

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #19
23rd January, 2025



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

Dear WSS Parents,

**SPEA ITQAN SPR In-
spection**

As you are aware, this week we hosted a School Progress Review (SPR) (inspection) team. The process included lesson observations, data analysis, monitoring safeguarding processes, document review & meetings with key stakeholders (students, parents, school leaders & staff). We are so proud of our amazing students, who showed off their excellent learning, leadership & behaviour throughout the week & were definitely ‘stars of the show’! Parents, your children are a credit to you! Huge thanks go to the dedicated, hard-working WSS staff team who put in so much effort & time so that our children continue to learn, develop & shine. We also thank our committed & highly supportive LAB & FOW members who joined the SPR inspectors for special meetings. Once we receive the approved Report from SPEA, we will be able to share the result, strengths & targets with our parents.

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Details
Mon. 6/1/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enrollment assessment starting. Assessments given according to the date of Registration. Seats are very limited, so please register early to avoid disappointment First day of T2.T2 fees due by latest first day of Term, thank you.
Mon. 20/1/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GEMS Parent Satisfaction Survey opens
Mon. 17/2/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reenrollment for next academic year 2025-2026 opens, subject to T2 fee payment (regardless of Payment Plan)
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.

The International OPTIMUS Wellbeing Award

You may remember that we asked parents, students & staff to complete wellbeing surveys to help us review wellbeing provision in school & set ourselves targets for improvement moving forwards. After a tremendous amount of hard work by Ms. Rema & the Wellbeing team, we are very proud to share that we have just achieved the **international OPTIMUS wellbeing Award** which recognises the quality of wellbeing provision for our stakeholders in school. Huge thanks to all who completed the surveys & to the Wellbeing Team for all their commitment to making WSS a great place to be in!



Our Vision; ‘Excellence Through Teamwork; Success For All’

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 19
23 يناير 2025



رسالة من المديرية / الرئيس التنفيذي
السيدة كاتيري توميسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس
ويستمينستر الشارقة الأعزاء،

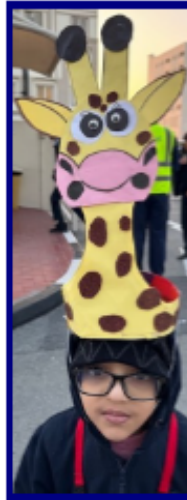
فحص SPR في SPEA ITOAN

كما تعلمون، استأنفنا هذا
الأسبوع فريق مراجعة التقدم
المدرسي (التقنيين). وتضمنت
العملية ملاحظة الدروس،
وتحليل البيانات، ومراقبة

عمليات الحماية، ومراجعة الوثائق والاجتماعات مع أصحاب
المصلحة الرئيسيين (الطلاب وأولياء الأمور وقادة المدارس
والموظفين). نحن فخورون جداً بطلابنا الرائعين، الذين
أظهروا قدرتهم على التعلم والقيادة والسلوك الممتاز طوال
الأسبوع وكانوا بالتأكيد "نجوم العرض"! أولياء الأمور،
أطفالكم مصدر فخر لكم! الشكر الجزيل لفريق عمل WSS
المخلص والمجتهد الذي بذل الكثير من الجهد والوقت حتى
يستمر أطفالنا في التعلم والتطور والتألق. كما نود أن نشكر
أعضاء LAB و FOW الملتزمين والداعمين للغاية الذين
انضموا إلى مفتشي SPR في الاجتماعات الخاصة. بمجرد
أن ننلقي التقرير المعتمد من SPEA، سنكون قادرين على
مشاركة النتيجة والقوة والأهداف مع أولياء أمورنا.

المواعيد

التفاصيل	التاريخ
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> بدء تقييم التسجيل. يتم إجراء التقييمات وفقاً لتاريخ التسجيل. المقاعد محدودة جداً، لذا يرجى التسجيل مبكراً لتجنب خيبة الأمل اليوم الأول من الفصل الدراسي الثاني. يجب دفع رسوم الفصل الدراسي الثاني في موعد أقصاه اليوم الأول من الفصل الدراسي، شكراً لك. 	اللاثين 6/1/25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> تم افتتاح استبيان رضا أولياء الأمور في مدارس GEMS 	اللاثين 20/1/25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> فتح باب التسجيل للعام الدراسي القادم 2025-2026، بشرط سداد رسوم الصف الثاني (بغض النظر عن خطة الدفع) 	اللاثين 17/2/25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> اليوم الأخير من امتحانات الترقية الإلزامية للصف الثالث الثانوي 	الخميس 26 يونيو
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> آخر يوم رسمي للطلبة لهذا العام الدراسي. 	الخميس 3 يوليو 2025



