

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #6
29th September, 2022



Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,
Mask-Wearing
Mask-wearing in school is now optional. However, as per Authority requirements, Mask-wearing on the bus is still required. Thank you for all your support with this throughout the last few years!

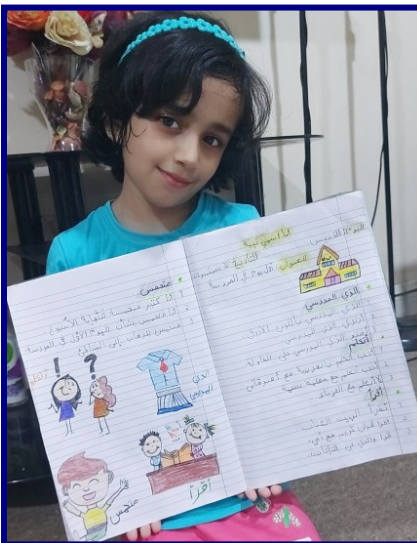
Exiting School Alone

Your child's safety is a priority. Students are not allowed to exit school alone without an approved adult. However, if you want your child to exit school alone please meet PRE for an 'Unaccompanied Exit

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Wed. 26th Oct & Thurs. 27th Oct.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School closed for Mid-Term Break. School resumes on Monday 31st Oct. as usual
Mon. 12th Dec. to Sunday 1st Jan. 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School closed for Winter Break. School resumes for T2 on Monday 2nd January, 2023. Please note that T2 school fees are due. Thanks you.

Approval Form' so you can sign your approval. For their safety, students will not be allowed to exit school alone without one. Thank you.



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

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم 6
29 سبتمبر 2022



رسالة من المديرية / الرئيس التنفيذي
السيدة جاليري توميسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر
الشارقة الأعزاء،

ارتداء القناع

أصبح ارتداء الأقنعة في المدرسة أمراً
اختيارياً الآن. ومع ذلك ، وفقاً لمتطلبات
المسلطة ، لا يزال ارتداء القناع في الحافلة
مطلوباً. شكراً لك على كل دعمك في هذا
خلال السنوات القليلة الماضية!

الخروج من المدرسة (بمفردك) وحدك.

تعتبر سلامة طفلك أولوية. لا يُسمح لطلاب المواصلات (الخاصة أو
الشخصية) OT بالخروج من المدرسة بمفردهم بدون شخص بالغ معتمد.
ومع ذلك ، إذا كنت تريد أن يترك طفلك المدرسة بمفرده ، فيرجي مقابلة
PRE للحصول على "نموذج الموافقة على الخروج بدون مرافق" حتى
تتمكن من التوقيع على موافقتك من أجل سلامتهم ، لن يُسمح للطلاب
بالخروج من المدرسة بمفردهم بدون مرافق. شكراً لك.

المواعيد

التفاصيل	التاريخ
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> المدرسة مغلقة في عطلة منتصف الفصل الدراسي. تستأنف المدرسة يوم الاثنين 31 أكتوبر كالمعتاد 	الأربعاء، 26 أكتوبر والخميس 27 أكتوبر
<p>المدرسة مغلقة في عطلة الشتاء.</p> <p>تستأنف المدرسة T2 يوم الاثنين 2 يناير 2023.</p> <p>يرجى ملاحظة أن الرسوم المدرسية T2 مستحقة. شكراً لك.</p>	الاثنين، من 12 ديسمبر إلى الأحد 1 يناير 2023



رؤيتنا؛ "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعي؛ نجاح للجميع"

Whole School News; Parent Partners' School Review Meeting, 27/9/22!

Many thanks to our 13 positive parents who joined the Principal, PRE & VP at WSS on 27/9/22, looking into WWW (What Went Well) & 'Next Steps' relating to the 6 Performance Standards of the UAE Inspection Framework. Their contribution gave critical parent insights to input into our Self-Evaluation Form (SEF) & School Improvement Plan (SIP) ready for school improvement & our next Inspection due in October.



Whole School News; SPEA IRV Report, June 2022!

SPEA conducted school inspections called Improvement Review Visits (IRV) in May-June 2022. These looked at two out of the six Inspection Framework Performance Standards, PS3 (Teaching & Assessment) and PS6 (Leadership & Management). This was to help prepare schools for this round of full inspection Reviews starting from October 2022. We are now gearing up for the full inspection Review coming shortly.

WSS was very encouraged to receive an overall judgement of 'Good' for its IRV in June. Please note the key findings below, FYI:



هيئة الشارقة للتعليم الخاص
SHARJAH PRIVATE EDUCATION AUTHORITY

Performance Standard 3: Teaching and assessment	Good
PI 3.1: Teaching for effective learning	Good
PI 3.2: Assessment	Good
Performance Standard 6: Leadership and management	Good
PI 6.1: The effectiveness of leadership	Good
PI 6.2: Self-evaluation and improvement planning	Good
PI 6.3: Partnerships with parents and the community	Very good
PI 6.4: Governance	Good
PI 6.5: Management, staffing, facilities and resources	Good

PERFORMANCE STANDARD 3: TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

These findings draw mainly from our team of five reviewers' 57 visits to Arabic, English, mathematics and science lessons, 11 of which were carried out jointly with school leaders.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The overall quality of teaching and assessment is good. Interactions between teachers and students are positive with purposeful lessons that motivate students. Most classrooms provide an environment where students can thrive and which offer significant opportunities for independent learning. Assessment analyses and procedures have improved and support students' understanding of how well they are doing. A large minority of teachers do not yet provide sufficient challenge for the most capable students, or critical thinking and innovation opportunities for all students.



