

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #4
11th September, 2025



Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

Safeguarding—ID Badges

For your child's safety, it is very important to control & monitor who comes into school. Parents, do please wear your Parent ID badge at both drop-off & pick-up times. Thank you.

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Sat. 13/9/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSS Cashier open 8am-1pm
Thursday 25/9/25 2-5pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FS1-Y13 Parent-Teacher 'Meet & Greet' meeting. Come & meet your child's teachers! All students to go home at 12pm
Thursday 4th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last day of T1 (T1 exams will run until 4/12/25, from approximately 2 weeks prior)



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

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 4
11 سبتمبر 2025



رسالة من المديرة / الرئيس التنفيذي
السيدة جاليري تومسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر
الشارقة الأعزاء،

الحماية - شارات الهوية

من أجل سلامة طفلك، من المهم جدًا
التحكم ومراقبة من يأتي إلى المدرسة.
أولياء الأمور الكرام، نرجي منكم
ارتداء بطاقة هوية ولي الأمر عند
استلام وتسليم أبنائكم. شكرًا لكم.

المواعيد

التاريخ	التفاصيل
السبت 13/9/25	• أمين الصندوق WSS مفتوح من الساعة 8 صباحًا حتى 1 ظهرًا
الخميس 25/9/25 ٢:٠٠ - ٥:٠٠	• اجتماع أولياء الأمور والمعلمين "لقاء وتعارف". • للصفوف من FS1 إلى Y13. تعالوا للتعرف على معلمي طفلكم!
الخميس 4 ديسمبر	• على جميع الطلاب العودة إلى منازلهم في الساعة 12 ظهرًا. • آخر يوم من امتحانات T1 (ستجرى امتحانات T1 قبل حوالي أسبوعين).



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

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 5 6 7 8	Whole School News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 360° Stakeholder Workshop, 11/9/25 Staff CPD This week's Leadership GEMStone Family First; Summer Fun Environmental & Sustainability Superstar Champions Happy Birthdays
9 10 11 12-15 16-20	Junior Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior Section Superstar Champions Literacy Day, 8/9/25 FS2 Learning Activities Y1 Learning Activities Y2 Learning Activities
21 22 23-24 25-28 29-31 32-34 35-40 41	Primary Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent Read Like a GEM (RLAG) Workshop, 10/9/25 Assembly Time with Y3 & Y5 (Introduction to 'Be a GEM') Literacy Day, 8/9/25 Y3 Learning Activities Y4 Learning Activities Y5 Learning Activities Y6 Learning Activities Learning Activities (General)
42 43 44 & 48 45-48 49 50-51 52 53 54-57 58	Secondary Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary Section Superstar Champions; SES Hackathon Competition Champions KS3 Class Champions Assembly Time with Y9GD (Growth Mindset), 8/9/25 Assembly Time with Y9BD, 9/9/25 (Showing Gratitude) KS4 Class Leaders KS4 Goal-Setting KS4 Innovate-X Pitching WSS MUN3 to the Principal, 10/9/25 Literacy Week Activities KS5 Career Talk with Counselor Ms. Anisha

Whole School News; 360° Stakeholder Workshop 'Be a GEM' & the School Improvement Plan



Huge thanks to our enthusiastic & dedicated team of student leaders, Friends of WSS (FOW) parent, LAB& staff for your contribution to an interesting & valuable session. We will take your ideas & review as part of our School Improvement Plan (SIP) process.



Whole School News; Staff CPD!



Deputy Head of Primary Ms. Emelia & Deputy Head of Juniors Ms. Raghi led an important CPD session on Establishing School Routines, related to GEMS new 'Be a GEM' policy.

SEPTEMBER — Next Week's Leadership GEMStone

LEADING WITH RESPECT



SAPPHIRE

Encourages fairness, dignity and appreciation for all.

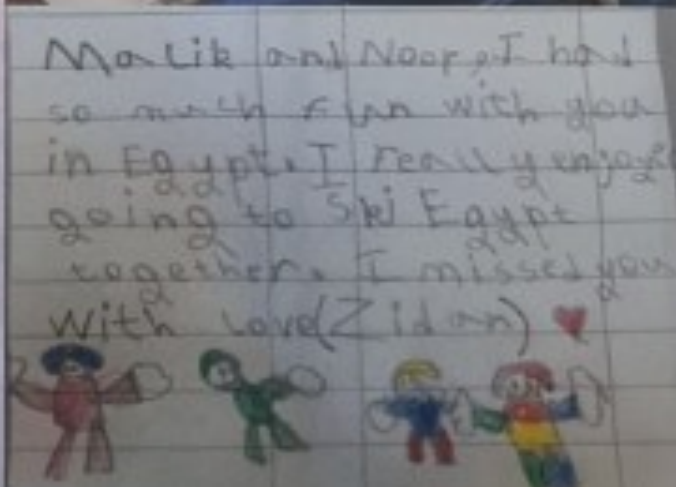
“Your true character shows in how you treat people when no one is looking.”

