

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #17
9th January, 2025



Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,
Welcome back to Term 2.
Wishing you & your family every success, happiness & health this new year!

Updated School Day Timings

Please see p4 for our slightly updated school day timings. We are trialing this arrangement to see if a slightly earlier exit helps us to avoid some of the traffic congestion in our school area at home time. Please note that **lesson timings have not been reduced.**

Bus Departure at Home Time

Please remind your Bus children to report to the bus promptly at home time. We have to exit the school premises promptly to avoid long delays stuck in traffic congestion, so we will close the bus gates on time. It is a disciplinary issue to delay bus departure by late reporting to the bus, & will result in a missed bus & parent pick-up. Thank you.

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Mon. 6/1/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrollment assessment starting on a 'first-come, first-served' basis. Since seats are very limited, please register early to avoid disappointment if you want new seats. First day of T2.T2 fees due by latest first day of Term, thank you.
Thurs. 9/1/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-6:30pm; T1 Report Card Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) (F2F in WSS) Report Cards & PTM are always available subject to the child being Registered/Re-Linked on Daleel 2 & no pending fees for that Term.
Thurs. 26th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Last day of compulsory T3 Promotional Exams
Thurs. 3rd July, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The last official day for students for this academic year.



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

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 17
9 يناير 2025



رسالة من المديرة / الرئيس التنفيذي
السيدة فاليري تومسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر
الشارقة الأعزاء،

مرحبًا بكم مجددًا في الفصل الدراسي
الثاني.
نتمنى لكم ولأسرتكم كل النجاح والسعادة
والصحة في هذا العام الجديد!

تم تحديث مواعيد اليوم الدراسي

يرجى الاطلاع على الصفحة 4 لمعرفة
مواعيد اليوم الدراسي المحدثة قليلًا. نحن نختبر هذا الترتيب لمعرفة ما
إذا كان الخروج المبكر قليلًا يساعدنا في تجنب بعض الازدحام المروري
في منطقة مدرستنا أثناء وقت العودة إلى المنزل. يرجى ملاحظة أن
أوقات الدروس لم يتم تقليصها.

مغادرة الحافلة في وقت العودة إلى المنزل

يرجى تذكير الطلاب الذين يستخدمون الحافلة بضرورة التوجه إليها على
الفور وقت الانصراف. يجب علينا مغادرة المدرسة في الوقت المحدد
لتجنب التأخير الناتج عن ازدحام المرور. سيتم إغلاق بوابات الحافلة في
الموعد المحدد. بعد التأخير في التوجه للحافلة مخالفة تؤدي إلى فوات
الحافلة، مما يترتب عليه ضرورة حضور أولياء الأمور لاستلام أبنائهم.
شكرًا لتعاونكم.

المواعيد

التفاصيل	التاريخ
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> يبدأ تقييم التسجيل على أساس "أسبقية الحضور". نظرًا لأن المقاعد محدودة للغاية، يرجى التسجيل مبكرًا لتجنب خيبة الأمل إذا كنت تريد مقاعد جديدة. اليوم الأول من الفصل الدراسي الثاني. يجب دفع رسوم الفصل الدراسي الثاني في موعد أقصاه اليوم الأول من الفصل الدراسي، شكرًا لك. 	اللاثين 6/1/25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3:30-6:30 مساءً؛ اجتماع أولياء الأمور والمعلمين (PTM) (وجهاً لوجه في WSS) تتوفر بطاقات التقارير وبرنامج PTM بشرط تسجيل الطفل/إعادة ربط الطالب على منصة دليل 2 	الخميس 9/1/25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> اليوم الأخير من امتحانات الترقية الإلزامية لنصف الثالث الثانوي 	الخميس 26 يونيو
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> آخر يوم رسمي للطلبة لهذا العام الدراسي. 	الخميس 3 يوليو 2025



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; Updated School Day Timings!

