

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #32
8th May, 2025



Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

Student Wellbeing; Punctual Pick-up

As summer approaches & the temperatures rise, parents do please ensure that your OT children are picked up promptly at the end of the school day **(2:05pm)** daily. This supports their safeguarding & wellbeing.

Please note that students should arrive in school in the morning punctually **(by 7:15am)** latest to ensure that learning time is not missed. Many thanks.

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Thurs. 26th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last day of compulsory T3 Promotional Exams
Thurs. 3rd July, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The last official day for students for this academic year.
Monday 25th August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First day of T1 for new joiners. T1 fees need to be cleared in full before any student is admitted into class for the new year. There are no exceptions to this, so please budget accordingly.
Tuesday 26th August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First day of T1 for returning students. T1 fees need to be cleared in full before any student is admitted into class for the new year. There are no exceptions to this, so please budget accordingly.



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

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 32
8 مايو 2025



رسالة من المديرة / الرئيس التنفيذي
السيدة فاليري تومسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر
الشارقة الأعزاء،

رفاهية الطلاب؛ الاستلام في الموعد المحدد

مع اقتراب فصل الصيف وارتفاع
درجات الحرارة، يرجى من أولياء
الأمر التأكد من استلام أطفالهم في
الوقت المحدد في نهاية اليوم الدراسي (2:05 مساءً) يوميًا.
وهذا يدعم سلامتهم ورفاهتهم.

يرجى العلم أنه على الطلاب الحضور إلى المدرسة صباحًا في
الموعد المحدد (بحد أقصى الساعة 7:15 صباحًا) لضمان عدم
تقويت وقت الدراسة. شكرًا جزيلاً.

المواعيد

التاريخ	التفاصيل
الخميس 26 يونيو	• آخر يوم من امتحانات T3 الترويجية الإلزامية
الخميس 3 يونيو 2025	• آخر يوم رسمي للطلبة لهذا العام الدراسي.
الاثنين 25 أغسطس	• اليوم الأول من T1 للمنتسبين الجدد. • يجب سداد رسوم T1 بالكامل قبل قبول أي طالب في الفصل الدراسي للعام الجديد. لا توجد استثناءات لهذا، لذا يرجى إعداد الميزانية وفقًا لذلك.
الثلاثاء 26 أغسطس	• اليوم الأول من الفصل الدراسي الأول للطلاب العائدين • يجب سداد رسوم T1 بالكامل قبل قبول أي طالب في الفصل الدراسي للعام الجديد. لا توجد استثناءات لهذا، لذا يرجى إعداد الميزانية وفقًا لذلك.



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

Contents

Parent Handbook Access QR Code

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



Newsletter Contents	
Page	Includes:
1, 2	Dates for Your Diary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Message from the Principal; Date for Your Diary, general notices
3	Contents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contents Table QR Code to Access our online Parent Handbook
4 5 6 6 7 8-13 14 15 16-19 19 20 21 22	Whole School News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobile Phone Policy Haj Online Awareness Session for Parents, Saturday 10/5/25 Staff CPD This Week's Leadership GEMStone Family First Activity for May—Family Art Competition KS3 Breakfast with Parents Family First Poetry Competition Champions More entries from April's GEMS-Wide Family First Poetry Competition WSS Superstar Champions—T2 Staff Awards Parent Voice—'You Said...We did...' Environmental & Sustainability Superstar Champions Storyboard Top Tips, 1) Patience & Perseverance, 2) Adapting with a Smile Happy Birthdays
23-24 25-28 29 30-31 32-35 36-42	Junior Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior Section Superstar Champions Y1 Concert, 5/5/25 (Bravehearts) Learning Activities (General) FS2 Learning Activities Y1 Learning Activities Y2 Learning Activities
43 44 44 45 46 47 48-49 50	Primary Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Section Sporting Superstar Champions Week 3 ECA Report Y3 Learning Activities Haj Projects Y3 Science Quiz & Learning Activities Y4 Science Quiz Y5 Science Quiz & Geography Learning Y6 Learning Activities
51 52 53	Secondary Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary Section Superstar Champions; KS4 Superstars KS4 Wellbeing Activities KS4 Gratitude Week

LET'S KEEP A SAFE, **DISTRACTION-FREE** LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Students are **NOT ALLOWED** to bring their mobile phone into school. Any mobile phone seen in school will be **CONFISCATED** for parent collection from school.

In case your child needs to bring a mobile to school for emergency communication, parents are requested to sign a disclaimer form (from Reception) and the phone will be left with Security for the day. For emergency calls during the day, your child may seek support from staff. Thank you for helping keep WSS safe and distraction-free!



GEMS
EDUCATION

Whole School News; Parent Haj Session, Saturday 10/5/25!



GEMS Westminster School
مدرسة جيمس وستميستر الشارقة

Online Hajj Webinar - Understanding the Rites and the Spirit of Hajj

Date: Saturday, 10th May 2025

Time: 10 am to 11 am

Platform: Microsoft Teams

Speaker: Sheikh Ayaz Housee

Scan QR To Register



Walking on the Sacred Path

Speaker: Sheikh Ayaz Housee
A distinguished Islamic-scholar
from Al Manar Center



In preparation for the upcoming Hajj season, we are excited to invite you to our Online Hajj Webinar, designed specifically for parents who wish to deepen their understanding of this sacred journey.

1. A comprehensive overview of the rituals and significance of Hajj.
2. Step-by-step guidance on the spiritual and physical aspects of Hajj.
3. Interactive sessions to answer any questions and provide clarity on the practices.
4. Educational materials enhance learning experience and make the Hajj journey more meaningful.

Whole School News; Staff CPD!



The Principal attended a Town Hall session on 6/5/25 with other GEMS Principals & GEMS senior department heads relating to strategic company & school development. GEMS Chairman Mr. Sunny Varkey & Group CEO Mr. Dino Varkey addressed the gathering, stressing the need to continue the drive for values-based excellence.

LEADING WITH ADAPTABILITY



AQUAMARINE

Helps students embrace change with resilience and flexibility.