MESSAGE: Being kind and fair all the time, even when no one is watching, shows what kind of leader you are. This builds trust and respect.

REFLECT: How can I make sure my actions always match my values? How can I treat others with kindness every day?



My Summer Holiday!
By Zidan Reda (Y2D2)

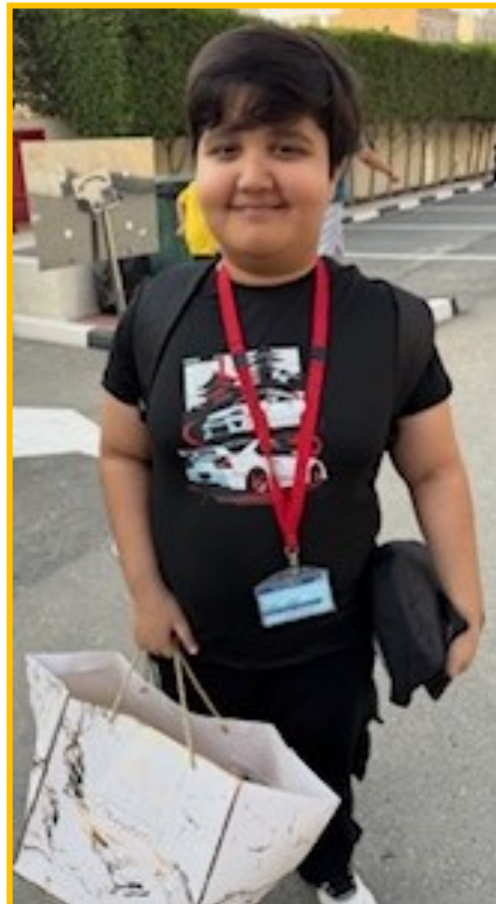


Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!



Progress-check on the home grown from seed avocado plant, carefully propagated by Syed Shazil (Y13D2) & Laiba Jami (Y4H2). We are looking forward to the weather cooling enough to plant it in teh WSS garden.

Happy Birthdays!

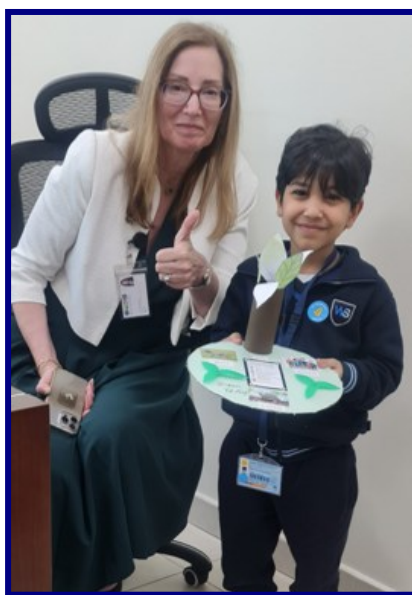


WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!

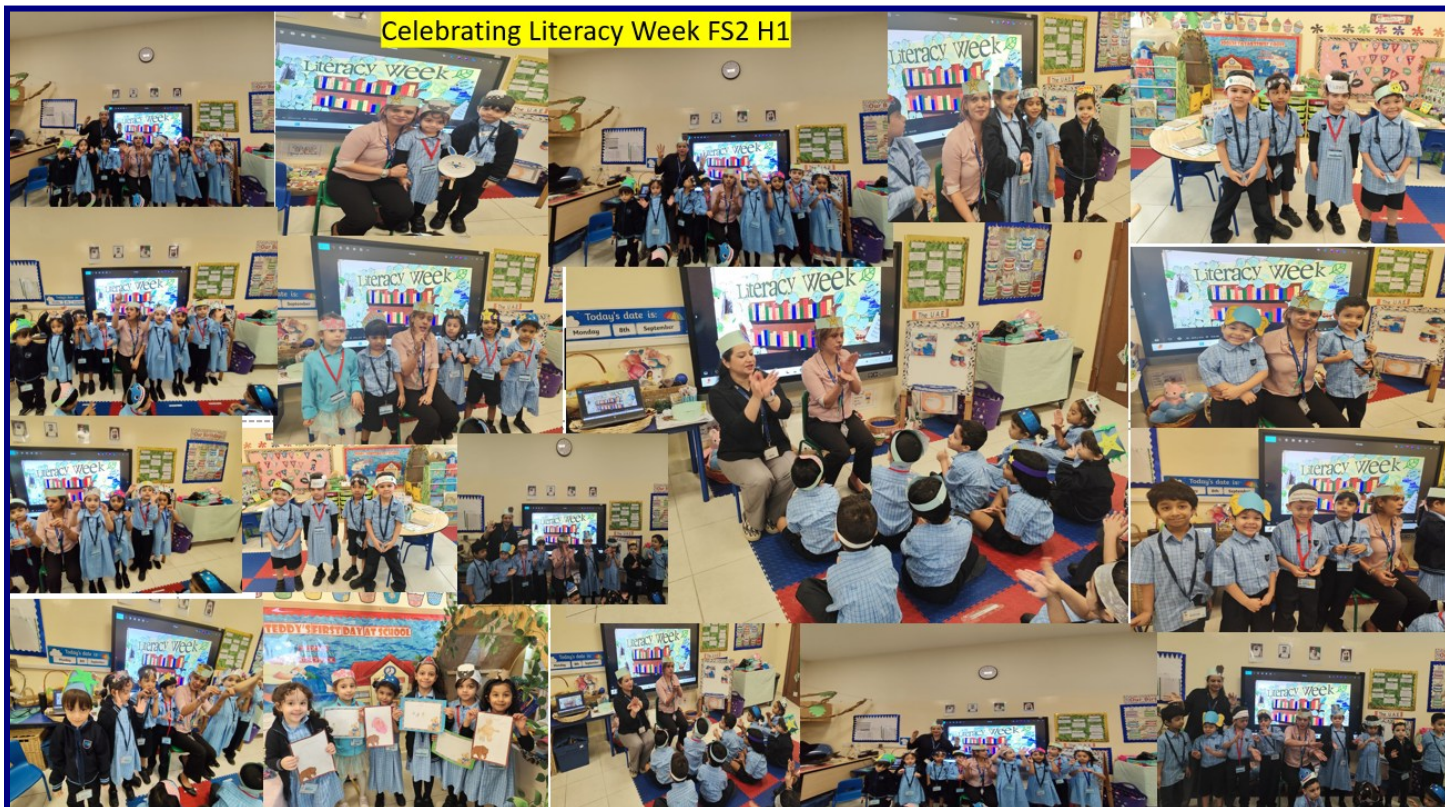
Y2S2-Got the 3rd marble jar stickers from Ms. Raghi



