### GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH









Newsletter Issue #3 4th September, 2025



Message from the Principal/CEO
Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents.

#### **School Timings**

Registration time starts from 7:15am. Lesson one starts at 7:25am. If your child is dropped off after 7:15am they are missing valuable learning time—parents please ensure that

your child is in school by 7:15am daily. Thank you.

### pates for Your Diary

Date	Details		
Sat. 6/9/25	• WSS Cashier open 8am-1pm		
Thursday 25/9/25 2-5pm	<ul> <li>FS1-Y13 Parent-Teacher 'Meet &amp; Greet' meeting. Come &amp; meet your child's teachers!</li> <li>All students to go home at 12pm</li> </ul>		
Thursday 4th Decem- ber	• Last day of T1 (T1 exams will run from approximately 2 weeks prior)		

#### Uniform, ID Cards & Backpacks

Huge thanks dear parents for sending your children to school in such smart, professional uniform, with their safety ID & backpack. We really love seeing your children presenting themselves with pride & self-respect! If your child still needs to buy a tie/scarf, they are available from the school Bookstore (AED29 for ties, AED34 for scarves). Thank you.

#### **Road Safety**

WSS would like to appreciate the Emiri GUARD police who regularly support with drop-off & pick-up road safety outside school. We request all parents to drive & park safely & thoughtfully around school to promote student safeguarding. Thank you.

Wishing a very Happy Onam to our families who celebrate this!













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

### مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة

النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 3 4 سبتمبر 2025









### المواعيد

أمين الصندوق WSSمفتوح من الساعة 8:00 صباحًا حتى 1:00 ظهرًا.		
اجتماع أولياء الأمور والمعلمين "لقاء وتعارف".	•	الخميس
للصفوف من FS1إلى . Y13تعالوا للتعرف على مطمي		Y 0/4/Y 0

على جميع الطلاب العودة إلى منازلهم في الساعة 12

حوالي أسبوعين).









أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمية الشارقة الأعزاء،

#### مواعيد المدرسة

يبدأ وقت التسجيل الساعة 7:15

الدرس الأول يبدأ الساعة 7:25 صياحًا

إذا تم توصيل طفلكم بعد الساعة 7:15 صباخًا، فسيضيع عليه وقت دراسي تمين. يُرجى من أولياء الأمور التأكد من حضور طفلكم إلى المدرسة بحلول الساعة 7:15 صباحًا يوميًا. شكرًا لكم

الزى الرسمي ويطاقات الهوية وحقائب الظهر شكرًا جزيلًا لأولياء الأمور الأعزاء على إرسال أطفالكم إلى المدرسة بهذا الزي الرسمي الأنيق والمهني، مع بطاقة الهوية الخاصة بهم وحقيبة الظهر, نحن نحب حقًا رؤية أطفالك يقدمون أنفسهم بالفَخر وأحترام الذَّات! إذا كان طفلكم لا يزال بحاجة لشراء ريطة عنق/وشاح، فهما متوفران في مكتبة المدرسة (٢٩ درهماً إماراتيا للربطة، و ٣٤ درهما إماراتيا للأوشحة). شكرًا لكم.

ترغب WSSفي أن تعرب عن تقديرها لنسرطة الحرس الأميري التي تدعم بانتظام سلامة الطريق عند نزول واستلام الطلاب من

ب من جميع الآباء القيادة وركن سياراتهم بأمان وبشكل دروس حول المدرسة لتعزيز سلامة الطلاب. شكرًا لك.









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



Happy Onam to all who celebrate!

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



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#### Whole School News; GEMS Safeguarding Policy!



Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility me you us

### SAFEGUARDING POLICY

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This document helps keep children at GEMS safe. It includes rules and guidelines to make sure everyone knows how to keep children safe.

#### WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING?

Safeguarding means that staff should:

- · Protect you from harm;
- Make sure nothing stops you feeling safe, being healthy or developing personally;
- · Make sure you are safely looked after.

