GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH









Newsletter Issue #5 18th September, 2025



Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents.

T1 ECA Programme

Over 100 students have already signed up for the T1 ECA (Extra-Curricular Activity) programme. We are looking forward to a fun-filled, skills-based & engaging programme ahead. There a few places

left—please sign up online ASAP to get involved & avoid disappointment!

Student Safeguarding—Parent IDs

For our children's safeguarding, Security must monitor who comes into school. Thank you to most of our dear parents who are wearing the parent ID card to enter school everyday. If you do not yet have your ID card, do please ensure that both parents' photos are uploaded on the system & contact the BBT office. Thank you.

PTM on Thursday 25/9/25, 2-5pm

We are looking forward to welcoming you all next Thursday for our first 'Meet & Greet' Parent Teacher Meeting (PTM). This is a fantastic opportunity to meet your child's teachers, get an update on how your child is settling into the new academic year, & to start building positive partnerships with your teachers that will support your child throughout the year. Please note that due to large numbers of parents, a time of 5-7 minutes is allocated per child. You are most welcome to make a follow-up

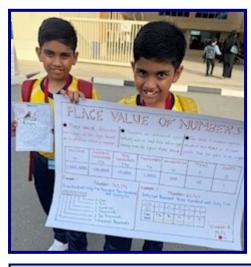
pates for Your Diary

Date	Details	
Mon. 22/9/25	WSS celebrates World Peace Day. Children may come dressed in white (optional)	
Thursday 25/9/25 2-5pm	 FS1-Y13 Parent-Teacher 'Meet & Greet' meeting. (PTM) 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 until 4/12/25, from approximately 2 weeks prior)	

appointment for another day if you require additional discussion time with a teacher. We recommend that you come early to avoid the crowds. Thank you.













مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة

النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 5 18سبتمبر 2025









المواعيد

التقاصيل		التاريخ
يحتفل مركز WSSباليوم العالمي للسلام. يُمكن للأطفال ارتداء الملابس البيضاء (اختياري).	•	الاثنين 22/9/25
اجتماع أولياء الأمور مع المطمين (من الصفوف من FS1إلى .(13)ندعوكم لحضور هذا اللقاء والتعرف على مطمي أينقكم! جميع الطلاب سيغادرون المدرسة في الساعة 12 ظهراً.		يوم الخميس 25/9/25 من الساعة 2 إلى
آخر أيام القصل الدراسي الأول (ستستمر امتحاتات الفصل الدراسي الأول حتى 4/12/25، أي لعدة أسبوعين تقريباً من	•	الغميس 4 ديسمبر



برنامج Tl ECA سجل أكثر من 100 طالب حتى الآن في برنامج الأنشطة اللاصفية T1)

رسالة من المديرة / الرئيس التنفيذي

السيدة فاليري تومبسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس وي الشارقة الأعزاء،

نتطلع إلى برنامج شيق وممتع، يركز على تطوير المهارات ويشجع على التفاعل. لا تزال هناك بعض المناحة، لذا يُرجى النسجيل عبر الإنترنت في أقرب وقت ممكن للمشاركة وتجنب خيبة الأمل!



حماية الطلاب - بيانات هوية أولياء الأمور لضمان سلامة أطفالنا، يجب على قسم الأمن مراقبة كل من يدخل إلى المدرسة, نشكر جميع أولياء الأمور الكرام الذين يحرصون على حمل بطاقة تعريف ولي الأمر لدخول المدرسة يومياً. إذا لم تحصلوا بعد على بطّاقة الهوية، فيرجى التأكد من تحميل صور كلا الوالدين على النظام، والتواصل مع مكتب خدمات البطاقات في حال ر غبتكم في إصدار بطاقة جديدة. شكرًا لكم.



