

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #2
31st August, 2023



Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

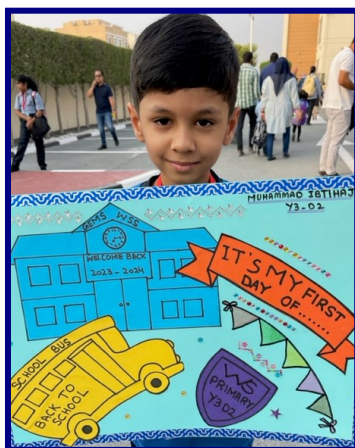
A very warm welcome! The start of a new academic year is always extremely busy, with lots to organise & queues to navigate. I would like to thank all our dear parents for your tremendous patience & support as we work together to settle our students as quickly & smoothly as possible.

Please note the following:

- Please send a **backpack-style bag only** (no trolley bags)
- Please **listen to, respect & support** all our staff—they are here for your child's safety. Thank you.
- From Day 3, **only Junior parents with their parent ID card may enter the school building for pick-up & drop-off of their Junior child only, not into any other corridor.** Other parents, please meet the Reception for support.

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Friday 1/9/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8am-1pm • Cashier Office open
Saturday 2/9/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8am-2pm • Cashier Office open
Week of 25th-28th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet your child's Teacher; home-school Teacher 'Meet-&-Greet meetings. Details to follow.
Wed. 18th-Thurs. 19th Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-Term Break. School closed for students. • School opens on Monday 23rd Oct.
Mon. 18th Dec—Monday 1st January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School closed for Winter Break. • School opens on Tuesday 2nd January 2024. • T2 Fees due by 12/24. Thank you.



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

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم 2
31 أغسطس 2023



رسالة من المديرية / الرئيس التنفيذي
السيدة فاليري تومبسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس
ويستمينستر الشارقة الأعزاء،

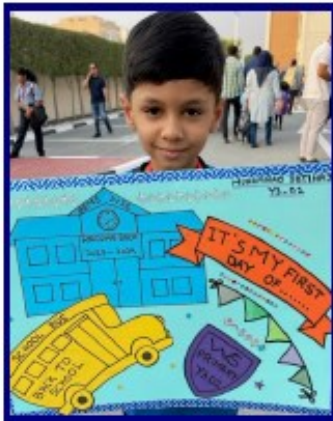
ترحبنا حاراً جداً! دائماً ما تكون بداية
العام الدراسي الجديد مزدهمة للغاية،
حيث يوجد الكثير مما يجب تنظيمه
والأسئلة التي يجب التفتيش فيها. أود
أن أشكر جميع أولياء الأمور الأعزاء
على صبركم ودعمكم الهائل بينما
نعمل معاً لتسوية طلابنا في أسرع
وقت وسلامة قدر الإمكان.

يرجى ملاحظة ما يلي:

- يرجى إرسال حقيبة على شكل حقيبة ظهر فقط (لا توجد حقائب
بجالات)
- يرجى الاستماع إلى جميع موظفينا واحترامهم ودعمهم - فهم هنا
من أجل سلامة طفلك. شكرًا لك.
- اعتبارًا من اليوم الثالث، يُسمح فقط للآباء الصغار الذين يحملون
بطاقة هوية ولي الأمر بالدخول إلى مبنى المدرسة لاستقبال
وتوصيل طفلهم الصغير فقط، وليس إلى أي ممر آخر. الآباء
الآخرون، يرجى مقابلة مكتب الاستقبال للحصول على الدعم.