All Staff will make sure they look after you by:

- Making the school a safe, friendly, welcoming and supportive place.
- Be there for you to talk to should you need
- Give you guidance in your lessons to help you learn how to look after yourself online and in the real world.
- Having rules and procedures in place to help look after you.
- Supporting and encouraging you, and 5 listening to your wishes and views.

Anything that we do will always be done with your safety as our main priority and following our school rules.

We will do our best to keep you informed of what is happening and what will happen next. Where we are not able to do this we will explain why.

#### NEED SUPPORT?

#### Who can I talk to if I have a problem?

If you feel unsafe, you can talk to any member of staff. We will work together to help you.

#### What happens next?

#### **SHARE YOUR** CONCERN

You share your concern(s) with an adult in school



#### LISTEN & RECORD

The adult will listen to you and may make a record of your concern



#### 03

#### **ADVICE &** GUIDANCE

The adult is able to support you by providing advice and guidance



The adult needs more advice on how to help you. The adult speaks to a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)



The DSL provides advice and support to you and your family.





The DSL needs to speak to other agencies to make sure you have the right support, for example, the Child Protection Unit (CPU).



The agencies provide dvice to the school.



involved in working with you, your family and the school to



#### Whole School News; GEMS Safeguarding Policy!

#### WHO DOES WHAT?

#### THE SCHOOL DSL

If you ever feel unsafe or someone hurts you, you can tell a trusted adult at school. The adult will write down what you say and tell the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) who will take action to keep you safe.

#### SAFEGUARDING TEAM

The Principal and the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) are responsible for keeping students safe.

The Safeguarding Team' in school are trained in supporting children and families. They will work with you, and sometimes your family, to make sure you are safe.

#### EMPOWERING STUDENTS



At school, you will learn about staying safe, including online safety, as part of your school lessons. This helps you understand how to protect yourself.

#### **ADULTS AT SCHOOL**

GEMS Education makes sure that all adults working at school are safe and trustworthy.

They follow a Safer Recruitment Policy to check the background of all staff.

Adults at school must always act in a way that keeps you safe. They follow guidelines called the Safer Working Practice Guidance.

#### LAWS AND GUIDELINES

The school follows laws and guidelines to make sure everyone is safe. They comply with local and international safeguarding standards. In the UAE, the Child Rights Law (Wadeema's law) protects the rights of children and serves to represent their best interests.

#### **ONLINE SAFETY**

SAFETY FIRST

There are rules to keep you safe when using the internet at school. The school has an Online Safety Policy that includes guidelines for using technology safely.

#### ATTENDANCE

Going to school regularly is important. If you miss school, the school will check to make sure you are okay. They will contact your parents and might take steps to ensure you attend school regularly.

#### BEHAVIOR MANAGEMENT

There are rules about how everyone should behave at school. If someone breaks the rules, there are ways to handle it. The school has a Behaviour Policy that explains how to manage behaviour.

#### BULLYING

Bullying is not allowed. If you are being bullied, tell an adult at school. They will help stop it. The school has an Anti-Bullying Policy to prevent and address bullying.

#### MY SCHOOL INFO

My School Principal is: Ms Valerie Thompson

My School DSL is: Ms Rema Premchand

## Whole School News; Student Safeguarding The WSS Lice Policy

#### Head Lice

As in all schools, at times there may be cases of head lice, which are extremely infectious & inconvenient. Please note:

- WSS has a Zero tolerance for Lice
- The Clinic conducts hair checks.
- In case of lice infection, the school policy is that:
  - 1. The Nurse calls parent to take their child home, as lice are extremely infectious to the other children.
  - 2. If the parent does not pick up the call, the Clinic will email the parent.
  - Bus children may return home by bus if the parent is unable to collect them, but would not be returned to class due to the infectious nature of lice.
  - The child returns to school when the hair is clear of all lice & nits.
  - 5. Following treatment, the child will be checked by the Clinic (taken by parent or sent by Form Tutor) first thing in the morning to check the hair before being admitted to class
  - 6. Once the nurse has given the 'all clear' the child will be admitted to class.