نتطلع إلى استقبالكم جميعًا يوم الخميس المقبل في أول لقاء لنا مع ولياء الأمور والمعلمين هذه فرصة رانعة للقاء معلمين طفلكم، ومعرفة مدى اندماجه في العام الدراسي الجديد، وبناء علاقات إيجابية مع المعلمين لتقديم الدعم اللازم لطفلكم طوال العام نرجو ألعام أنه نظر أ لعدد الأسر الكبير، فقد خصصنا فترة تتراوح بين 5 و7 دُفَائق لكل طفل. يسعنا تلبية طلبكم لحجز موعد لاحق للاستمرار في مناقشة الموضوع مع أحد المعلمين. نوصي بالوصول مبكراً لتجنب الازدحام. شكراً لكم.

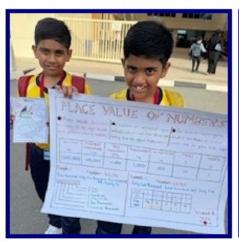












رؤيتنا؛ "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعى؛ النجاح للجميع"

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; 'What the UAE Means to me' Writing Competition', November 2025 Deadline!

What the UAE means to me? Writing Competition

In the Year of Community - Hand in Hand

Launched by Sandoog Al Watan and the Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence, this special initiative invites all citizens and residents of the UAE to share their personal stories and experiences.



- First Category: Ages 6 to 12 (500 words maximum)
- Second Category: Ages 13 to 18 (2000 words maximum)
- Third, Fourth and Fifth Categories: Ages 19 to 30, 31 to 60, and 61+, respectively (3000) words maximum)



The focus is on creative writing, where participants from all parts of society compete in producing works using the following styles:

- Short story
- Article
- Nabati and Classical Poetry
- Reflections & Contemplations
- Letters & Communication with Community Components

Submissions must be original works and can be in either Arabic or English. You can submit up to three entries. The deadline is November 2025, and all entries should be submitted through the official competition website.

Prizes & Recognition

- First Category: 250 dirhams.
- Second Category: 500 dirhams.
- Other categories: 1000 dirhams.
- Publication: Winning writings will be published in both Arabic and English books and will also be made available electronically.
- Announcement: The results will be announced in early February 2026. during the annual Human Fraternity Festival.

If you wish you receive further guidance:

- 1. Girls can contact Nadine Sophie of Year 13GH
- 2. Boys can contact Arjun Sujeev of Year 12BH













and more info

myuaestory.ae

Whole School News; 'What the UAE Means to me' Writing Competition', 16/9/25!

What the UAE means to me? Writing Competition

In the Year of Community - Hand in Hand Student's Experience: Nadine Tabche - Yr13GH and Arjun Sujeev - Yr 12BH



On Tuesday (16/09/25), we were privileged enough to get the opportunity to attend the event jointly run by the Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence, as well as Sandooq Al Watan, where the prospect was a writing competition (detailed beforehand) we all got the opportunity to participate in.

This was an incredibly unique event which took place in the Mohammed Bin Rashid Library (MBRL). Students were invited to take part in the aforementioned competition and got to express themselves in the process. Over 100 students from a variety of schools had the chance to attend, and to say the event was special would be a gross understatement.

Not only were we able to see the interior of such a prestigious place—But we were granted the chance to meet His Highness, Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan himself. What an honor it was.

We felt out of place within the room, and struck with a sense of surrealism that could not described even with time. Being in the same room as His Highness was an unforgettable experience that we truly valued.

We truly say thank you to Ms. Ayesha Aslam for her guidance in this experience!

















Whole School News; Staff CPD—The Annual MOE Subjects Conference, Held at WIN Dubai, 13/9/25!









The WIN Annual MOE Subjects Conference has become an integral & important part of our teacher training annual calendar. WSS MOE teachers joined the Principal Ms. Valerie, VP Mr. Suj & Cluster Principals & colleagues to attend useful training sessions aimed at raising standards of Arabic & Islamic across the schools. WSS HOD MOE presented one of the sessions on the theme 'Common Challenges In the Classroom & How to Avoid Them'. The conference was attended by KHDA dignitaries & the guest speaker was Dr. Hunada, Advisor to the General Director, SPEA.



Whole School News; Staff CPD!



Thanks to Ms. Sameena who led a Primary CPD session on 15/9/25 on the use of Data. The effective collection & use of data underpins curriculum adaptation & the personalisation of learning for our children. The use of adaptive AI for this can be highly effective.







