GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH









Newsletter Issue #2 28th August, 2025



Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents, An important GEMS initiative dear to our hearts is 'Family First', where we share & promote positive family values across our community. Please feel free to share a picture of you enjoying quality family time together over the summer. I will include some of these

in the 'Family First' section in the Weekly Newsletters. Thank you.

pates for Your Diary

| Date | Details |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Sat. 30/8/25 | • WSS Cashier open 8am-1pm |
| Thursday 25/9/25 2-5pm | FS1-Y13 Parent-Teacher 'Meet & Greet' meeting. Come & meet your child's teachers! All students to go home at 12pm |
| Thursday 4th Decem- ber | • Last day of T1 (T1 exams will run from approximately 2 weeks prior) |

Happy Emirati Women's Day, 28/8/25! We are very proud of our Emirati Team & wish them every success!



Huge welcome to our new joiners, some of whom are pictured below in their beautiful, professional-standard uniform. Love it!









مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة





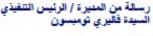












أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمين الشارقة الأعزاء،

ومن مبادرات GEMSالمهمة والعزيزة على قلوبنا مبادرة "الأسرة أولا"، حيث نشارك ونروج للقيم العائلية الإيجابية في مجتمعنا. لا تتردد في مشاركة صورة لك وأنت تستمتع بوقت

عاتلي ممتع معًا خلال فصل الصيف. سأدرج بعضًا منها في قسم "العائلة أولًا" ضمن النشرات الإخبارية الأسبوعية. شكرا لكم

المواعيد اجتماع أولياء الأمور والمعلمين "لقاء وتعارف" للصفوف من FS1إلى . Y13تعالوا للتعرف على مطمي T0/4/T0 O: . . _ Y: . . على جميع الطلاب العودة إلى منازلهم في الساعة 12 آخر يوم من امتحانات ٦١ (متجرى امتحانات ٦٦قبل حوالي أسبوعين)

النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 2

28 أغسطس 2025

يوم المرأة الإماراتية السعيد، ٥ ٢٨/٨/٢! فخورون جدًّا بفريقنا الإماراتي ونتمنى له كل التوفيق والنجاح!



Congratulations

to our Year 11 students on their remarkable GCSE results







نرحب ترحيبًا حارًا بموظفينا الجدد، ويظهر بعضهم في الصورة أدناه بزيهم الرسمي الجميل والمطابق للمعابير المهنية. رانع!









رؤيتنا؛ "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعي؛ النجاح 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.



Contents Parent Handbook Access QR Code

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Whole School News; Happy Emirati Women's Day, 28/8/25!



Emirati Inclusion Assistant Ms. Maitha presented a wonderfully enthusiastic & proud session related to Emirati Women's Day to Sixth Form girls & SLT.









Whole School News; Sunnah Weekend Challenge!





🌛 I LOVE RASOOLULLAAH 🜛: MY DAILY SUNNAH PRACTICE CHART

Year/Sec.:

My Name:

Weekend Challenge

| ★ My Daily Sunnah Practices ★ | * Friday | * Saturday | * Sunday |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| 🙏 I started my day with Morning Duaa | □ Yes □ No | □ Yes □ No | □Yes □No |
| 📏 I used Miswak before performing Wudoo | □Yes □No | □ Yes □ No | □Yes □No |
| 🤝 I said 'Assalamu-Alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuhu' to those whom I met today | □Yes □No | □Yes □No | □Yes □No |
| O I did not backbite anyone | □ Yes □ No | □ Yes □ No | □ Yes □ No |
| I shared some Sunnah practices with my friends and relatives | □ Yes □ No | □Yes □No | □Yes □No |
| I said the Duaa when going out and while entering home | □ Yes □ No | □Yes □No | □Yes □No |
| 😂 I controlled my anger even during difficult times | □Yes □No | □ Yes □ No | □Yes □No |
| iii I offered my five daily prayers in time (I know this is commissory) | □ Yes □ No | □Yes □No | □Yes □No |
| 💝 I gave charity (whatever was possible by me) | □ Yes □ No | □ Yes □ No | □ Yes □ No |
| 😬 I made du'aas for the sick and unfortunate people | □ Yes □ No | □ Yes □ No | □ Yes □ No |
| 🎎 I respected my elders, including my teachers and my parents | □Yes □No | □Yes □No | □Yes □No |
| T chose good things for others which I like for myself | □ Yes □ No | □ Yes □ No | □ Yes □ No |
| I did not harm or bully others | □ Yes □ No | □ Yes □ No | □ Yes □ No |
| 📭 I read a few pages of the Qur'an & tried to understand its meaning | □ Yes □ No | □Yes □No | □Yes □No |
| 🌔 I made du'aas for the suffering humanity | □Yes □No | □ Yes □ No | □Yes □No |
| I cleaned my bed, said the du'aa and slept on my right side | □Yes □No | □Yes □No | □Yes □No |
| I did my school work and tried to keep up with my studies | □ Yes □ No | □Yes □No | □Yes □No |
| 👛 I took care of my health and wellbeing | □Yes □No | □ Yes □ No | □Yes □No |
| / I helped my parents in house chores | □ Yes □ No | □Yes □No | □Yes □No |
| 🙌 I said Alhamdulillah when I finished my work | □ Yes □ No | □Yes □No | □ Yes □ No |
| | | | |

As we welcome the blessed month of Rabi al-Awwal, we are encouraging our students to practice the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad sin daily life through a "Daily Sunnah Practice Chart" as a Weekend Challenge. We request your kind support in motivating your child to participate and revive these beautiful Sunnah practices at home during this weekend, 29th-31st August, 2025.

