

# GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #33  
6th June, 2021



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

Dear WSS Parents,

### Parent Survey

Thank you so much to the more than 24% of parents who have already completed the GEMS Parent Satisfaction Survey & for providing specific feedback. If you have not yet completed it, kindly do so. Judgment guidance is given on p2 FYI. Thank you.

### Participation in the World's Largest Learning Survey!

As mentioned in NL#31 (p14), WSS is participating in the biggest ever international survey about student learning. We will be sent a Report to support the improvement of both international & school-level practice. Would you please **support your G2-12 (Y3-13) child to complete the survey** at <https://edurio.com/poll/AJFGHt> We are super-excited to share our school report about our super students' learning! Thank you so much for your help with this.



## Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
<b>Sunday 20th June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Deadline to apply for a TC if leaving WSS is Sunday 20th June.</b> After this date the GRE is not available for late TC processing &amp; there would be delays in processing.</li> </ul>
<b>Thurs. 1st July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Students' last day of the academic year.</b> Our learning programme will continue until 1/7/21.</li> <li><b>Seats will not be held beyond the last day of T3 if T3 fees remain pending.</b> Any paid Seat Booking Fee would be lost. Seats would be given to the Waiting list, &amp; if parents decide later that they want a seat, this would be subject to availability, &amp; not guaranteed.</li> <li>You may change your mind about enrolment at WSS at any time, however the seat booking fee is non-refundable (but deductible from T1 Fees, Sept-Dec. '21).</li> </ul>
<b>From Sunday 29th Aug. 2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start of new Academic Year 2021-2022.</li> <li><b>Students who have travelled must have completed 10 days' quarantine before rejoining school.</b></li> <li>All students over age 12 years must bring a negative PCR Test (validity 72 hours) to rejoin school..</li> <li><b>Full T1 fees must be paid before any student has their class confirmed or admitted for the new academic year.</b></li> <li>Please Budget accordingly—there will be <b>no Payment Plans in T1</b> (no exceptions). Thank you.</li> </ul>

### Educational Arrangements After T3 Exams

As per the Authorities, the last day of the academic year for students is Thursday 1st July 2021. Therefore, we **will be continuing our academic programme after the T3 promotional exams.** Do please ensure that your child continues to attend (online or as per their Blended programme, as you wish), as learning & fun will continue until 1/7/21. Thank you.

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

# Whole School News



مدرسة جيمس ويستمنستر الشارقة  
GEMS Westminister School  
SHARJAH

Date: 30/5/21

Dear Parents,

**Subject: GEMS Parent Survey**

At WSS, we are committed to engaging with our parents to achieve our vision, 'Excellence Through Teamwork; Success for All'. We aim to provide the very best possible learning experience and outcomes for your child, so value your balanced, regular feedback on what is working well, and what can be improved further. In order to gain further parent feedback, GEMS will shortly issue a Parent Survey link to your registered email. We would highly appreciate you taking some of your valuable time to complete this to share your valuable insights.

في WSS ، نحن ملتزمون بالتواصل مع أولياء الأمور لتحقيق رؤيتنا، "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعي؛ النجاح للجميع. نحن نهدف إلى تقديم أفضل تجربة تعليمية ونتائج ممكنة لطفلك، لذا نقدر ملاحظتك المتوازنة والمنظمة حول ما يعمل بشكل جيد، وما الذي يمكن تحسينه أكثر. " من أجل الحصول على المزيد من ملاحظات الوالدين، ستصدر GEMS قريباً رابط استطلاع رأي أولياء إلى بريدك الإلكتروني المسجل. نحن نقدر تقديراً عالياً أنك استغرقت بعض الوقت الثمين لإكمال هذا لمشاركة الأفكار القيمة.