	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday	
	start	end	start	end	start	end	start	end
R	7:15	7:25	7:15	7:25	7:15	7:25	7:15	7:25
1	7:25	8:10	7:25	8:10	7:25	8:10	7:25	8:10
2	8:10	8:55	8:10	8:55	8:10	8:55	8:10	8:55
3	8:55	9:40	8:55	9:40	8:55	9:40	8:55	9:40
Break	9:40	10:00	9:40	10:00	9:40	10:00	9:40	10:00
4	10:00	10:45	10:00	10:45	10:00	10:45	10:00	10:45
5	10:45	11:30	10:45	11:30	10:45	11:30	10:45	11:30
6	11:30	12:15	11:30	12:15	11:30	12:15	11:30	12:15
Break	12:15	12:35	12:15	12:35	12:15	12:35	12:15	12:35
7	12:35	13:20	12:35	13:20	12:35	13:20	12:35	13:20
8	13:20	14:05	13:20	14:05	13:20	14:05	13:20	14:05
9								

Please note the slightly earlier (10 minutes) exit time for OT students. This is being trialed to see if a slightly earlier exit helps us to avoid some of the traffic congestion in our area of the school zone at home time. We will monitor & review as required. Thank you for your support.

Whole School News; FAB Credit Card Fee Payments!

GEMS Co-branded Credit Card

Made especially for GEMS Families

Advance Tuition Fee Discount Scheme on GEMS Credit Card - Academic Year 2024-2025

Fee cycle	Payment due date	Payment Period	Fixed rate %	No. of months fees in advance
Term 1 Sep' 24 to Dec 24	On or before 31 st August 2024	Full year fees	4.25%	10 months
	On or before 31 st August 2024	1 st and 2 nd term fees	3.00%	7 months
	On or before 31 st August 2024	1 st term fees	1.50%	4 months
Term 2 Jan' 25 to Mar' 25	On or before 31 st December 2024	2 nd and 3 rd term fees	2.50%	6 months
	On or before 31 st December 2024	2 nd term fees	1.25%	3 months
Term 3 Apr' 25 to Jun' 25	On or before 31 st March 2025	3 rd term fees	1.25%	3 months

Whole School News; T2 ECS Programme!



GEMS Westminster School
SHARJAH

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 4:00pm**
- Transport: **BBT students will be dropped by bus, OT students can be picked up at 4:00pm**
- 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
Y2 - Y6	Football 6 week football coaching program with games.	Badminton 6 week badminton coaching program with games.	Mixed Sports Mixed sports including cricket, basketball as well as yoga classes.	Theatre Activities leading to a performance during the term. <i>(includes, singing, dancing, musical instruments and drama)</i>	WSS Talks PBL task leading to presentations by students. <i>(debates, TedX, MUN, competitions, presentations)</i>	AI Coding Robotics 6 week program using a range of educational resources enhance knowledge of AI, Coding and Robotics.	Smart Art 6 week art project to enhance students knowledge and skills.
Y7 - Y13	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
Y7 - Y13	WSS Foodies Flameless cooking, nutrition support and recipe creations. <i>(max 25 students)</i>	WSS Media <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 (girls only) 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>	Action Research Project 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
Y2	Junior Talks <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>	Junior AI <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; T2 ECS Programme!



Please complete the payment on the GEMS Parent Portal by **12:30pm on Wednesday 15th 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.

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 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 4:00pm. 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.

‘Excellence Through Teamwork, Success for All’

Whole School News; Staff CPD!



SPEA School Improvement Advisor Ms. Lynn's Hub Leader Meeting at WSS on 7/1/25, was attended by Ms. Valerie, Mr. Darren (SES Principal & WSS LAB Chair) & Mr. Ahmed (Al Ansar). The Agenda included the Beacon School initiative CPD programme for Term 2, developing literacy across the curriculum & the next SPEA Principals' Conference, planned

WSS Superstar Champions!

Dear Ms Israa

Greetings

Many thanks for all your support and efforts, and we are very appreciated regarding Tamara skills improvement, we are feel about your work with Tamara and how she loved Arabic more now, and we are very happy for certificate

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the exceptional leadership and management demonstrated by you and your team. Especially your medical team.

