

# GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #16  
12th December, 2024



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

Dear WSS Parents,

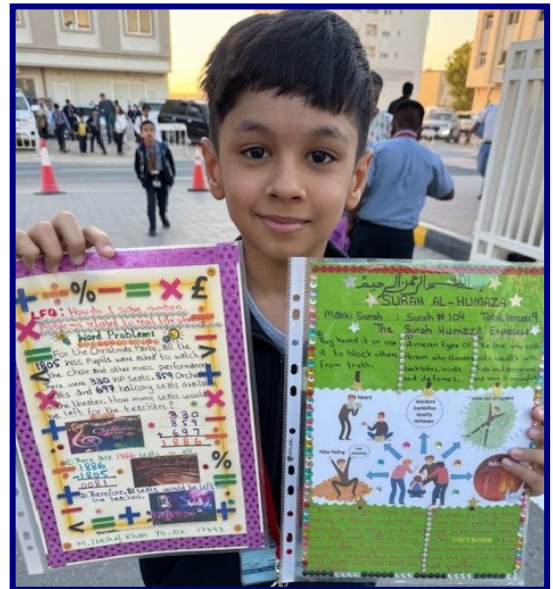
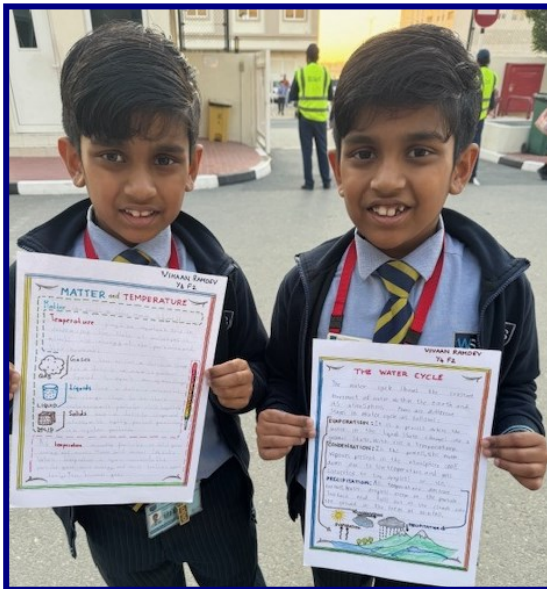
Wishing all the WSS family a very happy, successful, healthy & blessed 2025!

## Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
<b>Open January 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enrollment assessment will start from <b>January 2025</b>, on a 'first-come, first-served' basis. Since seats are very limited, please register early to avoid disappointment if you want new seats.</li> </ul>
<b>Thurs. 12/12/24</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>7:15am-12:30pm Exam Day Timings</b> for full school</li> <li><b>Last Day of T1</b></li> </ul>
<b>Fri. 13/12/24 to Sun. 5/1/25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Winter Break (3-weeks)</b></li> </ul>
<b>Mon. 6/1/25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>First day of T2.</b></li> <li><b>T2 fees due</b> by latest first day of Term, thank you.</li> </ul>
<b>Thurs. 9/1/25</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>3-6:30pm; T1 Report Card Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) (F2F in WSS)</b></li> </ul>
<b>Thurs. 26th June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Last day of compulsory T3 Promotional Exams</b></li> </ul>
<b>Thurs. 3rd July, 2025</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The last official day for students for this academic year.</b></li> </ul>



To our families who celebrate it, a very merry, festive Christmas!



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

# مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 16  
12 ديسمبر 2024



رسالة من  
المديرة / الرئيس التنفيذي  
السيدة فاليري تومسون

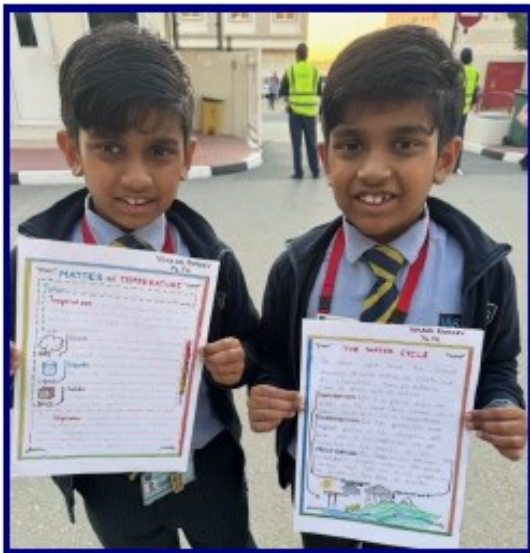
أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر  
الشارقة الأعزاء،

أتمنى لجميع أفراد عائلة WSS عامًا  
سعيدًا وتاجيًا وصحياً ومباركًا في عام  
2025!