“ Sometimes you need to let go of old ways to make room for something better. ”

MESSAGE: Sometimes you need to stop doing things that no longer work to make room for better ideas and opportunities. Letting go helps you and your team improve and grow.

REFLECT: What habits or ideas can I let go of to grow as a leader? How can I embrace new opportunities and changes?

This week's Leadership GEMStone



'Family Roots' Art Competition

CREATE A BEAUTIFUL PIECE OF
ART ON THE THEME OF
'FAMILY ROOTS'
LINK IT TO THE
GEMSTONE AQUAMARINE
WHICH REPRESENTS
'ADAPTABILITY'.

Art work details:

Deadline Monday 26th May 2025

3 categories for judging:

- under 8 year-olds,
- under 13 year-olds
- 14 years and above

Be as creative and as
abstract as you please.



Entries must be submitted on A4 portrait orientation
Please use watercolors, sketching or painting only

Please ensure your name, class, school and age is written on the back of your artwork.

Submit your entries to your school PRE

Whole School News; Family First KS3 Family Breakfast, 5/5/25!



Whole School News; Family First KS3 Family Breakfast, 5/5/25!

RISE DINE



Class Breakfast:
*Where smiles, stories, and syrup
bring us closer together!*

Thank you all for your kind
invitation, warm welcome,
and for giving us
the chance to enjoy such a
wonderful experience.
-Y7GH m/o Nadeen

Thank you for being such a
supportive teacher and a
second mother to the whole
class. Your warmth and
kindness have filled the
classroom, and you've truly
made us feel comfortable and
confident knowing our
children are in your care.
-Y7GH, m/o Talia

Whole School News; Family First KS3 Family Breakfast, 5/5/25 & 6/5/25!



Whole School News; Family First KS3 Family Breakfast, 6/5/25!



Huge thanks to the generous & enthusiastic parents who joined their KS3 child in school for our family breakfast. It was wonderful to see you sharing fun time in school!

Whole School News; Family First KS3 Family Breakfast, 6/5/25!



***Coming together in joy—one
bite, one smile, one memory at
a time!***

Whole School News; Family First KS3 Family Breakfast, 6/5/25!





Certificates of Appreciation for the Family First Poetry Competition



"The Gem That Helps Me Lead"

There's a stone that shines with secret light, It's called the gem-labradorite.
It sparkles blue, and green, and gold, A symbol brave, a symbol bold.
It helps me dream, it helps me grow, It shows the path I need to go.
When times are tough or days are long, It fills my heart and keeps me strong.
But even more than dreams and goals, I need my family's loving roles.
They cheer me on, they guide my way, They teach me kindness every day.
With Family First, I stand up tall, I know they'll catch me if I fall.
And with my vision shining bright, I lead with love, I lead with light.
Like labradorite, calm and wise, I look ahead with open eyes.
A future full of hope and grace, With strength and love in every place.
So I will lead and I will try,
With family close and dreams that fly.
The gem inside will help me see—
The leader I was born to be.

Name: Yahia Mohamed Rabee

School: GEMS WESTMINSTER School - Sharjah

Class: Y4 S2

DOB: 9/9/2016

Age Category: Under 13

"Legacy and Light"

In the quiet cradle of a dawn-lit room,
Where lullabies echo and futures bloom,
Lies the sacred pulse of kinship true—
A compass constant, tried and blue.

Family, not just blood or name,
But roots entwined in love's own flame.
The whispered prayers, the silent tears,
The arms that catch our growing years.

Their voices carve the shape of soul,
Imparting grace, instilling goal.
In every tale by candlelight,
They plant the seeds of inner might.

Yet vision calls beyond the shore,
Where dreams unfurl and spirits soar.
Where comfort ends and purpose starts,
And courage rises in restless hearts.

A leader's path is not pre-made,
It's sculpted in the quiet shade
Of choices made when no one sees,
And sacrifices, not just ease.

Here enters the gem—Labradorite,
A crystal born of storm and night.
It holds the chaos, holds the fire,
A prism forged by fierce desire.

Not delicate, but raw and real,
A mirror for the ones who feel.
It shifts, it gleams in hues unknown—
A gem that teaches how we've grown.

So I—child of both hearth and flame—
Carry both legacy and aim.
I lead not from a throne of gold,
But with the truths my hands still hold.

From lullabies to battle cries,
From kitchen tales to clouded skies

My family's voice becomes my guide,
Their strength the light I keep inside.

So let the world see shifting skies,
Let doubt and fear be no disguise.
For I will rise, both bold and wise—
With family's love and vision's eyes.

Name: Julia Mohamed Rabee

School: GEMS Westminster school
class :Y7

DOB :16/12/2013

Age Category: Under 13

Unfortunately WSS did not win any prizes thi time April's GEMS-wide competition, however there were some stunning entries. Many thanks.

*WSS Superstar Champions; Staff or Term 2 Awards, 1/5/25!
For 'Going Above & Beyond'!*



*WSS Superstar Champions; Staff of Term 2 Awards, 1/5/25!
For 'Going Above & Beyond'!*



***WSS Superstar Champions; Staff of Term 2 Awards, 1/5/25!
For 'Going Above & Beyond'!***



***WSS Superstar Champions; Staff or Term 2 Awards, 1/5/25!
For 'Going Above & Beyond'!***



You Said,

Parents of Year 3 to Year 6 expressed interest in a Parental Engagement Activity where they could actively participate alongside their children.



We Did,

Parents and children of Year 3 to Year 6, were invited to join our Primary Section Parental Engagement Activity — a fun and creative afternoon filled with exciting, hands-on experiences. This special event was designed to inspire creativity, strengthen collaboration, and create lasting memories through shared learning moments.

Sustainability & Recycling Superstar Champions!



