

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #25
16th March, 2023



Message from the
Principal/CEO
Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

Health & Safety; Trolley Bags

Many schools have already banned trolley bags as they take up too much space & are a trip hazard. From **September 2023**, WSS will also go 'trolley-bag free'. Please see the new policy outlined on p6 of this Newsletter (& also in your Parent Handbook p14, as published on our website). Please consider this when purchasing your child's next school bag. We really appreciate your cooperation, thank you.

SPEA School Performance Review Inspection Report, 2023

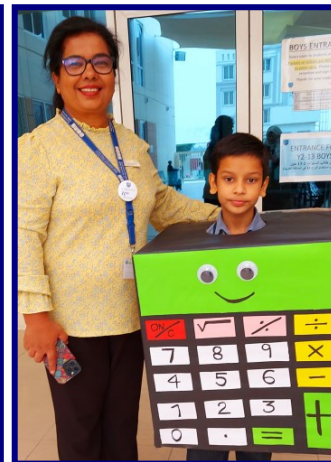
We are proud & happy to announce that our SPR inspection Report has been published & our 'Good' judgement has been confirmed, a move up from the previous inspection in 2018. Please find a summary of key strengths & areas for further improvement, as well as a comparison with 2018 inspection judgements on p4 of this Newsletter. WSS has made impressive progress over time—congratulations to all the WSS community!

Ramadan Kareem

The holy month of Ramadan is likely to start next week from Wednesday 22nd March. We would like to wish all our WSS community a blessed Ramadan Kareem!

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Thurs. 16th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7:30am-1pm; School moves onto Exam timings for all students. Babysitting until 3pm
Mon. 20th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSS celebrates <u>UAE Mothers' Day & International Day</u>. Students may wear their traditional dress & bring traditional food to school (optional) (<i>junk food amnesty</i>)
Wed. 22nd March (TBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible start of Ramadan. 8am-1pm; School moves to Ramadan timings for all students. <u>No Babysitting after 1pm</u>. Parents of OT students, please collect them on time. Thanks.
27/3/23 to 6/4/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring Break (2 weeks)
10/4/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Term 3 starts on Monday 10/4/23 with new school timings, 7:20am-12:25/2:20pm). T3 fees due, thank you.
19/4/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> T3 Mid-Term Break (1 day added on to Eid break. TBC)
Tuesday 2/5/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Deadline to pay the re-enrollment fee</u>. 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.
29/6/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official last day of the academic year. (TBC by SPEA)



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

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 25
16 مارس 2023



رسالة من
المديرة / الرئيس التنفيذي
السيدة جاري توميسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر
الأعضاء، الشارقة

الصحة والأمان؛ حقائب بعجلات

لقد حظرت العديد من المدارس بالفعل
حقائب الترولي لأنها تشغل مساحة كبيرة
وتشكل خطرًا على التعثر. اعتبارًا من

أيضًا "أليس عربة خالية". يرجى WSS سبتمبر 2023 ، ستطلق
الاطلاع على السياسة الجديدة الموضحة في الصفحة 6 من هذه
النشرة الإخبارية (وكذلك في دليل الوالدين ص 14 ، كما هي
منشور على موقعنا الإلكتروني). يرجى مراعاة ذلك عند شراء
الحقيبة المدرسية التالية لطفلك. نحن حقا نقدر تعاونك ، شكرًا لك

تقرير فحص مراجعة أداء المدرسة SPEA ، 2023

نحن فخرون وسعدنا أن نعلن أنه تم نشر تقرير فحص SPR
الخاص بنا وتم تأكيد حكمنا "الجيد" ، وهو ارتفاع عن الفحص
السابق في 2018. يرجى الاطلاع على ملخص لتقاط القوة
الرئيسية والمجالات التي تحتاج إلى مزيد من التحسين ، وكذلك
بالمقارنة مع أحكام التفتيش لعام 2018 على p4 من هذه النشرة
الإخبارية. لقد أحرزت WSS تقدمًا مثيرًا للإعجاب بمرور الوقت -
تهانينا لكل مجتمع WSS!

