

# GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #7  
2nd October, 2025



## Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

### Student Safeguarding— Own Transport Pick-up

Let's protect the safety of our children—it is critical that only approved adults/siblings enter the school premises, therefore whoever is coming into school to pick up your children at

home time **must wear a school parent ID card**. If you do not have one, do please reach out to BBT to get one (please upload both parents photos on your Parent Portal). Many thanks.

## Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
<b>Monday 3/11/25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>UAE Flag Day (TBC)</b>. Students may come dressed in UAE national dress or flag colours (<i>optional</i>).</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 27/11/24</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WSS celebrates <b>UAE National Day (TBC)</b>. Students may come dressed in UAE national dress or flag colours &amp; bring traditional food to share with friends (<i>optional</i>).</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 4th December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Last day of T1</b> (compulsory T1 exams will run until 4/12/25, from approximately 2 weeks prior)</li> </ul>



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



# مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 7  
2 أكتوبر 2025



رسالة من المديرة / الرئيس التنفيذي  
السيدة فاليري توميسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر  
الشارقة الأعزاء،

## حماية الطلاب - النقل الخاص (استلام الطلاب من منازلهم)

دعونا نحرص على سلامة أبنائنا،  
فمن الضروري ألا يسمح بدخول أي  
شخص إلى حرم المدرسة إلا إذا كان  
من ذوي العلاقة المعتمدين (والد أو  
ولي أمر أو أحد الإخوة). لذا، يجب  
على كل من يأتي لاستلام أبنائه من  
المدرسة بعد انتهاء الدوام المدرسي  
أن يحمل بطاقة تعريف خاصة

بأولادهم أو أولياء الأمور. إذا لم يكن لديكم هذا المستند، يرجى  
التواصل مع فريق BBT للحصول عليه (يرجى تحميل صور كلا  
الوالدين في حسابكم على التطبيق الخاص ب أولياء الأمور). شكرًا  
لكم.

## المواعيد

التاريخ	التفاصيل
الاثنين 3/11/25	يوم علم الإمارات (لم يحدد التاريخ بعد). يمكن للطلاب ارتداء الزي الوطني الإماراتي أو ألوان العلم (اختياري).
الخميس 27/11/24	تشارك شركة WSS في الاحتفال باليوم الوطني لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة (سيتم تحديث التفاصيل لاحقاً). يمكن للطلاب ارتداء الملابس التقليدية الإماراتية أو ارتداء ملابس بألوان العلم الإماراتي، كما يمكنهم إحضار أطعمة محلية لتشاركها مع
الخميس 4 ديسمبر	آخر يوم في الفصل الدراسي الأول (ستعقد امتحانات الفصل الدراسي الأول الإلزامية حتى 4/12/25، أي قبل حوالي أسبوعين من هذا التاريخ)



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.



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### *Parent Handbook Access QR Code*

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## WSS Superstar Quran Competition Champions, 28/9/25!

WSS students participated in an inter-school Quran competition over the weekend. Two students won first place in their category & one student won 2nd place in their category. We are very proud of our students, parents & staff for this impressive achievement! Many thanks to our dedicated teachers who gave up a day of their weekend to support our students.





## WSS Superstar Champions!



WSS received a Gold Trophy from SCRAVEL, GEMS' trip organisers. This is in recognition of a successful partnership & smooth trip organisation. Congratulations to the WSS team!

Literary Superstar Saithurkka Chevatkodiyan (Y6G) has had her first book published, called 'Haunted Mystery'. Amazing!



GEMS is working on creating a GEMS Curriculum to further promote high standards, rigour & excellence in learning. We are proud to share that WSS Ms. Sameena has been selected from GEMS schools as an 'Excellence Fellow' to lead on Primary Science. We wish her all the very best!



Ms. Sameena  
Launch of the  
Subject  
Excellence  
Fellows  
Programme  
with Ms. Lisa  
Crausby and  
Mr David Irish  
29/9/2025



## Whole School News; ARN Radio Station Event, 29/9/25!

**ARN**

THE UAE'S NUMBER 1 MULTIMEDIA NETWORK

**3.3 MILLION**

**LISTENERS EVERY WEEK**

SOURCE: Nielsen Q1 2023 independent RAM research, all people 15+

Logos: TAG 91.1, 92, 99, 101.6, 103.8, 105.8, 107.8, 109.8, 111.8, 113.8, 115.8, 117.8, 119.8, 121.8, 123.8, 125.8, 127.8, 129.8, 131.8, 133.8, 135.8, 137.8, 139.8, 141.8, 143.8, 145.8, 147.8, 149.8, 151.8, 153.8, 155.8, 157.8, 159.8, 161.8, 163.8, 165.8, 167.8, 169.8, 171.8, 173.8, 175.8, 177.8, 179.8, 181.8, 183.8, 185.8, 187.8, 189.8, 191.8, 193.8, 195.8, 197.8, 199.8

On 29/9/25 WSS hosted ARN Radio Station as part of their 'Back to School' promotion. Students were selected to participate in the games based on evidence of their exhibiting 'Be a GEMS' values. Students competed in games & enjoyed the interactive event.





## *Whole School News; ARN Radio Station Event, 29/9/25!*



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**Congratulations to Shenya, who won a guitar in the games.**





## Whole School News; ARN Radio Station Event, 29/9/25!

### Al Arabia Radio Event Y5



## Whole School News; Week 3 ECA Report!





<https://forms.office.com/r/yMyG5Mt411>



FAMILY FIRST

Family First Shares Your Family  
Favourite Recipes For Everyone To  
Enjoy!