## المواعيد

التفاصيل	التاريخ
• سيبدأ تقييم التسجيل اعتبارًا من يناير 2025، على أساس "السيقية الحضور". يناير 2025، على أساس "أولوية الحضور". ونظرًا لأن المقاعد محدودة للغاية، يرجى التسجيل مبكرًا لتجنب خيبة الأمل إذا كنت تريد مقاعد جديدة.	مفتوح يناير 2025
• امتحانات T1 • 7:15 صباحًا - 12:30 ظهرًا مواعيد يوم الامتحان للمدرسة الكاملة • الخميس 12 ديسمبر - آخر يوم في T1	من الأربعاء إلى 27/11/24 الخميس 12/12/24
• العطلة الشتوية (3 أسابيع)	الجمعة إلى 13/12/24 الأحد 5/1/25
• اليوم الأول من T2 • يجب دفع رسوم T2 في موعد أقصاه اليوم الأول من الفصل الدراسي، شكرًا لك.	الاثنين 6/1/25
• 6:30-3 مساءً؛ اجتماع أولياء الأمور والمعلمين لبطاقة تقرير الصف الأول (PTM) وجهًا لوجه في WSS	الخميس 9/1/25
• اليوم الأخير من امتحانات الترقية الإلزامية T3	الخميس 26 يونيو
• آخر يوم رسمي للطلبة لهذا العام الدراسي.	الخميس 3 يوليو



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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# Whole School News; Term 2 Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs)

26/11/24

Dear Parents,

## Subject: WSS Optional Term 2 Extra-Curricular Activity (ECA) Programme

Our term 1 ECA programme was a great success with over 260 students enjoying a range of activities. We are now registering students for our term 2 ECA Programme as it will begin in week 2 due to the holy month of Ramadan starting in March.

We would like to thank you for your support as we make provisions to enhance our students' personal and social development and their innovation skills. Your feedback is vital, and we really appreciate our WSS Family. Term 1 was a huge success, please do forward any feedback and suggestions to your child's form tutor who will share this with our ECA Coordinators.

Details of the ECA activity options are below:

- Day:** Wednesday after school  
**Time:** 2:30pm to 4:15pm  
**Transport:** BBT students will be dropped by bus, OT students can be picked up at 4:15pm  
**Dates:** Term 2: 6 weeks, every Wednesday, starting from 15/01/25 until 19/02/25  
**Cost:** 250 AED per term  
**Registration:** On GEMS Parent Portal then complete <https://forms.office.com/r/3gUnhDVhZ6>  
**Options:** One option each term from:



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>Y2 - Y6</b>	<b>Football</b>	<b>Badminton</b>	<b>Mixed Sports</b>	<b>Theatre</b>	<b>WSS Talks</b>	<b>AI   Coding   Robotics</b>	<b>Smart Art</b>
	6 week football coaching program with games.	6 week badminton coaching program with games.	Mixed sports including cricket, basketball as well as yoga classes.	Activities leading to a performance during the term. <i>(includes, singing, dancing, musical instruments and drama)</i>	PBL task leading to presentations by students. <i>(debates, TedX, MUN, competitions, presentations)</i>	6 week program using a range of educational resources enhance knowledge of AI, Coding and Robotics.	6 week art project to enhance students knowledge and skills.
<b>Y7 - Y13</b>	6 week football coaching program with games.	6 week badminton coaching program with games.	Mixed sports including cricket, basketball as well as yoga classes.	Activities leading to a performance during the term. <i>(includes, singing, dancing, musical instruments and drama)</i>	PBL task leading to presentations by students. <i>(debates, TedX, MUN, competitions, presentations)</i>	6 week program using a range of educational resources enhance knowledge of AI, Coding and Robotics.	6 week art project to enhance students knowledge and skills.

	8	9	10	11
<b>Y7 - Y13</b>	<b>WSS Foodies</b>	<b>WSS Media</b>	<b>Zumba (girls only)</b>	<b>Action Research Project</b>
	Flameless cooking, nutrition support and recipe creations. <i>(max 25 students)</i>	<i>(Y7-13 only)</i> Students develop skills which will support them to create media content. There will be a focus on the planning and design of media campaigns and students will be part of a team that will create content for our school. <i>(max 20 students)</i>	Zumba is a latin inspired, fun, effective dance workout for students of all ages. Each week a different theme will be introduced and the class will for girls only in our Juniors Sports Hall. <i>(max 20 students)</i>	6 week program where students research and review a topic. This includes writing a mini research paper to prep for University. <i>(Y11-13)</i>

	12	13
<b>Y2</b>	<b>Junior Talks</b>	<b>Junior AI</b>
	<i>(Y2 only)</i> Supporting Junior students to build their communication, debating and public speaking skills. This will develop students' confidence as well as critical thinking and problem solving skills. <i>(max 20 students)</i>	<i>(Y2 only)</i> 6 week program using KUBO, VR and ZUMI to introduce students to AI and Robotics. <i>(max 20 students)</i>

## *Whole School News; Term 2 Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs)*



Please complete the payment on the GEMS Parent Portal by 12:30pm on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025. This will allow us to distribute the students into groups for the various activities. Please note students will be allocated groups on day one and requested to continue with their choice to complete the 6-week sessions planned.