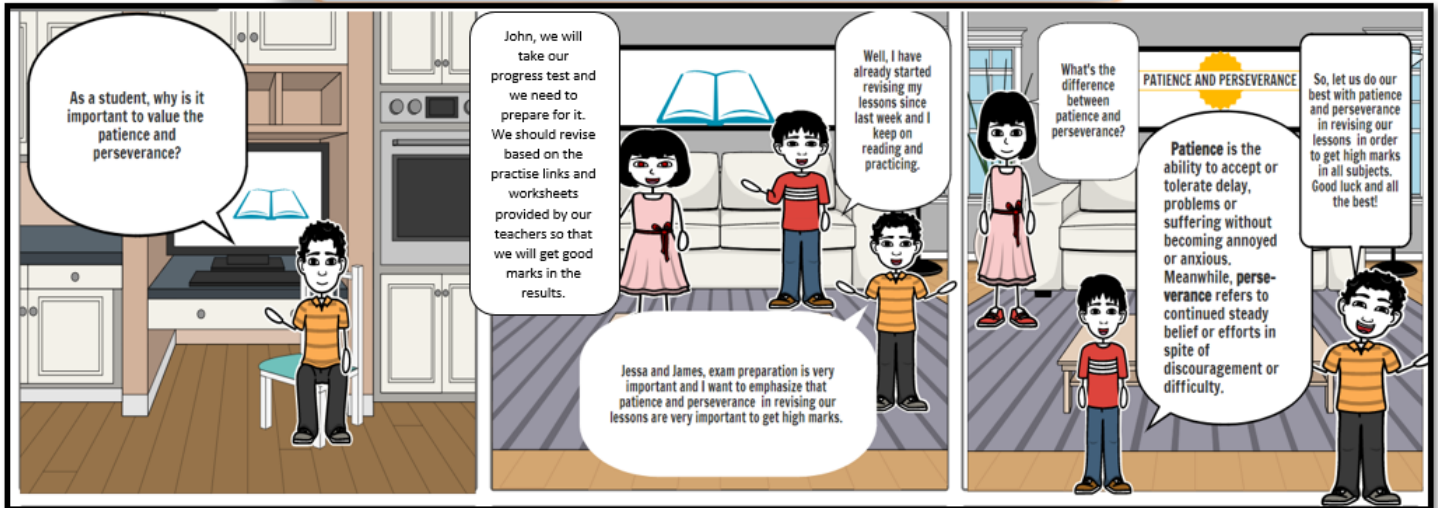
Great job by parents & students with our ongoing water bottle collection for recycling. Protecting our precious environment is everyone's responsibility.



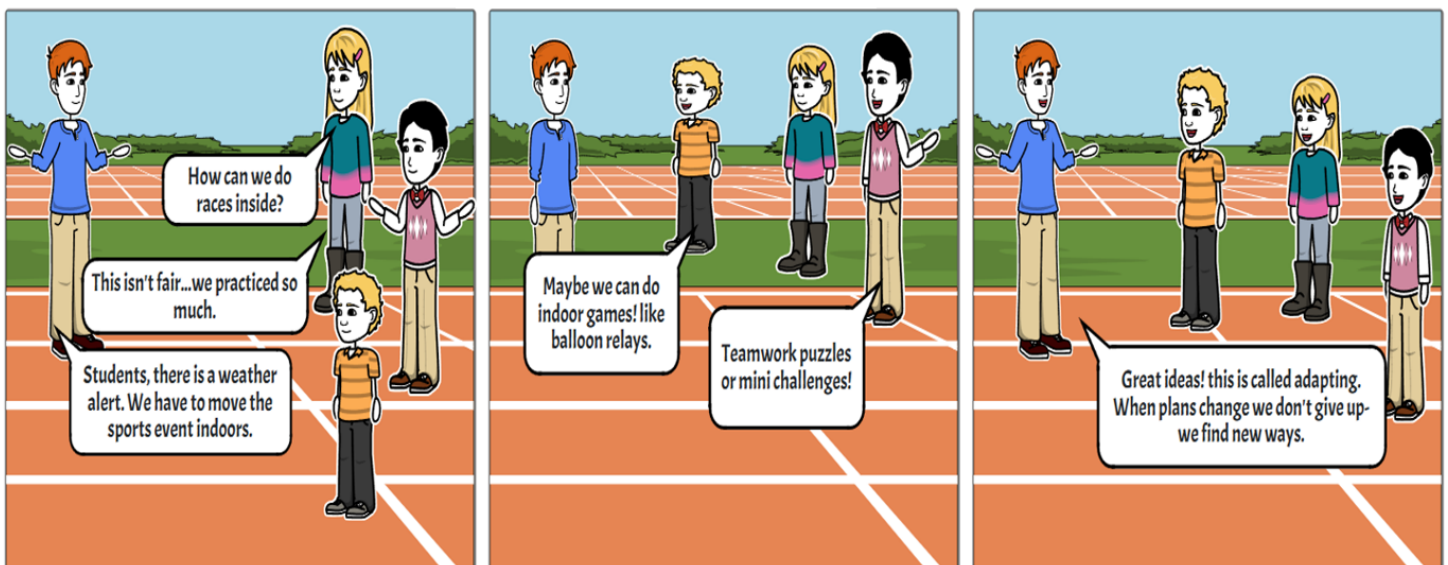
Well done to Ezaan Ali Asim (Y5S1) & all parents & students who have donated unwanted e-waste for our recycling drive with Sharaf DG.

Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!

Patience and Perseverance



Adapting with a smile



Happy Birthdays!



WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!

Dear Teachers,

I hope you're doing well.

I just wanted to express my heartfelt appreciation for today's event. We were truly thrilled to see the children perform with such confidence and enthusiasm. Our hearts were full of joy watching them come this far—and the credit goes entirely to you. None of this would have been possible without your constant support and dedication.

It was an emotional and unforgettable experience to see them on stage, performing with such brilliance. Hats off to your hard work and commitment!

Warm regards,
Arshiya

FS Concert feedback, 1/5/25

Dear Ms. Nishat and Ms. Afroz,

I hope this message finds you well.

I wanted to extend my sincere gratitude to both of you for the incredible effort, time, and care you have put into preparing the children. Your dedication to not only their academic progress but also their emotional well-being is truly appreciated.

It's heartwarming to see the positive impact you've had on our kids. The confidence, enthusiasm, and values they display are a reflection of your patient guidance and unwavering support.

Thank you once again for being such an important part of their growth. We're truly grateful.

Regards
Erum Farrakh
Mother of Zainab Khurram (FS/D1)

Dear Gems school Team,

I would like to sincerely thank you for the wonderful concert today. The event was beautifully organized, and it was clear how much effort was put into every detail.