The professionalism, dedication, and commitment of your staff have not gone unnoticed. Their efforts create a supportive and productive environment that greatly benefits both students and parents alike. It is evident that their effectiveness stems from the strong guidance and vision you provide as the principal.











By visiting school everyday i have realised how responsible,devoted and protective environment my childrens are having, it,s a very big blessing for us as a parent.

Thank you once again for fostering such a positive and well-organized atmosphere. Your efforts are truly appreciated, and I am grateful for all you do to ensure the success of the school and safety of our childrens.

Warm regards,

Kiran riaz.

WSS Superstar Champions; Staff of Term 1 Awardees!

	Staff Awards; WSS Staff Stars of Term 1	Term 1: September – December 2024
		
Ms. Jinitra Rajesh	Ms. Fozia Talha	Ms. Kholoud Hamayel
Teacher of the Term Junior	Teacher Assistant of the Term Junior	Teacher of the Term Primary
		
Ms. Miada Beila	Ms. Jini Ouseph	Ms. Daisy Mathew
Teacher of the Term Primary	Teacher of the Term Secondary	Teacher of the Term Secondary
		
Ms. Meenu Thomas	Ms. Geethu Mary Paulose	Ms. Jacqueline Ragonian
Admin. Staff Award of the Term	Admin. Staff Award of the Term	Support Staff of the Term

Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!

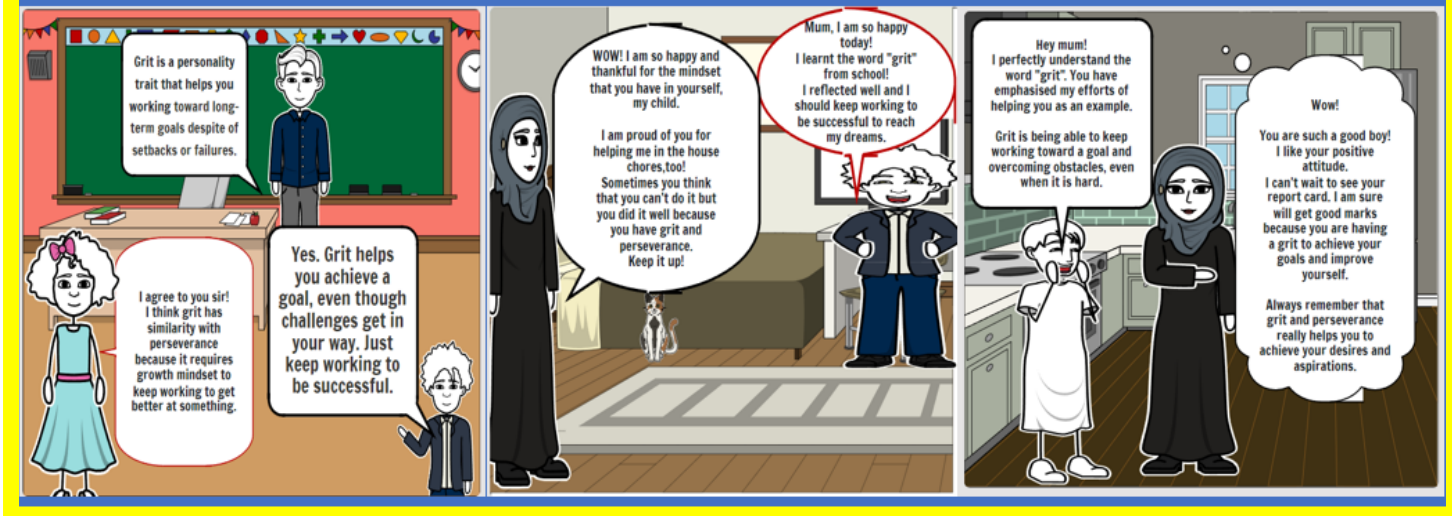


Happy Birthdays!