## Share your family favourite recipes for everyone to enjoy!

Let's celebrate the rich diversity of our community through food.



**Please ensure all recipes are submitted by October 24, 2025**

Better still, why not post a video of yourself making the dish and tag your school along with **#GEMSFamilyFirst**





October's Activity



### **October Contest | Favorite Family Recipe**

We are excited to invite all families to participate in our October Contest!

\* Share your favorite recipe — a family dish, a special meal, or any food you love.

- Submission options:
- A written recipe card
- A self-designed format
- A short video of cooking or eating

Extended Version (for the school magazine):

October Contest: Our Favorite Recipe!

In celebration of family traditions and the joy of sharing meals, we are delighted to announce our October Contest:

"Our Favorite Recipe"

We invite all families to share their favorite recipe — whether it's a traditional family dish, a beloved comfort food, or a simple meal that brings everyone together.

How to participate:

- 1- Submit a written recipe card
- 2- Create your own unique design
- 3- Send us a short video of cooking or enjoying the meal

\* We look forward to your delicious and creative entries, which will be featured in our school magazine to celebrate the wonderful flavors of our co



October's Activity



**FAMILY  
FIRST**

THIS RECIPE HAS BEEN  
SHARED BY \_\_\_\_\_

# RECIPE

**EQUIPMENT  
NEEDED**

\_\_\_\_\_

**STEP-BY-STEP  
METHOD**

\_\_\_\_\_

**INGREDIENTS**

**DIRECTIONS**

student's name:

Class:

ID:

WSS

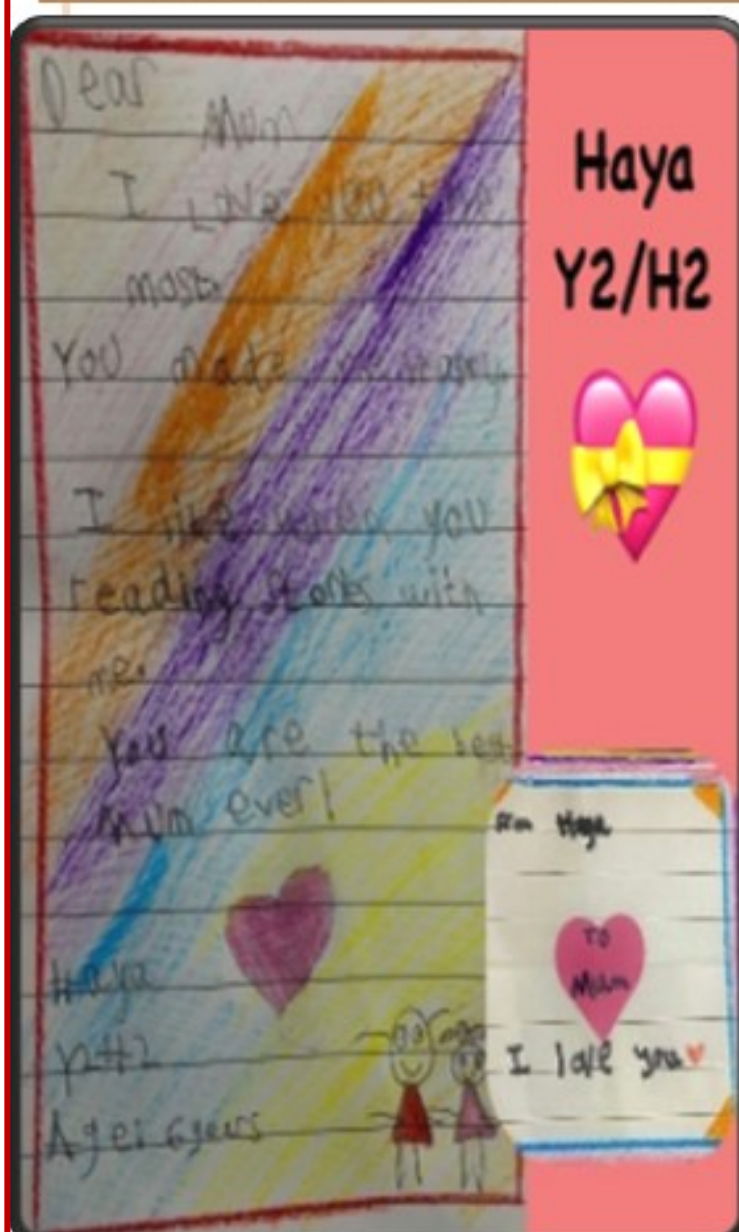


September's Activity

# FAMILY FIRST

A MOVEMENT OF LOVE AND CARE

## LETTER WRITING







66

© WWW.AR-QUOTES.COM



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© WWW.AR-QUOTES.COM







## My Family

Thank You to My Dad, Ahmed

My name is Hala, and I am 9 years old. I want to give a very special thank you to my father, Ahmed. To me, he is not only a dad, but also my best friend and my hero. He wakes up early every morning to help me and my brother Mahmoud get ready for school. He prepares our lunch boxes with love and makes sure we are always ready on time. After he takes us to school, he goes to work in Dubai and works very hard, even seven days a week. He comes home late at night, but no matter how tired he is, he never forgets to spend time with us.

My dad loves me and Mahmoud in a way that feels magical. He accepts us just the way we are, even when we make mistakes. He never shouts or hurts us. Instead, he teaches us gently and believes we are the best children in the world. That makes me feel proud and safe. At night, he loves to keep us close, and sometimes I sleep beside him. In those moments, I feel warm, loved, and protected.