المواعيد

التاريخ	التفاصيل
جمعة 9/1/23	8 صباحًا - 1 ظهرًا أمين الصندوق مفتوح
السبت 9/2/23	8 صباحًا - 2 ظهرًا أمين الصندوق مفتوح
الأسبوع من 25 إلى 28 سبتمبر	تعرف على معلم طفلك! لقاءات "لقاء وترحب" مع معلم المدرسة المنزلية. تفاصيل للمتابعة.
الأربعاء 18- الخميس 19 أكتوبر	استراحة منتصف المدة. المدرسة مغلقة أمام الطلاب. تفتح المدرسة يوم الاثنين 23 أكتوبر.
الاثنين 18 ديسمبر - الاثنين 1 يناير	المدرسة مغلقة لمطلة الشتاء. تفتح المدرسة يوم الثلاثاء 2 يناير 2024. رسوم T2 مستحقة بحلول 12/1/24. 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; general notices
3	Contents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contents Table & important notices
4 5 6 6 7 8 8 9 10 11 12 13	Whole School News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPEA VIP Visit to WSS, 30/8/23 Backpacks Welcome back to school! SPEA approved holiday dates Celebrating Onam Storyboard Top Tips; Settling into School Uniform 'A' Level Toppers WSS Superstar Champions Environmental Recycling Superstar Champions Week One Pictures Happy Birthdays
14-16 17 18 19 20-22	Junior Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcoming Your Children to WSS Learning Fun with FS1 Learning Fun with FS2 Learning Fun in Y1 Learning Fun with Y2
23 24 25-27	Primary Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to the new academic year Learning Activities in Y3 & Y4 Learning Activities in Y5
28 29	Secondary Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcoming New Joiners Welcome to Week 1

Late Rejoining

As mentioned in NL#36 (June) & NL#1 (24/8), we are holding unclaimed seats until Monday 4th September. After this date, 'No-Show' seats would be given to the Waiting List.

If your child is joining back late (after 4/9) & you have not yet arranged a deadline extension, do please email the Principal about your child's expected return date, so that we know to hold the seat beyond 4/9/23.

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



WSS Safeguarding Policy

Please note FYI, that our WSS Safeguarding Policy 2023-2024 can be found on our school website.:

<https://www.gemswestminsterschool-sharjah.com/For-Parents/September-Re-opening-plans>

Whole School News; SPEA VIP Visit to WSS, 30/8/23!



We would like to thank our esteemed SPEA dignitaries who spent time in WSS on 30/8/23, touring the Junior Section. They also enjoyed a beautiful song by singing sensation superstar Sheinya (Y1S1).

Teamwork & communication are key to the success of any organisation, so we very much appreciate SPEA's engagement & support.



Whole School News; Backpacks!



Many thanks to parents who have supported us with the 'No Trolley Bag' policy by purchasing nice neat backpacks for your children's school supplies.

As you can see from the picture, trolley bags are too large for the cubby holes & classrooms. They are a trip hazard & dangerous when dragged down the stairs.

If you are concerned about the weight of your child's school bag, please sign up for a locker (a letter will be sent home shortly). Thank you.

**GEMS Westminster School**
SHARJAH



NO Trolley Bags

Safety Policy

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

For the safety and well-being of our students, **trolley bags will not be allowed in school from the next academic year (2023-2024).**



Pulling heavy trolley bags poses a risk of accidents.

In Junior Section, students will not be expected to carry heavy books to and from school every day, so they will not need huge bags. Instead, the notebooks/ writing books will be kept in the school and the home learning books/practice books will be kept at home to reduce the bags' weight.

Primary-Secondary students will be offered a Locker to store their books.

Whole School News



Duration of / مدة الإجازة vacation	To / إلى	From / من	Statement / البيان
Term 1 الفصل الدراسي الأول -			
-		2023/8/28	First Day of School/ بدء دوام الطلبة
2days/يومان	2023/10/19	2023/10/18	Holiday/ إجازة
2Weeks / 2 أسابيع	2023/12/28	2023/12/18	Winter Break / إجازة الشتاء
Term 2 الفصل الدراسي الثاني -			
-		2024/1/2	School Return / استئناف دوام الطلبة
2days / يومان	2024/2/15	2024/2/14	Holiday/ إجازة
2Weeks / 2 أسابيع	2024/4/11	2024/4/1	Spring Break / إجازة الربيع
Term 3 الفصل الدراسي الثالث -			
-		2024/4/15	School Return / استئناف دوام الطلبة
End of the Academic Year 2023/2024		2024/7/4	نهاية العام الدراسي 2024/2023

2023/2024 العام الدراسي

Our SPEA approved
calendar for 2023-2024



هيئة الشارقة للتعليم الخاص
SHARJAH PRIVATE EDUCATION AUTHORITY

معتد
Approved 24/8/2023

Whole School News; Celebrating Onam!



Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!

Welcome Back!!



Whole School News; Uniform



BLOUSE, SHORTS & BLAZER (Y10 - Y13) AVAILABLE BY JULY 2023

WSS Superstar 'A' Level Toppers, June 2023 Series!

Student name, age & nationality	Confirmed results
Ayesha Shahid Shahid Shamsheer	2A*1A
Arshaq Ahamed Mohamed Ashthaq	2A*1A
Natiela Ashebir Alemu	1A*1A1B
Gatika Suneel Kumar	1A*1A1B
Arafa Amjad Ali Mir Amjad Ali	3A

We are extremely proud of our successful team of students, parents, and staff. Academic success is not a given; it takes tremendous hard work and responsive, innovative, and strategic provision, as well as teamwork. Additional resilience was required as we adapted to post-Covid learning and managed the educational disruption that had been caused. Throughout it all, the team remained committed to excellence, was ambitious for success, and ever focused on development. My hearty congratulations to all!

VALERIE THOMPSON
Principal/CEO



I appreciate the school and my teachers for helping me achieve my goals and providing all the support I needed throughout the year. From the beginning of my journey, I had a dream that I wanted to achieve, and so I had to work very hard to reach this dream. I'd also like to thank my mom for supporting me and providing the best environment to study at home. Time management and planning my studies beforehand has also helped me a lot this year.

Jana Hany Ibrahim Awad Aboueid



First praises to the almighty, my parents, my teachers and finally myself. They are the key reasons that I am here saying this right now. There were certain points in my life where I felt that nothing is going my way and learning seemed one of the hardest things to do in my day-to-day life. But then I learned something very important from nothing but a book named 'brief answers to the big questions' by Stephen Hawking. His one quote is still stuck with me till this day even after I graduated which goes by:

"However bad life may seem, there is always something you can do, and succeed at. While there's life, there is hope."

If you have the right mindset and your goals fixed, you can achieve anything with proper determination, even the hardest organic chemistry problem!!!

Arshaq Ahamed Mohamed Ashthaq



My successful journey was to begin with, a gift from Allah SWT, and today, I can confidently say that I have succeeded in this stage of my academic journey because of his blessing upon me. I would be remiss if I don't thank my teachers who helped me on this path to brilliance by their reassurance, encouraging parents as well as my two brothers who were my pillars, supporting me both emotionally and educationally. They will always be the ones to elevate me towards higher levels of success in the future.

Mayass Abdul Salam Al Shummari

WSS Superstar Champions!



GEMS Education & Unifrog Awards Champion AY23

UAE & Qatar



This certificate is presented to

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH

runner up for the Embracing New
Tools: Psychometric Testing Award


Alex Kelly
Director, Unifrog


unifrog

29th August 2023

Date

 
GEMS EDUCATION
www.gemsworld.org

Congratulations to Secondary GC Ms. Anisha, who was awarded a special certificate by Ms. Gwawr Tagg, University Partnerships Programme Director – GEMS for Life and Ms. Josie Allison – International Area Manager – Unifrog. This was for WSS being runner up in the rate of Unifrog engagement. Unifrog is an extremely useful online resource for students researching & planning their Higher Education options.

Many thanks to our dedicated Amiri Guards who support us with the traffic outside school every morning & afternoon for our children's safety.



Environment & Recycling Superstar Champions!



Be an environmental recycling superstar—bring in your clean water bottles to be recycled & do your part to help preserve our planet! Thank you

Whole School News; Week One, From 28/8/23!

I wanted to express how much I appreciated the warm welcome you extended to all students and parents this morning. Your attention to detail truly stood out and made a difference. Thank you for being so kind in taking a photo with my son – it meant a lot to us. I also wanted to highlight the exceptional organization of today's orientation, which added to our wonderful experience.



Happy Birthdays!



Happy Birthday!

Thank you for bringing a perfect, healthy fruit treat to share with classmates!

Happy birthday dear Yahya ...



Junior Section News; Preparing to Welcome Your Children!

Led by Ms. Shamail

24-08-23



A very successful sessions with JS planning coordinators



by Ms. Raghi

23-08-23

JS Induction & Orientation Meeting



Induction of the new joiners and orientation of FS1, FS2, Y1 & Y2 teachers and assistant teachers.