STRENGTHS

- Teachers' knowledge of their subject and their understanding of how students learn.
- Teachers' planning, including appropriate strategies for purposeful lessons.
- Teaching that leads to independent, self-directed, active and engaged learners.
- Teachers' interactions with students using multiple approaches to learning.
- Teaching strategies which include appropriate use of digital technology in the core subjects.

KEY AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Challenge for the most-able students.
- Critical thinking activities in lessons across the broader curriculum.
- Opportunities for students to ask questions and engage in dialogue in classes.
- Opportunities for students to learn through meaningful self- and peer-assessment.

PERFORMANCE STANDARD 6: LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The overall quality of leadership and management is good. School leaders and Governors have forged a powerful partnership with parents. They have established effective procedures for self-evaluation which have led to purposeful improvement planning. Governance is very active in its support and in monitoring the Principal's and leaders' actions. Together, the Governing Board, leaders and the Principal have established a school that runs efficiently and effectively on relatively limited resources in some areas. The school's arrangements for safeguarding and child protection are firmly established, and all students are safe and cared for. Overall, the school has a strong capacity for improvement.

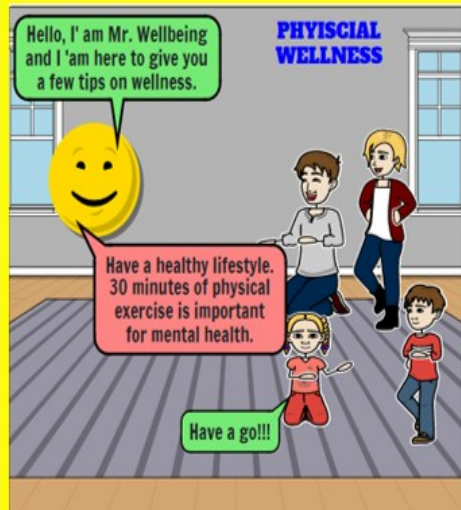
STRENGTHS

- Leaders' impact on teaching and assessment, through their involvement in monitoring the quality of teaching, provision for professional development and general day-to-day management of the school.
- The school's self-evaluation process, which is realistic and which informs improvement planning directly.
- Partnerships and communication between Governors, the Principal, leaders and parents.
- The Governing Board's oversight and support for leaders and their monitoring of all aspects of student performance.
- The school's innovative international links, which promote Arabic.

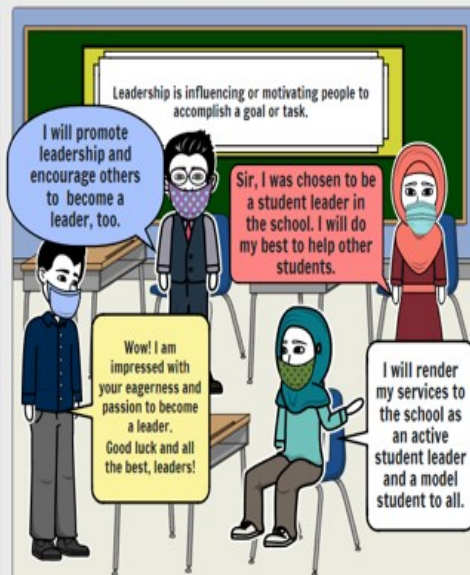
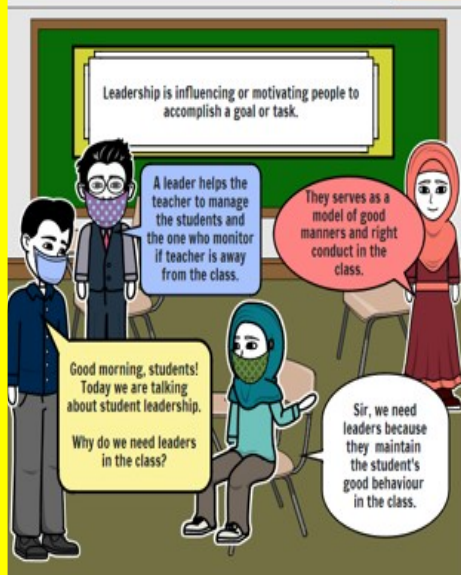
KEY AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- The school's efficient use of all resources, both physical and human, in order to maximise students' learning opportunities across the broader curriculum.
- The school's professional development of teachers, in order to ensure that critical thinking and innovation skills are available to students across the whole curriculum.
- School leaders' use of lesson visits, in order to evaluate challenge, critical thinking, dialogue and self- and peer-assessment across the whole school day.

BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY TO HAPPINESS



STUDENT'S LEADERSHIP



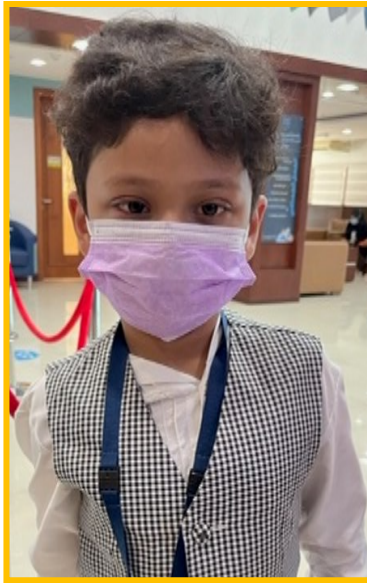
Whole School News



WSS has a bespoke & comprehensive CPD (Continuing Professional Development) programme to support the ongoing learning & deepening of expertise of our team. Here is the F2F Teachers' CPD led by our Learning Coach Dr. Lisa on 21/9/22. The Agenda was on developing Critical Thinking Skills.