FYI, please note:

Score	What this means	Some examples for scoring
10	<b>Top score!</b> Parent is a Promotor & would highly recommend WSS to family & friends <b>أعلى نتيجة!</b> الأباء هم المروجون ويوصون WSS للعائلة والأصدقاء بشدة.	Very happy & satisfied with school & management in all areas that are within school's control. Any queries/issues have been responded to promptly & solved. Child is making very good progress & is very happy with Teacher & to attend lessons. Parent feels that school is fully committed to improvement & high standards. <b>سعيد جداً وراضي</b> عن المدرسة والإدارة في جميع المجالات التي تقع تحت سيطرة المدرسة. تم الرد على أي استفسارات / مشكلات على الفور وحلها. يحرز الطفل تقدماً جيداً للغاية وهو سعيد جداً بالمعلم وحضور الدروس. يشعر ولي الأمر أن المدرسة ملتزمة تماماً بالتحسين والمعايير العالية.
9	<b>Good score!</b> Parent is a Promotor. Parent would recommend WSS to family & friends <b>نتيجة جيدة!</b> الأباء هم المروجون ويوصون WSS للعائلة والأصدقاء بشدة.	Generally happy & satisfied with school & management in most areas that are within school's control. Any queries/issues have been responded to & solved where possible. Child is making good progress & is happy with Teacher & to attend lessons. Parent feels that school is generally committed to improvement & high standards. <b>بشكل عام سعيد وراضي</b> عن المدرسة والإدارة في معظم المناطق التي تقع تحت سيطرة المدرسة. تم الرد على أي استفسارات / مشكلات وحلها حيثما أمكن ذلك. الطفل يحرز تقدماً جيداً ويسعد بالمدرس وحضور الدروس. يشعر ولي الأمر أن المدرسة ملتزمة عموماً بالتحسين والمعايير العالية.
7-8	<b>Average score.</b> Parent is 'Passive' متوسط درجة. <b>الوالد "شبه فعال"</b>	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Child's generally likes school & learning, but individual needs are only partially met for reasons within the school's control. Parent unsure whether they wish to continue at WSS due to aspects of the learning environment that are within the school's control. <b>لا راضي ولا غير راضي.</b> يحب الطفل عموماً المدرسة والتعلم، ولكن يتم تلبية الاحتياجات الفردية جزئياً فقط لأسباب تخضع لسيطرة المدرسة. الوالد غير متأكد مما إذا كانوا يرغبون في الاستمرار في WSS بسبب جوانب بيئة التعلم التي تقع تحت سيطرة المدرسة.
0-6	<b>Low score.</b> Parent is a 'Detractor' Parent would not recommend WSS to family/friends. درجة منخفضة. <b>الوالد هو "منتقد"</b> لن يوصي الوالدان بـ WSS للعائلة / الأصدقاء.	Parent/child not comfortable with the WSS learning environment/management/Teachers for reasons within the school's control. School does not respond to queries/issues or solve them where possible. Parent feels that school is not fully committed to improvement & high standards. <b>الوالد / الطفل غير مرتاح</b> لبيئة التعلم / الإدارة / المعلمين الخاصة بـ WSS لأسباب تحت سيطرة المدرسة. لا تستجيب المدرسة للاستفسارات / المشكلات أو تحلها حيثما أمكن ذلك. يشعر ولي الأمر أن المدرسة ليست ملتزمة تماماً بالتحسين والمعايير العالية.

We look forward to your feedback to support achievement of our vision, 'Excellence Through Teamwork; Success for All!'

Thank you, dear parents.

Regards,  
Ms. Valerie Thompson  
WSS Principal/CEO

## What's your child doing during the Summer Vacation?

Many parents are not ready to travel yet; this edition will guide you with some interesting ideas for you and your children to acquire new skills during vacation.

**Programming for Kids:** If your kid is over eight years old, then you can consider basic programming courses for them as it is an essential skill these days. This course can enhance your kid's creativity, computational thinking, and problem-solving skills.

**Drawing classes:** There are numerous drawing courses available online for kids. These courses will be ideal for kids of age five and more. Drawing classes will be fun and no previous skills required.

**Cooking classes for kids:** Virtual cooking classes are available online for kids. These courses include making a shopping list and instructional videos. Initially, children will be introduced to basic cooking and easy recipes.