- \* Once classes with maximum student numbers are filled, the option will be removed, or we may ask students to choose an alternative.
- \* Only complete the ECA choice link once payment has been made.

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### Key Points:

1. Parents pay on GEMS Parent Portal under “Activities”. (please do not pay in tuition fees).
2. After payment parents can use [this link](https://forms.office.com/r/3gUnhDVhZ6) to enter their child’s student details and ECA Choice: <https://forms.office.com/r/3gUnhDVhZ6> (use child’s eLearning account details to access the form).
3. Students will be allocated activity groups on the first day of ECA Programme.
4. Every Wednesday of the 6-week ECA programme, students will be guided to the Auditorium at the end of the school day.
5. Teachers will come to the auditorium; register and then escort their students to the allocated activity area (maximum 25 students per teacher).
6. Students participating in sports can either wear their P.E kit to school or bring it with them and change at school (younger students are advised to wear their P.E kit and come).
7. Our ECA activities end at 4:15pm. At this point BBT students are taken to the auditorium and make their way to the bus area once they are ready. OT students will be dispersed from the OT areas as usual (please do not come into the auditorium).
8. Please note we expect students to continue with their chosen ECA activity for the 6 weeks as each programme is designed with learning outcomes over this period.
9. Some of the sessions (e.g. Foodies or AI and Robotics etc.) have limited spaces. Once these are filled, we will remove this option on the form.

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‘Excellence Through Teamwork, Success for All’

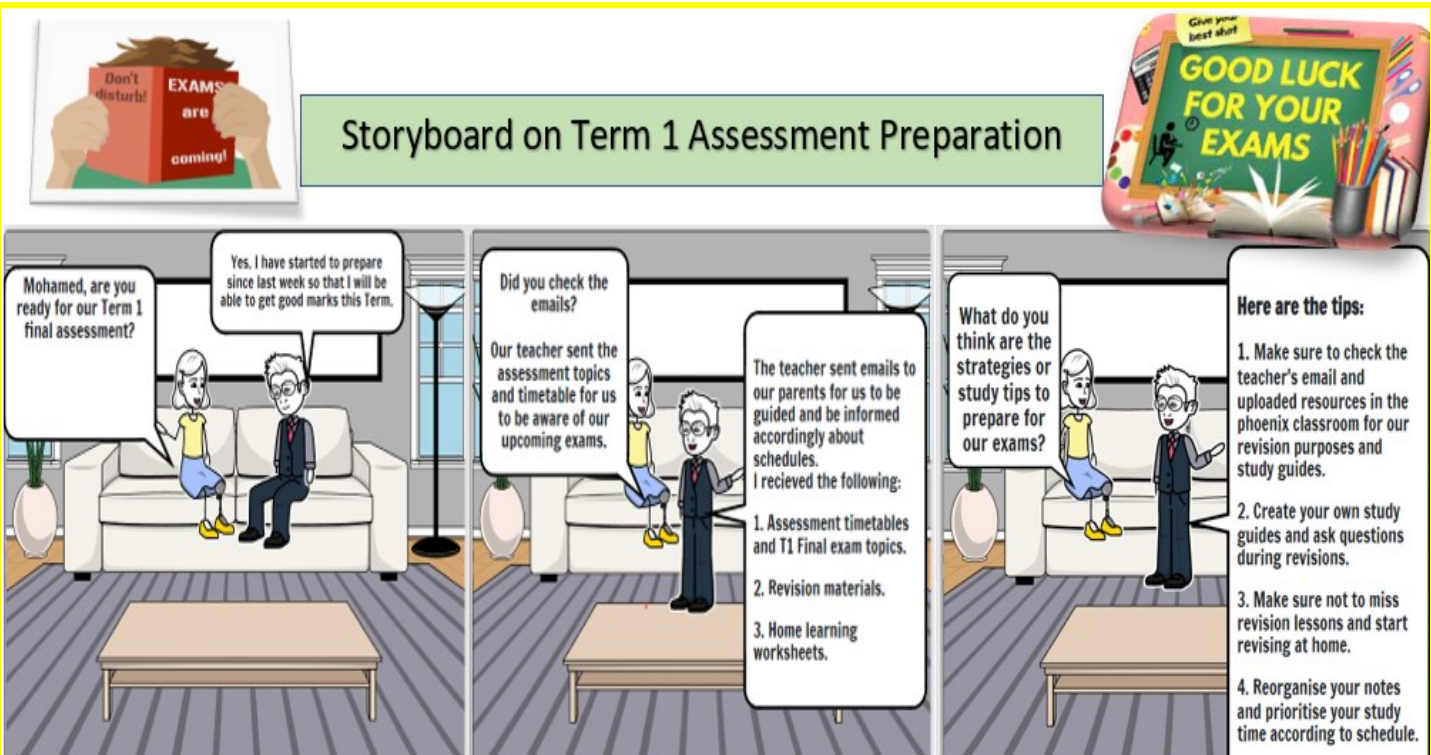
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# Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!