PD on JS Positive Behavioural Management

by Ms. Shamail & Ms. Raghi



Junior Section News; Preparing to Welcome Your Children!



Junior Section News; Our First Week!



WELCOMING THE NEW JOINERS IN JUNIOR SECTION WITH THEIR PARENTS



First day of school in WSS



Junior Section News; FS1!



With Ms. Kishwar

Fun with Rhymes



Activity @Fs 1 h



Having Fun@West Play area



Junior Section News; FS2!



Sharing is caring.(FS2H1 with Ms.Christine and Ms.Maria)



PIC•COLLAGE

Dear Ms Shamail and Ms Raghi,

Good afternoon! How are you? I hope you are doing well! I completed my junior section progress, now I entered the primary section. I would like to thank all my teachers: Ms Shai, Ms Tahira, Ms Ashika, Ms Sheema, Mr Jowie, Mr Dinaish, Ms Sara, Ms Geraldine, Ms Nadia, Ms Ayat, Ms Asma, Ms Mariam and all my junior section teachers who made me come across all the way through this incredible learning journey. I would also like to thank Ms Shamail and Ms Raghi for letting me have an opportunity to have an amazing experience of this leadership as a Head Boy. Pray for me to have a fabulous future, I will always remember all my beloved teachers and I will never forget these momentous memories.

Have a nice day!

Best Wishes,

Jazib Al Hayat Y3 H2

Junior Section News; Year 1!



Junior Section News; Year 2!



**FS2D1 enjoyed
creating log portrait**

With Ms. Nikhat



**FS2D1 creating
names with loose
material**



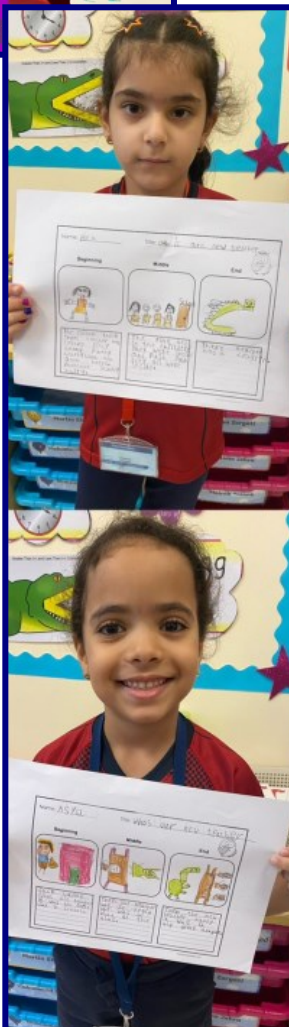
Junior Section News; Year 2!



Junior Section News; Year 2!



Recap session in Y2S1 with
Ms. Sara and Ms. Catherin



Primary Section News; Welcome to the new Year!



Y5 Parents' Orientation Meeting 2023-2024 by Ms. Sameena



Primary Section News; Y3 & Y4!



Y4 H2 : How we enjoyed the first week with fun filled learning activities!



Primary Section News; Y5!

Year 5F1 during their English class with Mr. Arvie. Students were able to demonstrate good character traits and follow FAB 5 rules in the class during the first week of going back to school.



Students shows enthusiasm during the flip learning and group collaboration.



With Mr. Arvie

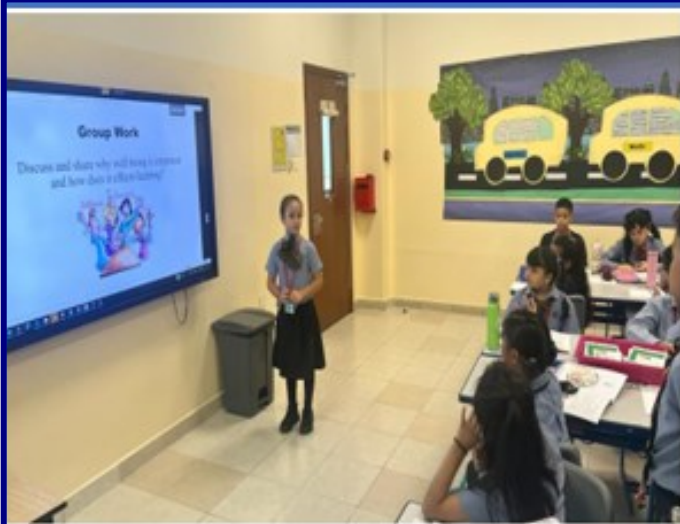


Y5 D1



With Ms. Anju

Primary Section News; Y5!