Junior Section News; Literacy Week!



Junior Section News; FS2H1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y1D Learning Activities!

Y1 D1 with Ms. Beena and Ms. Rahna



Y1 D2 with Ms. Aneeza and Ms. Gurpreet



Junior Section News; Y1F & Y2D2 Learning Activities!

Y1F with Ms. Fauzia and Ms. Foumy



MS. MILLICENT & MS. TAHIRA



Junior Section News; Y1H Learning Activities!

Y1 H1 with Ms. Mariam and Ms. Nadiya



Y1 H2 with Ms. Kishwar and Ms. Maryam



Junior Section News; Y1S Learning Activities!

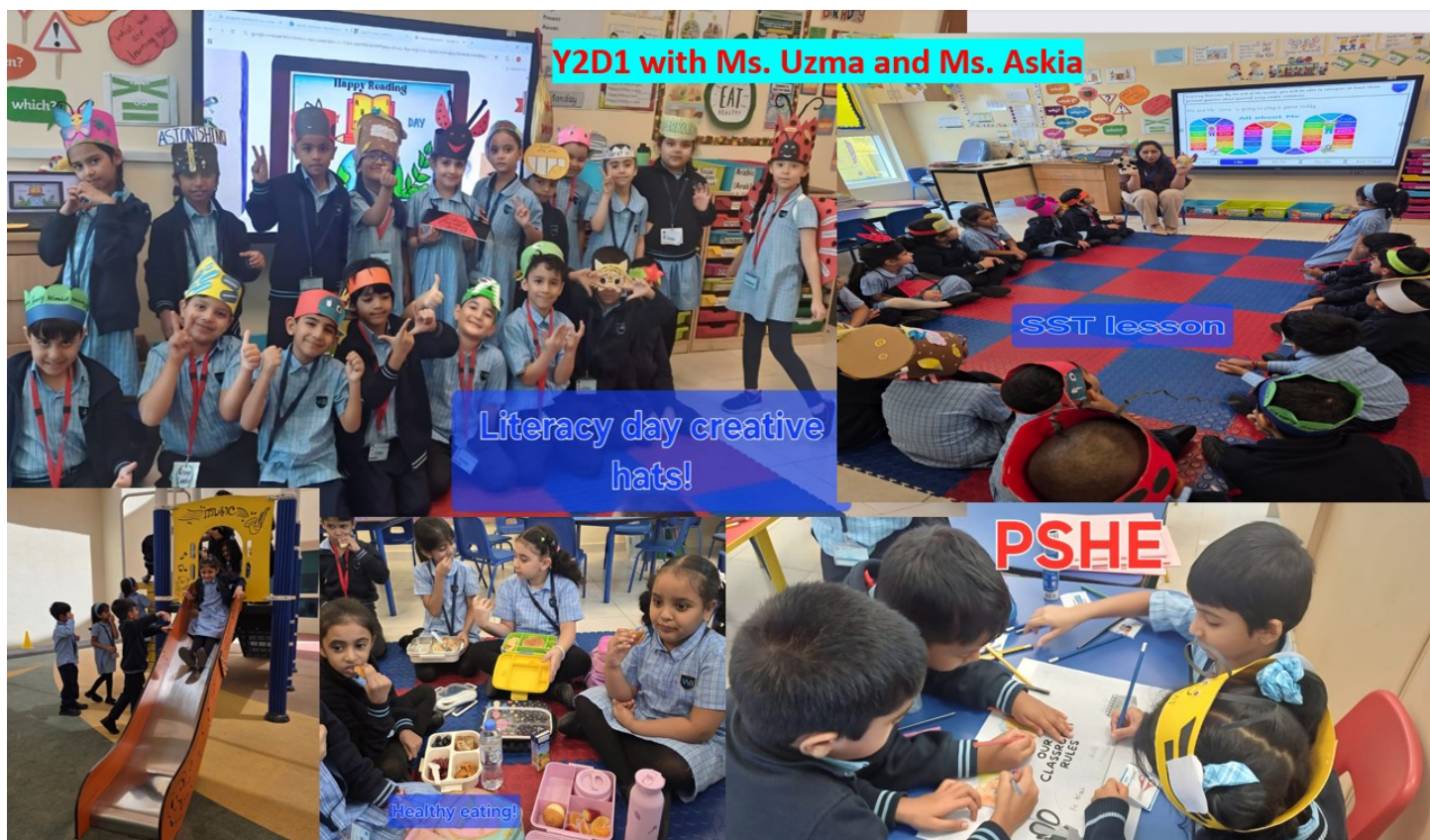
Y1 S1 with Ms. Rajina and Ms. Mani



Y1 S2 with Ms. Sadiqa and Ms. Asma



Junior Section News; Y2D1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2F Learning Activities!

Y2F with Ms. Mangala & Ms. Fiza



Junior Section News; Y2H1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2H2 Learning Activities!

Junior Section: Y2 H2

Ms Jinitra and Ms Jameela



Junior Section News; Y2S2 Learning Activities!

Y2S2-Class activities With Ms. Sabiha and Ms. Benil



Y2S2-Literacy day With Ms. Sabiha and Ms. Benil



Primary Section News; Parent 'Read Like a GEM' (RLAG) Workshop, 10/9/25!



Huge thanks to our dedicated parents who attended this important workshop aimed at promoting the valuable skills of reading both at home & at school. 'Read Like a GEM' is the new GEMS initiative based on the science of learning, quality resources & tried & tested, systematic methods. Thank you to MS. Vandana & Mr. Arvie for delivering this important session.



*Primary Section News; Assembly Time with Y3 & Y5
An Introduction to 'Be a GEM', 10/9/25!*



Primary Section News; Literacy Day, 8/9/25!



Primary Section News; Literacy Day, 8/9/25!