## THE JOY OF GIVING



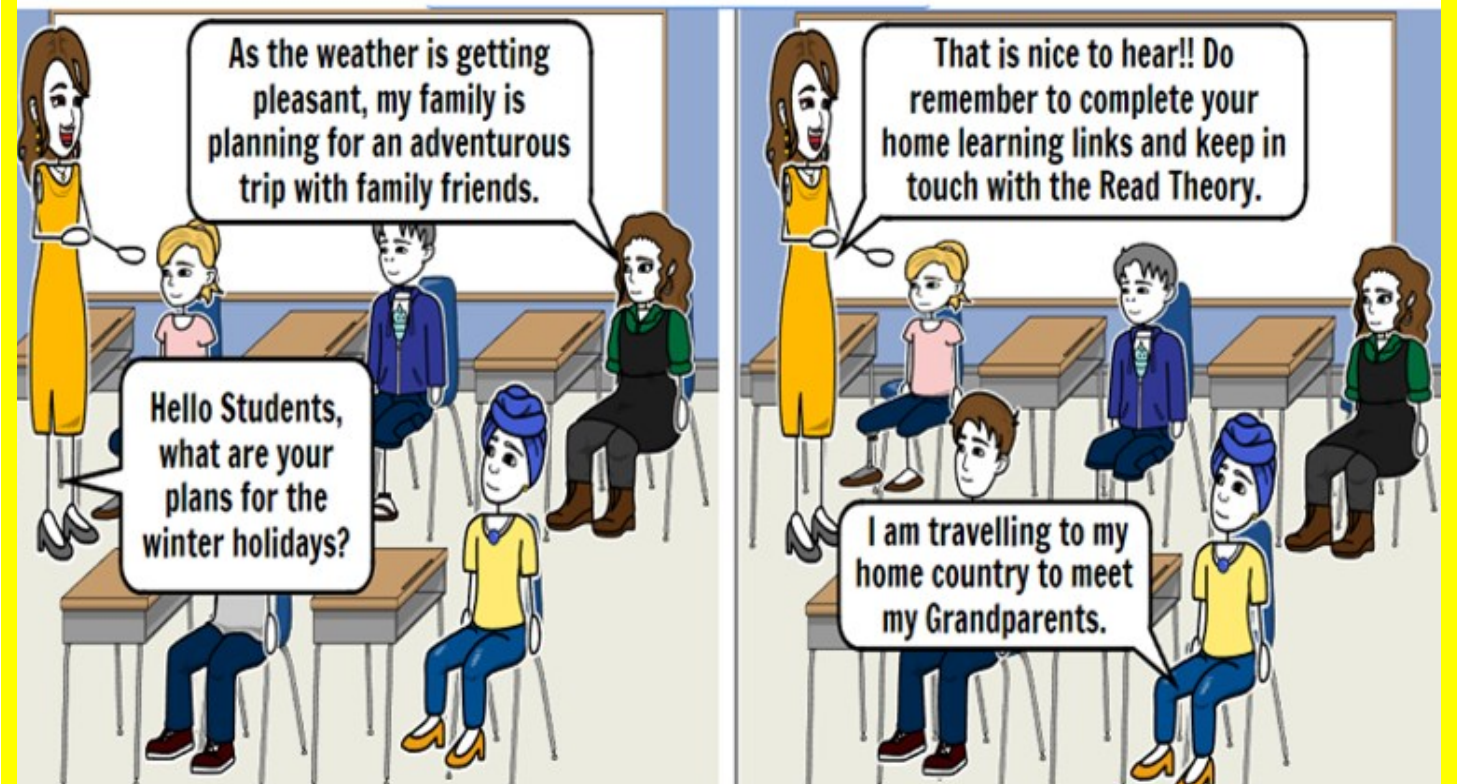
## Storyboard on Term 1 Assessment Preparation



# Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!