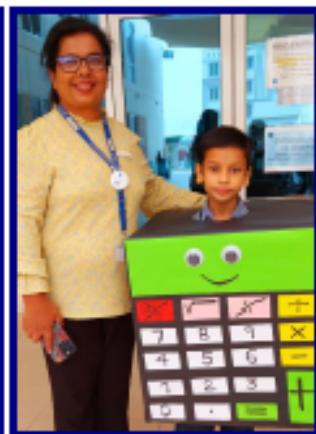
رمضان كريم

من المرجح أن يبدأ شهر رمضان المبارك الأسبوع المقبل من
الأربعاء 22 مارس.

نود أن نتمنى لكل مجتمع WSS لدينا رمضان كريم!

المواعيد

التفاصيل	التاريخ
7:30 صباحًا - 1 مساءً : تنتقل المدرسة إلى مواعيد الاختبارات لجميع الطلاب.	الخميس. 16 مارس
احتفالات اليوم العلمي وعيد الأم.	الاثنين 20 مارس
يمكن للطلاب إحضار الطعام التقليدي للمشاركة وارتداء الملابس التقليدية (اختياري).	
عطلة الربيع (أسبوعين)	27/3/23 إلى 6/4/23
يبدأ الفصل الثالث يوم الاثنين الموافق 10/4/23. رسوم T3 المستحقة	
استراحة منتصف الفصل الدراسي (يوم واحد يضاف إلى عطلة العيد يحدد لاحقًا)	19/4/23
الموعد النهائي لنسج رسوم إعادة التسجيل هو الثلاثاء 2 مايو.	2/5/23
آخر يوم رسمي في العام الدراسي (يحدد لاحقًا بواسطة SPEA)	29/6/23



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

Page	Item	Includes:
1, 2	Dates for Your Diary & general notices	
3 4	Whole School News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contents & T3 Timings SPEA School Performance Review (SPR) Inspection Report Key Strengths & Areas for Improvement, 2023 Health & Safety; Illness SPEA Traffic Survey Trolley Bag Policy for September 2023 Welcoming Ramadan
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7-8		
9	Whole School Environmental Recycling Superstar Champions	
9	Whole School Superstar Champions	
10	Collin the Kindness Camel Award	
11	Whole school Birthdays for the week	
12	Junior Section Superstar Champions	
13-14 15-16 17	Junior Section News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Y1 Learning Activities Y2 Learning Activities Learning Activities
18	Primary Section Superstar Champions	
19-20 21 22	Primary Section News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maths Week Y4 Scintillating Science Y5 Maths & Fun Trip Time
24 25-27	Secondary Section Superstar Champions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Class Champions Cambridge Board Toppers & Sheikhha Fatima Award Ceremony, 9/3/23
28	Secondary Section News	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Women's Day Staff Training

Tmetable 2023/24

Reg	7:20	7:30
1	7:30	8:15
2	8:15	9:00
3	9:00	9:45
Break	9:45	10:10
4	10:10	10:55
5	10:55	11:40
6	11:40	12:25
Break	12:25	12:50
7	12:50	13:35
8	13:35	14:20

7:28am National Anthem

FS1 - Y1 exit

Buses leave by 2:30pm

New School timings wef Monday 10th April (first day of T3).

Parents, please ensure that your children arrive on time by latest 7:20am. Students will be marked as Late, with disciplinary follow-up from 7:30am. Thanks.

Whole School News; SPEA SPR Inspection Report, 2023!

Please find below a summary of the identified key strengths & areas for improvement, as outlined in our SPR inspection Report. School will be working on an Action Plan with students, LAB team & leaders at all levels to plan next step strategies for even further improvement.

KEY AREAS OF STRENGTH:

- The provision and outcomes for children in the Foundation Stage which build very good foundations for later learning.
- The overall improvement in students' achievement across the curriculum, particularly in mathematics in Phase 3.
- The provision to identify and support students with special educational needs.
- Students' positive behaviour and very good attitudes to learning.
- The improvement in teaching and learning across the school.
- The very good provision for the safeguarding, care and wellbeing of students.
- The identification of key leadership roles to impact upon achievement.