**Game Designing:** Game design will help your children to think creatively and will help to boost their confidence with complex problems. Children can use free applications like Unity and Unreal Engine on PC/Laptop.

**Audio-Video Editing:** (For age 6 to 15+) Audio Video editing is a skill for demonstrating your other skills and touching mass media with a few simple clicks. Children can use premium software like adobe or free software like Audacity, OpenShot and Lightworks to expand their knowledge.

**Open Culture Free Courses:** Take online courses from the world's top universities for free. Click on the link below; you will find 1,700 free online courses from universities like Yale, MIT, Harvard, Oxford and more. You can use this collection of online courses to learn everything you want—from history, philosophy and literature, to physics, biology, psychology, and computer science.

<https://www.openculture.com/freeonlinecourses>

NOTE: GEMS Education and WSS do not own any website/ tool given in our Newsletter. Our team reviews the online tool/site, and suggest them for students and parents.

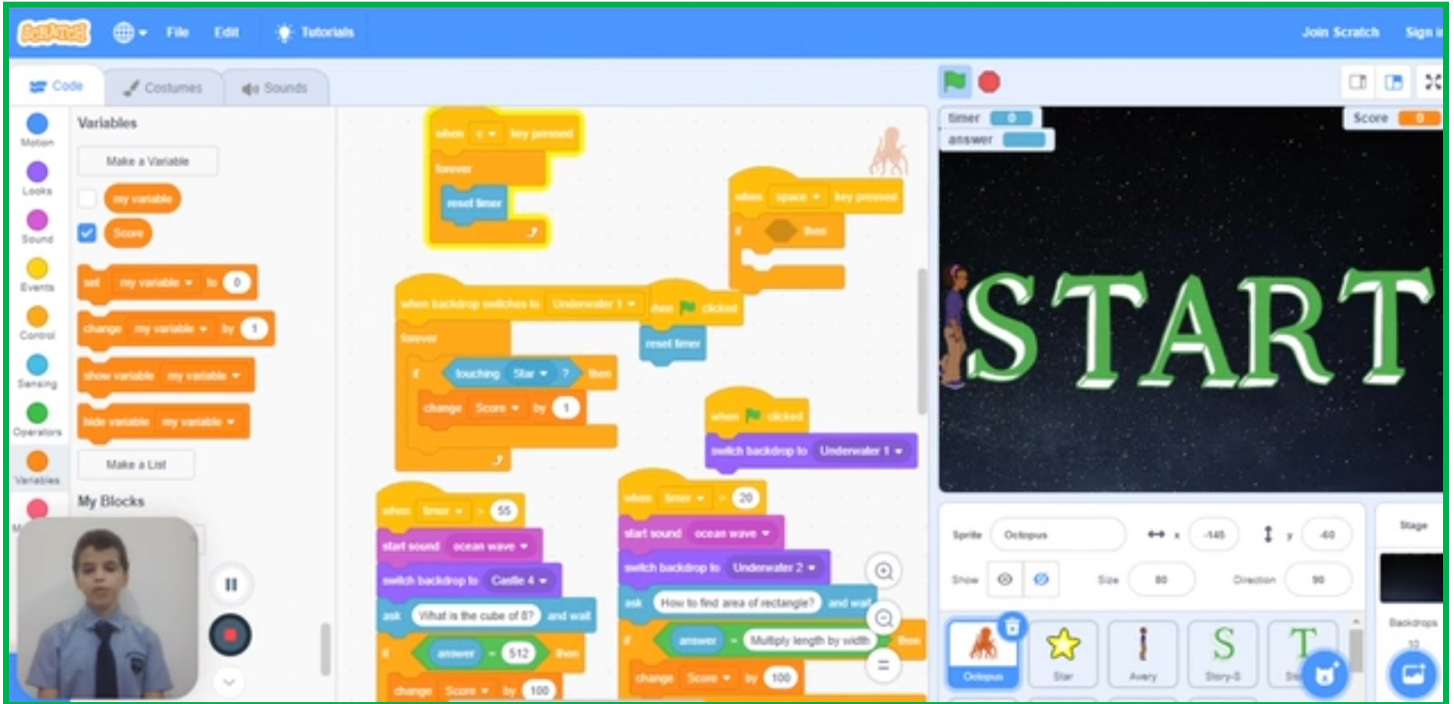


مدرسة جيمس وستمينستر الشارقة  
GEMS Westminster School  
SHARJAH

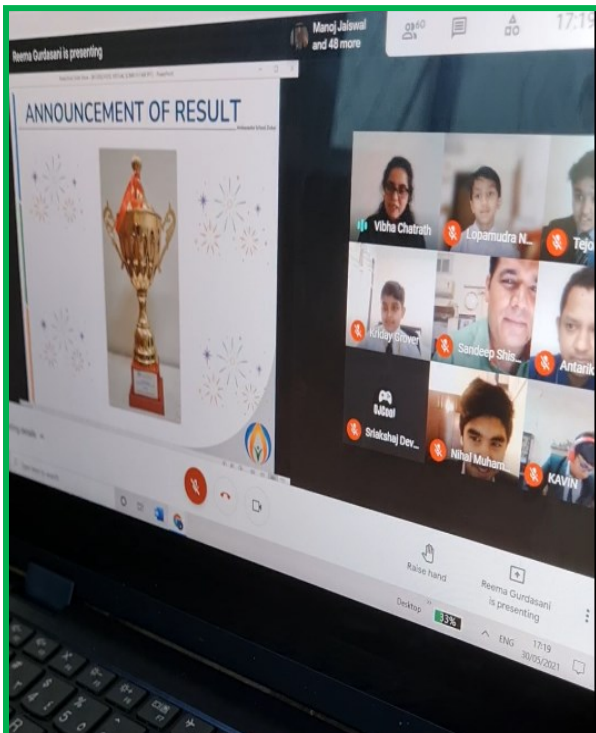


#DigitalResilience #LearnWithWSS

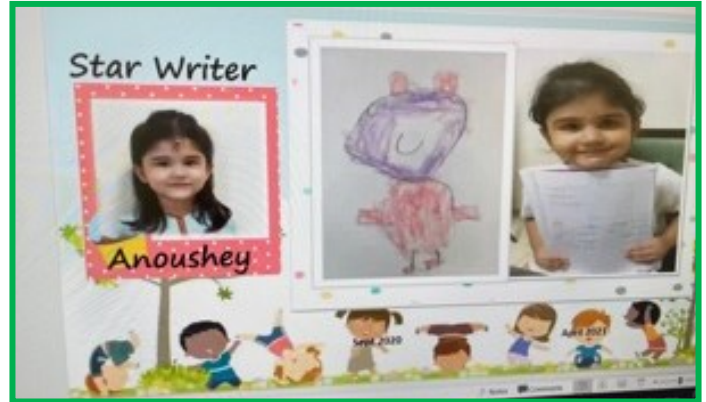
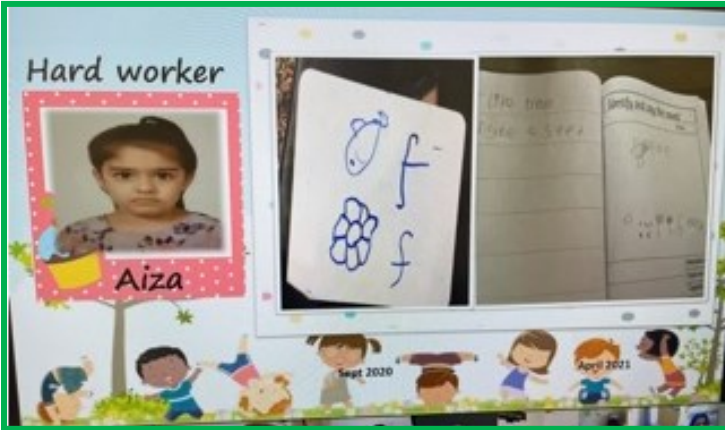
# WSS Superstar Inter-School SciMaths Fest Competition Champion!