# Happy Holidays!!

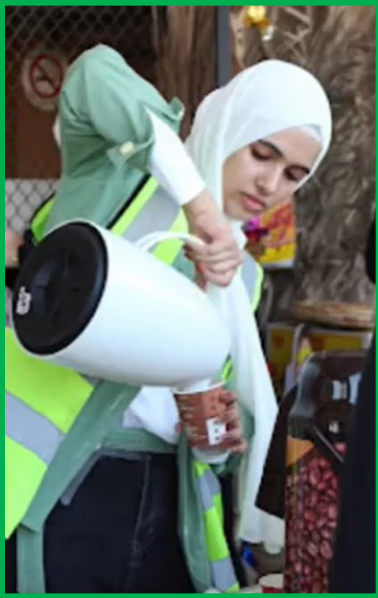


*Whole School News; Celebrating Eid AL Etihad 53, 26/11/24!*



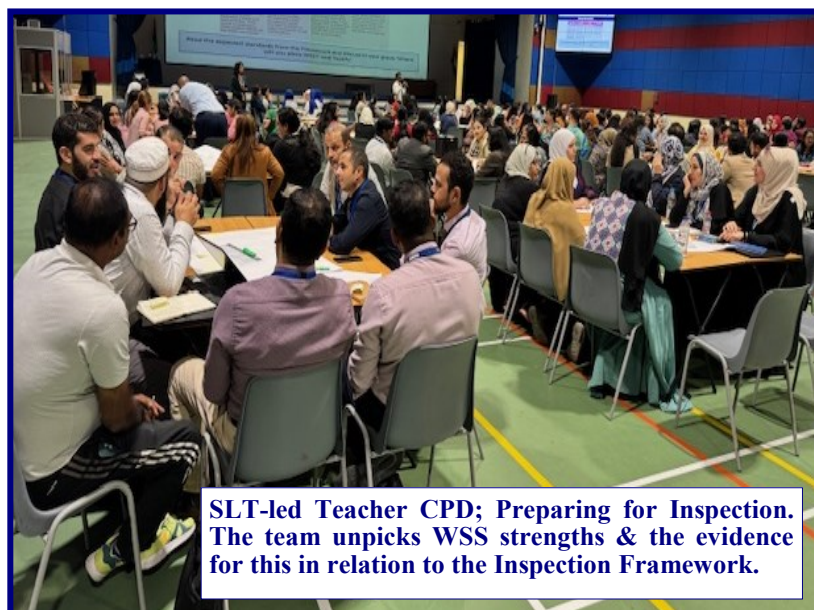


*Whole School News; Celebrating Eid AL Etihad 53, 26/11/24!*



# Whole School News; Staff CPD & Wellbeing!

Staff Wellbeing Event, 28/11/24



SLT-led Teacher CPD; Preparing for Inspection. The team unpicks WSS strengths & the evidence for this in relation to the Inspection Framework.



## *WSS Superstar Super SAM Champions, 29/11/24!*



Many thanks to our dedicated Inclusion Team & Mr. Deepak, who accompanied WSS students to the WSD 'Super SAM' fun event on Friday 29/11/24, over their weekend. Students had a great time engaging in creative & sporting activities.



At the end of this semester, I would like to thank you very much for your unlimited support for our children and providing them with an attractive school environment and wonderful teachers!! 🧡 😊 🙏

# WSS Superstar T1 Champions!



Term 1 Superstar Awards for going 'Above & Beyond!'



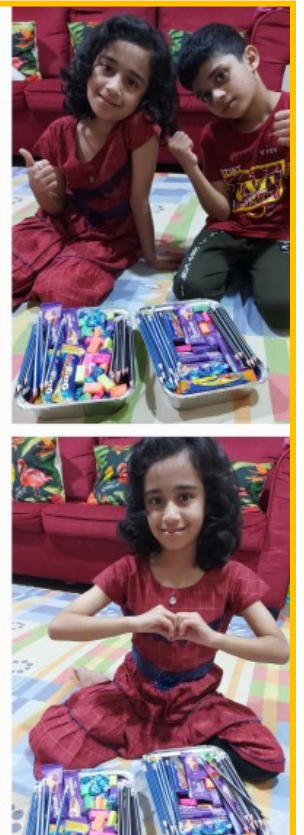
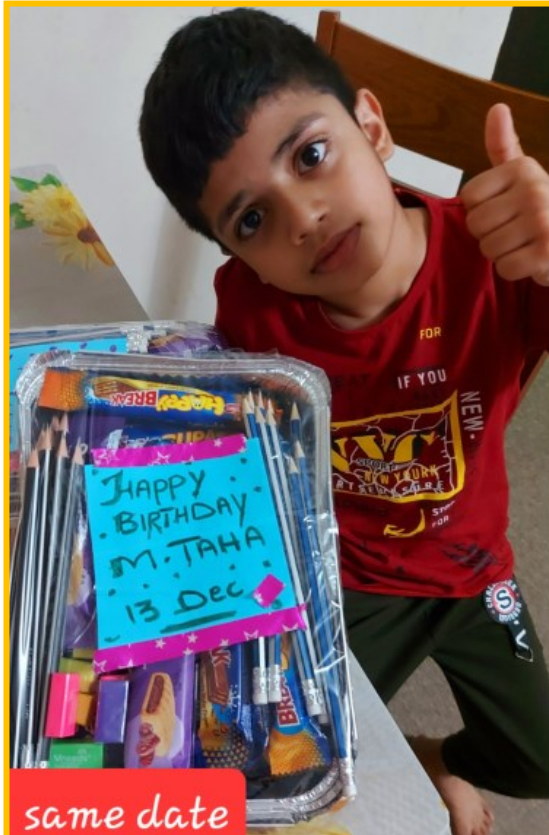
# WSS Superstar Yalla Schools Amazing Teacher Award Champions!