A special thanks to Ms. Sadiqa for her dedication, care, and attention to every child. It was truly heartwarming to see how each student had the opportunity to shine and showcase their unique talents.

Please find attached some photos.

Warm regards,

Nadia Farouk.

Mother of Mousa – Year 1 D2.

Y1 Concert feedback, 5/5/25



Good Day Ms Sadiqa and Ms Asma

I just wanted to take a moment to sincerely thank you for the incredible concert today.

The performance was absolutely unforgettable from the energy on stage to the amazing setlist, every moment was a joy.

Thank you alot for a great effort.

Haya's Mother

Y1/D2

Well done to Malik (Y1H1) for his exemplary character—kind, polite & with great listening skills! Malik was awarded special stickers by Ms. Shamail & Ms. Raghi.

WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!



Congratulations to our swimming superstar Ayla (Y1S2) for achieving another trophy & medal! We love your commitment to excellence.

Dear Our beloved Ms Shamail ,

I wanted to extend my heartfelt thanks for the beautiful concert and all the hard work you put into the full theme and show. It was such a joy to see the children perform with so much confidence and happiness.

It was a proud moment for us, and we truly appreciate the time, effort, and encouragement you gave to Youssef and all the students .

The costumes and dress-up were absolutely lovely .Thank you for your dedication, creativity, and the warmth you bring to everything you do with the children.

As Ms Mariam said , you are such a brave and amazing leader and we are so lucky to be with you .

With sincere gratitude,

Parents of Youssef Ahmed

Dear kishwar,

With great happiness and proudness i am letting you know how amazingly you have nurtured and supported Hamnah with each step. Seeing Hamnah yesterday make my eyes fill with every emotions. She have improved her speech writing and reading with your immense support and encouragement even when I was absent in the beginning of her academic year With all hearts me and my husband is thanking you.I am attaching a photo of you and hamnah along with this email.(Fs1 and Y1)

Hello Miss Kishwar,

That was a lovely message, we need to say Big Thank you to you both, Y1H2 performance was exceptionally graceful and energetic. We know your hard work and dedication to bring up these children to such confident performers. Thanks a lot, as parents we are proud and made our eyes wet to see them performing so good.

Junior Section News; Y1 Concert 'Bravehearts', 5/5/25!



Junior Section News; Y1 Concert 'Bravehearts', 5/5/25!



Junior Section News; Y1 Concert 'Bravehearts', 5/5/25!



It was a fantastic concert, with practical strategies to develop a positive growth mindset & with links to the UAEs National Agenda targets for an innovative, cohesive & inclusive society. Well done Y1 team of teachers, parents & students!



Junior Section News; Y1 Concert 'Bravehearts', 5/5/25!



Junior Section News; Learning Activities (General)!



Junior Section News; FS2D1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; FS2S2 Learning Activities!



FS2 S2 with Ms.Sarah and Ms.Maria.

Junior Section News; Y1D Learning Activities!

Y1D1 with Ms. Beena and Ms. Rahna

Ready to perform



We are glad to receive our gift



Concert day



Learning about "au" digraph



Shining bright at the concert!"



Ready to perform



Y1D2 with MS Sadiqa and Ms Asma

Some pure, happy moments



Little stars shining bright, all dressed up and ready to rock the stage !!!



Proud parents capturing sweet moments with their stars !!!



Junior Section News; Y1F Learning Activities!

Y1F1 WITH MS. AYSHA AND MS. JAMILA



Y1F2 WITH MS. ANEEZA AND MS. GURPREET



Junior Section News; Y1H Learning Activities!