KEY AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

- Students' achievement in social studies, Arabic first language and Islamic Education in Phase 4 and in Arabic second language in Phases 3 and 4.
- The consistency of challenge in lessons for all students, especially higher-attainers.
- Increased opportunities for innovative activities in regular lessons across the school.
- More structured provision for the varied needs of gifted and talented students across the school.
- Students' punctuality when arriving to school at the start of the school day.

Overview of Progress from 2017-2018 to 2022-2023

- √ There was an improvement across **ALL** 6 Performance Standards from 2017/2018.
- √ Overall, there is a **64-point** increase in performance indicators across all 4 phases.
- In 2017/2018, **79** performance indicators were judged.
- √ In 2022/23, **MOST** (60 out of 79 = **76%**) of the performance indicators have improved by at least 1 point.
- √ In 2022/23, **4** of the performance indicators have improved by 2 points:
 - Mathematics attainment across phase 1
 - Mathematics attainment across phase 3
 - Partnerships with parents and the community
 - Governance
- In 2022/23 the school has been judged on **107** performance indicators across all phases.
- √ **MOST** (93 out of 107 = **87%**) of the performance indicators are at **Good or above**.

- √ Phase 1: A **Majority** (10 out of 18 = **56%**) of the performance indicators have improved in 2022/23
- √ Phase 2: **Almost All** (20 out of 22 = **91%**) of the performance indicators have improved in 2022/23
- √ Phase 3: **Most** (18 out of 22 = **82%**) of the performance indicators have improved in 2022/23
- √ Phase 4: A **Large Majority** (8 out of 12 = **67%**) of the performance indicators have improved in 2022/23

Whole School News; Health & Safety!

Please note p41 of your Parent Handbook as copied below relating to our policy to keep our children healthy & safe.

Illness

To concentrate and function effectively at school, your children must be in good health. It is therefore important that a sick child must rest at home. A fitness certificate must be submitted to the Clinic after complete recovery, before returning to class. This is to reduce cross-infection of other students.

In case of fever, serious injury or illness, the medical team will:

- Keep the child in the Clinic, to be collected by the parent.
- Require a PCR test
- Student with a fever (above 37.5°), or infectious disease will be sent home.
- The student will not be sent back to class or home by Bus, to protect the health of the other children
- Treatment decisions are made by the Doctor & are non-negotiable.

Communicable diseases:

- The communicable diseases commonly seen in schools are Conjunctivitis, Chicken Pox, Measles, Influenza, Hand Foot and Mouth disease, gastroenteritis, seasonal flu, etc.
- If a student develops signs and symptoms (fever, rash, vomiting or/and diarrhea etc) of suspected communicable disease, She/he should be seen by doctor and rest at home for the duration of illness. The time period for each condition varies, so we request that a child receives a proper care at home as long as required.
- Upon returning to school a fitness certificate by attended physician or pediatrician (medical report from the treating physician stating that the student is fit to join school on(date) must be provided to the clinic.
- If the child returns to school prior to the completion of the recommended isolation period as recommended by his treating physician, parents will be requested to take their child home.
- The clinic team has to be informed as early as it is possible of any case of communicable disease regarding WSS staff and students.
- In case of communicable disease among students, all students of the concerned class will be examined by doctor, and the measures will be taken by school to control and to minimize the transmission of the infection.
- The Authority's Preventive Medicine Department will be notified about the situation. A parent notification letter regarding the condition will be sent to parents if required.

Whole School News; SPEA Traffic Survey!

Dear School Principals,

Sharjah Private Education Authority is pleased to extend its warmest greetings to you...

We would like to inform you that SPEA is currently studying the phenomenon of traffic congestion in school areas or the roads leading to school, in order to find solutions and to submit the study to the competent authorities.

Therefore, kindly circulate the questionnaire to the administrative and educational staff and parents of students in your esteemed school and encourage them to participate in it.

English Survey Link:

<https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/7HCsfO>

Thank you for your cooperation.

Best Regards,

السادة/ مديري المدارس الخاصة المحترمين

يطيب لهيئة الشارقة للتعليم الخاص أن تهديكم أطيب التحيات وصادق الأمنيات...

بالإشارة إلى الموضوع أعلاه، يرجى العلم بأن هيئة الشارقة للتعليم الخاص تقوم بدراسة ظاهرة الازدحام المروري في منطقة المدارس أو الطرق المؤدية لها بغرض إيجاد حلول يتم رفعها للجهات المختصة.