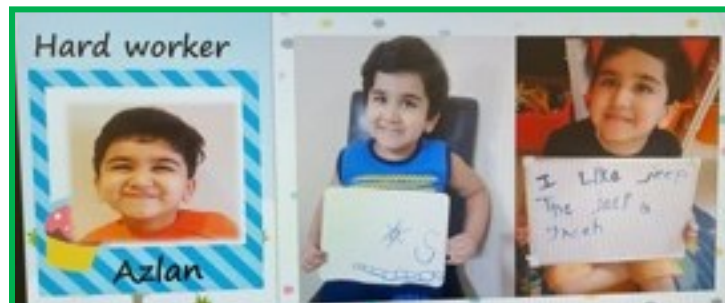
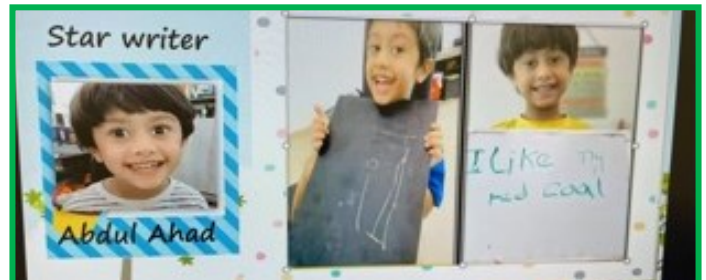
Congratulations to Abdalahim (G4/Y5 D1) who won the first position in a virtual inter-school Sci-Math Fest competition 2021 hosted by Ambassador school. He participated along with other students from Primary Grade 4/Year 5. It was all about creating a Mathcode game with scratch. Special Thanks to Ms. Sasi & team (Ms. Anju, Ms. Vani, Ms. Namita, Ms. Afra) for their guidance and support.



# WSS Junior Superstar Champions: T3 Achievement!



All the students celebrated their amazing progress over the year by looking at & comparing their September & current work. The enthusiasm for learning, parent engagement & visible progress in writing skills were so exciting to see! What great home-school Teamwork!!



## WSS Superstar Champions!

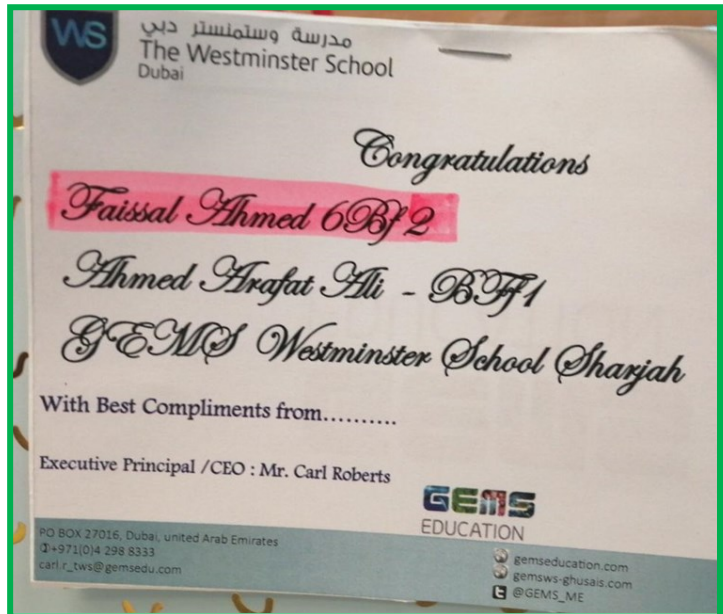
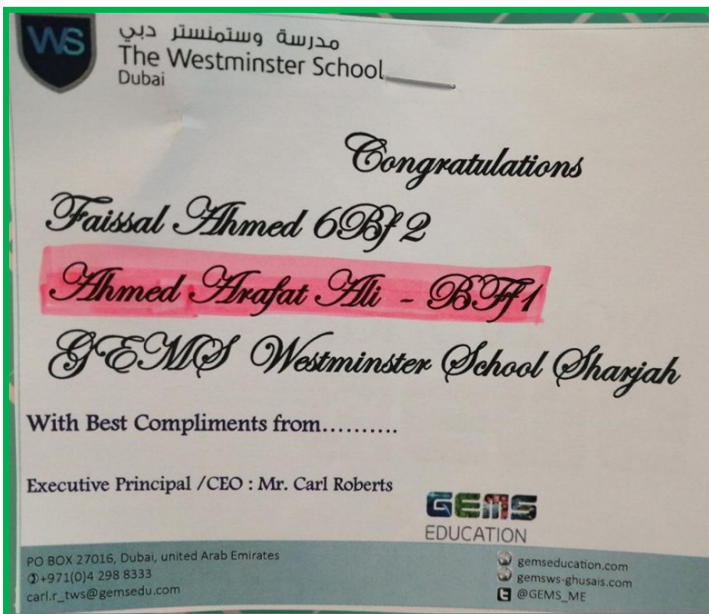