Y1H1 WITH MS. AAFREIN AND MS. FIZZA

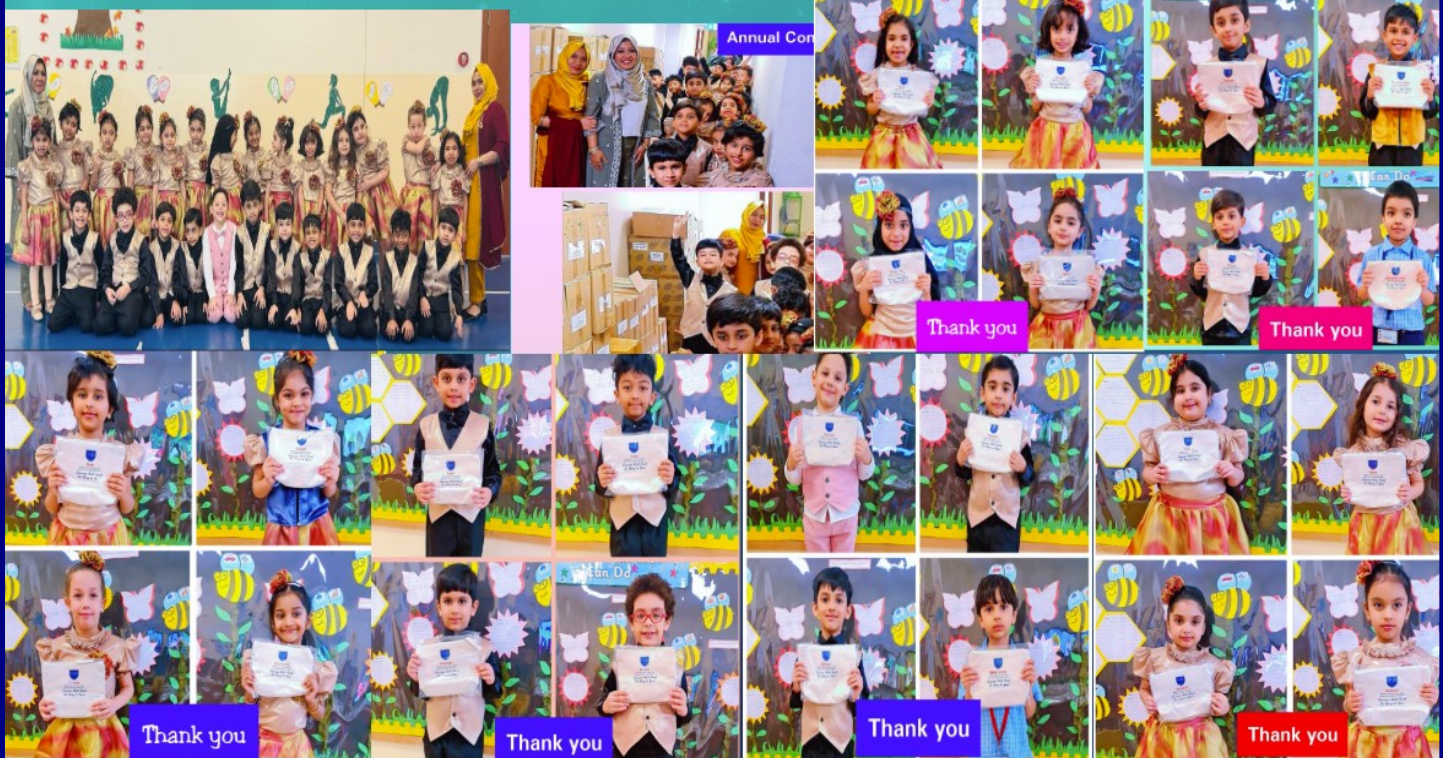


Y1H2 WITH MS. KISHWAR AND MS. MANI



Junior Section News; Y1S Learning Activities!

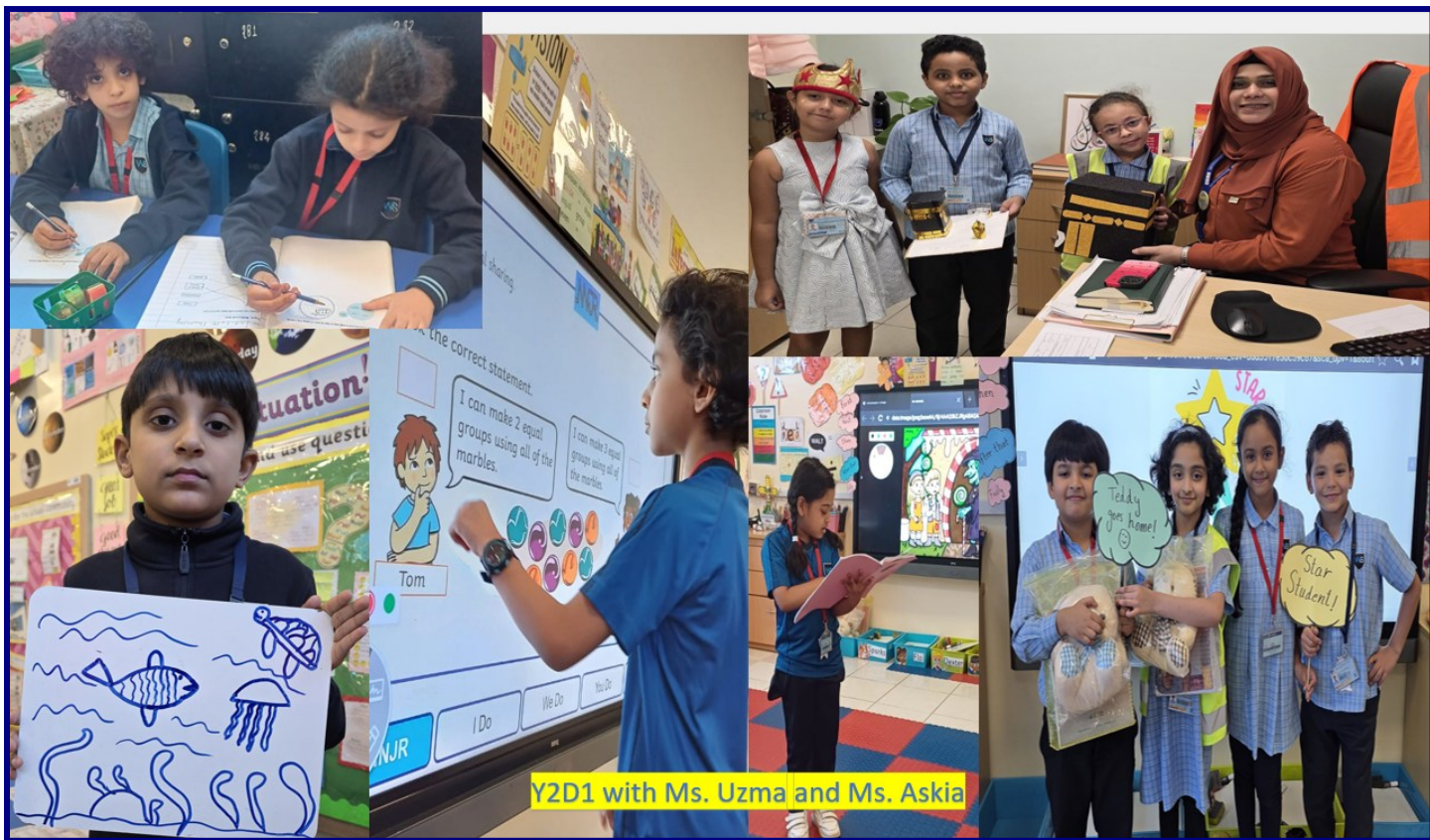
Y1S1 with Ms. Mariam and Ms. Nadiya



Y1S2 with Ms. Rajina and Ms. Foumy



Junior Section News; Y2D1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2F1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2F2 Learning Activities!