My dad is kind, patient, and strong. He gives all his time, love, and energy to his family. He is the person who carries every burden quietly so that we can smile. I know he is the reason I feel so much love at home. Thank you, Dad, for being my hero, my role model, and my greatest gift. I love you with all my heart

إلى المعلمة الفاضلة ماجدة،

أقدم إليك بجزيل الشكر والامتنان 🙏 على كل ما تبذليه من جهد وعطاء في سبيل تعليمنا وتوجيهنا. لقد كتبنا مثالا للصبر والإخلاص، وزرعت فينا حب التعلم والسعي وراء التفوق. ❤️ شكرًا لك على دعمك وتشجيعك المستمر. وعلى كل كلمة طيبة منحنا إياها لتزيدنا ثقة في أنفسنا. 🌸 سيبقى أثرك الطيب راسخًا في قلوبنا. ❤️ ودعواتنا لك بالتوفيق والسعادة دائمًا.

مع خالص التقدير والاحترام،  
كاراس رافت ❤️





## *Whole School News; This Week's Leadership GEMStone!*

OCTOBER – WEEK 41

### LEADING WITH DIVERSITY



FLOURITE

Celebrates unique perspectives and fosters inclusivity.

“ New ideas come from listening  
to different perspectives. ”

**MESSAGE:** Creativity grows when everyone shares their unique ideas. By encouraging everyone to contribute, you open the door to great solutions.

**REFLECT:** How can I make sure others feel confident to share their ideas? How can I show that all opinions matter?



## You Said,

PJunior Section Reading Focus - Parents asked for more clarity on how reading is supported across different subjects at WSS.



## We Did,

WSS Junior Section teachers guided parents through exciting reading activities, showing how literacy is woven into every subject. Parents shared amazing feedback and loved the initiative!

*Whole School News;  
“You Said... We  
Did...”*

## *Environment & Sustainability E*

### *-Waste Competition Superstar Champions!*

Name of the School	Emirates	Bin/Weight
OUR OWN ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL AL AIN	Al Ain	370
GEMS Legacy School(Primary)	Dubai	398
GEMS Legacy School(Secondary)	Dubai	530
Cambridge International School	Dubai	427
GEMS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AL KHAIL	Dubai	169
GEMS Wellington Academy Silicon Oasis	Dubai	31
GEMS Metropole School Al Waha	Dubai	24
GEMS Cambridge International Abu Dhabi	Abu Dhabi	53
GEMS National School Al Barsha	Dubai	117
Gems Westminster School Ras Al khaimah	Ras Al Khaimah	97
GEMS Founders School Al Mizhar	Dubai	89
Gems Wellington International School	Dubai	121
GEMS Founders School Dubai	Dubai	153.5
Gems Founders School	Abu Dhabi	
Gems Westminster School Sharjah	Sharjah	126
Gems Winchester School Abu Dhabi	Abu Dhabi	122
Jumeirah College Dubai	Dubai	52
THE MILLENNIUM SCHOOL, DUBAI	Dubai	115
The Westminster School, Dubai	Dubai	206
Woodlem Park School Dubai	Dubai	17
GEMS Millennium School, Sharjah	Sharjah	142
GEMS OUR OWN INDIAN SCHOOL	Dubai	202
Gems Winchester School, Dubai	Dubai	
GEMS FirstPoint School	Dubai	Not registered
Gems Dubai American Academy	Dubai	Not registered
Our Own English High School	Sharjah	14
GEMS Jumeirah Primary School, Dubai	Dubai	
Gems Millennium, Al khail	Dubai	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3575.5</b>

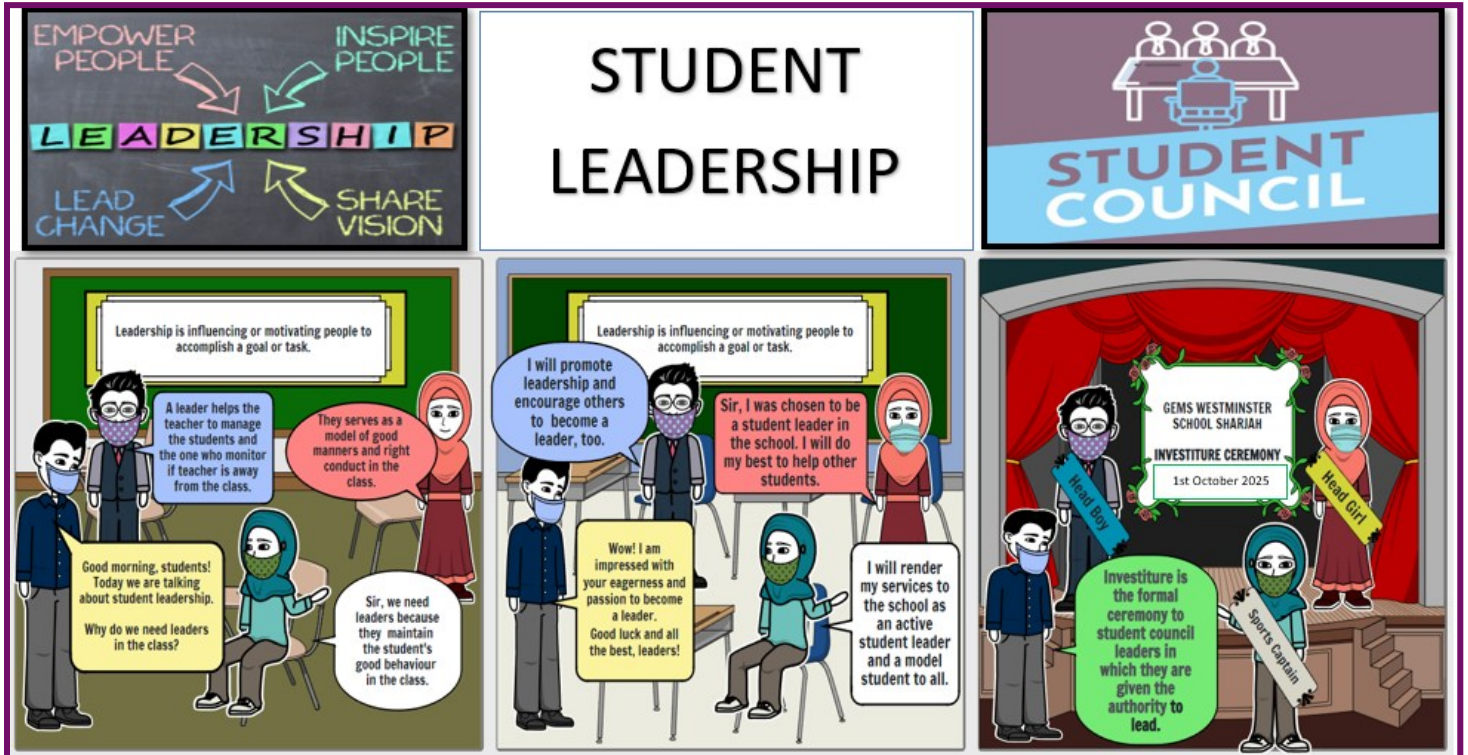
Shazil (Y13BD) shared a progress report on the avocado plant that he germinated from seed. The little seedling has been planted in soil & is growing fast! As soon as the weather cools it will go into the WSS garden for everyone to enjoy.