Whole School News; Welcome Back to School, 26/8/25!



















Whole School News; Welcome Back to School, 26/8/25!























Whole School News; SPEA Calendar Dates, 2025-2026!

The Academic Calendar for Students in Private Schools in Sharjah for the 2025/2026 Academic Year

Dear School Principals,

Sharjah Private Education Authority extends its sincere congratulations on the occasion of the new academic year 2025—2026. We wish you a year filled with success, excellence, and outstanding achievements.

Please find below the academic calendar for students for the 2025— 2026 academic year, covering all curricula, for your kind perusal and adherence to its contents.

First: The academic calendar for students in all private schools in Sharjah for the 2025/2026 academic year, excluding schools that follow the Indian and Pakistani curricula:

| Statement | From | То | Duration of Vacation | |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------------|--|
| First Day of School for | August | | | |
| Students | 25, 2025 | | | |
| Minter Borok for Students | December | January 4, | 4 weeks | |
| Winter Break for Students | 8,2025 | 2026 | 4 weeks | |
| Students Return to School | January 5, | | | |
| Students Keturn to School | 2026 | | | |
| Spring Break for Students | March 16, | March | 1 week | |
| Spring break for students | 2026 | 22, 2026 | I Week | |
| Students Return to School | March 23, | | | |
| Students Return to School | 2026 | | | |
| Last Day for Students | July 2, | | | |
| Last Day for Students | 2026 | | | |

سادة/ مديري المدارس الخاصة المحترمين

قدم هيئة الشارقة للتعليم الخاص بأجمل النهائي والتبريكات بمناسبة عام الدراسي الجديد 2025-2026، متمنين لكم عامًا حافلًا بالنجاحات لتميز والإنجازات.

الإشارة إلى الموضوع أعلاه، مرفق لكم التقويم المدرسي للطلاب للعام درامي 2025-2026 لكافة المناهج الدرامية للاطلاع والالتزام بما جاء هه.

رِلاً- التقويم المدرمي للطلبة في <u>جميع المدارس الخاصة</u> بإمارة الشارقة عام الدراميي 2026/2025 <u>باستثناء المدارس المطبقة للمنهاج الهندي</u> لياكستاني:

| مدة الإجازة | إلى | من | البيان |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| | | 25 أغسطس 2025 | بداية العام الدراسي للطلبة |
| 4 أسابيع | 4 يناير 2026 | 8 ديسمبر 2025 | إجازة الشتاء للطلبة |
| | | 5 يناير 2026 | استثناف دوام الطلبة |
| أسبوع | 22 مارس 2026 | 16 مارس 2026 | إجازة الربيع للطلبة |
| | | 23 مارس 2026 | استثناف دوام الطلبة |
| | | 2 يوليو 2026 | نهاية العام الدراسي الطلبة |

Please note that all dates are subject to SPEA change

Whole School News; Uniform for August 2025!



We are training our students to become successful, professional 'business people', so enforce a smart uniform code to reinforce self-discipline, professionalism, equality, personal pride & a sense of belonging to a team. We request that parents support our uniform code.

- Wearing full uniform & ID badge is compulsory. Full school uniform including ID Badge should be worn to school daily. Not wearing proper school uniform is a disciplinary issue.
- Proper school uniform (not PE uniform) should be worn on exam days, unless otherwise informed in writing by school.
- If due to some unavoidable reason your child is not in proper uniform, please write a Planner note/send an email to your child's Class/Form Teacher.
- On PE days, the PE Uniform may be worn to school (with ID Badge).
- Birthday children may wear non-uniform clothes to school for that day.



Whole School News; Uniform for August 2025!

- Smart school uniform should be worn for trips, unless otherwise informed by the Teacher.
- Parents can purchase approved uniform from Threads. Threads Contact is Tel: 8008473237, www.threadsme.com).
- The school Bookstore keeps a stock of ties & scarves for convenient replacement.
- Replacement ID cards can be purchased from the BBT office

Please note our uniform policy (see also Threads Uniform poster below):

Abaya: A plain dark blue or black Abaya may be worn if required for

religious or cultural reasons (no decoration)

Art overall: It is recommended to bring an art overall for Art lessons.

Bags: Wheeled trolley bags are not allowed

Junior studetns need to bring a small, cubby-hole sized backpack.

Belt: A uniform belt is available if required

Blazer: Optional

Headscarf/shehla: Students may wear the uniform version (pale blue), plain white or plain black (absolutely

no decoration).