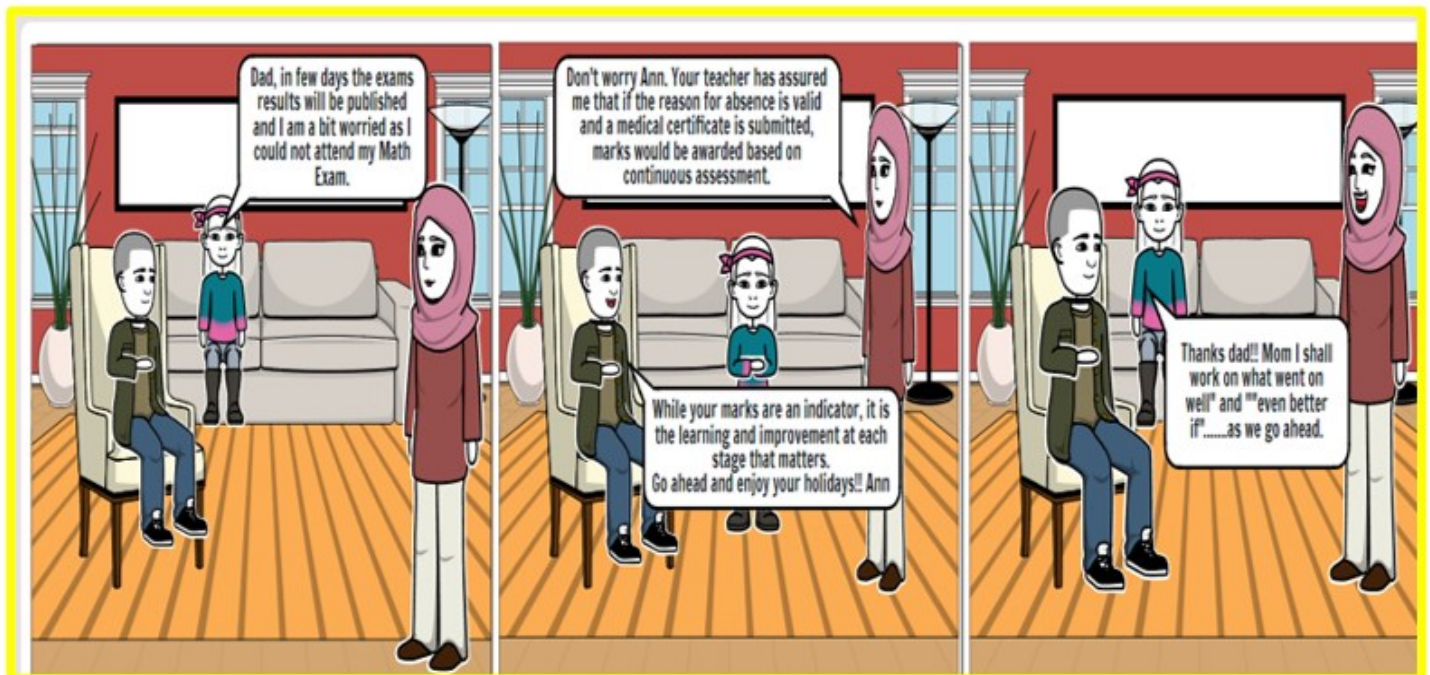


Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!

Grit and perseverance storyboard



CELEBRATING SUCCESS!!



WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!

Dear Ms Israa

Greetings

Many thanks for all your support and efforts, and we are very appreciated regarding Tamara skills improvement, we are feel about your work with Tamara and how she loved Arabic more now, and we are very happy for certificate

Again many thanks and hope happy winter break

Best regards

Hi Ms.Sidra and Ms.Soumya,
Greetings.

Hope this message finds you well.

I want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for the incredible care and support you've provided to our daughter, Nivika Medhaswi, as she transitions into FS1. Your dedication and commitment have had a profound impact on her early school experience.

We are thrilled to see how excited she is to attend school each day. Her communication skills, confidence, and overall comfort have improved remarkably, and it's clear how much she enjoys being part of your classroom. The positive and nurturing environment you've created has made all the difference, and Nivika truly adores you.