Congratulations to HOD English Ms. Ayesha Aslam, Ms. Maha Abdallah & Junior Teacher Ms. Kishwar for being awarded an 'Amazing Teacher Award' at the Yalla Schools Amazing Teacher Award ceremony on 6/12/24. We Are proud of our teaching superstars for ongoing contribution to WSS students' success!



# Happy Birthdays!



## WSS Junior Section Term 1 Superstar Champions!



Dear Miss Ringamphi,  
Greetings!

First of all I would like to say Heartiest Congratulations to Miss Valerie and all WSS team for completing first term successfully. 🌸

We appreciate all the hard work you do every day. The work that is seen and the work that is less apparent. We couldn't have asked for a better mentor.

The impact you have had on Kashaf is immeasurable. You have imparted so much more than knowledge you made her enthusiastic about learning. Your wisdom has been an inspiration to her and to us.

Thank you for always holding her to the highest standard she could achieve. Teachers are irreplaceable heroes. ❤️

Thank you so much to all WSS teachers and management team for all your hard work for this term! May you all rock and shine always! 🌟

Wishing all of you joyful holidays! 😊

Regards,  
Sadia Farhan

## WSS Junior Section Term 1 Superstar Champions!

Dear Ma'am,

I hope you are all doing well. As my son, Muhammad Ibrahim Ali(Y1H2), ID-34843, prepares for his last day at GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL this Thursday, December 12, 2024, I wanted to take a moment to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart for everything you've done for him and for us during this time.

A big thank you to Ms. Kishwar, his class teacher, for your dedication and kindness. You have been such a positive influence on him, and I truly appreciate the love and care you've shown. Ms. Mani, thank you for all the support you've given. You have both made his learning experience so special, and I couldn't have asked for better teachers for him.

To Ms. Shamail, I want to thank you for the lovely, encouraging stickers that my son loved so much! They always put a big smile on his face. I also want to say how much I enjoyed the activities you organized for the kids and parents it brought us closer and made his school journey so much fun.

A special thanks to Ms. Valerie, the principal, and the entire school management for creating such a warm and welcoming environment. Your efforts have made the school a second home for my son, and we've always felt that he was in safe and caring hands.

It's hard to say goodbye, but we will always cherish the wonderful memories from this school. From the amazing teachers to the friendly staff and his sweet classmates, everything about GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH will always hold a special place in our hearts.

Thank you all once again for everything. Your hard work, love, and care mean the world to us.

Warm regards,  
Aliza Rizwan.



**Term 1 Superstar Awards for going  
'Above & Beyond!'**





## *Junior Section News*



Thank you Naimal (FS2H1) for sharing your cute videos. We love to see your developing confidence, communication skills & character.

We have reached the last day of an incredibly busy, learning-rich T1. Happy holidays!



# Junior Section News; FS2D1 Learning Activities!



# Junior Section News; Y1D Learning Activities!

## Y1D1 with Ms. Beena and Ms. Rahna

### Science lesson



### Learning about subtraction



### Y1 D1 @ free play center



### Arabic home learning



## Y1 D2 with Ms. Sadiqa and Ms. Noora



# Junior Section News; Y1F Learning Activities!

## Y1F1 with Ms. Aisha and Ms. Jamila



## Y1F2 with Ms. Aneeza and Ms. Anju



# Junior Section News; Y1H Learning Activities!

## Y1H1 with Ms Aafrein .

Nature was our classroom today.

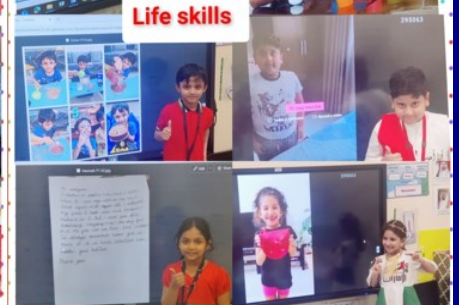


Learning beyond the four walls.



In this classroom every voice matters and every idea counts!

## Y1H2 with Ms. Kishwar and Ms. Mani



# Junior Section News; Y1S Learning Activities!

## Y1S1 with Ms. Mariam and Ms. Nadia.



## Y1S2 with Ms. Rajina and Ms. Foumy



# Junior Section News; Y2D Learning Activities!



## MS Millicent and MS Tahira Y2D2



# Junior Section News; Y2H1 Learning Activities!

## Junior Section: Y2 H1 Learning Activities!



Story Writing!