Hair: Long hair (touching the shoulder & longer) should be tied back with uniform ties

ID Card: Wearning the WSS ID card is compulsory. Cost of a replacement WSS ID Card is

AED25/- (order from the BBT office)

Junior Uniform: Junior students should also come to school in full, smart uniform (including plain (dark))

blue tights/socks & black shoes

Makeup & nail varnish are not allowed. Students wearing these will be sent to the clinic

for their removal

Mishaps: It is recommended to send a named set of spare clothes for FS children in case of a

washroom mishap. These clothes are returned home at the end of the year.

Pants/Trousers: Uniform pants/Trousers may be worn by girls (optional) as well as boys

PE Kit: Uniform PE kit should be worn to school on PE days only. For Break time matches, sports

activities, PE kit should be brought to school in a bag & changed into before the activity.

Scarf: Y3-13 girls wear a neck scarf (compulsory)

Shirts: Y3-13 boys' shirts should be tucked in. Girls may opt for untucked shirt, if they wish.

Skirts: Skirts must reach below the knee (mid-calf) or lower. Secondary girls wearing a skirt

above the calf (mid-lower leg) should also wear leggings/tights.

Shoes: Plain, black leather shoes.

Plain white trainers for PE.

Socks/tights: Plain dark blue socks, plain dark blue leggings or plain dark blue tights.

White socks for PE.

Tie: Y3-13 boys wear a tie (compulsory)

Winter sweater: Uniform winter sweater

No Uniform: If due to some unavoidable reason a child is not in proper uniform, parent please email the

Teacher

Whole School News; Backpack-Style Bags for August 2025!

Bags

- Our school bag policy is based on safety needs. Trolley bags are not allowed at all. Parents are requested to provide a Backpack-style bag.
- We avoid trolley bags for the following reasons:
 - Trolley bags are a serious trip hazard, especially on stairs & in crowded comidors. School is too busy & crowded for bigger trolley bags.
 - Trolley bags are especially unsafe during busy times, such as morning entry school & at the end of the day, when 3,100 students are moving in & out of school at the same time
 - There is limited storage space in classes & on corridor hooks—there is no safe place to store larger trolley bags
- Y3-13 students may opt for a locker in school to store books & other items to reduce bag weight. The Locker
 comes with a small charge to cover the cost of the key.
- If your child uses bus transport, please be aware that there is limited space for bags, so please keep the bag as small as possible.
- · There would be a charge for damaged lockers (such as graffiti) & key replacement.

Whole School News; SPEA-Required External Benchmarking Assessment—Cost to Parents for 2025-2026

(assessments are subject to SPEA change)

SPEA-Required Compulsory External Benchmarking Assessments 2025-2026 Total CAT4 PTM PTE PTS Etgaan Cost Year 1 90 Year 2 90 Year 3 90 Year 4 200 Year 5 200 Year 6 √ √ √ 200 Year 7 200 √ √ √ Year 8 200 Year 9 200 √ Year 10 200 150 Year 11 Year 12 90

Whole School News; Staff CPD!



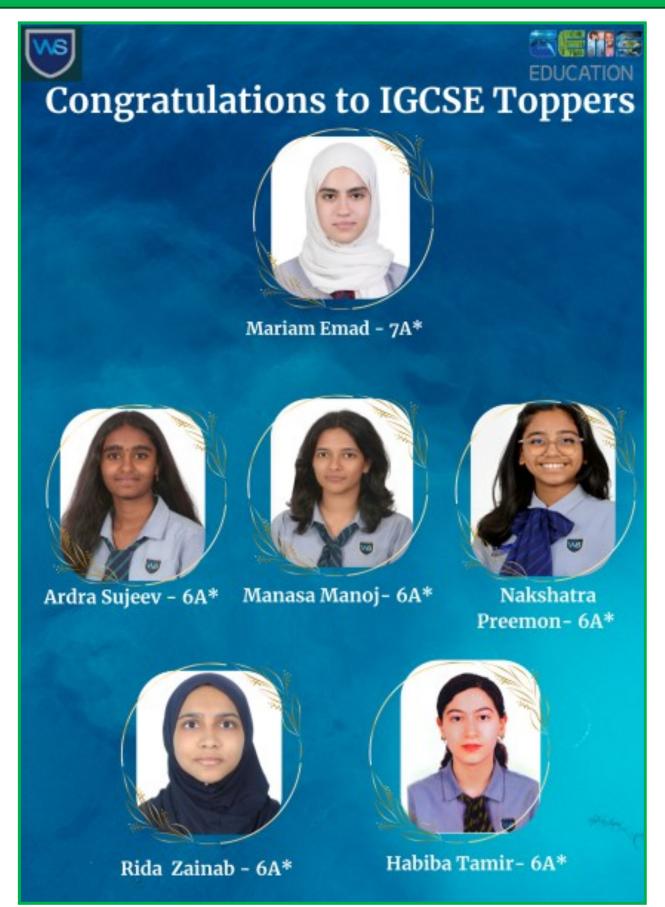
WSS has a bespoke, individualized & responsive CLP programme for all staff, including Safeguarding, online & Face-to-Face (F2F) sessions led by our Learning Coach Ms. Christine & other SLT, as well as expert teachers. Our Inclusion Assistant Ms. Maitha also led a session on Emirati pronunciation.