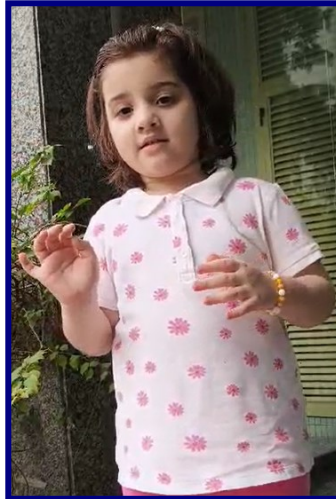
It has been so rewarding to watch her settle into FS1 so seamlessly under your guidance. Her enthusiasm for learning and noticeable growth in communication skills have been a joy for us to witness. We deeply appreciate your patience, encouragement, and unwavering support in helping her thrive.

Thank you again for fostering such a positive and engaging atmosphere for Nivika.

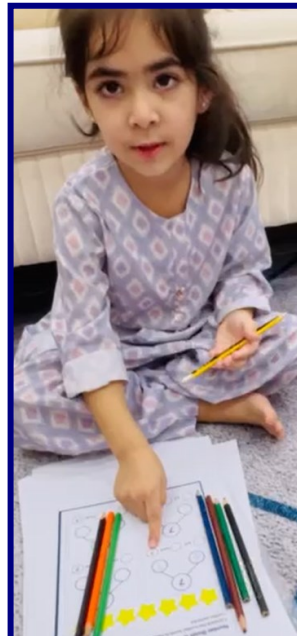
Regards

Sarath Chandra Prasad

Junior Section News; Holiday Learning Projects!



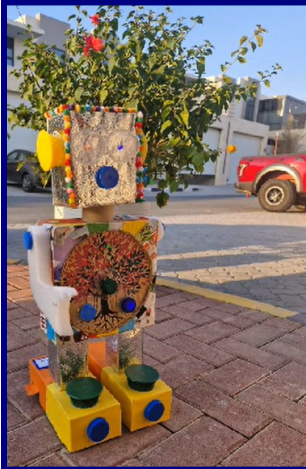
Thank you Naimal Khan (FS2H1) for your cute Happy New Year 2025 video!




Thank you Minha Shahzad for your interesting Maths video on numbers



Junior Section News; Holiday Learning Projects!



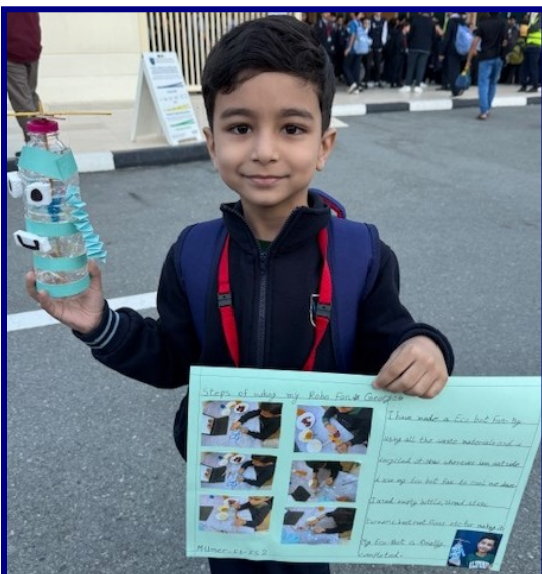

 مدرسة جيمس وستمنستر للتعارفة
GEMS Westminster School
 SHARJAH

FS Home Learning Project

“Eco-Bot: Our Green Hero”