Story writing!



Miss Jinitra

Miss Maryam



Music Class



Hooray! Percy is coming home!

Congratulations for Percy and Bill



Hooray! Bill is coming home!



Superstar of the week



Wellbeing of the week



Revision Time



Energy conservation



# *Junior Section News; Y2H1 Learning Activities!*

## Juniors Section News; Y2H1 Celebrations!

Miss Jinitra

Miss Maryam



Thanks to SLT for the Pizza Party



Happy Birthday Abdullah & Sila



*Junior Section News; Y2S1 Learning Activities!*

**Y2S1 With Ms. Sara & Ms. Fiza**



**ICT Lesson**



**PE Lesson**



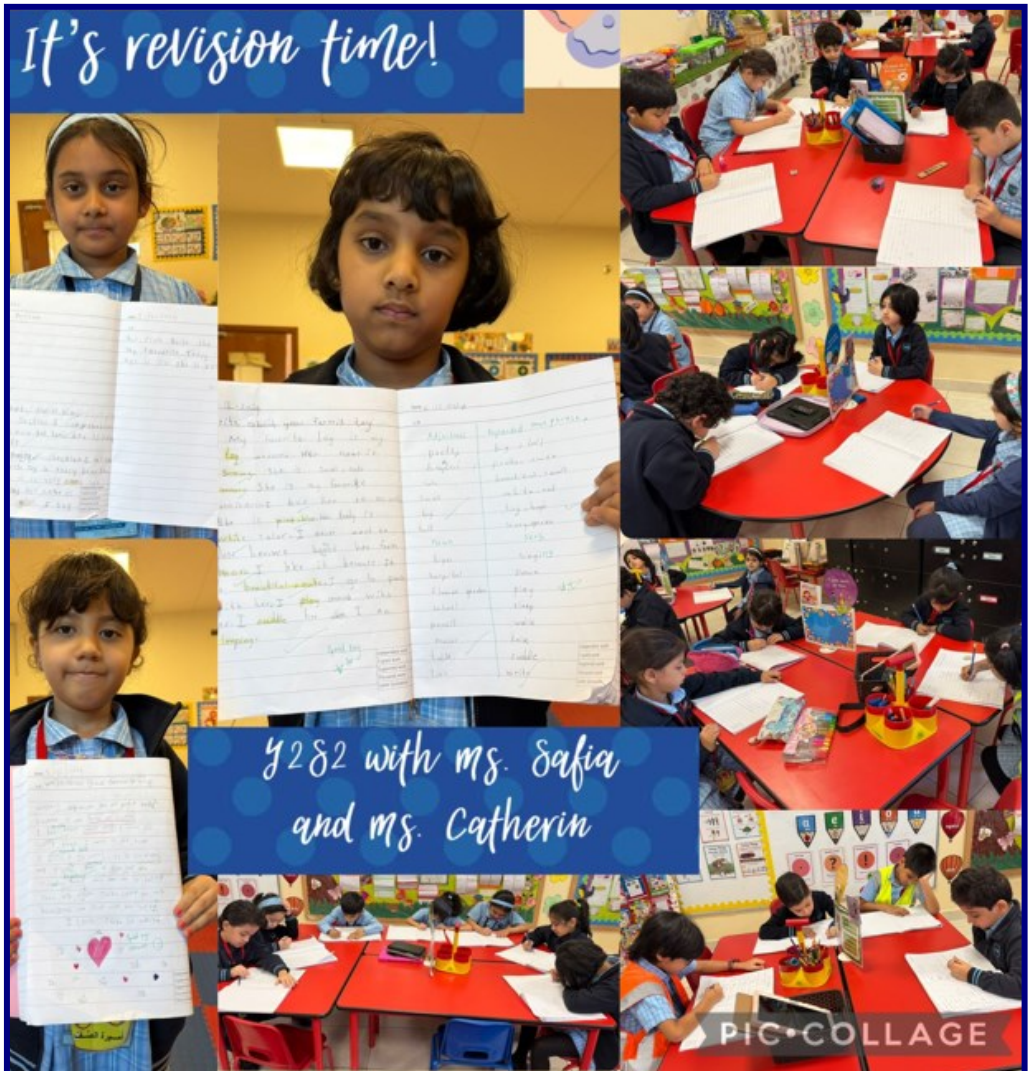
**Congratulations**



**Marbles in the jar**



# Junior Section News; Y2S1 Learning Activities!



# WSS Primary Section Badminton Superstar Champion!



Congratulations to Badminton superstar Olisha Grizzelle Herath (Y4H2), whose resilience & hard work pursuing excellence in Badminton is paying off in championship trophies!

Olisha is playing in UAE badminton ranking tournaments & is currently ranked 1st (Champion) under 9s and ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the under 11s girls' category. In her recent tournament (November) held in Abu Dhabi, she was winner of the under 9s and runner up in the under 11s. Her potential and passion for badminton are admirable & we are proud of her positive mindset & resilience!