Thanks to Ms. Seems & Mr. Franklin for their CPD session on 17/9/25 related to the 'Leadership GEMStone Moonstone; Reflective Leadership'

Whole School News; Week 1 ECA Report!



Whole School News; This Week's Leadership GEMStone!

SEPTEMBER – WEEK 38

LEADING WITH RESPECT

SAPPHIRE

Encourages fairness, dignity and appreciation for all.

The way you listen to others shows how much they can trust you. 55

MESSAGE: Listening carefully to others and valuing their ideas builds trust and encourages teamwork.

REFLECT: How can I show others that I value their opinions? How can I make sure everyone feels heard and appreciated?





Whole School News; Family First Letter Writing!

Dear Mom,



I want to tell you something from my little heart. You are my true hero.

When I was sick and weak, you were my strength, my smile, and the warm hand that wiped away my pain.

You stayed awake while I slept, you cried in silence so I wouldn't see, and you hid your fear behind your gentle words and you kept praying day and night for my sake.

Mom, without you I would never have felt safe or comforted.

You cared not only for my body, but also filled my heart with love, and taught me that illness cannot defeat us as long as we are together.

I love you more than words can say, and I promise to always be the child who is proud of you

arays tor you.

Your loving son

Mohamad Bilal Khalil

Age: 11 years

Y7BS

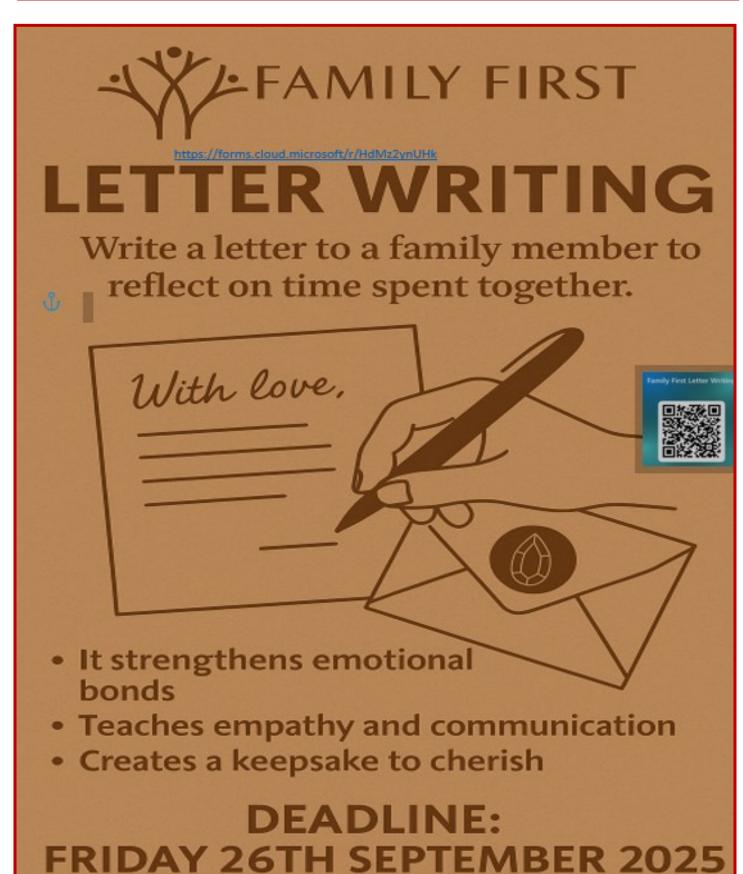


Write a heartfelt letter to someone in your family – someone you love, admire, or miss. You can decorate your letter with a drawing, a memory, or a hope for the future.