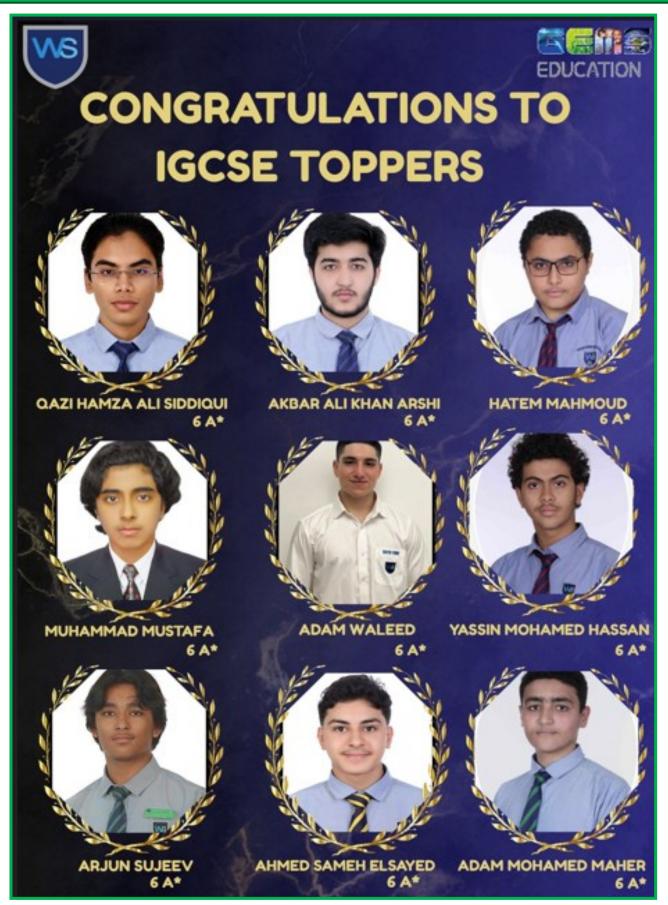






MLT & SLT attend a STEP-LAB Coaching session with Learning Coach Ms. Christine on 28/8/25. We are learning to be more effective instructional coaches, to support teacher professional development.