We love to read student appreciation for their teachers! Thank you!

Respected Teacher Anju Kumar

**“Great Teacher Build – Great Leader”**

A great teacher is warm, accessible, enthusiastic and caring. ... Like you



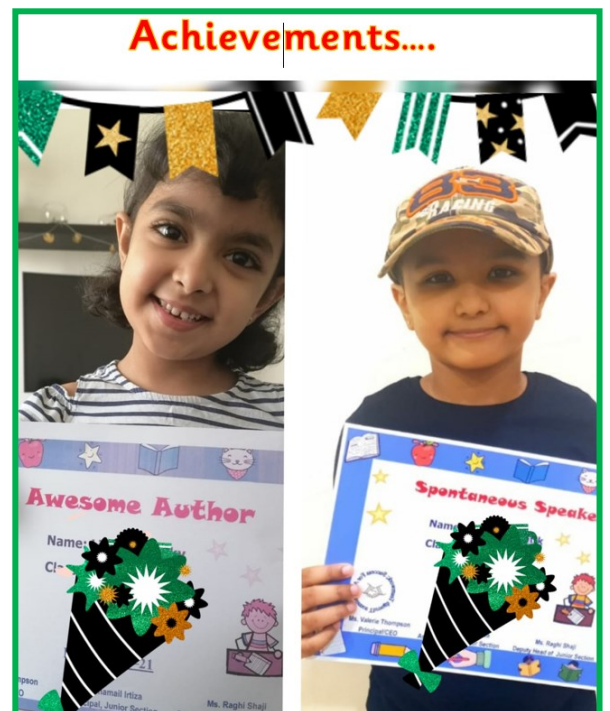
Trophies & certificates received from the Westminster School, Dubai for Faissal & Ahmed's achievement at the TWS inter-school Quran competition. Congratulations!

# WSS Superstar Champions!



At WSS we believe in life-long learning for all. Congratulations to HOD Art & Design Ms. Maha for completing this prestigious course!

This is what Mohd's Mother said about his Character Award, "Thanks so much for your recommendation for Mohamed to get the certificate we are really happy and proud. And really all this because of your wonderful guidance, advice and care we notice the improvements in his character and performance although the on line class but you could perfectly guide the students to achievement of good quality of learning. Thanks to all WSS staff and special thanks to Mrs. Raquel for her wonderful way of teaching and dealing with kids. Thanks and regards."