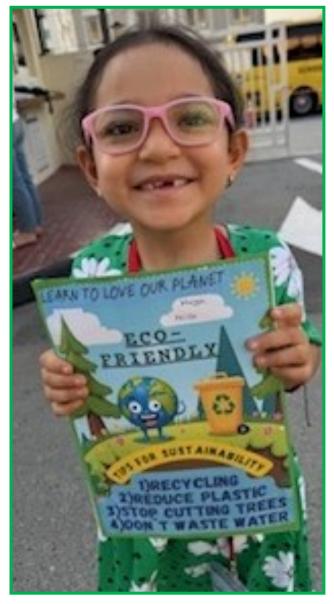
- What to do: Write a handwritten letter to a family member
- Why: To show love, gratitude, and strengthen family bonds.
 - Deadline: Friday, 26th September
- \$\mathbb{R}\$ Recognition: All participants will receive a certificate, and some letters or photos may be displayed in school.

Don't forget to close your letter with a phrase like "With love" or "Yours always" and sign your name





Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!



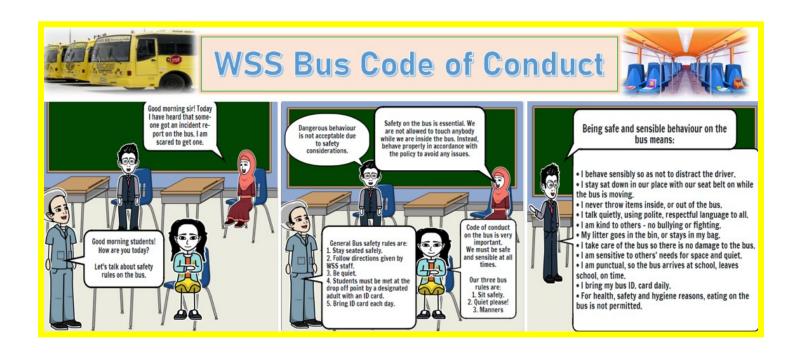


I feel so happy when I see my children go to school with love and happiness, their eyes excited to start the school day. Thank you, GEMS Westminster School Sharjah, for providing an engaging and enjoyable learning environment for our children.

We are so lucky to have this wonderful educational institution!!! lacksquare

We love you, our beautiful school. 😊 🤎

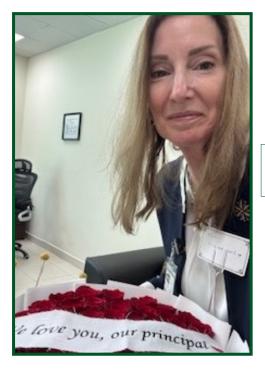
Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!



ACT OF KINDNESS



Whole School News; Values, Kindness & Character!



Thank you Sila & Saif for the beautiful welcome back flowers. Such a kind thought!

Happy Birthdays!







WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!

Wellbeing Stars Of The Week



Junior Section News; FS2D1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Colours Week!





















Junior Section News; Learning Activities (General)!





















Junior Section News; FS1H1 Learning Activities!

FS1 H1 with Ms. Sidra & Ms Soumya









CELEBRATING COLOURS WEEK

Junior Section News; FS2D1 Learning Activities!





Junior Section News; Y1D Learning Activities!





Junior Section News; Y1H Learning Activities!





Junior Section News; Y1S Learning Activities!





Junior Section News; Y2D1 Learning Activities!

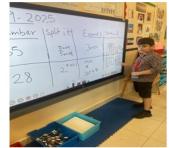


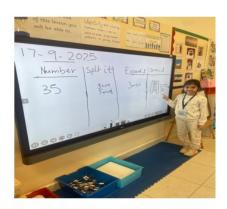


Junior Section News; Y2D2 Learning Activities!

MS FARAH & MS TAHIRA Y2D2





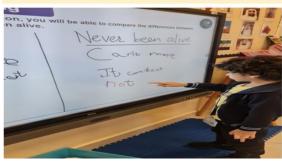




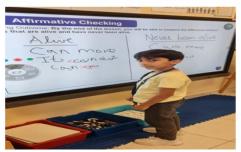














Junior Section News; Y2F1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2H1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2H2 Learning Activities!

Junior Section: Y2 H2

Ms. Jinitra and Ms. Jameela



Junior Section News; Y2S2 Learning Activities!

Y2S2-Colourful week With Ms. Sabiha and Ms. Benil















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



Junior Section News; ECA Report!