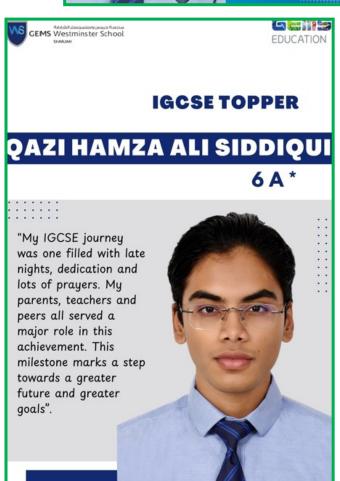


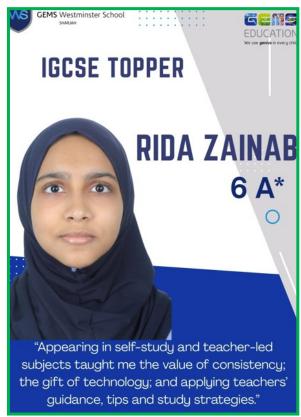


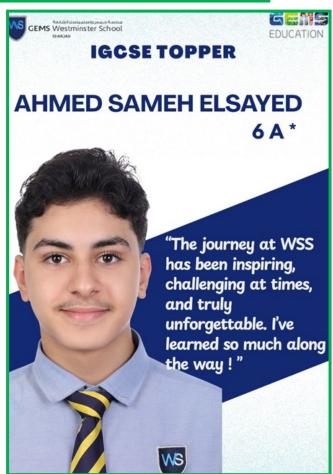


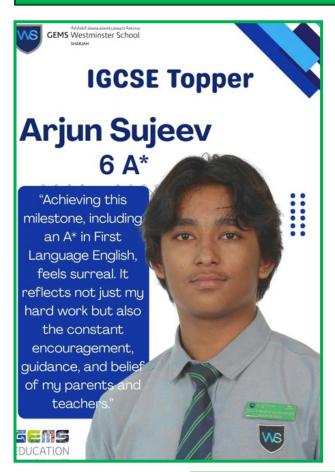


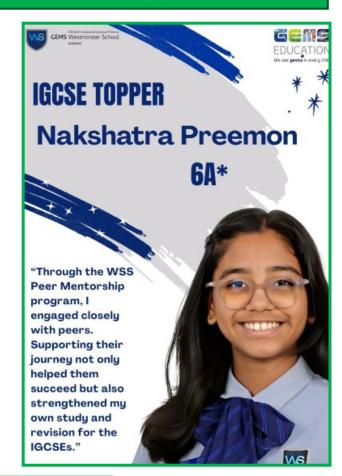


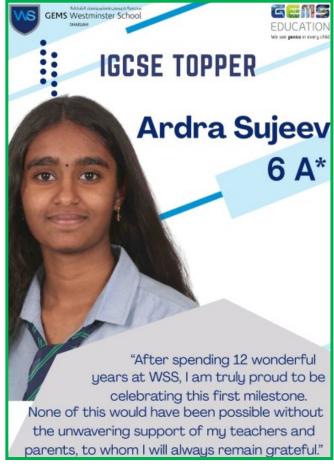


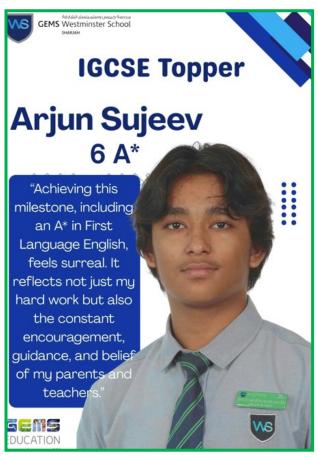


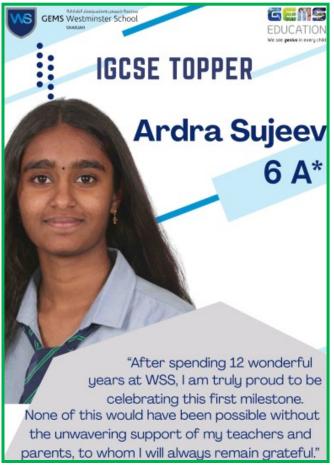


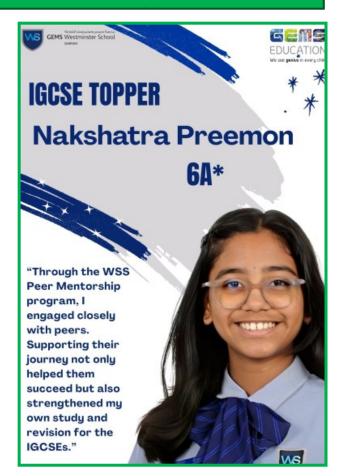






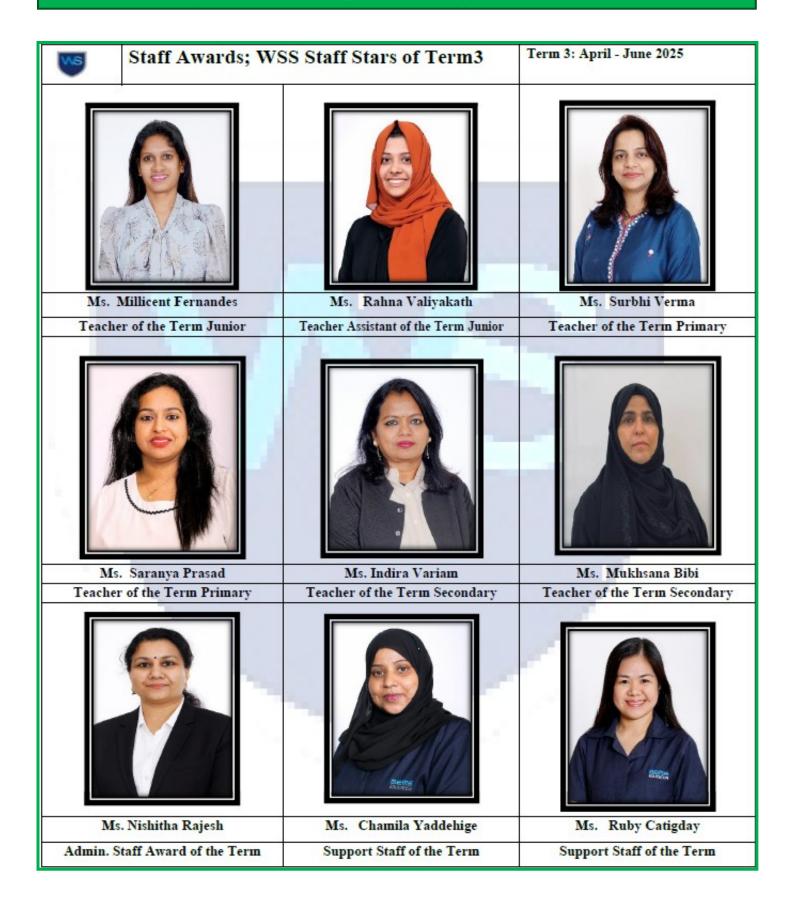








This Week's Leadership GMEStone



























WSS Superstar Champions; !





Thank you for your email and your support amd guidance to Zakir.

His results would not have been possible without your guidance.