وعليه يرجى التكرم بتعميم الاستبيان على الكادر الإداري والتعليمي وأولياء أمور الطلبة في مدرستكم الموقرة، وحثهم وتشجيعهم على المشاركة فيه.

الرابط باللغة العربية:

<https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/7HCsfO?lang=ar>

شاكرين حسن تعاونكم

وتفضلوا بقبول فائق التقدير والاحترام

Please note p14 of the Parent Handbook regarding school bags as pasted below. The 'No Trolley Bags' rule already applies to Junior students & will be introduced to Y3-13 from September 2023.

Parents please note the 'No Trolley Bags' rule when purchasing your child's next school bag. Thank you.

Bags

- For safety reasons, currently, trolley bags are not allowed in the Junior Section. However, from September 2023, **no trolley bags will be allowed in school** (there is limited space for a big bag, wheels are a trip hazard, & handles that stick out are a safety hazard).
- Students must bring the regular backpack style of bag that hangs safely on a corridor hook (Juniors) or can be stored neatly in class (Y3-13).
- If your child uses bus transport, please be aware that there is limited space for please keep the bag as small as possible.
- If your Y3-13 child's bag is heavy, please avail of the locker facility. From September 2023, lockers will be provided **free** of cost. However, there will be a **charge for damaged lockers (such as graffiti) & lost/un-returned keys**. Locker availability is limited, so please request early.



Whole School News; Welcoming Ramadan!

WSS ISLAMIC STUDENTS



WELCOME THE MONTH OF



**UMAIZA
HASSAN**

Y5H1

**Introduction
of Ramadan**



**SHAAN
SAMNANI
Y6B**

**The Month of
Community**



Y4S2

**The Month of
Fasting**



NABIA ASIF

**The Month
of the Quran**

SUMAIYA UMAR Y5H2



**HAREEM
AQIB
Y6G**

**The Month
of Prayer**



**HUMERA
ZUHRV
Y5H2**

**The Month
of Mercy**



**HIBAH
IRFAN
Y4S1**

**The Month
of Reflection**



Thank you to Mr. Muh'd Kashif & Primary Islamic students for their informative & inspiring video on Ramadan. Ramadan Kareem!

Whole School News; Welcoming Ramadan!

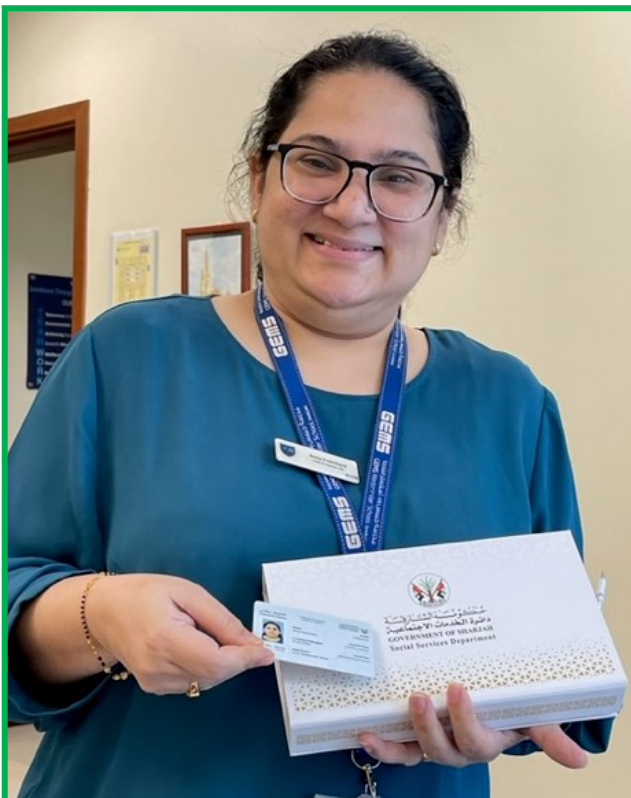


Thank you to Mr. Muh'd Kashif & Y4D1 & Y4D2 Islamic students for their informative & inspiring video on Ramadan. Ramadan Kareem!