Whole School News; Happy Birthdays!



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAY!



WSS Superstar Champions!



Congratulations to Minha Mustanser and Theo Ross Tian (Y1D2) for writing creatively using the diagraphh 'ai' in their original stories. Thanks to Ms. Sadiqa And Ms Fozia for a creative, well-planned lesson that allowed student creativity to come alive.



Congratulations to Ms. Manju & Ms. Neha for winning Star Teacher prizes last week. They were awarded for excellent practice by our Teaching & Learning Coach, Dr. Lisa.

المربية الفاضلة أمال ،،،
تحية طيبة وبعد ،،،،

لقد شعرت بفرح كبير وتمكنتي شعور بالاطمئنان عندما جلست مع ابني محمد ثاني لمراجعة دروس الأسبوع وإتمام الواجبات فوجدته ملماً بكل المفردات ومعتمداً على نفسه في قراءة الكلمات والتركيز على الحركات . لقد لاحظت تقدماً كبيراً في معرفة الحروف والتمييز بينها كما وأنه أتى بنفسه على طريقة الشرح ، لقد عبر عن مدى فرحه لتعلم اللغة العربية. فكان لا بد من أن أشكره من كل قلبي على النتائج المفرحة والشكر موصول للإدارة على اختيار نموذج مشرف من المدرسين التربويين الذين يحملون مسؤولية أبنائنا ويعملون معهم بجد وضمير.

لك كل الشكر وخالص التقدير

Dear MS. Amal,,
After Greetings ,,,,

I felt great joy and a sense of reassurance when I sat with my son Muhammad Thani to review the lessons of the week and complete the homework. I found him familiar with all vocabulary and self-reliant in reading words and focusing on movements. I noticed great progress in knowing the letters and distinguishing between them, and he himself praised the method of explanation, he expressed his joy at learning the Arabic language. It was necessary to thank you with all my heart for the joyful results and thanks to the administration for choosing an honorable model of educational teachers who bear the responsibility of our children and work with them diligently and conscientiously.

Dear Miss Azreen,

I felt great joy and a sense of reassurance when I sat down with my son Mohammed to review the lessons of the week and complete the homework. I found him familiar with all the vocabulary and relying on himself in solving the issues imposed on him. It was necessary to thank you from the deep of my heart for the joyful results.Thanks to the administration for choosing an honourable model of educational teachers who bear the responsibility of our children and work diligently and conscientiously.

Great thanks.

WSS Superstar Champions!



Junior Superstars of the Week



WSS Superstar Champions!



Congratulations to Anas Rashad (Y6 BD) who won 1st place in the Inter-School Quran Memorization competition in TWS, Dubai. Thanks to Ms. Mukhsana who accompanied him over the weekend.

INTER-SCHOOL QURAN FESTIVAL AT TWS, DUBAI 2022



Junior Section News; Take Teddy Home!



Are you excited to take Teddy home?

Please be ready with your best behaviour!!!! Teddy wants to go home with a Class Superstar for the weekend!!!

We have two extra members in our class, class teddies!! They like going home with Superstar children on Thursdays and returning to school on Mondays! They are looking for weekend friends to go and visit and join in with whatever the children normally do at the weekend - they are happy to join in! They have a special journal to record all the fun times that they have with you. They love it if children and their parents can help complete Teddy's special journal by writing a note about what they have done together and adding some photos or drawings.

Teddy goes home is a positive behaviour management strategy that connects what kids are learning at school and extends that to their home.



Taking Teddy Home—two class superstars are recognised for their super behaviour this week. Well done!

Our little class superstars get to 'Take home Teddy' & write a journal about their weekend experience with their class Teddy. Awesome!

WSS Recycling, Environmental Superstar Champions!



Thank you Teachers for setting the example of recycling your plastic water bottles to help save the environment!



Thank you to Ahmed Hossam for sharing this book recommendation with the Principal, & highly recommending it for his peers.

The author shares practical strategies to make small changes in our behaviour that can help us to develop good habits & break bad habits to improve our chances of success.



Dear Ms. Anju,

I thank you for all the support and immense efforts you have been putting in to make the learning experience smooth from the start of the academic year.

I have received emails from you over the weekend and instant replies whenever I have reached out to you, this shows how dedicated you are and hence I applaud you for your relentless efforts and constant communication to ensure parents are up to date, clear of any ambiguities, and informed of everything that is being taught, and experienced by your pupil in Year 5 H1.

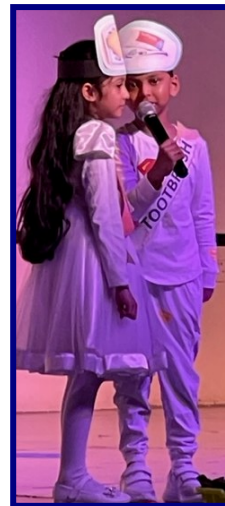
You have made the initial unsettling period most smooth for my child and I am quite grateful to Westminster School to be offering our children such dedicated and passionate professionals in the line of education.

