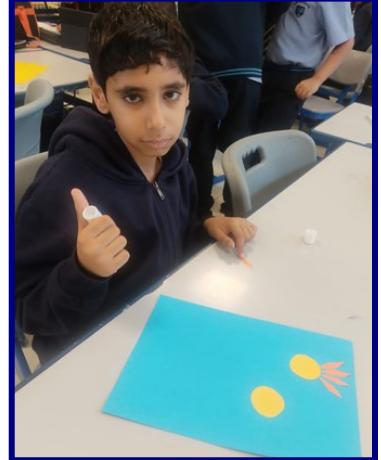
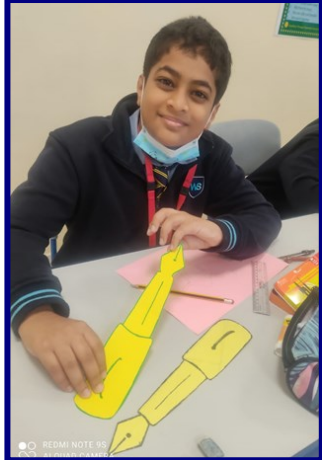
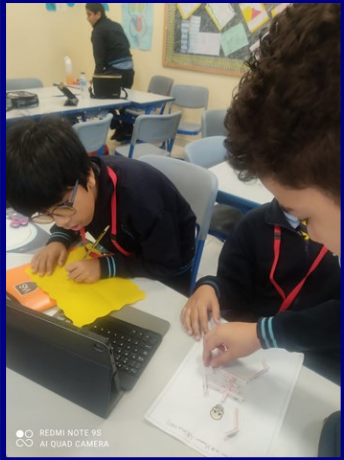
Secondary Section News; Y10-13 Careers Fair!

Students Attended the Career Fair.



Students were eager to attend the career fair held on 24/1/23. It was a true guiding light to these inquisitive minds. The students explored as many fields and universities as they could taking away a handful of brochures for further research into their options.

Secondary Section News; Team Building in KS3 to Reduce Bullying—Wacky Wednesdays!



Y7BD

Secondary Section News; Thoughtful Thursdays Wellbeing Initiative!