WSS Environmental Recycling Superstar Champions!



WSS Superstar Champions!



Our wonderful Head of Inclusion Ms. Rema, proud recipient of the SPEA Counselor License.

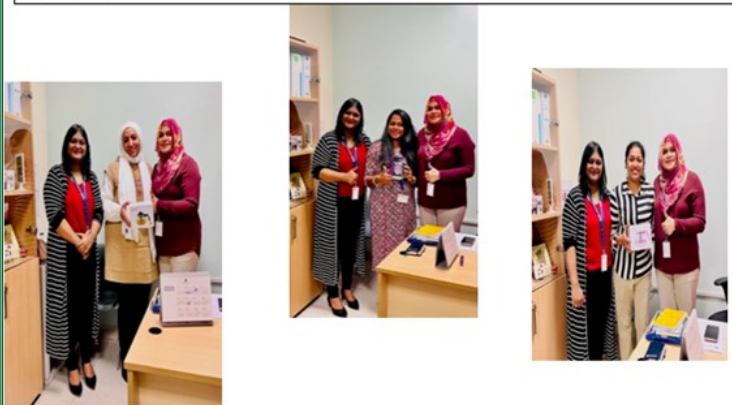
"One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world."

-Malala Yousafzai

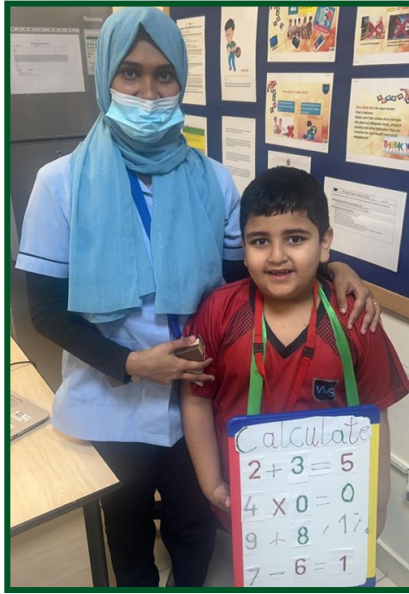
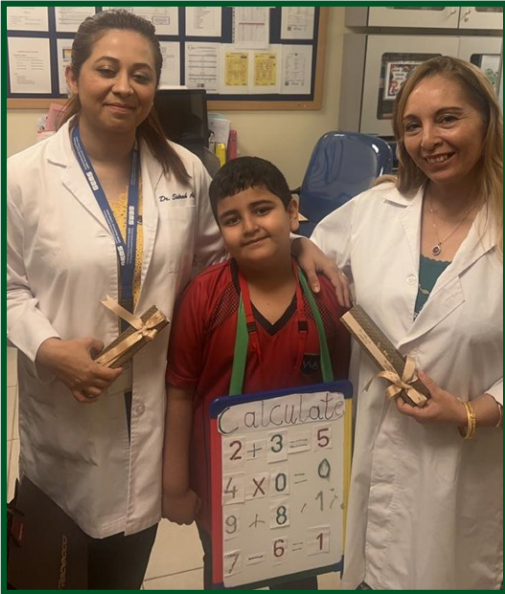
JS Teaching Champions of the week!

Congratulations to Ms. Catherine, Ms. Israa and Ms. Jinitra for being this week's JS Teaching Champions! Please come and collect the gift from Ms. Shamail and Ms. Raghi 😊

- Ms. Catherine, for supporting the team with the Y2 intervention plan
- Ms. Israa, for winning the Amazing Teacher Award
- Ms. Jinitra for being proactive in applying the ChatGPT in the lessons.



Whole School News; Colin the Kindness & Respect Camel!
Awarded for demonstrating Good Character
(Respect, Kindness & Community Spirit)



Whole School News; Happy Birthdays!



FS2D1

Happy birthday



FS2D1

Happy birthday



PIC·COLLA



PIC·COLLA

WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!

We are excited to get stickers from Ms. Shamail.



Congratulations to Salih Nadir (Y2F1) for the effort he has made to use Expanded Noun Phrases to improve his writing. Thanks to Ms. Sidra and Ms. Aqueen for the challenge set for the students.