WSS came 10th out of 28 GEMS schools who participated in the E-Waste collection competition last academic year. Considering that some of these schools are considerably larger, this is a good community effort in recycling E-Waste! Thank you dear parents & students for your contribution to sustainability in the UAE.



## Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!



## *Happy Birthdays!*



*Happy Birthday WSS! 13 years old on 2/10/25. Thank you to all our students, parents & staff who make WSS such a special place to be!*



## *WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!*

# GEM of the Week



# Wellbeing Champions



## WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!

Dear Ms. Shamail

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the support and attention you have extended to my concerns during our meeting at the end of last year, and for assigning such a highly capable and caring teacher for Hamza this academic year. This reaffirms that we made the right choice in selecting this school from the outset for the education of our three children, as it is guided by such a thoughtful and distinguished administration.

Your leadership and dedication clearly demonstrate a genuine commitment to the welfare and development of every student, as well as respect for parents and their aspirations for their children's education. This is truly commendable and deeply appreciated.

This academic year has brought a notable and positive difference. Hamza is very comfortable and enthusiastic about school, and we have observed remarkable progress in his learning and confidence.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks to you, as well as to Mrs. Sadiqa Bano and Mrs. Asma Khan, for your professionalism, care, and unwavering support.

Best Regards



**Well done to last week's "take Home Teddy' Class Champion winner!**



**Congratulations to Saif, who achieved a swimming medal & certificate for his impressive performance in the pool!**

Dear Ms. Sadiqa Bano,

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for your exceptional dedication, care, and professionalism in teaching and supporting Hamza this academic year. Your efforts have had a profound and positive impact on his learning experience, motivation, and overall well-being at school.

We have observed with great satisfaction how Hamza has become more enthusiastic, confident, and eager to participate in his studies. This remarkable progress reflects the quality of your teaching and the nurturing classroom environment you have created.

Your commitment, patience, and sincere attention to each student are truly commendable. We are deeply grateful for the positive influence you have had on Hamza's educational journey this year.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Asma Khan and Ms. Israa for their valuable support and contributions to Hamza's progress.

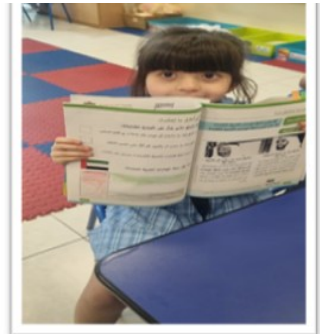
Best Regards



## *Junior Section News; Learning Projects (General)!*

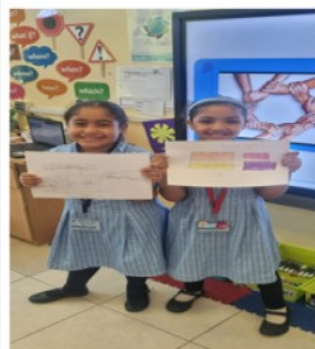
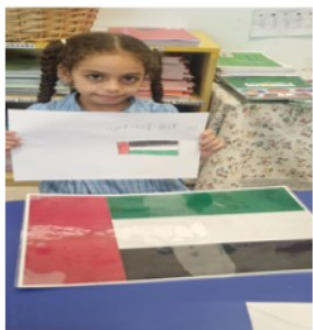