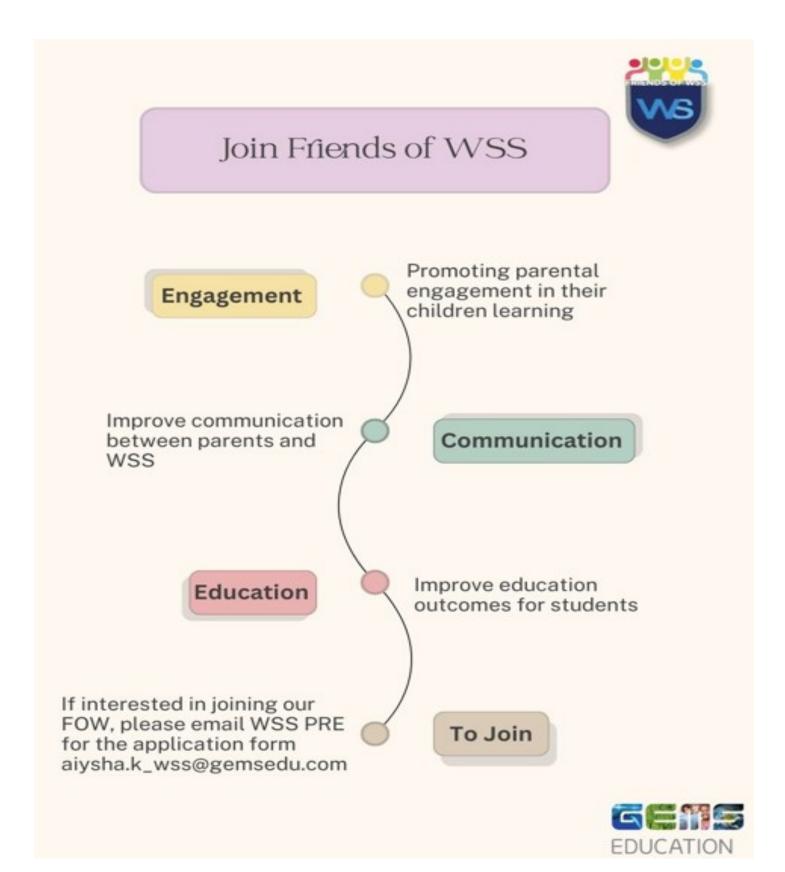
#### Treatment:

- Lice and their eggs (nits) are treated by a special lice shampoo (available in any pharmacy) and by daily
  combing through the hair with a special narrow-toothed comb.
- It can take repeated treatments & combings to completely clean the hair, so perseverance over several weeks is required.
- It is common for lice to spread through the whole family, so all members of the same family should be treated
  at the same time.

#### Whole School News; Celebrating Onam at WSS, 4/9/25!



#### Whole School News; Friends of WSS Parent Group!



#### Whole School News



We were happy to welcome back Alumni Arshaq (Class of 2023) when he visited WSS on 1/9/25. He is doing well studying Immunology in Canada. When asked what advice he would give to WSS students he said, "Believe in yourself & follow your dreams. Let your dreams take you where they will!" Thank you for sharing your wise words, Arshaq.

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

Academic Year 2025-2026 calendar dates as per SPEA.

SEPTEMBER - WEEK 36

#### LEADING WITH RESPECT



(1) SAPPHIRE

Encourages fairness, dignity and appreciation for all.

### **GG** Respect yourself so others can respect you too. 575

MESSAGE: Self-respect means valuing your own beliefs and actions. When you respect yourself, others will treat you with the same kindness and understanding.

REFLECT: How can I show self-respect every day? How can I inspire others to act with kindness and integrity?



### Whole School News; Summer-Time, Making Family Memories!







- It strengthens emotional bonds
- Teaches empathy and communication
- Creates a keepsake to cherish

DEADLINE: FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 2025



### Whole School News; KS3 Family First Breakfast, 1/9/25!



















# Whole School News; KS3 Family First Breakfast, 1/9/25 & 2/9/25!

















### Whole School News; KS3 Family First Breakfast, 2/9/25!











### Whole School News; KS3 Family First Breakfast, 2/9/25!



To all Moms and Dads ,we would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU for making Our Family First Breakfast Truly Special, memorable and a heartwarming event!