Sincerely wish you all the more success!

Best regards,

Hina

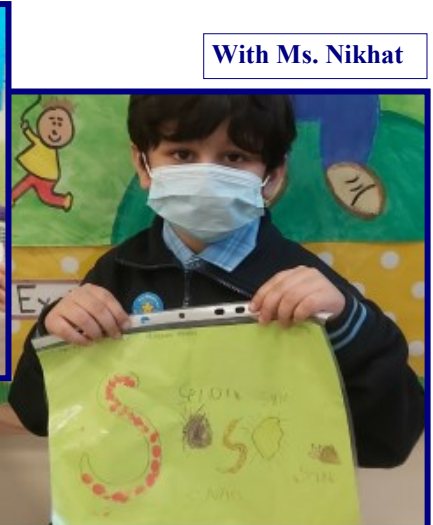
Junior Section News; Our Very First Assembly led by Y1D1, 29/9/22!



The Assembly theme was about facial body parts & their role. Students were wonderfully confident as they explained their part, & entertained us with a lovely dance too.



Junior Section News



With Ms. Nikhat

FS2D1 home learning



FS2D1 can name members of their family and talk about them



Junior Section News; Something New with FS2!



FS2D1 at the creative station

FS2D1 with Ms. Nikhat



FS2D1 can name members of their family and talk about them



FS2D1 can name members of their family and talk about them



FS2D1 busy at the color monster art activity

Junior Section News; Something New with FS2!

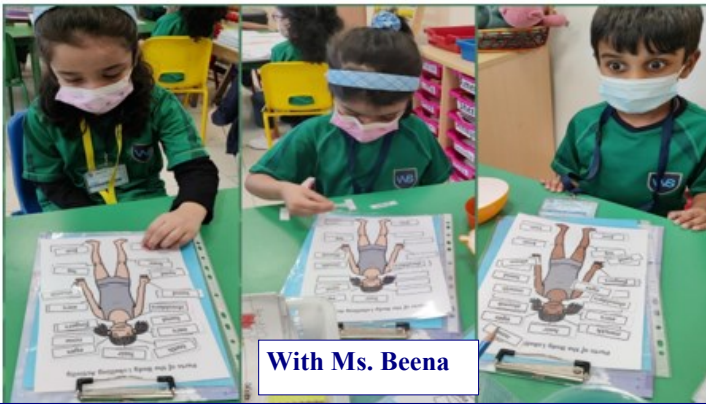


Junior Section News

Y1 H2 - Learning to find one more and less of numbers



Naming different parts of the body.



With Ms. Beena



We can create our feelings.



Enacting Story The Color Monster.



We can spot number 1 in the classroom (FS2H1)



We can talk about our Family Members.

FS2H1 with Ms. Maria

Junior Section News



Y2H1 with Ms. Sonia M.

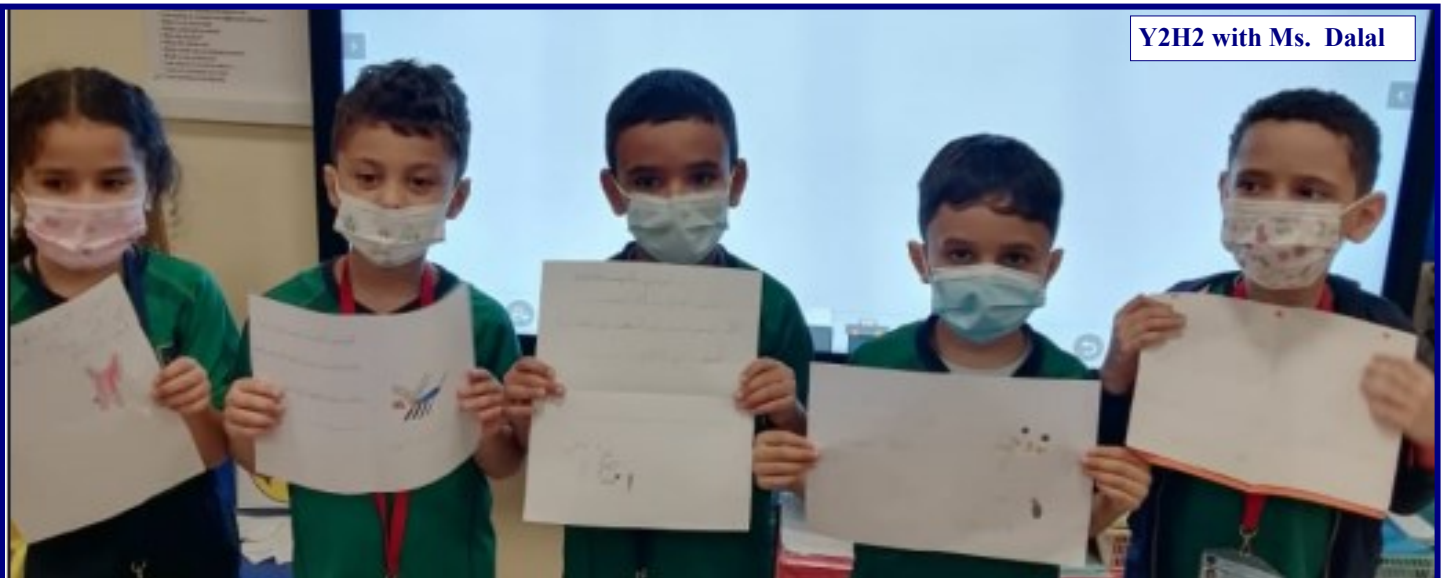
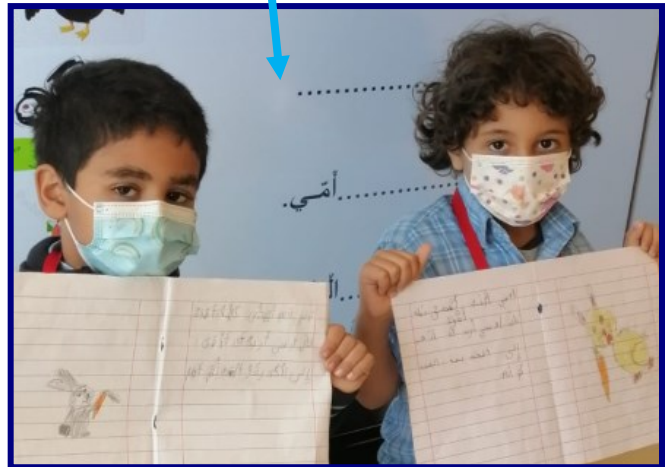