Best Regards,

Noor Karim



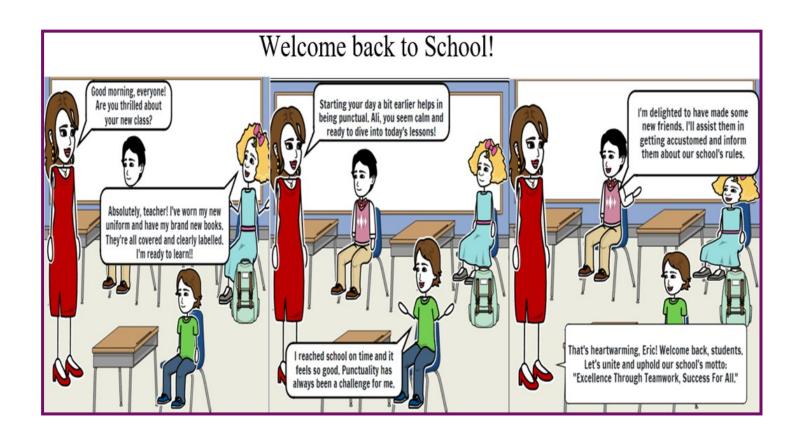
Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!

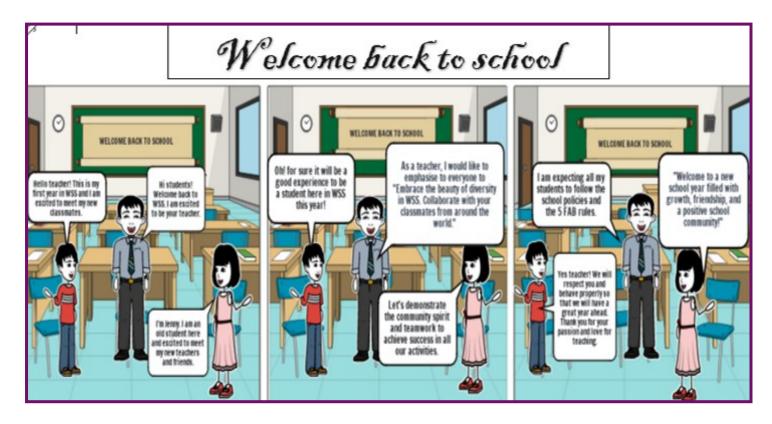




Green-fingered superstars Syed Shazil (Y13D2) Laiba Jami (Y4H2) & Lamia Jami (FS2D2) have been germinating an Avocado plant from seed. We are excited to follow its progress. We hope to plant it in the WSS garden shortly for all the children to enjoy.

Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!





WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!

Y2S2-Got the first marble jar stickers from Ms. Raghi



Junior Section News; First Day of School!





Junior Section News; Induction Day, 25/8/25!





















Junior Section News; Our First Day, 26/8/25!



















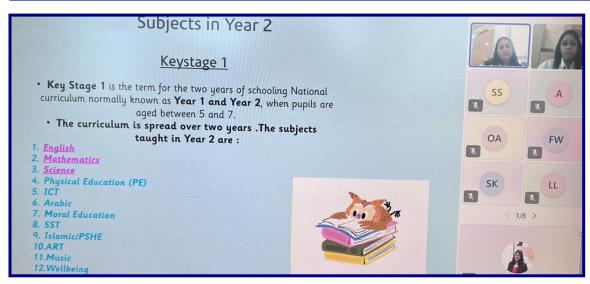


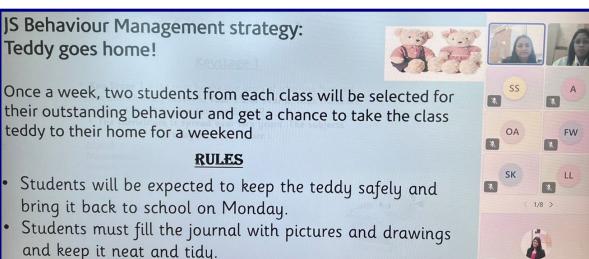


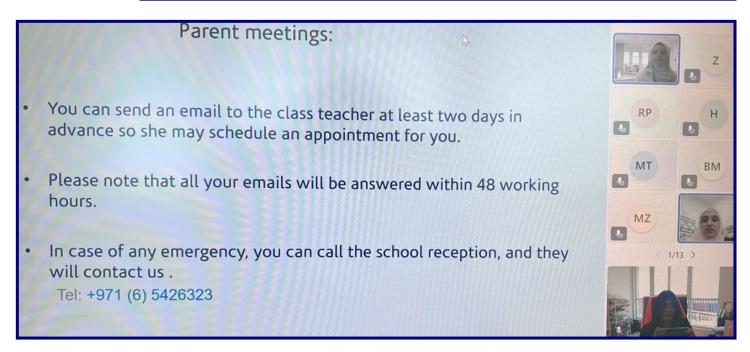




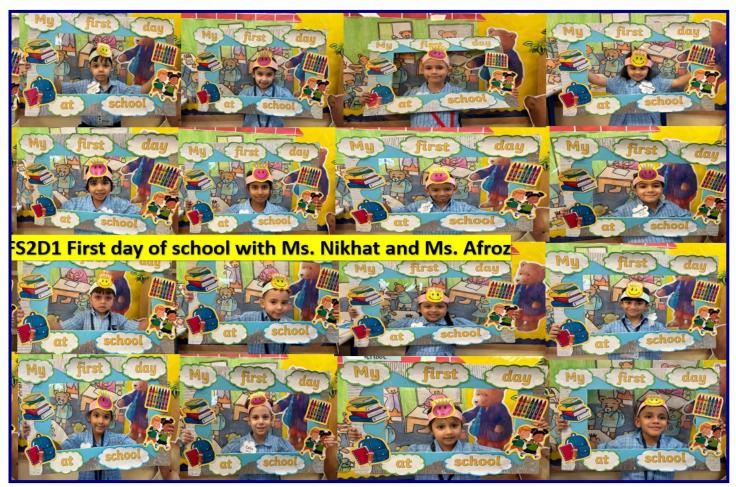
Junior Section News; Y2 Online Induction Session, 21/8/25!