Your presence turned an ordinary morning into an extraordinary celebration of togetherness, laughter, and love. It was a joy to witness parents, students, and staff coming together—not just to share a meal, but to celebrate the bond we share as one big WSS family.

















### Whole School News; KS3 Family First Breakfast, 2/9/25!





























### WSS Superstar Champions!









SPEA School Improvement Advisor Ms. Lynn visited WSS on 2/9/25 to award appreciation certificates from SPEA. These were awarded for their contribution to the British Schools Hub CPD programme. Congratulations & thanks to Ms. Christine, Ms. Shamail & Ms. Raghi! The Principal Ms. Valerie was also awarded a certificate for her contribution to the British Schools Hub through the executive committee. Thank you to SPEA for prioritizing CPD & Ms. Lynn for taking the time to visit WSS & to personally award the certificates.

Thank you Ms Sadiqa so much for your attention to Amr and giving him confidence by letting him read today . He loved that so much and He came very happy alhamdullah . And by time you would notice he is very clever . I hope now he would settle in class and feel comfort to express himself , talk ,and make friends . Thank you again 🙏 💆 🛡 💗

### Whole School News; Celebrating Onam at WSS, 4/9/25!



### Whole School News; Celebrating Onam at WSS, 4/9/25!













# Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions! Recycling at WSS









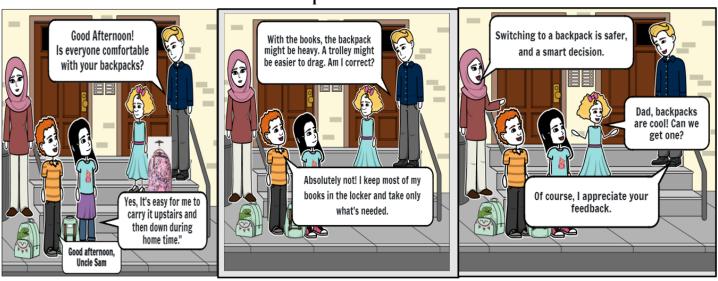
#### Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!

#### Discipline and the WSS Code of Conduct



When a GEM, Be a GEM - follow the GEM behaviour guidelines!

#### Backpacks are Cool



#### Happy Birthdays!





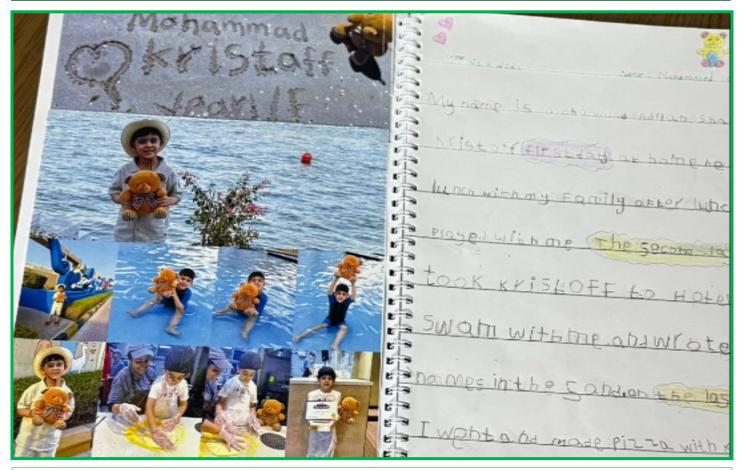


### Whole School News; Values, Kindness & Character!



Act of Kindness: Sila of Y3 D1 is sharing gifts to celebrate the birthday of Muhammad Salaallah Aleyhi Wasaallah

#### WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!



'Take Home Teddy' is an important & fun positive reinforcement strategy in the Junior Section to promote safe, positive learning behaviours & values-based character development. Well done to our first Y1F 'Take Home Teddy' winner, Moh'd Adnan Shahin, who enjoyed an exciting weekend with Teddy Kristoff & shared a fantastic video & Journal about his adventures. Thank you Moh'd!