## Junior Section News; Y2 Social Studies Learning With Ms. Amira!



Topic : درس اتحاد بلادي

Subject : Social Studies دراسات اجتماعية



أنشطة طلاب الصف  
الأول دراسات  
اجتماعية  
Y2F  
Ms. Amira

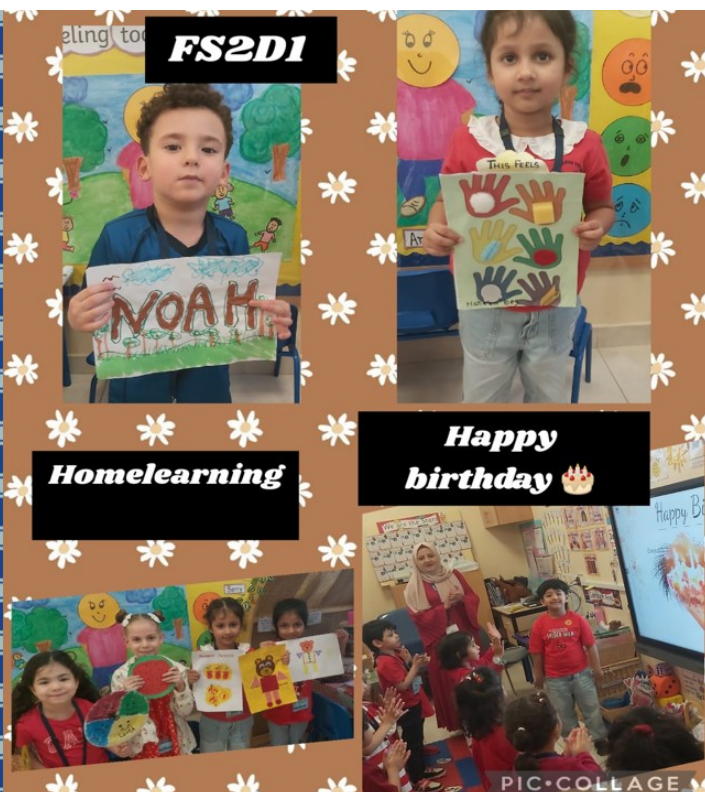


درس اتحاد بلادي  
دراسات اجتماعية  
Y2S1-S2  
Ms. Amira





## Junior Section News; FS2D1 Learning Activities!





## *Junior Section News; FS2D2 Learning Activities!*



Having fun in  
exploration time  
FS2 D2



Learning more and few concept



Learning how to  
balance in PE lesson



Fun activities in the  
class FS2 D2



Home learning





## *Junior Section News; Y2D1 Learning Activities!*



PTM



Line of symmetry!



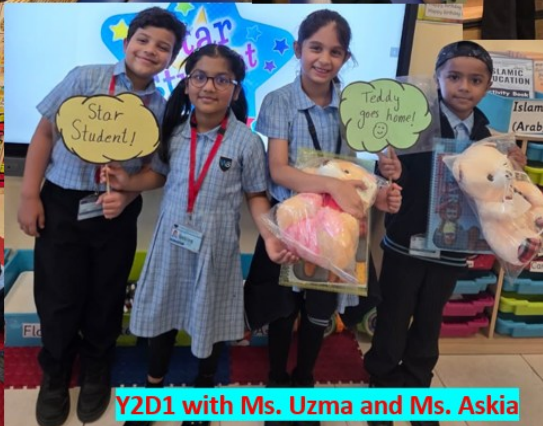
Home learning projects!



Science OLA



Wellbeing champions!