Junior Section News; FS2D1 Learning Activities!





Junior Section News; FS2H1 Learning Activities!





Junior Section News; Our First Week!





















Junior Section News; Y2D1 Learning Activities!





Junior Section News; Y2F Learning Activities!

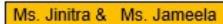


Junior Section News; Y2H1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2H2 Learning Activities!

Junior Section: Y2 H2





















Junior Section News; Y2S1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2S2 Learning Activities!

Y2S2-Orientation Programme With Ms. Sabiha Malik and Ms. Benil









Y2S2-New Students With Ms. Sabiha Malik and Ms. Benil









Junior Section News; First Day of School!



WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!

Dear Ms. Ringham,

It has been an incredibly productive year for our daughter, and we feel so fortunate that she had the opportunity to learn under the guidance of a truly exceptional teacher like you. Throughout the year, she was educated with care, discipline, and patience—qualities that make all the difference in shaping young minds.

Children speak from the heart, and Ranaya, being just 9 years old, consistently said this whenever we asked about you: "Ms. Ringham is very nice. She is strict, yet she knows how to balance and treat us all equally with care."

We were genuinely impressed by the way you handled your students. Thanks to your dedication, we had a smooth year supporting Ranaya's studies, and she achieved over 98% in all her major subjects.

Thank you for being such a positive influence. We wish you continued happiness and success in all that you do.

Ranaya's parents

Sanjeewa & Madusha

Primary Section News; Y5 Parent Orientation, 21/8/25

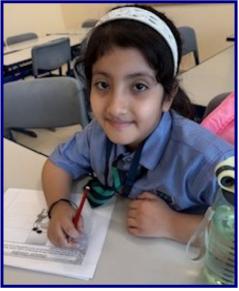
Y5 Parent Orientation

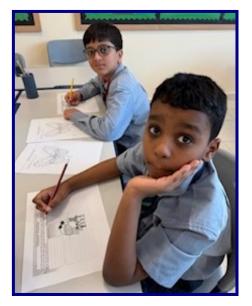
A new journey begins with strong partnerships. Together, we build strong foundations for every child's learning journey.



Primary Section News; Induction Day, 25/8/25







Primary Section News; Induction Day, 25/8/25















Primary Section News; Our First Day, 26/8/25!



















Primary Section News; Y3D1 Learning Activities!



Y3D1: Their first library time! They said, this is awesome!







First STEAM lesson: Bookmark Origami





All lined up ready to go home!



Welcome new joiners to WSS!











Primary Section News; Y3D2 Learning Activities!



MY FIRST DAY- Y3D2











Y3 D2 STEAM LESSON







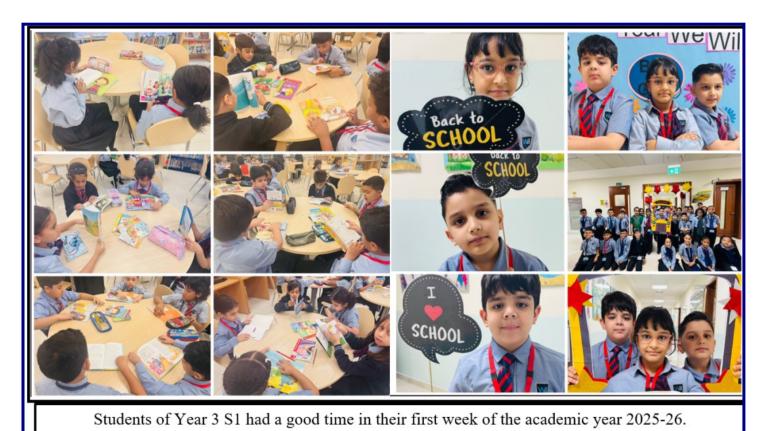






Primary Section News; Y3F2 & Y3S1 Learning Activities!





Primary Section News; Y3F2 & Y3S1 Learning Activities!





Primary Section News; Y3S2 Learning Activities!



Y3S2 -Reopening day is not just about going back to school; it's about enjoying the start of a fresh journey.



Y3S2 learners became little scientists and artists during the STEAM activity. They shared ideas and had lots of fun creating together!

Primary Section News; Y4D1 & Y4H1 Learning Activities!





Y4 F1New students Orientation



Y4F1 Welcome back activity



Primary Section News; Y4H2 Learning Activities!