Junior Section News; Y1F Learning Activities!



WSS Primary Section Y4 Superstar Champions of the Week!



WSS Primary Section Y6 Superstar Champions of the Week!





Primary Section News







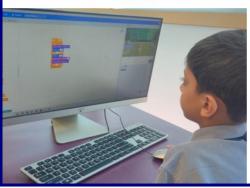
















Primary Section News; Assembly Time with Y6GS, 17/9/25!















Y6GS students celebrated literacy through Roald Dahl week. They enacted scenes from many of his most popular children's stories for our enjoyment. Thank you!



Primary Section News; Assembly Time with Y4F, 17/9/25!















Primary Section News; Y3 Learning Activities!









Sila of Y3D1 with her narrative: If I were a plant......

Task C
Choose a picture from the ones provided and use it to plan a limenck poem. including all its key features.

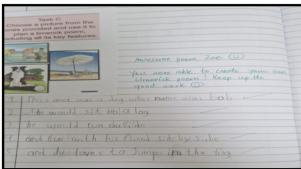
Laund you were able to creak.

Jamel you were able to creak.

Jamel you were able to creak.

Y3D1 on their STEAM lesson: Hydroponicswe are growing onions at WSS!

Fantastic Poem Jannat and Zoe! Proud to see these learners in Y3D1 creating their own Limerick poems!





Primary Section News; Y3 Arabic Learning Activities!

An activity that demonstrates group work for Y3, in which they distinguish between sentences and structures in the Arabic language subject.

Ms. Assmaa Ahmed

Arabic Teacher

Y3 F2 & D2

Primary Activities Arabic Special

Y3 & Y4















Primary Section News; Y4 Arabic Learning Activities!

An activity that demonstrates Y4 group work, in which they analyze the elements of a story in the Arabic language subject, under the supervision of Ms. Amal Hussein, Arabic Tacher, Y4H



Primary Section News; Arabic & Y4S1 Learning Activities!

Helping classmates in Reading:

A student finding reading challenging stands up and chooses one of his classmates to correct his mistakes. Whenever he makes an error or stumbles over a word, he looks at his peer and whispers in his ear asking for help. The other student then assists him by reading the word he found difficult.

Over time, the struggling student improves.

Ms. Dalal Alkhdour / Arabic Teacher





Y4 S1 celebrated Literacy Day by dressing up as characters and discussing their own story together. Students collaborated and created characters, setting, and plot, making reading and writing come alive with creativity and teamwork.

Primary Section News; Y4F2 Learning Activities!

Y4F2 Literacy Day Activity



We celebrated Literacy Day with a fun Dress-Up Day. Students came as their favorite book characters and shared about them, showing creativity, excitement, and a love for reading.

Y4F2 STEAM Activity



As part of our STEAM activity, students designed 3D models of the ocean habitat.

Primary Section News; Y4 & Y5 Learning Activities!

"Building comprehension skills one page at a time!" – Guided Reading lesson in Y4H1 with Ms Sameera and Ms Sara









Year 5 students focused on their NGRT assessment in the library, demonstrating concentration and commitment to strengthening their reading skills.





Primary Section News; Y5 Learning Activities!

Year 5 students creatively designed 3D playdough models to present the life cycle of plants, insects, and mammals, applying their STEAM skills effectively.





Through STEAM, young minds of Year 5 bring the life cycles of plants, insects, and mammals to life—shaping knowledge with creativity and hands-on discovery.



Primary Section News; Y5S2 Learning Activities!



WSS Secondary Section Superstar Hackathon Champions!

Sixth Form students triumphed at SES Hackathon 2025, dazzling with **FinFlick**—their all-in-one finance management platform—and proudly claimed **First Place!**







Secondary Section News; KS3 Assembly -Wellbeing Week & 'Be a GEM' Programme Guest Speaker, 15/9/25 & 16/9/25!









Huge thanks to guest speakers Ms. Anu Margaret (above) & Dr. Lakshmi Vipin (below) for joining the KS3 Assemblies this week to share their thoughts about Wellbeing, the development of the teenage brain & Respect. These themes align perfectly to our new 'Be a GEM' programme aimed at supporting the holistic character development of our students.