Y2F2-With Ms. Fauzia and Ms. Benil



Y2F2-With Ms. Fauzia and Ms. Benil

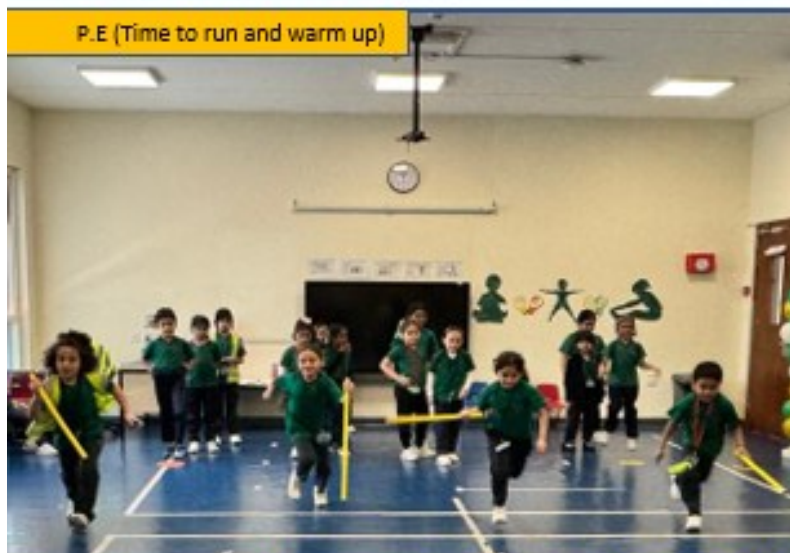


Junior Section News; Y2H1 Learning Activities!

Junior Section: Y2 H1 Learning Activities!

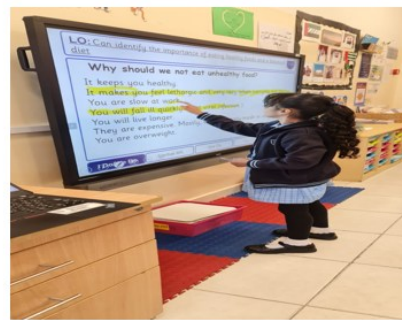
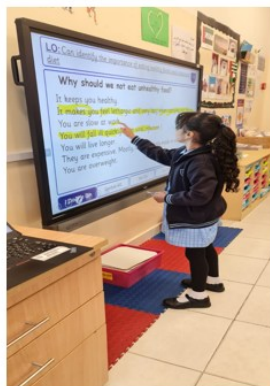
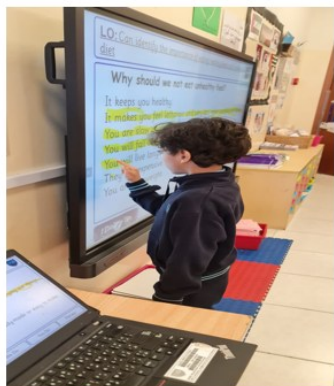


Miss Jinitra and Miss Maryam



Junior Section News; Y2 Learning Activities!

MS MILLICENT & MS TAHIRA Y2D2



Y2H2 MS.ROOMANA AND MS.AQUEEN

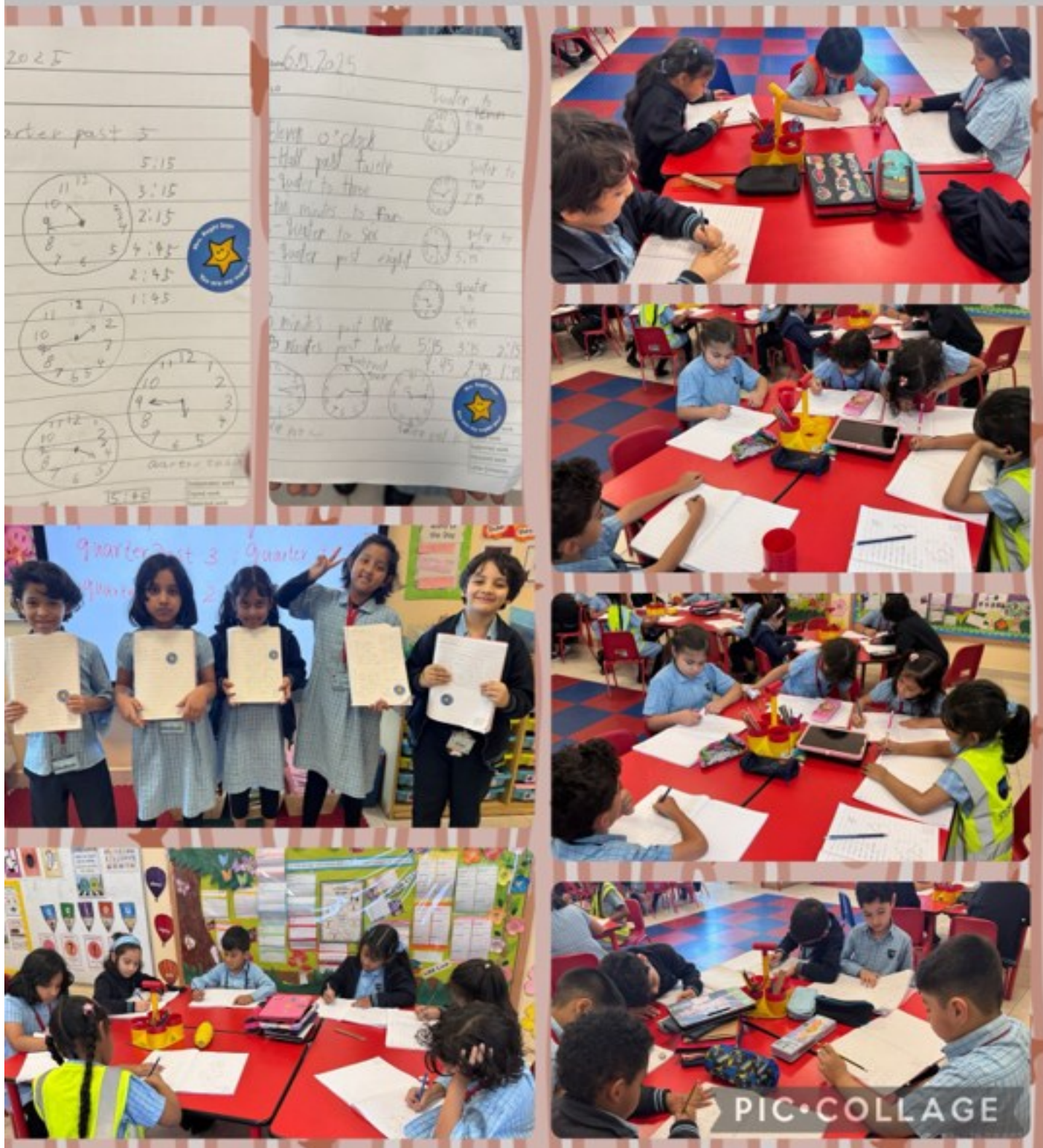


Junior Section News; Y2S1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2S2 Learning Activities!