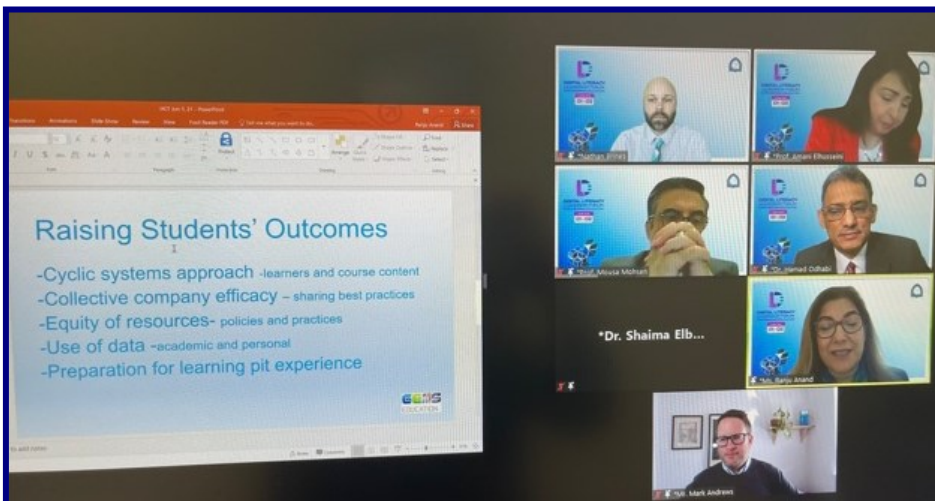
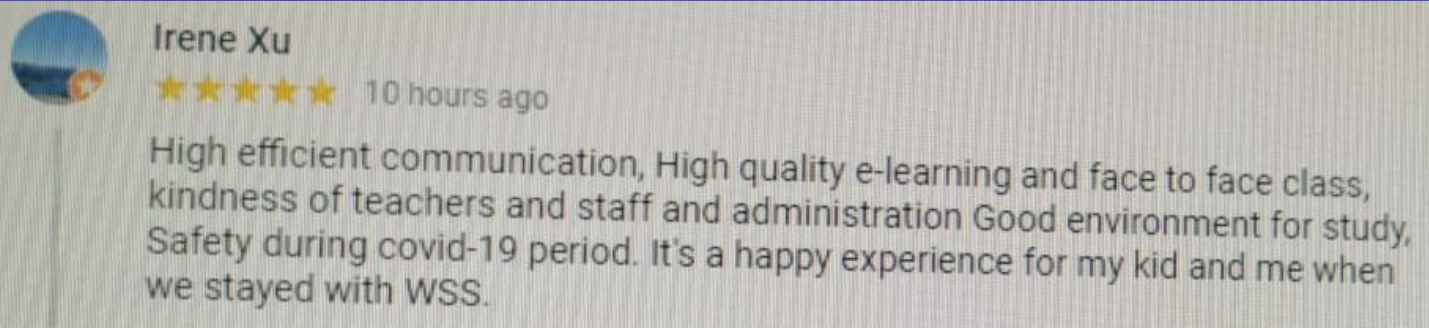
## Whole School News; Positive SPEA Transition Inspection Report!

On 24/5/21, WSS hosted an Authority Inspection Team visit to review how well we have managed Grade-Year Transition, to prepare for a full move to the 'Year' naming system form next Academic Year 2021-2022. We were happy to receive a very positive Inspection Report with the below comments. We would like to thank all students, parents & staff for fully embracing dual-naming & managing the transition so smoothly.

Overall, we were pleased to see that:

1. The environment of the school was very welcoming and impressive.
2. Students and teachers display high levels of motivation.
3. The school was prepared and had the books ready for evaluation.
4. The school is using dual signage of classes and most documentation (Class List, Books' Labels, Timetable, etc.).
5. The school is using the correct books for the curriculum year.
6. Most students were using the accurate terminology.
7. Documentation provided gave a clear curriculum mapping and overview.

Preparing Students  
For Their Future



On 1/6/21, the Principal attended the HCT Webinar, Digital Literacy Forum; Empowering Education. Our Vice President Schools Ms. Ranju Anand was one of the presenters. She spoke about digital mindset, preparing students for their future, changing challenge to opportunity, parent partnerships in student learning, sharing expertise through technology & equity of resources. She also spoke about the importance of the effective use of data to personalize learning & contextualise their learning experience. Teachers now have access to & can apply new & additional tools for assessment & delivery.