### Y2S2 got a 2<sup>nd</sup> marble jar stickers from Ms. Raghi



### Junior Section News; Y2 Islamic Seerah Activities!



### Junior Section News; Learning Activities—General!













### Junior Section News; FS1H Learning Activities!

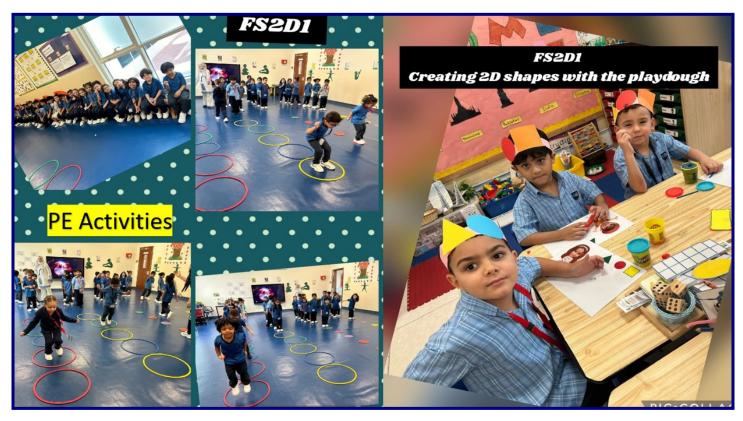


### Junior Section News; FS1H Learning Activities!



### Junior Section News; FS2D1 Learning Activities!



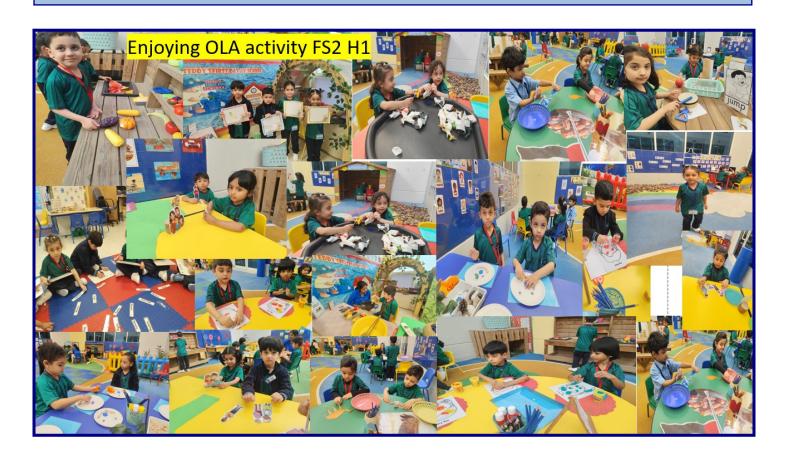


### Junior Section News; FS2D2 Learning Activities!





### Junior Section News; FS2H1 & Y2D2 Learning Activities!





### 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

### Ms Jinitra and Ms Jameela













### Junior Section News; Y2S1 Learning Activities!



### Junior Section News; Y2S2 Learning Activities!

#### Y2S2-Baseline week With Ms. Sabiha and Ms. Benil

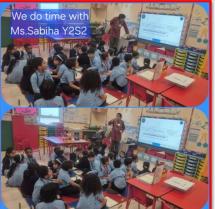












#### Y2S2-Back to School With Ms. Sabiha and Ms. Benil































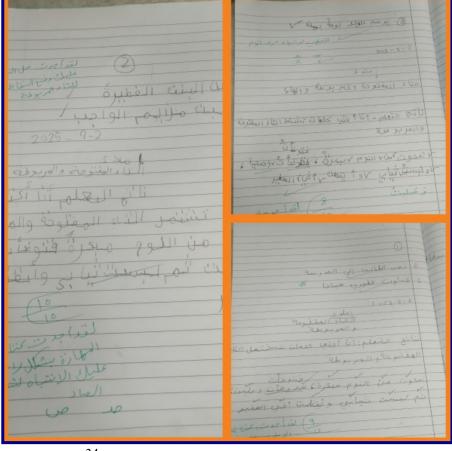
#### WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!