Primary Section News; Y4S1 & Y4H2 Learning Activities!





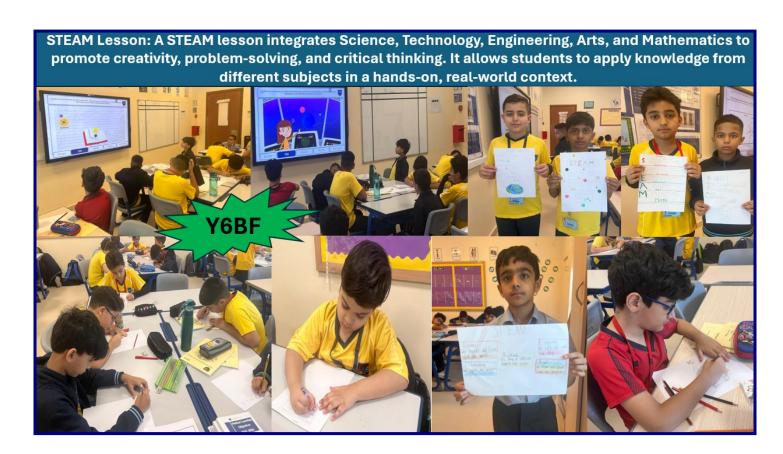
Primary Section News; Y5S2 Learning Activities!



Primary Section News; Y6BF Learning Activities!

Classroom Affirmation: Classroom affirmation is a short, positive statement or phrase used to encourage students, build confidence, and create a supportive learning environment.





Primary Section News; Y6 Learning Activities!



Primary Section News; Y6 Learning Activities!





Primary Section News; Y6GS Learning Activities!

Turn & Talk session: It encourages active participation, helps students process their thinking, and builds communication skills in a short, structured way.













WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!

Dear Mr. Mahmoud,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for your great effort and genuine support for my daughter. Although you are not her class teacher and it was not your duty to teach her, you kindly and generously took the time to help her. Your guidance played a major role in her achieving an excellent grade (A*) in Arabic, and this success would not have been possible without your dedication. You are truly a role model of an outstanding teacher in your profession. I sincerely wish you continued success and may God bless you for your efforts.

With deepest thanks and appreciation

Nashwa Attia

Secondary Section News; Induction Day, 25/8/25!







Secondary Section News; Y7 Learning Activities!



The Journey Begins Here 🚀 Y8, WSS



Excitement and smiles marked the first day at WSS with engaging activities

Secondary Section News; Y9 Learning Activities!



The Journey Begins Here 🧳 Y8, WSS



Excitement and smiles marked the first day at WSS with engaging activities

Secondary Section News; KS3 Celebrates Emirati Women's Day, 28/8/25!



KS3 Students Honor Emirati Women on Their Special Day

In celebration of Eminati Women's Day, KS3 students at WSS expressed their heartfelt appreciation by crowning our Emirati women staff and presenting them with handmade cards and badges. This touching gesture was led by our new joiners in KS3, making the occasion even more meaningful as they warmly embraced our school's culture of respect and gratitude. It was a proud moment of unity, admiration, and celebration of the remarkable contributions of Emirati women.

Empowering Women, Inspiring Generations



Secondary Section News; KS4 Welcome Back!





WELCOMING KEY STAGE 4 NEWJOINERS





Year 10 new joiners
expressed their creativity
and enthusiasm through
a poster inspired by the
"Be Like a Gem"
initiative. Drawing on the
WSS Learner Profiles,
they highlighted qualities
such as resilience,
communication, and a
growth mindset,
illustrating how these
values guide students to
"Be Like a Star."

Secondary Section News; KS5 Welcome Back & Week 1!

KS5 Girls: Proud heritage, bright future — thank you, Ms Maitha Aldarmaki, for inspiring us this Emirati Day!











Ms Maitha Aldarmaki, a proud Emirati staff member, inspired our students with her words on heritage, unity, and national pride.

KS5 Boys: Voices of pride, voices of heritage — thank you, Ms Hessa Jasim, for inspiring our Emirati Day!

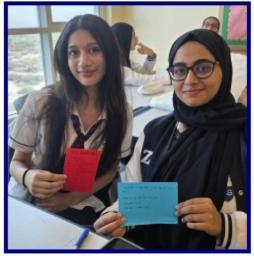


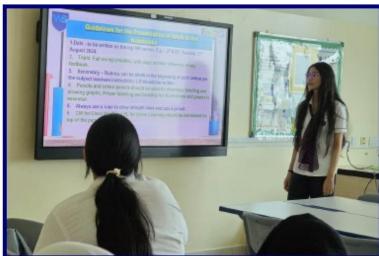


On Emirati Day, Ms Hessa Jasim engaged our students with heartfelt reflections on Emirati culture, encouraging them to embrace pride in their roots and future.

Secondary Section News; KS5 Welcome Back & Week 1!

Welcome back, Sixth Formers — this is your launchpad to the future.













Day 1 and the Sixth Form corridors came alive again — your energy, your laughter, your presence made it complete.

Secondary Section News; KS5 Welcome Back & Week 1!