Primary Section News; Y3D1 Learning Activities!



Y3D1 enjoyed their first Science investigation on how water is being transported to the different parts of a plant.

The **We Do** in our class, collaboration and sharing ideas, well done kiddos!

The 1st assembly: Listened on how to be a GEM in WSS!



SHOUT OUT
to Sila for her enthusiastic participation in the Primary Literacy Day celebration!

Y3D1 dressed up in their favourite book character, retelling stories and sharing how they feel when they read books.

Primary Section News; Y3H2 Learning Activities!



Character dress up day Y3H2

Students were dressed up as their favourite characters, and they enthusiastically participated in the activities, bringing the stories to life

Primary Section News; Y4D1 Learning Activities!



Y4D1 celebrated Literacy Day by creating their own story together. Students shared ideas for characters, setting, and plot, making reading and writing come alive with creativity and teamwork.



Primary Section News; Y3S1 Learning Activities!



Science Experiment - Year 3 S1. Students learned that the stem transports water to the other parts of the plants.



Character Day

Year 3 S1 students dressed up as characters of their choice. It was delightful to see their confidence and how gracefully they carried themselves in their costumes.

Primary Section News; Y3S2 Learning Activities!



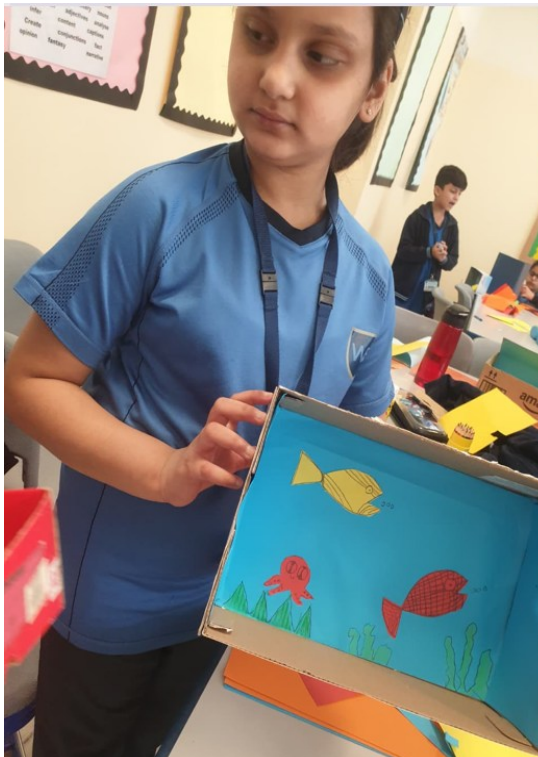
Y3S2 Students experimented to see how plant transports food through their stems, learning how nutrients travel to keep them alive!
With Ms. Lissy

Literacy Week: Our little readers came alive this Literacy Day! Dressed as their favorite characters, they shared stories and celebrated the magic of books!