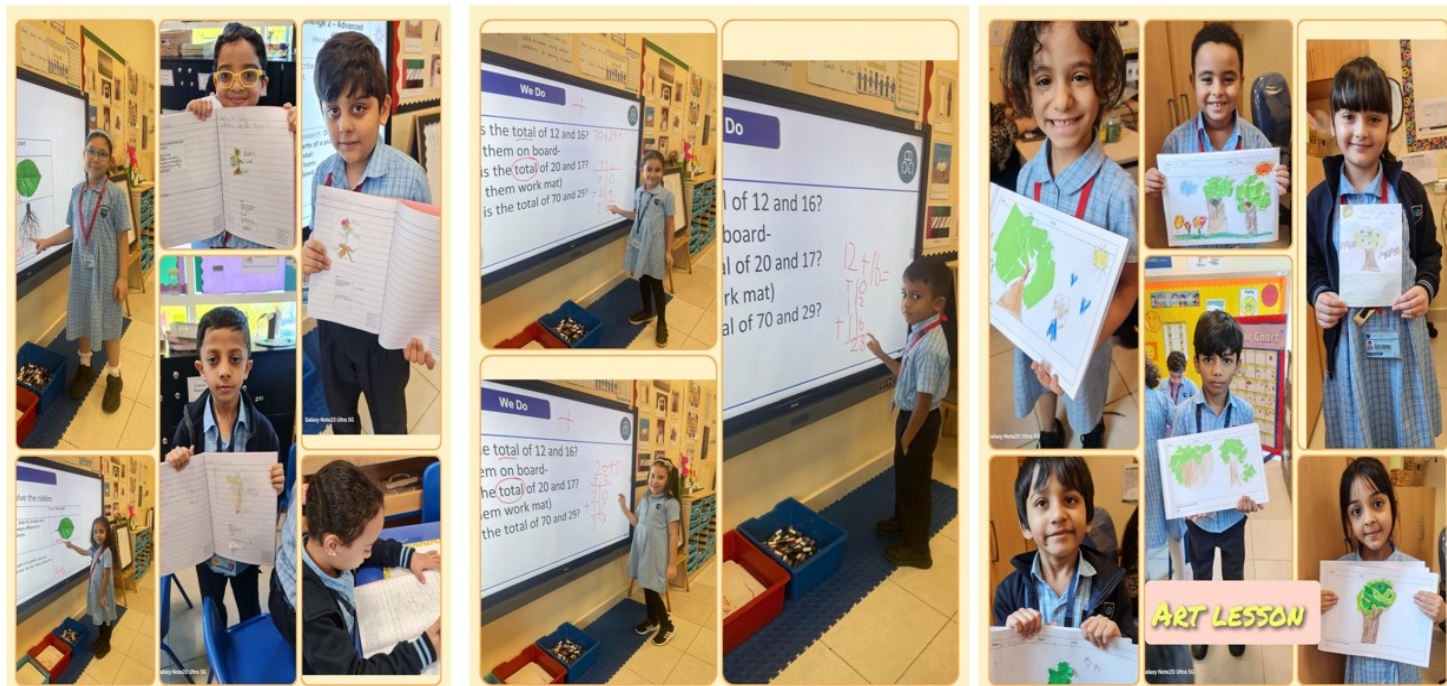
Y2D1 with Ms. Uzma and Ms. Askia





## Junior Section News; Y2D2 Learning Activities!

### MS FARAH & MS TAHIRA Y2D2





## *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. Aaditya





## Junior Section News; Y2S1 Learning Activities!

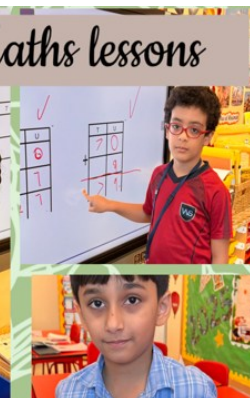
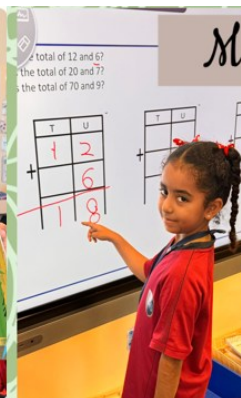
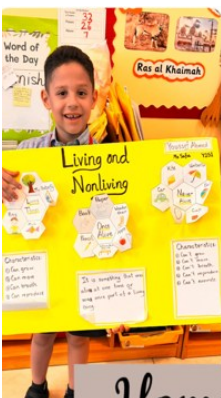
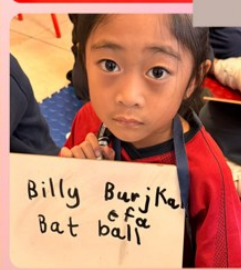
### Y2S1 with Ms. Safia and Ms. Catherin



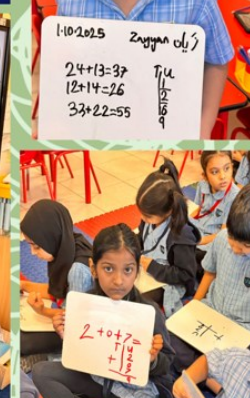
### Y2S1 Spell Check Champions



### English lessons

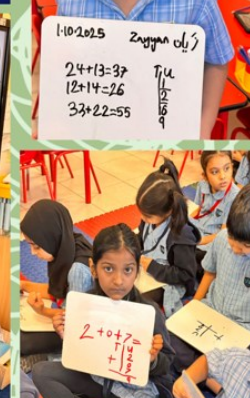
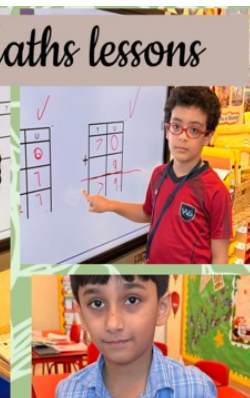
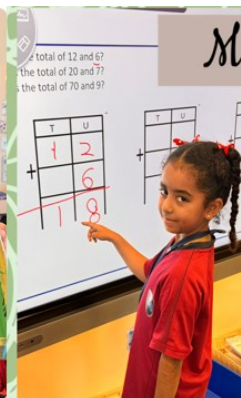


### Home learning projects



### Y2S1 with Ms. Safia and Ms. Catherin

### Maths lessons



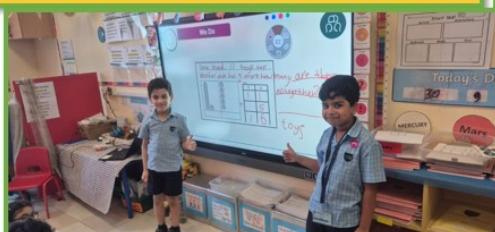


## Junior Section News; Y2S2 Learning Activities!

### Y2S2-Class activities with Ms. Sabiha and Ms. Benil



### Y2S2-with Ms. Sabiha and Ms. Benil





## *WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!*



Congratulations to Sila, who achieved a swimming medal & certificate for her impressive performance in the pool!



Literary Superstar Saithurkka Chevatkodiyan (Y6G) has had her first book published, called 'Haunted Mystery'. Amazing!

I would like to sincerely thank you and the school team for organizing such a wonderful event. It was a memorable experience for the students as well as the parents, and we truly appreciate the effort, planning, and dedication that went into making it successful.

I am attaching photos that capture the joy and enthusiasm of the day .

Thank you once again for your continued commitment to our children's growth and happiness.

Warm regards,

Walaa

Mother of Yassin Amro, Y6 BF



## Primary Section News; Student Leaders Investiture, 1/10/25!



Thank you to all the WSS team for organizing this special event & to the proud parents for supporting your child's character & leadership journey & for attending.



Leadership roles include Head & Deputy Head Girl/Boy, Sports Leaders, House Leaders, Islamic Council Leaders, Read Like a GEM Leader, Be a GEM Leader, IT Wellbeing & more. Our young leaders are taking on responsibility & service—we wish them all the best!





## *Primary Section News; Student Leaders Investiture, 1/10/25!*





*Primary Section News; Student Leaders Investiture, 1/10/25!*





*Primary Section News; Student Leaders Investiture, 1/10/25!*





## Primary Section News; Learning Activities (General)!



It is great to see an enthusiastic, budding scientists in action!