Name : Saif
Class :FS2 S2

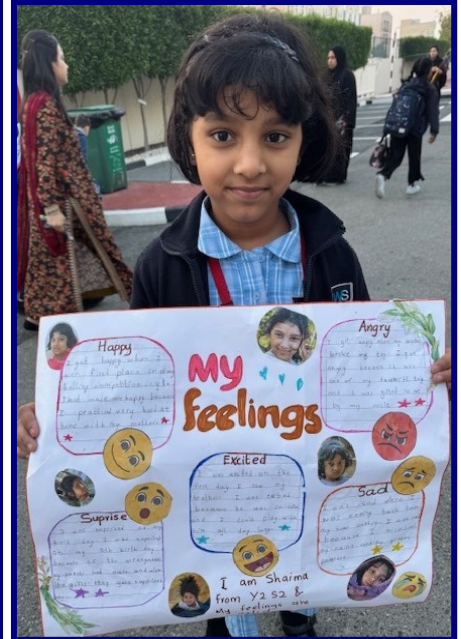
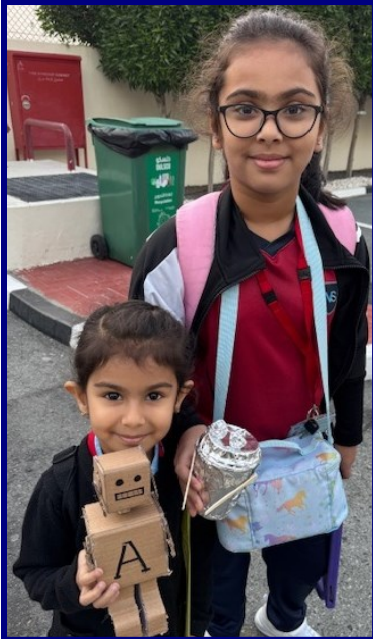
Thank you Saif (FS2S2) for sharing your wonderful video about your impressive Eco-Bot, designed to help Saif clean up his environment. The video was so well made & interesting! Thanks Mum for the teamwork!



Junior Section News; Holiday Learning Projects!



Junior Section News; Holiday Learning Projects!



Here we see Naimal's agriculture Robot, designed to help farmers in precision farming, crop management, weeding, irrigation, pest control and even harvest.



Junior Section News; FS2H1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; FS2S2 Learning Activities!



FS2 S2 with Ms.Sarah and Ms.Maria. A wonderful start to 2025!



Junior Section News; Y1D Learning Activities!

Y1D1 with Ms. Beena and Ms. Rahna

Learning about number bond



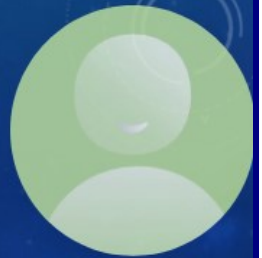
Y1D1 e 01A



Learning about seasons



Token of 



Y1D2 WITH MS. SADIQA AND MS. NOORA

OLA activities



Free play Activities



Presenting their projects



ICT Lesson



Junior Section News; Y1F Learning Activities!

Y1F1 WITH MS. AISHA AND MS. JAMILA



Y1F2 WITH MS. ANEEZA AND MS. GURPREET



Junior Section News; Y1H Learning Activities!

Y1H1 WITH MS. AAFREIN AND MS. FIZA.



Y1H2 with Ms. Kishwar and Ms. Mani



Junior Section News; Y1S Learning Activities!

Y1S1 with Ms. Mariam and Ms. Nadia.

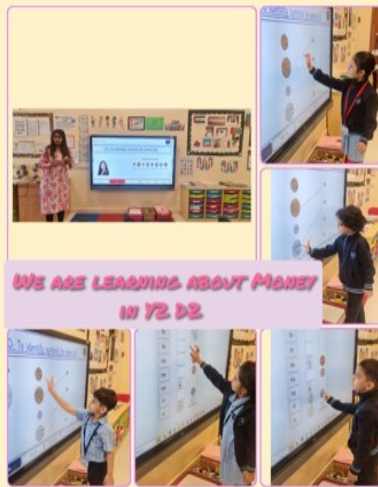


Y1S2 WITH MS. RAJINA AND MS. FOUMY



Junior Section News; Y2D2 Activities!

Ms. Millicent and Ms. Tahira Y2D2



Junior Section News; Y2F1 Activities!



Junior Section News; Y2H1 Activities!