Y2S2 with Ms. Safia and Ms. Catherin



WSS Primary Section Sporting Superstar Champions!



Congratulations to sporting superstar Aadhvik, winner of the recent tennis tournament held on 2/5/25 & 3/5/25 in the Marbella Resort's Super Sports Competition.

Congratulations to Yousif Marzouk (Y5S1) who won a Gold Medal and Trophy in the Internal Championship in his Swimming Academy. This reflects a tremendous amount of hard work & commitment to honing his skills!



Primary Section News; Week 3 ECA Report!

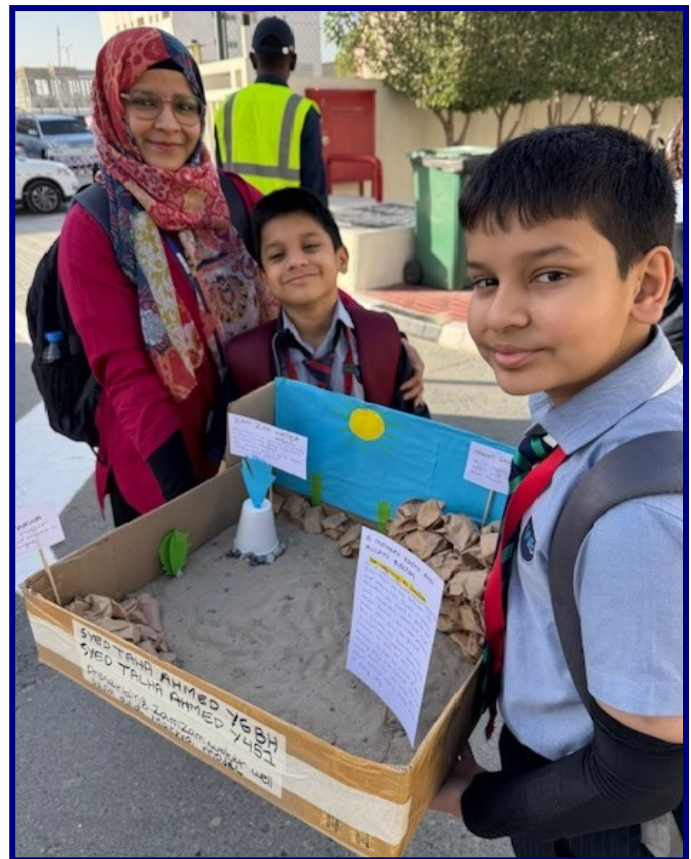


Primary Section News; Y3 Learning Activities!



Y3H1 students exploring different types of rocks for their science lesson with Ms. Sangeetha Shaji

Primary Section News; Hajj Projects!



Y3 Science Quiz competition



Primary Section News; Y4 Science Quiz!

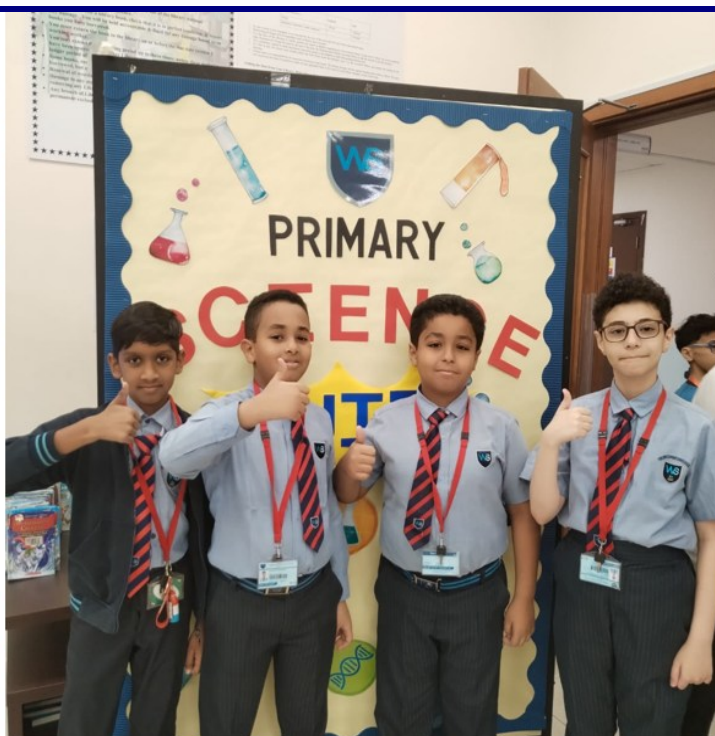
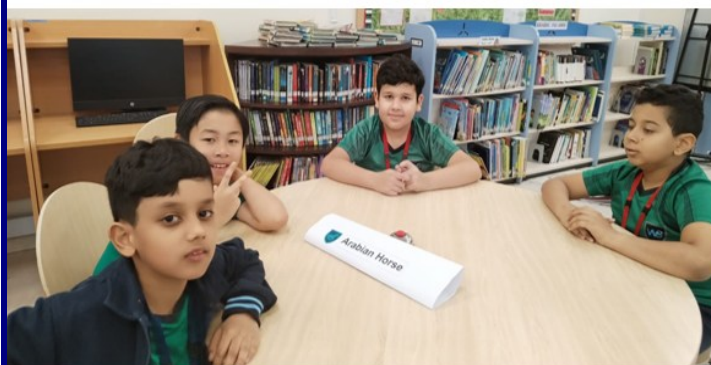
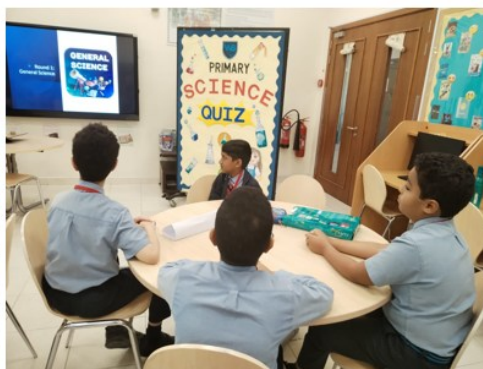


Primary Section News; Y5 Learning Activities!