Junior Section News; Fun Trip Time in Y1!



Y1D2

Junior Section News; Y1 Learning Activities!



Y1 H2 Ms. Beena & Ms. Mani

Junior Section News; Maths in Y2!

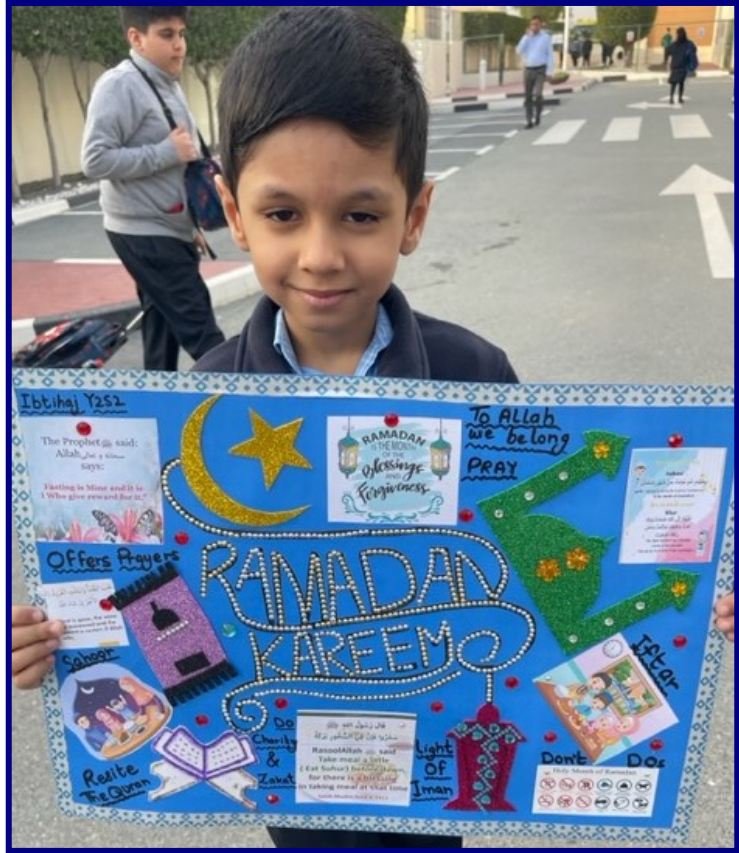


Math lesson with Ms Raquel and Ms Ashika

Junior Section News; Trip Time in Y2!



Junior Section News



WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!

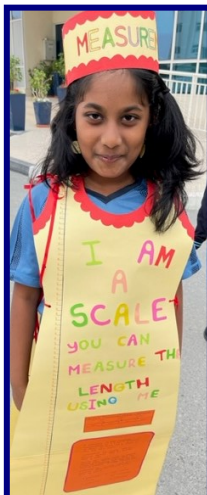
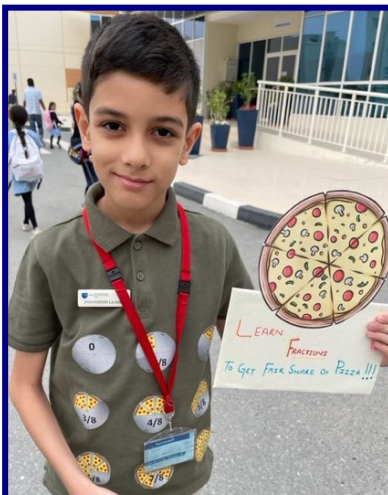
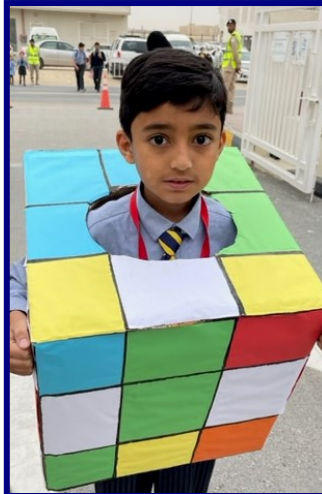
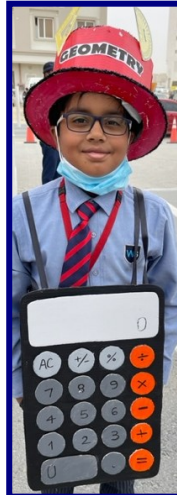
Dear Ms Susweta,