## Primary Section News; Y4 Creative STEAM Activity!

**Purr-fectly Creative!** 🐱 Y4H1 students stretched their folding and fine motor skills today as they transformed simple squares into these fantastic origami cats!





## Y5 STEAM LESSON



## Y5S2-Petals, Pistils, and Passion for Learning – A closer look at flower parts in class.





## *WSS Secondary Section MARKETSHETRA Competition Superstar Champions, 30/9/25!*



A talented group of sixth Form students participated in the New Millennium School Inter-School, Dubai MARKETSHETRA competition & won 3rd place! Congratulations to our amazing students! Huge thanks to the concerned teachers who supported.





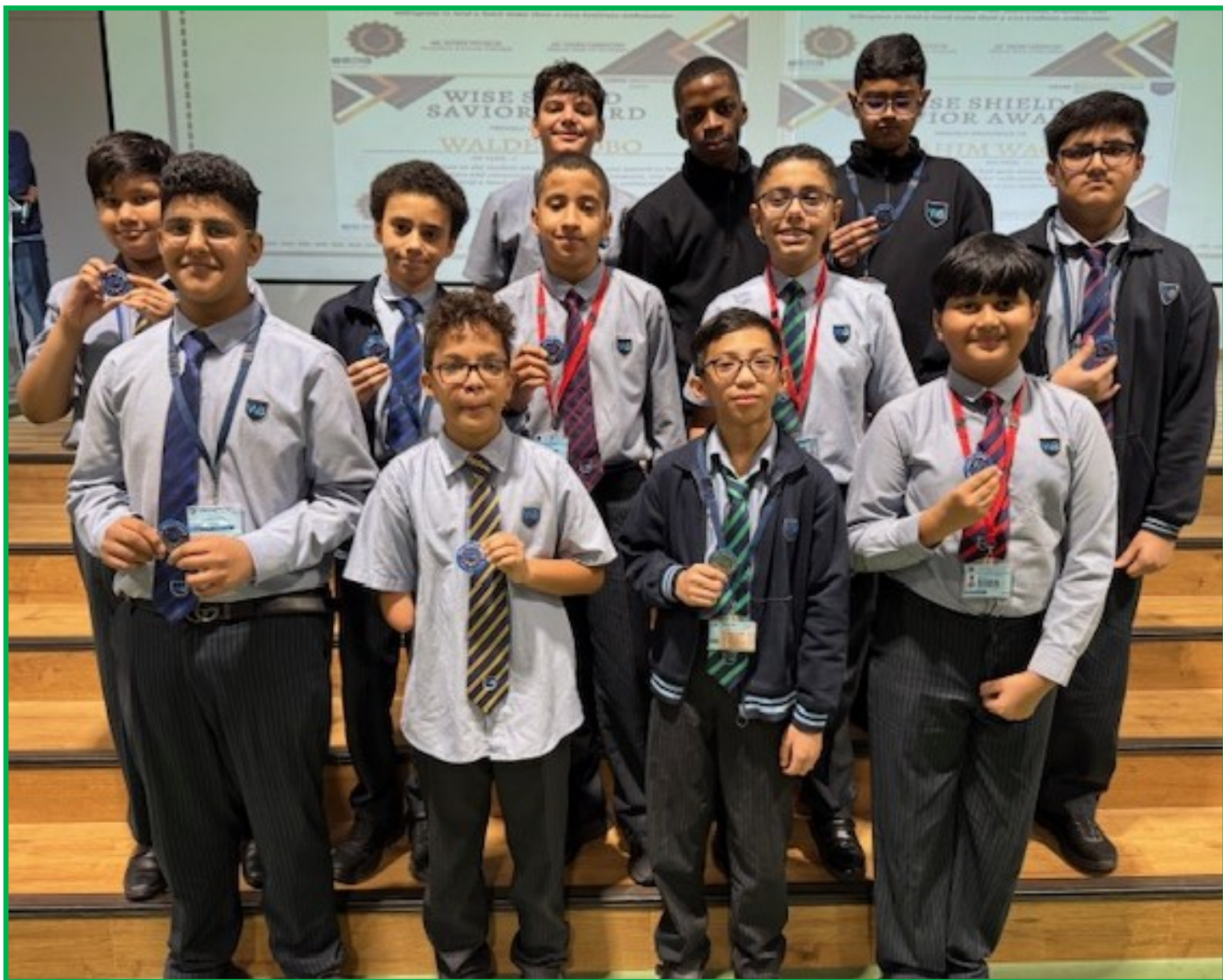
***WSS Secondary Section WSD Inter-School Business Cup Competition  
Superstar Champions, 2/10/25!***



**WSS superstar student Taha & Huzaifa triumphed again! Our talented duo won first prize in the WSD inter-school Business Cup Challenge!**



*WSS Secondary Section KS3 Wise Shield Superstar Champions!*



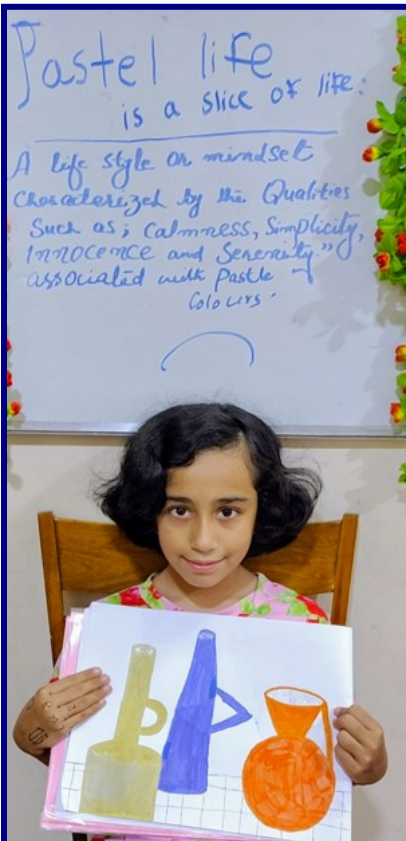


## *Secondary Section News; Assembly Time with KS3 Boys, 30/9/25 ('Be a GEM')!*



We were reminded about the importance of our words. They have the power to pull down or build up—let's use our words wisely for good.