Junior Section: Y2 H1 Learning Activities!

Miss Jinitra and Miss Maryam



Moral Education Project



P.E Activities



Congratulations for Percy and Bill



Superstar of the Week



Wellbeing of the Week



Sustainability



Reading Time



Carpet Session



Music: National anthem

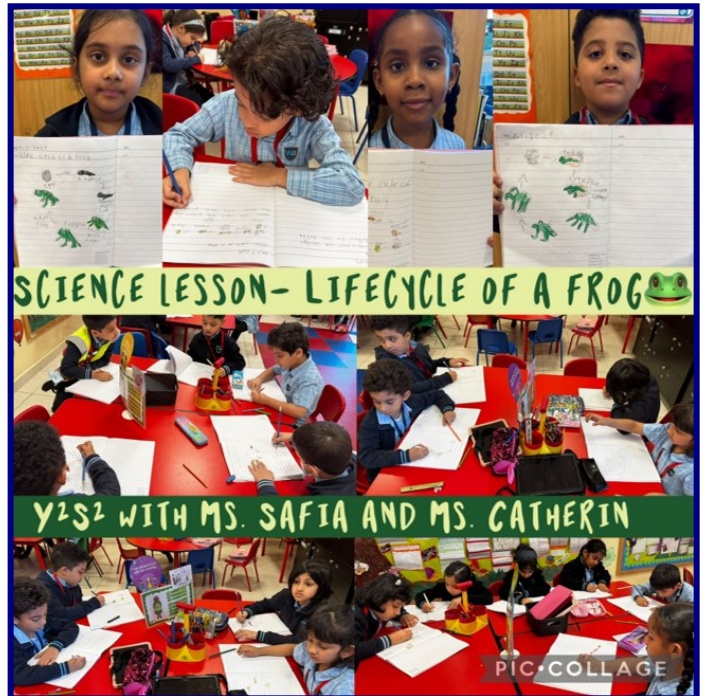


Junior Section News; Y2S1 Activities!

Y2S1 With Ms. Sara & Ms. Fiza



Junior Section News; Y2S2 Activities!



WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to you and the entire WSS team for an outstanding Term 1. The engaging activities, focus on well-being, and moral support have made this term truly enriching for the students. The end-of-term party was a delightful highlight, bringing joy to students and teachers.

Wishing the entire WSS team happy holidays!

Regards,
Parent Syed Talha Ahmed

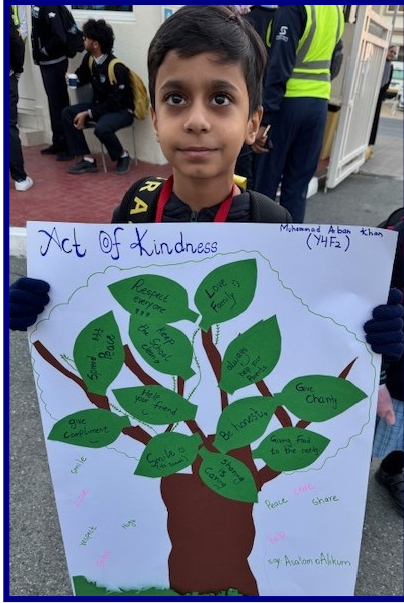


Primary Section News; Holiday Learning Projects!