Y2 Class activities



Y2 Teddy goes home

Y2H2 with Ms. Dalal did some super creative & drawing work about Oushi the rabbit.



Y2H2 with Ms. Dalal

Junior Section News

Learning about odd and even numbers.



Y1D1



Hurray! We filled our first marble jar.
Y1D1



Y1D1



Y1D1

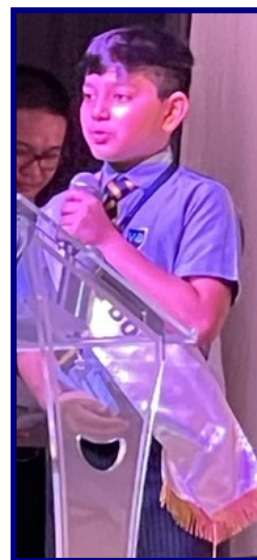
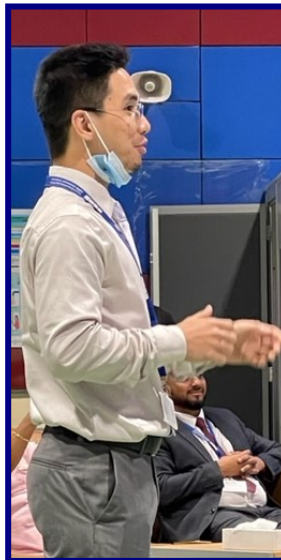
Learning about odd and even numbers



Learning about the story "Rainbow fish".

With Ms. Geraldine & Ms. Nadya

Primary Section News; Student Leaders Investiture Ceremony, 28/9/22!



Providing a range of leadership & character-development opportunities & experiences is an integral part of our learning programme. Joining the Student Leadership Team is one way for students to develop their personal leadership skills & to deepen their sense of responsibility & community service. Roles include leading Arabic, Digital, Environment, Head/Deputy Head, Healthy Lifestyle, House Captains/Vice Captains, Innovation, Moral Education & Uniform. We wish our new leaders every success!

Primary Section News; Student Leaders Investiture Ceremony, 28/9/22!



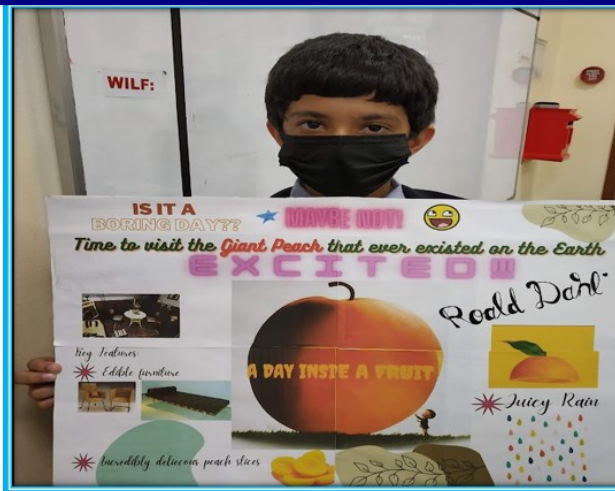
Primary Section News; Student Leaders Investiture Ceremony, 28/9/22!



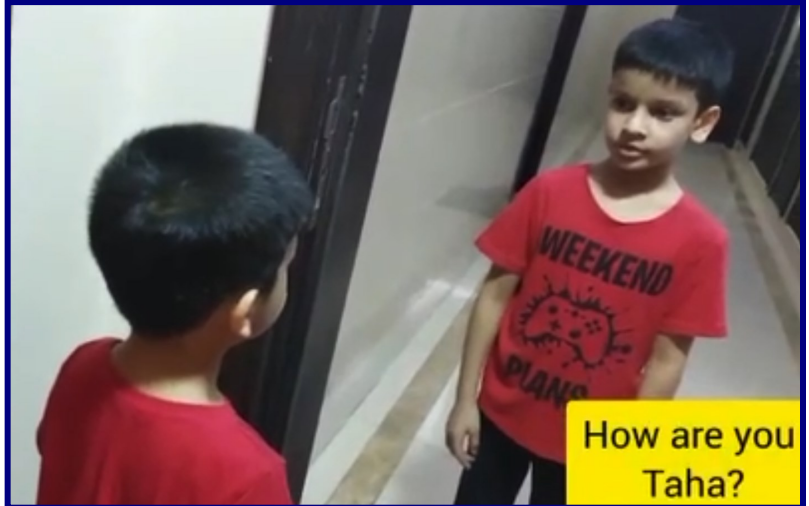
Primary Section News; Student Leaders Investiture Ceremony, 28/9/22!