Secondary Section News; KS3 Assembly -Wellbeing Week Programme Guest Speaker, 15/9/25!





Secondary Section News; KS3 Assembly -Wellbeing Week & Programme Guest Speaker, 15/9/25!





The "Be a GEM" program—where GEM stands for Gracious, Empowered, and Mindful—focused on helping students recognize their inner potential and understand the importance of kindness, confidence, and self-awareness in their daily lives. Ms. Anu Margaret led the session with great enthusiasm and empathy, engaging students through stories, real-life examples, and interactive activities.













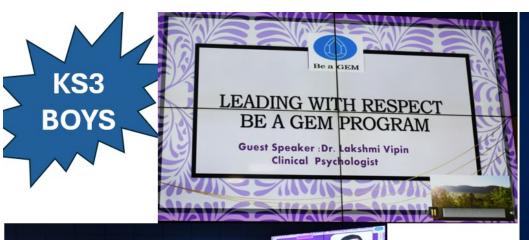
Words of Wisdom

Through assemblies and programs, we share messages from great leaders and heroes that guide us to face challenges and make wise choices. As part of Be a GEM, we learn that true leadership begins with respect.





Secondary Section News; KS3 Assembly -'Be a GEM' Programme Guest Speaker, 16/9/25!



Respect is the sparkle that makes every leader shine.



Be a GEM is about more than standing out — it's about uplifting others, reflecting positivity, and leaving a sparkle wherever we go. Respect is not just given; it is shown through our words, actions, and choices every day.



Leading with Respect; Be a GEM



Secondary Section News; KS3 Assembly -'Be a GEM' Programme Guest Speaker, 16/9/25!





CAREER GUIDANCE TALK FOR Y10

Year 10 students were engaged in a career guidance session that introduces them to backward planning—starting with their future goals and working step by step to identify the academic choices and skills needed today.



The backward planning approach will help them to set clear pathways, stay focused, and make informed decisions for their post-IGCSE journey. For more queries, students can approach Ms. Anisha or Ms. Deepthi.

Secondary Section News; KS4 Carers Counseling Sessions!

PREPARING FOR IGCSE EXAMS & MANAGING EXAM STRESS

Year 12 students guiding Year 11 students on effective strategies to prepare for their IGCSE exams, including practical study tips and exam techniques.





The session will also focus on managing exam stress with healthy habits and simple relaxation methods to boost confidence and performance.



Secondary Section News; KS5 Leadership & Learning 'Be a GEM' Introductory Session!









Secondary Section News; Exam Guidance Session for Y11!



Y11 EXAM GUIDANCE SESSION

By Sixth Form students











Secondary Section News; Leadership & Learning in KS5!

Fostering Leadership, Building Culture - KS5 Students take the lead in shaping a positive school community

















Y13 INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Y13 BF

Class Leader: Ahmed Abbas Punctuality Leader: Muhammad Azaan **Event Coordinator: Taha Chohan** Wellbeing Leader: Muhammad Mahad Environment Leader: Muhammad Hasan Uniform Leader: Hassan Mutasim

Academic Leader: Bhipesh Suneel Kumar Independent Learning Room Leader: Ahmad Shahzad



Y13 BD

Class Leader: Muhammad Hamza Khandwala Punctuality Leader: Ghulam Fareed Ali Raza **Event Coordinator: Muhammad Ahad Maaz** Wellbeing Leader: Muhammad Hadi Muhammad Irfan

Environment Leader: Muhammad Moiz Farhaj

Uniform Leader: Muhammad Rayyan Muhammad Sufyan Academic Leader: Mohammad Ebad Khan Sohail Iqbal Independent Learning Room Leader: Muhammad Daniyal



Secondary Section News; Leadership & Learning in KS5!

KS5 Session with Ms Huda – Beyond Appearance: Building Confidence through Dress and Demeanour.











A session with Girls of Sixth Form highlighting the role of dress and demeanour in building credibility.