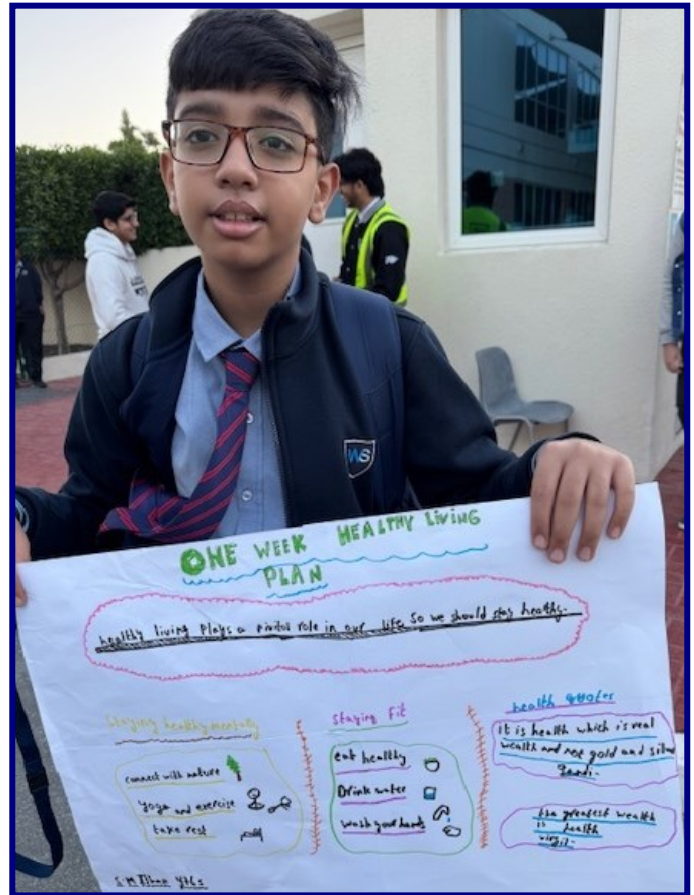
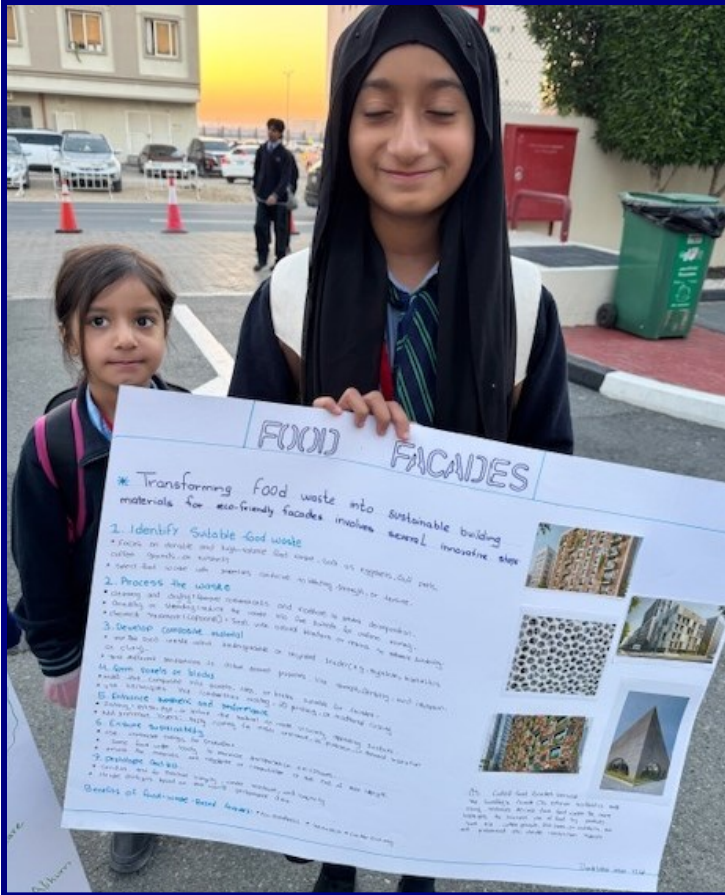
Thank you for sharing your video Nabia. The real-life application examples were great!



Primary Section News; Holiday Learning Projects!



Secondary Section News; Holiday Learning Projects!



Secondary Section News

Accessing Library Books

To facilitate student access to quality reading material & enhance their reading experience, we are pleased to share a new initiative implemented in the Secondary Library. To simplify the process of book selection, the Librarian has created a QR code for 160 newly added titles. By scanning the QR code, users can access a list of books categorized by genre, along with a brief summary for each title. This feature helps users quickly find books that match their interests without needing to check each book's blurb. This initiative was designed to save time, encourage reading, and make our