Primary Section News



Poster created by Faizan Y6BF on Roldal Dahl celebrations



Thank you to Syed Taha Ahmed (Y4S2) & Syed Talha (Y2S2) for sharing their super cute video on applying everyday Arabic phrases to real life. Well done for your confident role play!



Leaders are not born, they are nurtured & developed through leadership experiences, & through a range of opportunities to challenge themselves & to be challenged by the environment around them. Here we have our newly elected Primary student leaders reflecting on what leadership means to them (service, kindness, support).



Primary Section News; Radio Club!

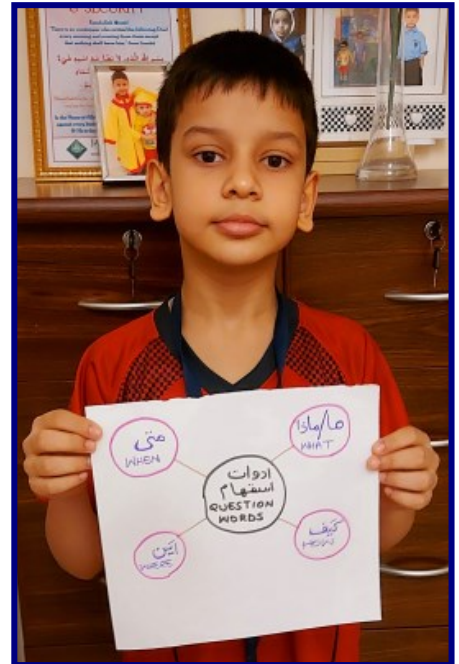


This is a wonderful new initiative, where students share weekly top tips, such as about environmental issues (tips to RRR & make a positive difference, such as taking your own re-useable shopping bags when shopping, bring a re-useable water bottle to school & plastic recycling at WSS) with Primary Section classes through presenting a TEAMS 'Radio' Club.

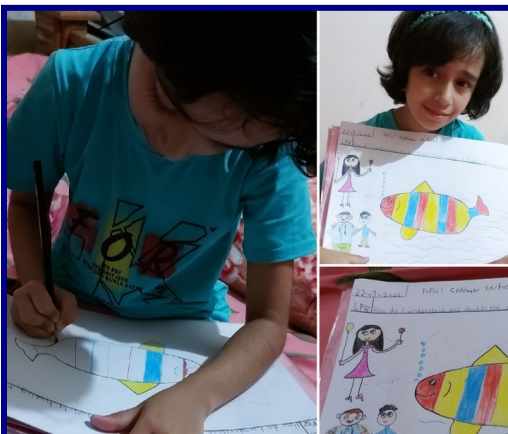


Y3D2 watching their friend's Radio Club Broadcast on Thursday 29/9/22 with Ms. Lissy.

Primary Section News



LFQ: How do I investigate the properties of gases?
 Science experiment by Zoya Khamkar and Zaron



Baraa likes to create!

Y5H1 with Ms. Anju

Primary Section News; Healthy Lifestyle!



The 'P' in our new PERMAH Wellbeing Framework stands for 'Health'. Here we have Y4F2 & Ms. Saranya promoting a healthy lifestyle through a healthy eating activity.

Roald Dahl Day Activity

Design a Front Cover for their favorite Roald Dahl Book or any book that Matilda would love to read- Y4D2 with Ms. Jisha Manoj



Primary Section News

Year 5S2 Roald Dahl Day Celebration in the class



Year 5F3 Roald Dahl Day Celebration in the class



Applying the PD of Dr. Lisa in Mr. Arvie's English class. Students were able to ask challenge questions to their peers through Hot seating. Other activities are brainstorming and jigsaw.

With Mr. Arvie

Primary Section News

Group Activity – Y5H1

LFQ: How do I identify and draw the stages in the life cycle of an insect undergoing incomplete and complete metamorphosis?



Student Wellbeing

WELLBEING ACTIVITY – Y5H1



With Ms. Anju

Primary Section News; Amazing Art!

Y5D1 PICTURES



Y5 D1 Science investigation lesson – Parts of a flower.



Y5D1 Art attack

Y6 GF & Y6BF- Wellbeing activity in Science lesson

Real life application & Preparing the students for future: DEBATE on healthy lifestyle



With Ms. Lakshmi

Building critical thinking skills in Science Lessons-

Y6BF Collaborative & Wellbeing activity -ROLE PLAY on blood components



Y6GF Collaborative & Wellbeing activity -ROLE PLAY on the function of blood cells



WSS Secondary Student Council Investiture Ceremony

27/09/2022

Student Leaders of 2022 (Boys)



Student Leaders of 2022 (Girls)