Congratulations to Muhammad Taha Yasin (Y4S1). He won 3rd place in a recent Football Tournament.

### **Primary Section News**

Ms. Dalal is sharpening her Y4 students' learning skills through using PowerPoint through the "challenge question" activity at the beginning of the lesson.



### Primary Section News; Islamic Seerah Activities!

# SEERAH ACTIVITIES DONE BY PRIMARY ISLAMIC STUDENTS













### Primary Section News; Islamic Seerah Activities!

### SEERAH ACTIVITIES (PRIMARY STUDENTS)











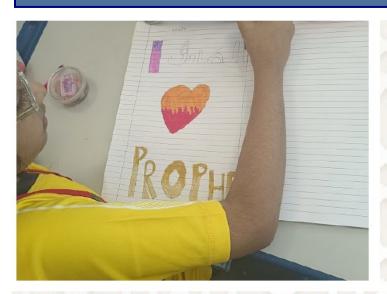


### Primary Section News; Islamic Seerah Activities!



Primary students actively participated in various Islamic lessons and activities this week to commemorate the life of Prophet Muhammad \*These included Seerah projects, Qur'an and Hadith reflections and creative tasks that helped them strengthen their knowledge and love for the Prophet .\*\*

### Primary Section News; Islamic Seerah Activities!





## Y4 ISLAMIC STUDENTS ARE SHOWING THEIR LOVE FOR PROPHET MUHAMMAD S.A.W.

Y5 ISLAMIC STUDENTS EXPRESSING THEIR LOVE FOR PROPHET







### Primary Section News; Music with Mr. Satish!



#### Rhythm and Teamwork Shine in WSS Primary Music!

Students enjoyed their first music lessons, learning and playing the steady beat and exploring rhythm with claves. Using circle formations, they built teamwork and musical awareness across primary classe





### Primary Section News; Assembly Time, 3/9/25!















Y4 & Y6 Primary students had their first Assembly of the new academic year this week. They were appreciated for their exemplary behaviour while entering the Auditorium & sitting very smartly & calmly. The Principal also appreciated students & parents for the super smart uniform & ID cards, which almost all students now have perfectly. Ms. Emelia, Mr. Arvie, the Principal, Ms. Lavita & Ms. Vandana welcomed the students back to school & briefed them about GEMS new initiatives 'Be a GEM' & 'Read Like a GEM'. We also celebrated this week's Birthday children & enjoyed listening to the new GEMS school song.



### Primary Section News; Y3D1 Learning Activities!



Yr3 D1 on exploring the parts and functions of a plant.

Learning how to add and subtract using base 10 blocks

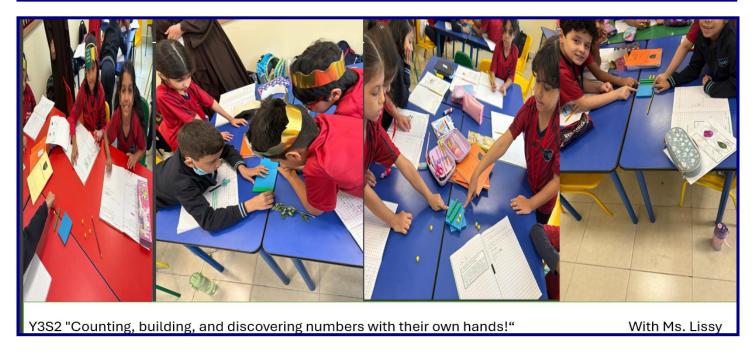


Read like a Gem! The Gems in Yr3 D1

### Primary Section News; Y3F2 & Y3S2 Learning Activities!



Y3F2 students enjoyed exploring creativity through a paper origami activity in their STEAM lesson.



### Primary Section News; Y4 Learning Activities!



<u>Learning Outcome:</u> By the end of the lesson, you will be able to write the place value of 4-digit numbers.