Y3S2 with Ms. Lissy



Primary Section News; Y4D2 Learning Activities!



STEAM Class Activity, Ocean Creatures, Y4-D2



Literacy Day, Y4,D2



Primary Section News; Y4H1 Learning Activities!



Hands-on activities, building lifelong readers.



Reading today, leading tomorrow – Happy International Literacy Day from Y4H1



Primary Section News; Y4S2 Learning Activities!



WELCOMING
new students
to WSS--
With buddies
& fun activities



Peer Reading in the Library-
READ LIKE A GEM



STEAM ACTIVITY
Integrating Science, Maths, Arts and
Technology



Primary Section News; Y5 Learning Activities!



Year 5 students dressed up as their favourite characters, bringing stories to life in a fun and creative way.

Learning was made fun through active student involvement, with children fully engaged in exciting and meaningful activities.



Primary Section News; Y5 Learning Activities!

This week we started our Year 5 assembly and enjoyed many fun activities with lots of learning and laughter.



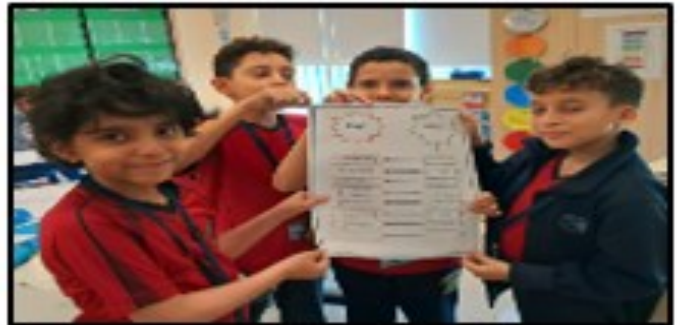
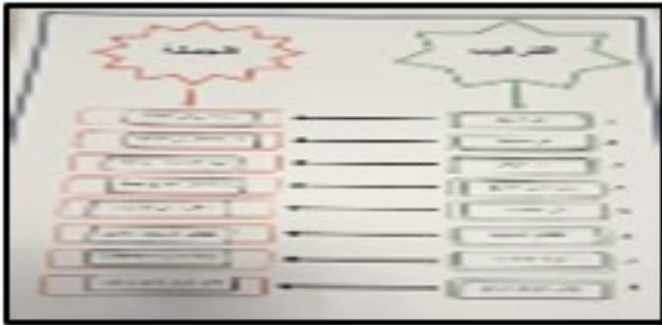
Year 5 students celebrated Literacy Day with fun activities that inspired a love for reading and writing.

Primary Section News; Y5 Arabic Special Learning Activities!

An activity demonstrating group work for Y5 students, conducted under the supervision of Ms. Elshimaa Mohamed Arabic teacher

in which students distinguish between sentences and structures, for the Arabic language subject.

Y5 S1



Primary Section News; Y6 Arabic Special Learning Activities!

Hot Seat Strategy – conducted under the supervision of Ms. Majedah

In this activity, one student sits on the hot seat while classmates ask lesson-related questions. The goal is to make learning interactive, encourage participation, and build students' confidence and critical thinking skills.