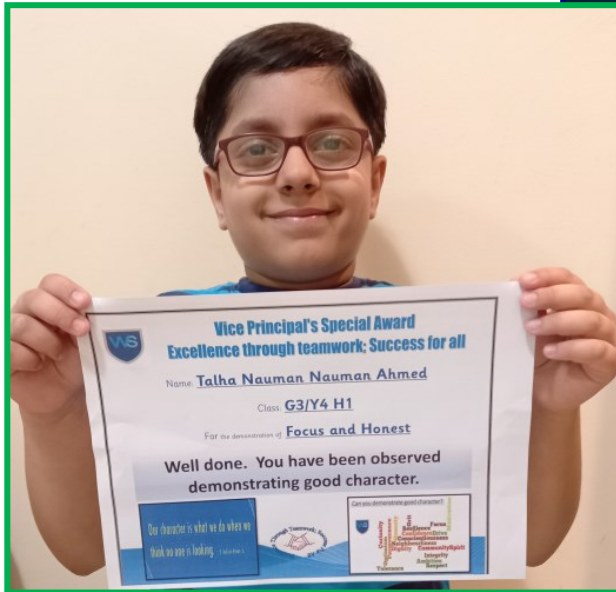
The most important gifts you can give your child are a **quality education** and the **values** that will guide them through life

Sunny Varkey

## Whole School News



## Positive Reviews



Our recycling drive continues. Do please bring in your empty water bottles for recycling. Thank you!



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



# Junior Section News



Moh'd (G1/Y2 D1) participated in the SPEA Story Narration competition with a super clear, confident & cute video. Wish you every success, Moh'd!



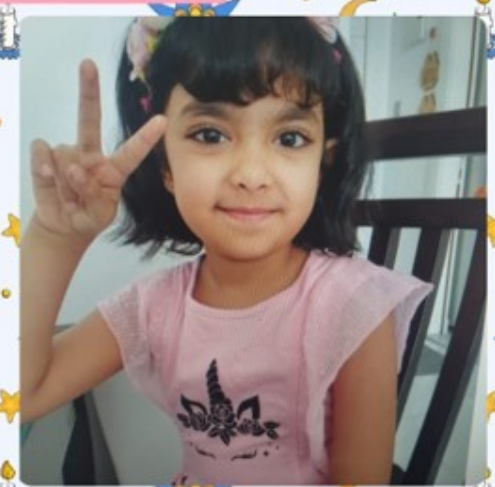
Nabia (G1/Y2 S2) loves her school!

## Joy of celebrating together...Eid Mubarak!! KG2/Y1 D1

With Ms. Beena



Eid Celebration 🎉🌟



*Primary Section News*



*Secondary Section News; Student Wellbeing; Fun Activity!*

**Fun Activity– cardboard box craft/ Plastic reuse**



**Francis G6Y7BH2**



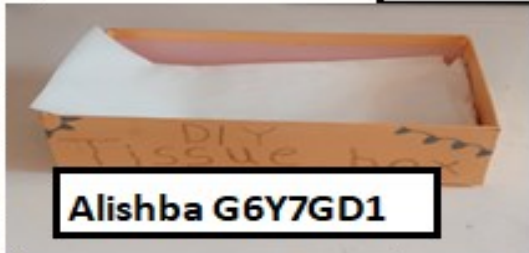
**Dhivith G6Y7BH2**



**Alishba G6Y7GD1**



**Aliza G6Y7GS1**



**Alishba G6Y7GD1**



**Hania G6Y7GD1**



**Francis G6Y7BH2**

**AnushkaG6Y7G**



**Ardra G6Y7GH1**



**Manasa G6Y7GH1**



**Rithara G6Y7GH1**



**Bismah G6Y7GH1**



**Haiqa G6Y7GH1**



**Aliza G6Y7GS1**

# Secondary Section News

**Davin G7Y8BF2**



**Ethan G8Y9BD1**



**Amena G8Y9GF1**



**Mayass G8Y9GH1**



**Ayesha G8Y9GF1**



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