Students represented place value on base 10 number blocks.

### Primary Section News; Y5 Learning Activities!



Welcome to WSS!
This is always such an exciting time—full of fresh beginnings, new friendships, and opportunities to grow.











First day, fresh start. Watching our little ones grow, learn, and step into new adventures never gets old. Here's to a great school year ahead! Exploring WSS!!







### Primary Section News; Y5 Learning Activities!











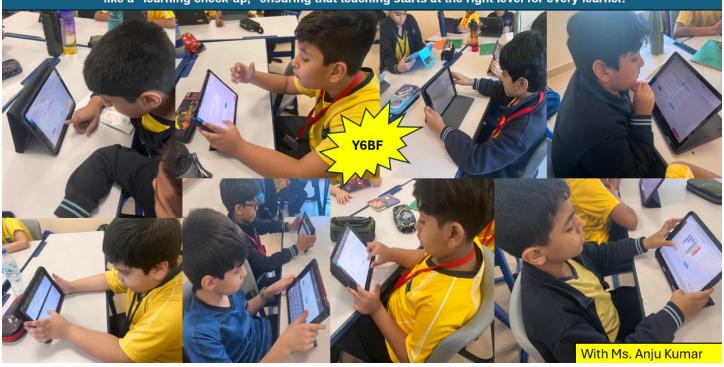
### Primary Section News; Y5D1 Learning Activities!





### Primary Section News; Y6BF Learning Activities!

Diagnostic Test – To identify students' prior knowledge, strengths, weaknesses, and learning gaps. Its purpose is not to grade students but to provide teachers with insights that help in planning instruction according to students' needs. It acts like a "learning check-up," ensuring that teaching starts at the right level for every learner.









Learning Outcome: By the end of the lesson, you will be able to investigate which materials are the best conductors of electricity.

Y6BF





With Ms. Anju Kumar

### Primary Section News; Y6BF & Y6BS Learning Activities!

Leaders - It helps students develop skills like teamwork, communication, responsibility, and decision-making. Student leaders act as role models, set a positive example for their peers, and contribute to making the school a better place by organizing activities, sharing ideas, and representing their classmates.

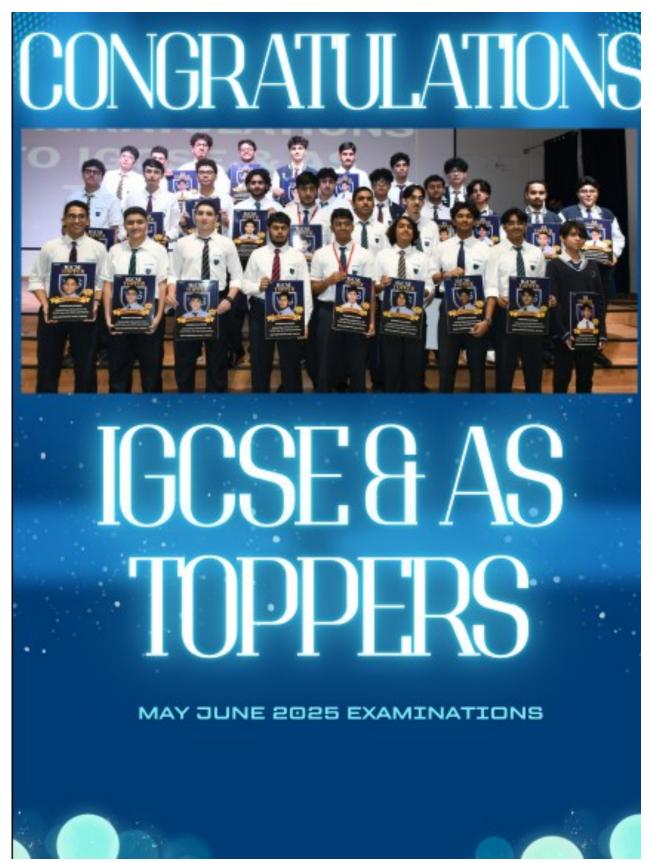




Year 6 BS students had an exciting time during their science lesson as they explored how to connect circuits. Their curiosity and enthusiasm shone through as they worked together, demonstrating excellent teamwork and participation while engaging in hands-on learning.

WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!

IGCSE & A/S Level Board Examination Toppers, June 2025 Series!



WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!
IGCSE & A/S Level Board Examination Toppers, June 2025 Series!

# CONGRATULATIONS



# IGCSE & AS TOPPERS

WSS PROUDLY HOSTED THE IGCSE/AS LEVEL MAY-JUNE 2025 TOPPERS' FELICITATION TO HONOR THE HARD WORK AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS.

# WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions! IGCSE & A/S Level Board Examination Toppers, June 2025 Series— Felicitation Assembly, 2/9/25!











# WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions! IGCSE & A/S Level Board Examination Toppers, June 2025 Series— Felicitation Assembly, 2/9/25!

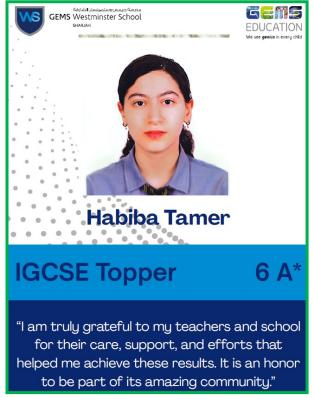




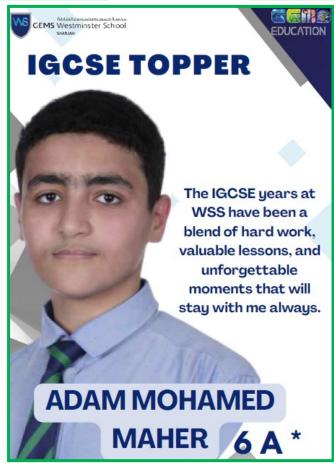


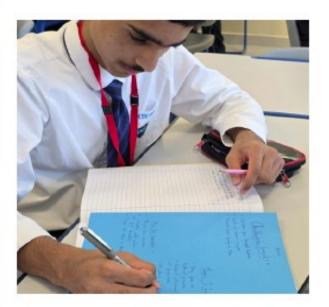


WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!
IGCSE & A/S Level Board Examination Toppers, June 2025 Series—
Felicitation Assembly, 2/9/25!







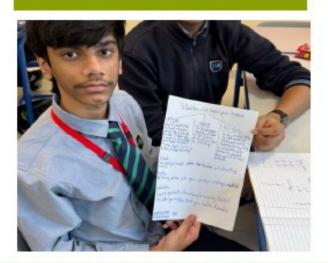








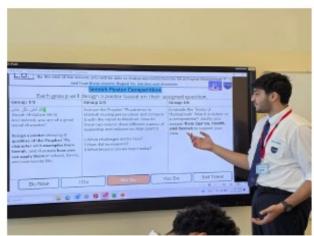


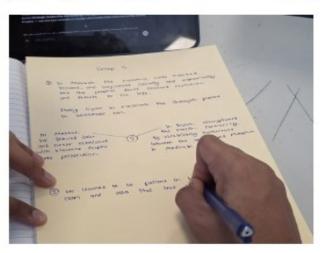




































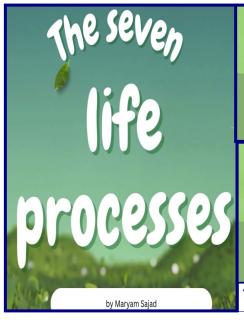


### Secondary Section News; 'Be a GEM'





Secondary SLT Mr. Franklin introduced the 'Be a GEM' Behaviour policy to Sixth Form students on 2/9/25. The focus of the policy is to guide character development through clear expectations, high standards, positive reinforcement & problem-solving.



Its really hard to remember so many life processes so we can make it short MRS GREN!

M stands for movement.

All living things move, even plants, that move towards the sun.

Thank you Maryam Sajad (Y7GS) for sharing your clear & lively science video.

### Secondary Section News; Learning & Leadership in KS5!