Primary
activities
Arabic Special



Y6GD&S



Y6BD&S

Y5 H2 Learning Activities with Ms. Kholoud



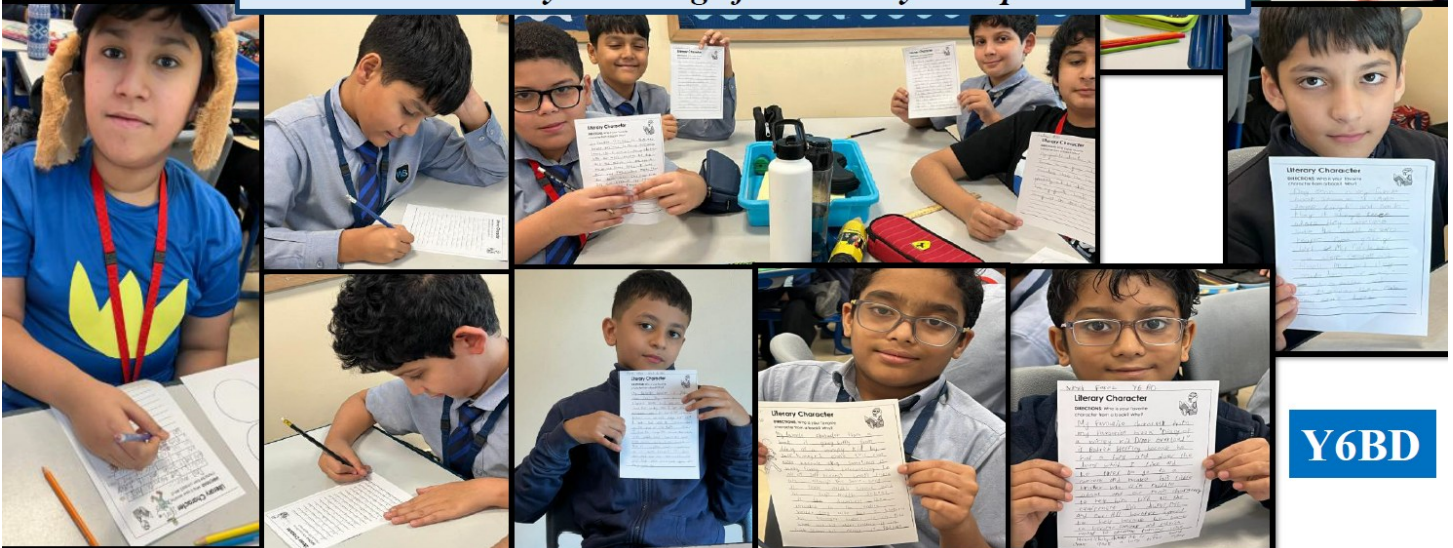
Primary Section News; Y6BD Literacy Day!



Students learn the importance of literacy in daily life, demonstrate respect for reading and writing, and share ways to promote the joy of learning with others.

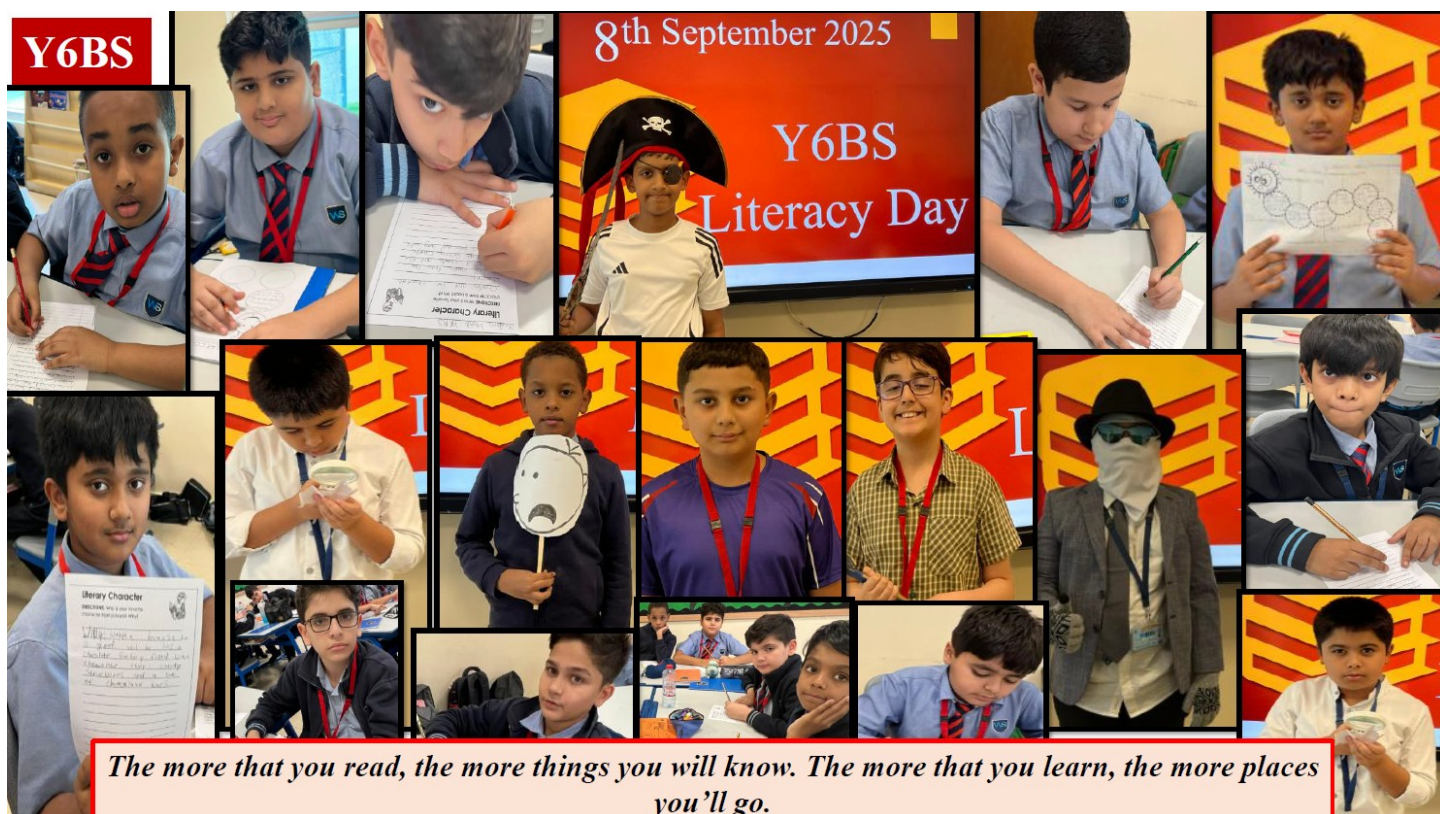


Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope.