Good day. Here I take this opportunity to thank you for your great effort to bring my child forward on the scene. It has boosted positive energy in baby and has started to enjoy his work way more than before. He is taking great interest in going to school and waiting when the next activity will be announced. I saw his science project yesterday and it really amazed me how he has learnt the whole digestive system. No doubt it was not possible without your support. I really appreciate the positive attitude of the teachers, principle Ms Valerie and the whole staff of the school as everyone is playing his/her own role, it's not the work of a single person.



Thanks Mr. Ahmed for all of your great efforts you do for my son. I really appreciate your dedication and hard work and how you are caring with the students in the classroom. I know that my child has learned a lot from you this year. Thanks Mr. Ahmed and wish you all of the best

Primary Section News; Maths Week!



Primary Section News; Maths Week!



Primary Section News; Y4 Scintillating Science!

Y4 F1 Science Activities: Digestive System

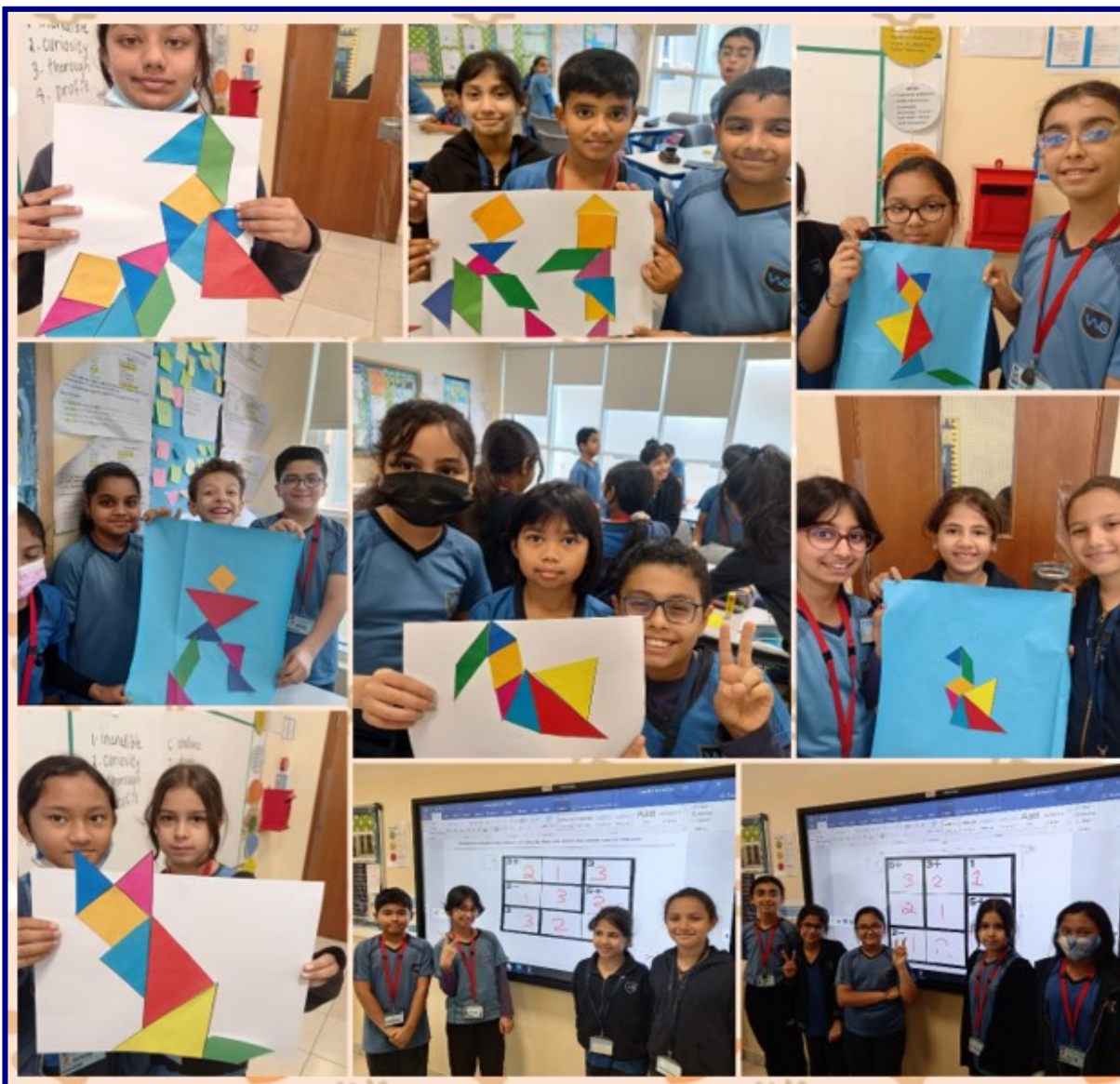


LFQ: How can I create a model of human digestive system?



Primary Section News; Y5 Learning Activities!

Y5D1 Trip and Maths Day with Ms. Deepthy