Ms Valerie Thompson giving her words of affirmation to the Student Leaders



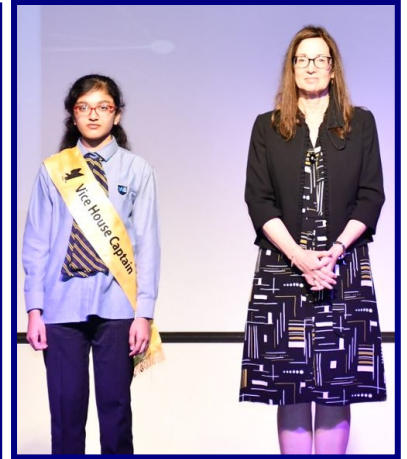
Head Girl Speech (Natiela Alema)



Head Boy Speech (Zuhair ASiq)



Secondary Section News; Secondary Student Leaders Investiture Ceremony, 27/9/22



Secondary Section News; Secondary Student Leaders Investiture Ceremony, 27/9/22



Words of encouragement from Ms Sreeja Nair to the newly elected Student Council Members



2022 Student Council Members



Ms Swati and Ms Supriya hosting the ceremony



Student leaders taking the oath



Secondary Section News; Secondary Student Leaders Investiture Ceremony, 27/9/22



Head Boy



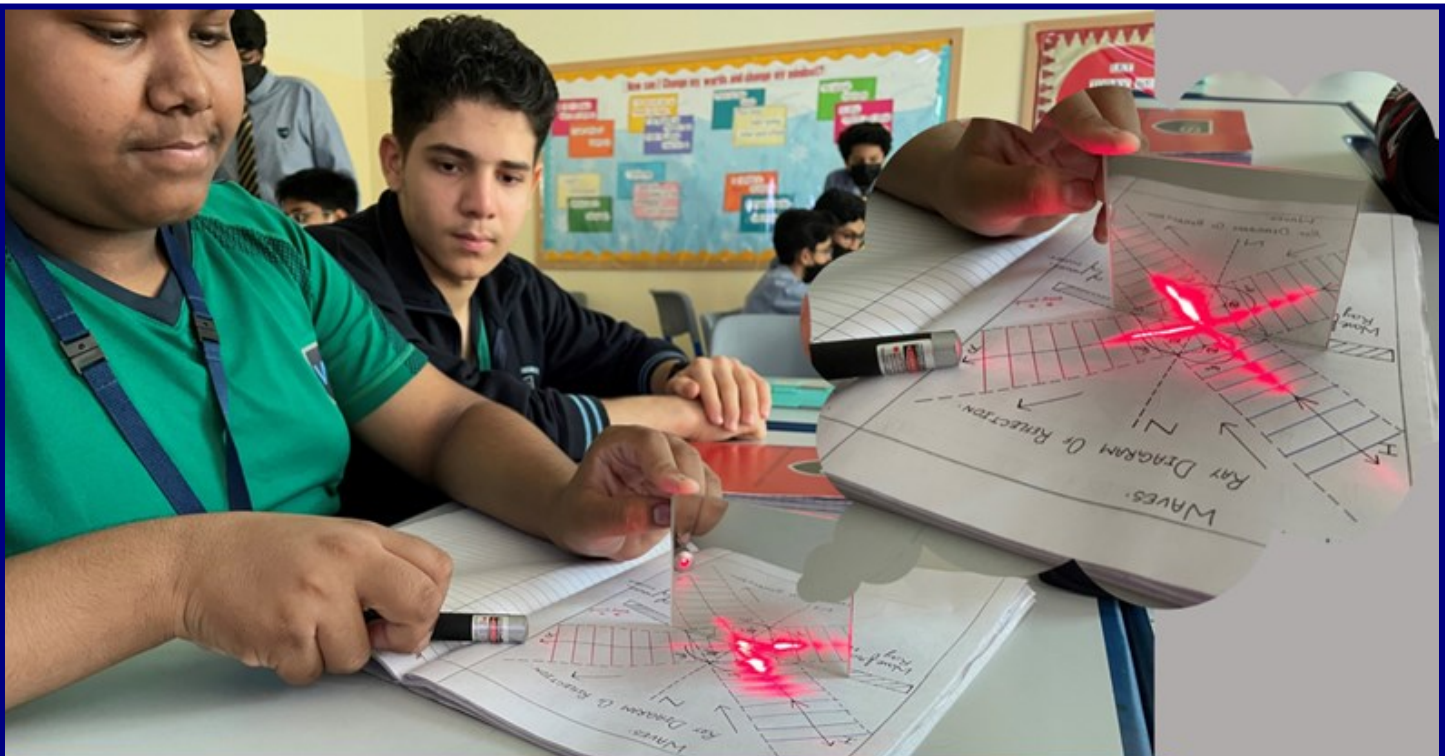
Head Girl



Secondary Section News; Secondary Student Leaders Investiture Ceremony, 27/9/22



Secondary Section News: Assembly Time with Y9GF!



Y10 students verifying the Law of Reflection during Physics lab lesson.

With Ms. Deepthi

Secondary Section News: World Peace Day!



Importance of peace day



Video message by UN's Secretary-General



Spotlight on - Peace Day (Yr-12813)



do your part to observe peace day



Peace Day

21 September, 2022

- It is a day dedicated to "commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples."
- This year's theme is "End racism. Build peace."



theme for 2022



Moment of peace



Student's PPT



Student interaction

- Bhagya Shri (YrB - GD)

Secondary Section News: GEMS for Life!

GEMS FOR LIFE SESSION @ WSS

iX

FOR LIFE



iXperience

On September 1st, 2022, Gems Westminster School Sharjah was visited by Mr. Mathew Tompkins, The director of student employment for GEMS for Life, and Mr. Aaron Fuchs, Chief Partnerships Officer for iExperience. They shared their expert advice with students in Years 12, and 13, and gave their insights about college and choosing their career paths.