## WSS Primary Section Term 1 Superstar Champions!



**Congratulations to Muhammad Taha Ali Yasin (Y3S1) who participated in the 12th International Abacus Competition - Brainobrainfest, 2024, held in Dubai.**



**Term 1 Superstar Awards for going 'Above & Beyond!'**

## WSS Primary Section Term 1 Superstar Champions!



Term 1 Superstar Awards for going 'Above & Beyond!'



"*Selim won the Gold Medal in West Asia Karate federation WAKF championship for individual kata season 2024.*" Y6 BS

# SCIENCE EXPERIMENT

VIHAAN & VIVAAN



Thank you to Vihaan & Vivaan (Y4F2) for sharing their exciting & interesting science experiment video on inflating a balloon without breathing into it!



We have reached the last day of an incredibly busy, learning-rich T1. Happy holidays!



:) Thanks Nabia for sharing your enthusiastic song video. We have enjoyed all your Term 1 contributions to the Newsletter & your learning. Huge thanks to Mum for all the behind-the-scenes support & valuable contribution .

*WSS Secondary Section Term 1 Superstar Champions!*



Term 1 Superstar Awards for going 'Above & Beyond!'





# Secondary Section News; Attendance & Punctuality On Report Programme; for Character & Life Skills Development!



مدرسة جيمس ويستمنستر الشارقة  
GEMS Westminster School  
SHARJAH

11/12/24

Dear Parents/Guardians,

## **Subject: Student Success; Leave, Attendance and Punctuality**

As a school, we believe that character development & life skills are the cornerstone of a student's success, both now in school & beyond into their future career. Accountability, responsibility, self-discipline, smart time management & punctuality are some of the critical life skills that lead to future success & are reinforced in school.

To support our students to develop these critical life skills, in the coming Terms we are **prioritizing punctuality & attendance at school**. Not only does coming to school late or taking invalid absences result in disrupted learning, but it also teaches poor character traits.

From January 2025 we will be implementing a '**Punctuality & Attendance On Report**' policy that will align with our existing Behaviour Policy.

## **😊 Expectations of School Attendance and Punctuality**

1. **Regular Attendance:** Students are expected to attend school regularly unless they have an approved, valid excuse (e.g., medical certificate, bereavement, Hajj/Umrah, or an authority appointment).
2. **Class Attendance:** Students must attend all scheduled lessons on time, without exception.
3. **Punctuality:** Students should arrive at school no later than 7:15 AM.
4. **Early Exits:** taking Early Exit disrupts learning & should be avoided unless in an emergency

## **Criteria for being put on 'Attendance and Punctuality On Report'**

- **Attendance below the threshold of 95%** (without valid reasons).
- **Frequent Lateness:** A student is late three or more times in two consecutive weeks.
- **Unexplained Absences:** Accumulates two or more days of unexplained absences in a month.
- **Frequent Early Exits;** More than two per Term.

## **'On Report' Programme Guidelines**

Students placed on the "**Attendance and Punctuality On Report**" programme are required to adhere to the following:

- Visit the Success Center at the start of each Break for a check and signature (non-compliance may result in the loss of privileges (e.g., PE or team practice) or break detention).
- Maintain and complete the "**Attendance and Punctuality On Report**" form during each lesson.
- Parents must sign the '**Attendance and Punctuality On Report**' form daily.

## *Secondary Section News; Attendance & Punctuality On Report Programme; for Character & Life Skills Development!*

- Show the 'Attendance and Punctuality On Report' form to the Section Leadership/as designated Team each morning.

Getting to school on time takes teamwork; we kindly request your support in reinforcing these expectations at home. Together, we can help our students learn from their mistakes, take responsibility for their actions, and grow into better versions of themselves.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Warm regards,

WSS Management

### *WSS Secondary Section Term 1 Superstar Champions!*



Term 1 Superstar Awards for going 'Above & Beyond!'

# KS4 UAE SPIRIT MONTH

## CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS BY THE KS4 STUDENTS



## UAE SPIRIT

During Spirit Month, the UAE showcases its best colors, Red, green, black, and white, and is at its finest. From the shimmering deserts to the remarkable highlands, this country knows how to rejoice the capabilities of its motherland. People's visions are full of spirit but yet to remain calm as within every individual lies a beautiful spot. It's the story of power and determination that has been embroidered throughout the fabric of unity and belongingness. What our forefathers dreamed of is no longer a vision but a reality imprinted within the graphics of this land. From the large metropolitan areas to the lovely, pleasant beaches, the UAE has the vision of its forefathers. Hand in hand together we shall prosper because the bond we have nourished resonates with passion for this nation. Showing loyalty, courage and strength, it is all about the UAE.

Made by: Hamid Abbas



Winners of Debate competition and Elocution competition