Empowering Wellbeing: Student-Led Lesson in Y5F2 | Ms Sameena Ayaz



Y5F2 Interactive Learning with Ms Sameena to promote collaboration, critical thinking, and active participation.

With Ms. Sameena

Primary Section News; Y5!



A Warm
Welcome from
Our Vice
Principal
Mr. Suj



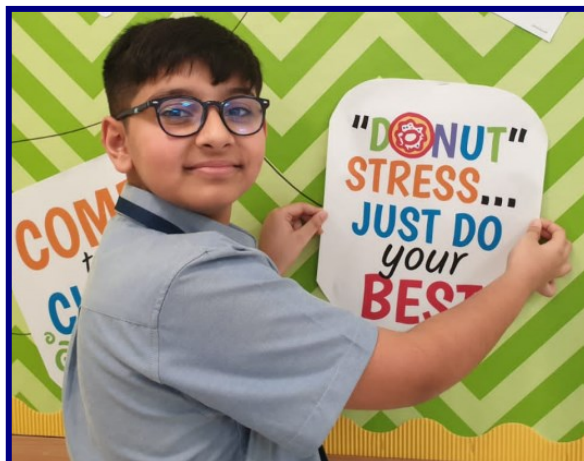
Y5F2 Mr Arvie English Lesson displays Teamwork, communication, and the exchange of diverse perspectives.

Challenging students to apply their knowledge creatively

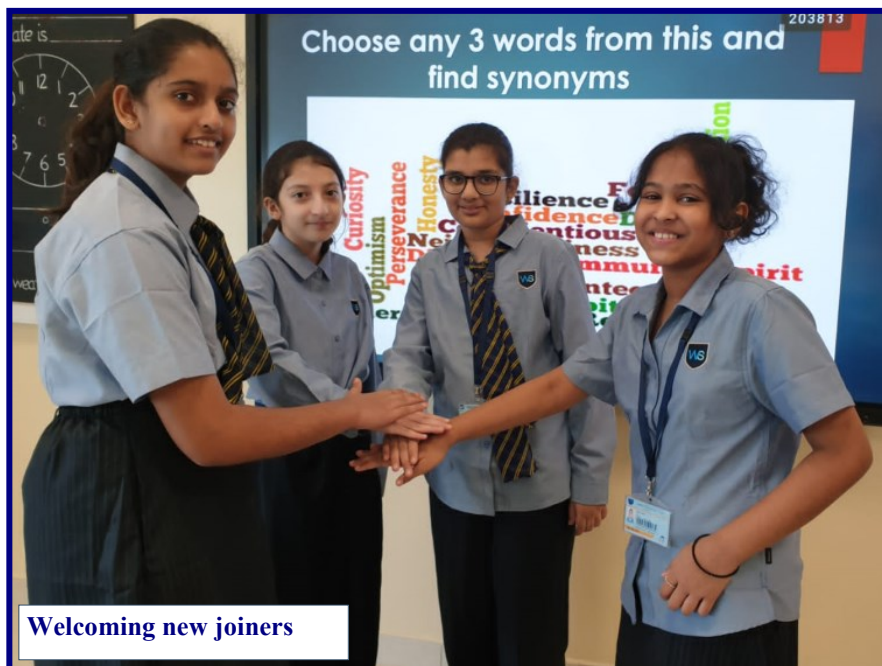
With Ms. Sameena

Secondary Section News; Welcoming New Joiners to WSS, 28/8/23!

YEAR 8BH1- DAY1 (WELCOMING NEW STUDENTS TO WSS)



Secondary Section News; Week 1, From 28/8/23!



Loving the new Sixth Form Uniform—so distinguished & professional-looking!