Y6BD

Primary Section News; Y6B Literacy Day!



Primary Section News; Y6G Literacy Day!



Y6GD

LO: To promote reading for enjoyment by motivating students to explore books deeply enough to connect with characters.



Y6GF



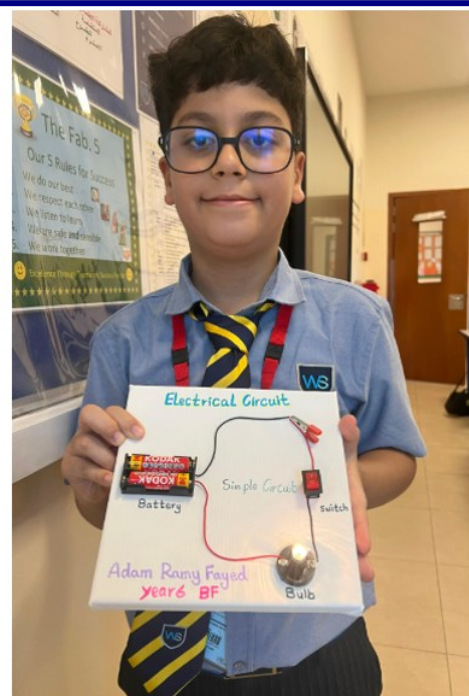
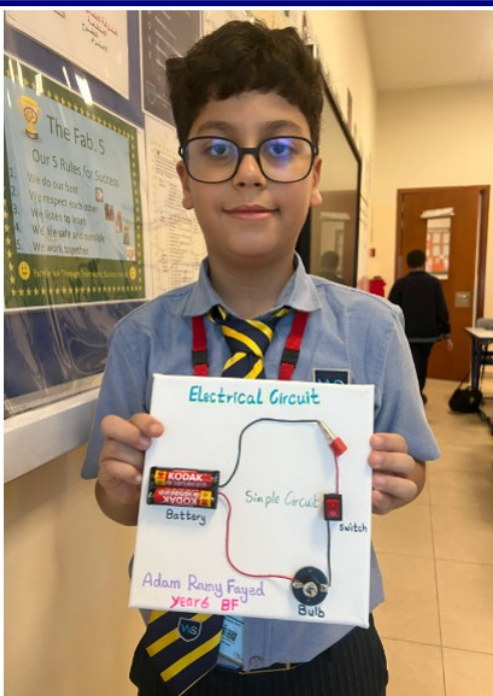
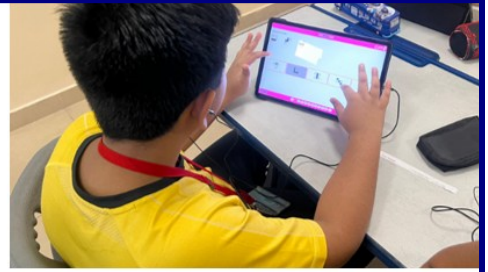
Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.

Primary Section News; Y6G Literacy Day!



Primary Section News; Learning Activities in Y6BF!

CAT 4 Exam - It designed to assess students' learning potential and thinking skills. It measures verbal, non-verbal, quantitative, and spatial reasoning abilities. The results help teachers understand each child's strengths and learning styles, enabling them to provide better support in the classroom.



Adam Ramy of Y6BF presented a working model of a simple circuit for demonstration

Primary Section News; Learning Activities!



Developing critical future-focused financial skills 0 Kinda engaging in the Primary savings project. Well done Kinda!



WSS Secondary Section Hackathon Superstar Champions!



Huge congratulations to the WSS student team who won first prize in the Sharjah English School (SES) Hackathon competition on 11/9/25. We are very proud of their outstanding performance!

WSS Secondary Section KS3 Superstar Champions!



*Secondary Section News; Assembly Time with Y9GD
Having a Growth Mindset for Success!*



Secondary Section News; Assembly Time with Y9BD Showing Gratitude!



Secondary Section News; Assembly Time with Y9BD Showing Gratitude!

**KS3
BOYS**



**Gratitude turned into attitude—
thank you, 9BD, for an inspiring and
heartfelt assembly that beautifully
reminded us of the power of
appreciation in our daily lives.”**



Secondary Section News; Assembly Time with Y9BD Showing Gratitude!



Celebrating our Wellbeing Champions—the role models of positivity and care!

Secondary Section News; KS3 Assembly Time!



Students engaged in a talk show **aimed at promoting positive thinking and mental well-being**, where students discussed how optimism, resilience, and self-belief can support personal and academic growth. It was an engaging session that encouraged students to think positively and support one another.