PRIMARY Science QUIZ

Year 5

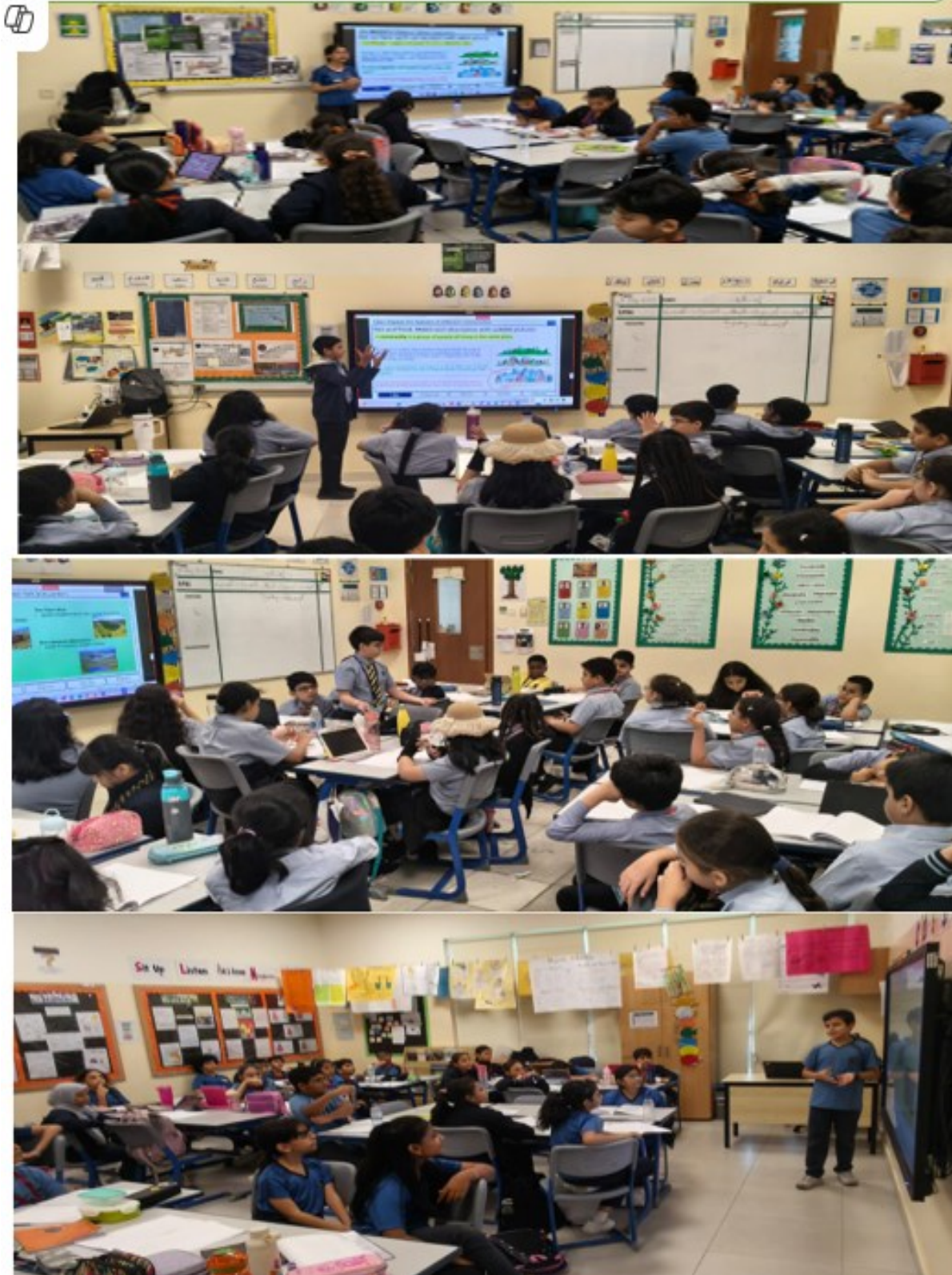


WINNERS – Team SCORPIONS

Ezaan Ali, Khaled Walid, Ahmed Amin, Iyad Waleed

Primary Section News; Y5 Learning Activities!

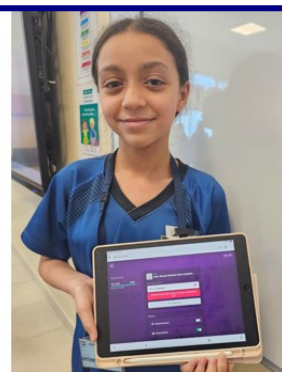
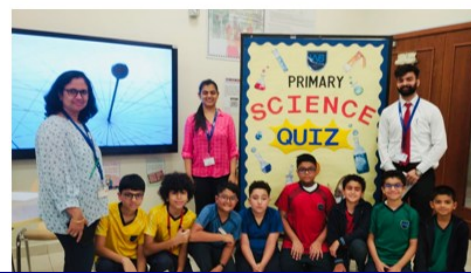
In this Year 5 Geography lesson, Y5D1 and Y5F1 students are taking ownership of their learning, modeling and guiding each other to analyse cities such as Wales, London, and New York where critical thinking skills are developed.



Primary Section News; Y6 Learning Activities!



Round-1		10		5
Round-2	5	10	5	5+5
Round-3			10	—
Round-4	15	15	15	15



PTS Assessment preparation

Y6 Science Quiz preliminary Round

KS4 GIRLS STAR STUDENTS



Secondary Section News; KS4 Wellbeing Activities!

“Glow and Grow Circles” Gratitude Meets Growth!



As part of our Gratitude Week programme, all Year 10 students are expected to take part in a reflective activity

Secondary Section News; KS4 Gratitude Week!



This week, students shared what they're thankful for by writing or drawing on our **"Things We're Grateful For"** wall. From family and friends to nature and pets, their messages were heartwarming! A simple activity with a powerful reminder: there's always something to be grateful for.