## *Secondary Section News; Creative Learning Activities!*





## *Secondary Section News; Science Club Inauguration!*

### SCIENCE CLUB INAUGURATION

We are deeply grateful to Mr. Shuj for his kind presence and insightful words.



For application, check out the posters across secondary school.



## TALK ON BIOINFORMATICS



Bioinformatics is the use of computers, mathematics, and statistics to analyze biological data. It focuses on patterns in DNA, RNA, and proteins, helping scientists understand how genes work, how diseases develop, and how treatments can be designed. It's essential for modern biology, genetics, and personalized medicine.

LIFE IS WRITTEN IN 4 LETTERS.  
LET'S DECODE IT.

### KS4 BIOINFORMATICS MINI-COURSE

DNA isn't just a string of letters... it hides patterns, secrets, and signals that control life itself. But how do scientists find them? And how could you?

In this mini-course you will:

- Discover how to find hidden patterns in DNA
- Use Python to hunt for biological signals
- Put new skills into practice together with hands-on coding challenges

See you there fellow bioinformatician.  
And hurry! Only 25 seats!



A SCIENCE CLUB EVENT  
BY CELINO . J | Y12 BF



## *Secondary Section News; KS4 Geostrategist 2.0!*



**KS4 GIRLS TAKE PART  
IN GEOSTRATEGIST 2.0!**

Geostrategist 2.0 is a continuation to what we hosted last year but more on the mystery and thrill side, It focuses on young detectives working together as teams of three to solve cases to identify and solve riddles to find hidden artifacts as well as track whoever is behind all of this.



## *Secondary Section News; KS4 Geostrategist 2.0!*

### **GEOSTRATEGIST 2.0** **KS4 INTERACTIVE GAME QUIZ CHALLENGE!**



Students in KS4 are taking learning to the next level with a fast-paced, game-style quiz designed to test their knowledge, teamwork, and quick thinking.

**THE ACTIVITY TRANSFORMS INTO AN  
EXCITING EXPERIENCE WHERE EVERY  
CORRECT ANSWER EARNS POINTS  
AND EVERY ROUND BRINGS NEW  
SURPRISES. IT'S NOT JUST A QUIZ—  
IT'S LEARNING THROUGH PLAY!**





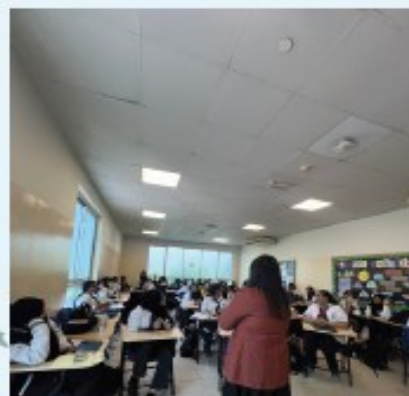
## Mental Health & Wellbeing session

**FAMILY FIRST Club**  
-First Initiative

*"A moment of quiet in the noise; a space to breathe, reflect, and reconnect with themselves."*

The session provided our Sixth Form girls with essential tools for managing academic pressure and social complexities. Through guided mindfulness and open dialogue, they learned to identify stressors, practice self-compassion, and build a resilient mindset, fostering a healthier and more supportive community.

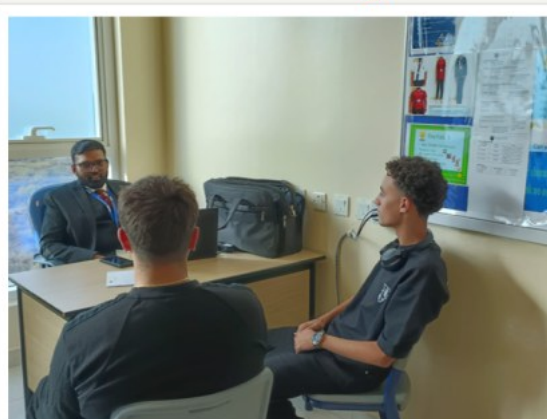
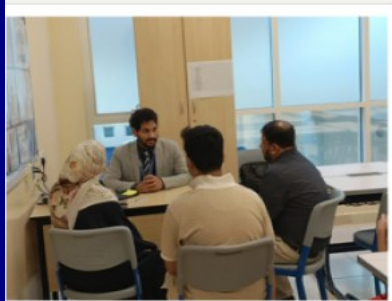
Session By Ms.Nirmal Josephine





## Secondary Section News

### KS5 Boys-Fostering strong connections with parents during the Parent Teachers meet & greet session



**Happier Parents  
= Happier Kids**



**Wishing all our September stars a very Happy Birthday! 🎉 ✨**  
**Wishing you happiness, success, and wonderful moments ahead.**



**Mohammed Shajib  
Abdul Rehman  
Rayan Bilal  
Affan Ahmed  
Yousef Hisham  
Rayan Bilal Khalil  
Muhammad Daniyal  
Mohammad Ebad  
Daniil Shapovalov  
Mohammad Rohaan  
Muhammad Azaan  
Muhammad Ibrahim  
Hamid Saaed**