**KS3 GIRLS ASSEMBLY-
GROWTH MINDSET**

Secondary Section News; KS4 Class Leaders!



KS4 CLASS LEADERS



Secondary Section News; KS4 Goal-Setting!



Secondary Section News; KS4 Goal-Setting!



Our KS4 students took part in an interactive goal-setting activity, where they created personalized posters outlining their short-term and long-term goals for the academic year.

This activity encouraged students to reflect on their ambitions, plan actionable steps, and visualize their journey towards success. The posters not only showcase their academic targets but also highlight personal growth goals, helping them stay motivated and focused throughout the year.



Secondary Section News; KS4 Innovate-X!



مدرسة جيمس وستمينستر الشارقة
GEMS Westminster School
SHARJAH



KS4 INNOVATE X INNOVATE TO REGENERATE

EVERY DAY, WE TOSS OUT ITEMS LIKE PLASTIC STRAWS, CONTAINERS, OR WRAPPERS AFTER JUST ONE USE—BUT WHAT IF WASTE COULD WORK SMARTER? IN TEAMS OF UP TO 3, YOUR CHALLENGE IS TO TRANSFORM THESE EVERYDAY DISCARDS INTO INNOVATIVE, REUSABLE SOLUTIONS. THINK CREATIVELY, DESIGN SUSTAINABLY, AND BE THE SPARK THAT DRIVES A ZERO-WASTE FUTURE!

**TOP 5 PROJECTS WILL GET
DISPLAYED IN THE
SCIENCE FAIR!!!**

**SUBMIT YOUR
PROJECT HERE:**



FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT:

**ALMAN AHMAD Y11BF
SYED IZAAN ALI Y11BD
SUBHAN Y11BH
AYAAN UMER Y11BS**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:

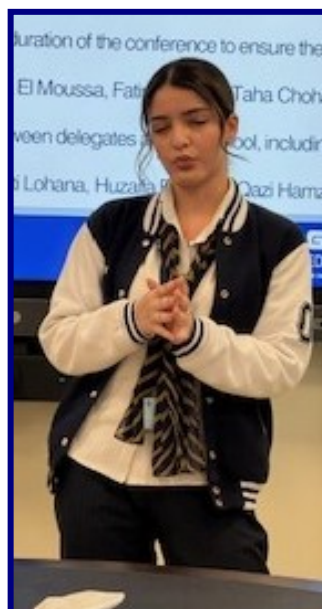
01/10/2025

Secondary Section News; Pitching WSS MUN3 to the Principal, 10/9/25!



The enthusiastic & well-prepared MUN Team presented their pitch to the Principal on 10/9/25. The team presented a comprehensive plan that included a realistic timeline, a self-funding financial plan, committee arrangements & ambitious marketing objectives. The Principal was pleased to accept their proposal & congratulated the team on an organized start to their WSS MUN3 journey. All the best for the event, scheduled for January 2026!

Thank you Ms. Nirmala for your support & guidance.



Secondary Section News; Literacy Day!



Secondary Section Literacy Day Celebration 2025 Beyond Reading, Towards Discovery and Innovation

Etymology: Unveiling the Origins: "Tracing Roots, Unlocking Meanings"



Exploring word origins revealed language's rich history.



Unearthing linguistic roots



Poster Designing: "Art Meets Words: Literacy in Every Stroke"



Visual storytelling in action



Secondary Section News; Literacy Day!



Secondary Section: Literacy Day Celebration 2025 Beyond Reading, Towards Discovery and Innovation

Science News Report: "Telling Stories Through Science"



Turning data into dialogue



from lab notes to headlines



Where curiosity meets communication

One Act Play: Order of Literacy



Uncovering the Magic Hidden in Every Word



LITERACY DAY



The More You Read the More Worlds You See



Secondary Section News; Literacy Day!



Secondary Section Literacy Day Celebration 2025 Beyond Reading, Towards Discovery and Innovation

Poster Designing: "Art Meets Words: Literacy in Every Stroke"



Etymology: Unveiling the Origins: "Tracing Roots, Unlocking Meanings"



Secondary Section News; Literacy Day!



Secondary Section: Literacy Day Celebration 2025 Beyond Reading, Towards Discovery and Innovation

Science News Report: "Telling Stories Through Science"



A Literacy Adventure



The day's events showcased WSS's dedication to fostering critical thinking, creativity, and lifelong learning, highlighting literacy as a powerful tool for exploration and connection.



Secondary Section News; KS5 Career Talk with Ms. Anisha!

INTRODUCTORY CAREER TALK FOR SIXTH FORM



Our guidance and career counsellor Ms. Anisha, conducted a session for our Y12 and Y13 students, highlighting the wide range of opportunities available to students, including the use of Unifrog for career exploration, the GEMS for life initiative, the sixth form passport programme, as well as upcoming career fairs and internship opportunities.



‘New Year, new adventures!’ Nabia settling into the Secondary Section—thank you for sharing your project.