I honestly enjoyed the whole event and the session couldn't be any better.

-Mariam and Aachman Students

GUIDANCE TO STUDENTS GIVING OCT/NOV EXAM SERIES.



**THE GUIDELINES GIVEN WERE
HELPFUL.
-ZUNAIRAH YI3GD**



**IT WAS GREAT HELP. ESPECIALLY
BECAUSE IT WAS EASIER TO
UNDERSTAND THE REQUIREMENTS.
-NOOR E FIZA YI3GD**



Secondary Section News; Reflections for World Peace Day!

Lets together make peace our passion



Muhammad Haq 7d

Peace Meaning to me

Peace is a concept of societal friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence. In a social sense, peace is commonly used to mean a lack of conflict (such as war) and freedom from fear of violence between individuals or groups.

☆ Rate

Bilal Khan 7d

Bilal Roman



Peace is freedom from violence from peers, partners, family.

Anonymous 7d

Peace



Peace means to be equal with every body and every body should have rights. (human rights)

☆ Rate

How to resolve conflict & spread peace?



Anonymous 7d

Zishan Shajeer

Peace is what we achieve when we don't expect anything from the world but only give unconditionally.

☆ Rate

Anonymous 7d

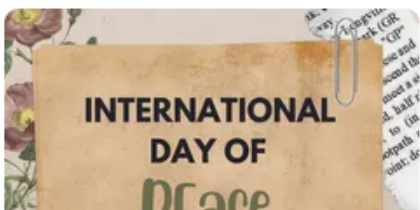
Abdul Hadi Y8BF1

Peace is a mindset you can achieve very easily yet it is only that hard to keep if humans can keep peace on the 21st September that proves that peace can be achieved always so why not keep peace for 365 Days instead of 1?

☆ Rate

Mohammed Wajeed 7d

Zirel M- Y 13 BH



Mashhood Yasir

peace is like a steep mountain and on top lies hope for our future

☆ Rate

Anonymous 7d

Amaan Y8BH

Peace is good We should not fight We should make the world a better place

Spread peace.

With Ms. Susan

Anonymous 7d

Salem Y8BH1

Salem Y8Bh1 Peace is like the air and racism is pollution, pollution corrodes the air, air is something we breathe in air is beautiful whilst pollution is disgusting.

☆ Rate

Shayan Farooqui 7d

Shayan Y8 BF1

People United around the world
End of all wars and conflicts
All citizens helping each other
Countries shaking hands
Everyone living in Harmony

☆ Rate

Anonymous 7d

Muhammad Mustafa

1. Afrikaans: Vrede
2. Aragonese: Patz
3. Arabic: سلام (salām)
4. Haitian Creole (Kreyol): Lapè

☆ Rate

Anonymous 7d

Haroon

සාමය
sūlh
امن
சமாதானம்
Peace

☆ Rate

ammar sayeed 7d

Peace in many languages by

Secondary Section News; Reflections for World Peace Day!

Moral Edu + 79 • 4h



International Day of Peace (UN). 21 Sept 2022

'End Racism. Build Peace.'

With Ms. Susan

What does peace mean to you?



Spread peace. How can you share peace?



What does peace mean to you?



Anonymous 7d

Insiya Jetpurwala and Alisha Asad Y7 GH ❤️

Peace 🙏🕊️

On September 21 is a day of peace! When all humans come together to fight our real enemies such as poverty, racism, covid, global warming, violence and gender equality. 🕊️

☆ Rate

Anonymous 7d

BEENISH FATIMA YEAR 8GD

Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding.

by: Albert Einstein

☆ Rate

Anonymous 7d

Muskaan Younus 9GF1

Peace for me is where everyone can live in harmony without the worry of any conflict. Maintaining peace of mind helps us to achieve goals in our life. Peace is the way for bringing growth and prosperity to life. If there is peace in every human's mind then this world will go on peacefully. Without peace, any kind of development is impossible.

Peace is not the highest goal in life.

*It is the most fundamental requirement
- someone*

Anonymous 7d

Maryam Imran GH & Adn Fatemah GS

MARYAM.I

According to me peace is the freedom or rights for both genders men and woman. 🕊️🕊️

Anonymous 7d

Eman

Peace is a concept of societal friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence. In a social sense, peace is commonly used to mean a lack of conflict and freedom from fear of violence between individuals or groups. We can share it by staying calm and happy.

☆ Rate

Hadiya Gul



Listen with the intent to understand. Be helpful to others when you can (help your neighbors. Meditate and invite others to meditate, Study nonviolence, Peace studies.

Anonymous 7d

Mahnoor Usman - Acrostic Poem

P- (end) Poverty
E-Education for everyone
A-Amiable
C-Calmness
E-End Racism

☆ Rate

You can spread peace becoming more friendly smiles to people also help in need like this we can spread peace in our world and

☆ Rate

Amna Rizwan 7d

Amna rizwan Akth

For me and the community peace is like a quiet atmosphere with no arguments, no racism, i hope every world have respect

Anonymous 7d

Secondary Section News; Practical Lab Time is Back!



Enjoying being gastronomically creative in our fantastic, newly upgraded Food & Nutrition Lab.

With Ms. Sreedevi M.