Primary Section News!



WSS @ PRIMARY RADIO STATION



AYESHA (Y3D2) REBECCA (Y3H1) VAGIO (Y3S2)

WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!



I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my sincerest appreciation for your excellent work as a math teacher at WSS, Your efforts to make math an easy and interesting subject have been a great help to my son, Yassin Mohamed.

I cannot thank you enough for the support you have given to Yassin this year. You have made a significant impact on his education, and for that, I am truly grateful. Yassin has not only improved his math skills, but he has also developed a newfound love for the subject.

Once again, I want to thank you for your hard work and dedication. I wish you all the best and hope for continued success in your teaching career.

Regards

Radwa fahmy

Cambridge Exam Board Toppers Ceremony, 9/3/23!



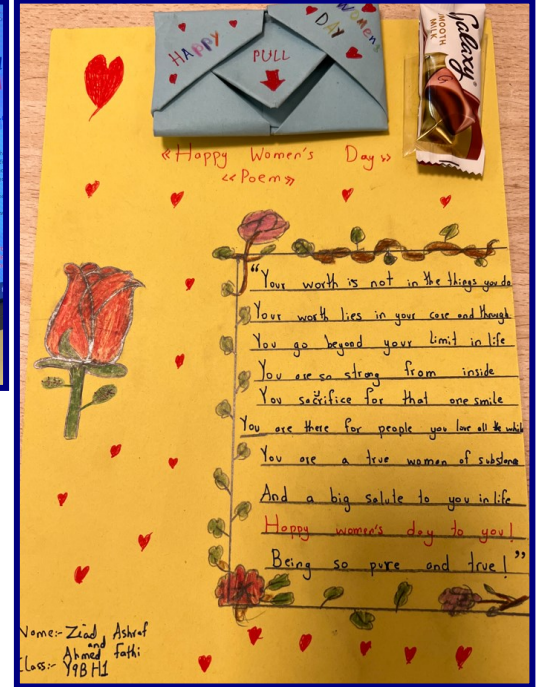
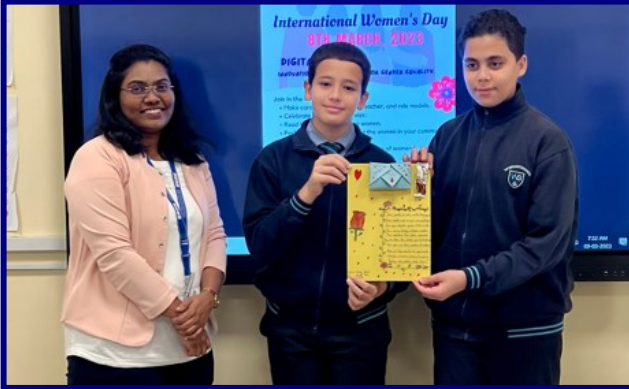
Sheikha Fatima Award Winner Ceremony, 9/3/23!



Board Toppers & Sheikha Fatima Award Winner Ceremony, 9/3/23!



Secondary Section News; Celebrating International Women's Day!



Secondary Section News; Staff CPD!



Secondary team training sessions on Mail Merge system to keep parents updated about Board Examination next steps, & CIE Invigilator Training