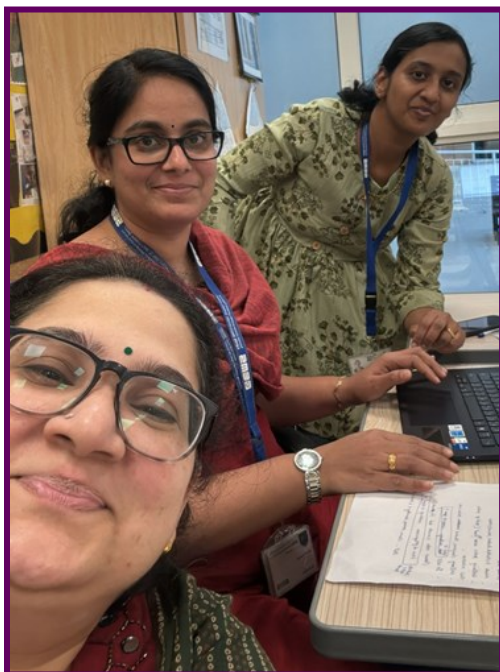
رؤيتنا؛ "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعي؛ النجاح للجميع"

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

Sunny Varkey

Contents

Parent Handbook Access QR Code



Evening & weekend inspection preparation!

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



Newsletter Contents

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4 4 5	Whole School News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff CPD (Training) Happy Birthdays Storyboard Top Tips, 1) Believe in Yourself, 2) Teamwork
6 7-9 10-11 12-15 16-20	Junior Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior Section Superstar Champions Learning Activities (General) Assembly Time with Y2F2 (Growth Mindset) Y1 Learning Activities Y2 Learning Activities
21 21 22 23	Primary Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Section Superstar Champions Learning Activities (General) Assembly Time with Y3D2 (Peace) Assembly Time with Y5F1 (Wellbeing)
24 25-29 30 31-32	Secondary Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary Section Superstar Champions Parent Engagement; Terrarium Competition KS4 Leadership—Peer Support KS4 Wellbeing Month

Whole School News; Staff CPD!



Our dedicated WSS team were in school over the weekend sharing expertise, school strengths & preparing for SPEA ITQAN SPR inspection visit.

Happy Birthdays!



Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!

BELIEVE Yourself

SELF-CONFIDENCE

I can't do it

Hi Mariam, how's your day at school?

Hello dad! I am so happy today because my teacher praised me for the confidence that I had shown in the class during the flip learning in the lesson.

Wow! I am so glad that you are confident in everything you do especially in front of others. How can self confidence drives success as a student like you?

Self-confidence has been defined as a feeling of trust in one's abilities and qualities. It is the essence of how to overcome and handle challenges as they arise.

As a student, I lead my classmates to discuss the lesson and answer the questions to clear their doubts. I am happy to help them.

You are right! People who lack confidence often struggle with emotions like fear, depression, and anxiety, which are associated with negative health effects.

So, what does it mean to be confident?

These are the examples of having a confident behaviour:

1. Doing what you believe to be right, even if others criticise you for it.
2. Being willing to take risks and go the extra mile to achieve better things.
3. Admitting your mistakes, and learning from them.
4. Accepting compliments graciously. "Thanks, I really worked hard on that". I'm pleased you recognise my efforts."

Teamwork

Lina what are the challenges you faced while making this wonderful project?

Our team comprised of five members and each of them had a different opinion on the planning.

We had arguments and it was tough to come to a common understanding.

We continued the work with Focus on our goal and as a team we ensured its success.

That is the power of Teamwork.

WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!



Congratulations to our Wellbeing Champions of the week!



Congratulations! First Place in a Gymnastic competition!

Junior Section News; Learning Activities!



الأميرة كندا أميرة مملكة الثلج القادمة

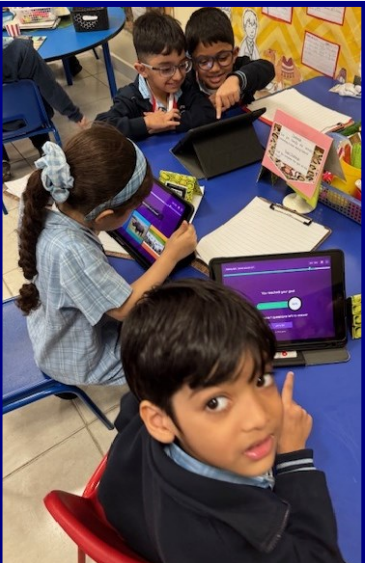


كان يا ما كان في مدينة جميلة، تعيش فتاة محبوبة تدعى كندا. كانت تمتلك قلباً طيباً وتحب الرسم والرسم وتكون الصداقات. كانت كندا تعلم بأن تكون أميرة حقيقية تنشر الحب والعدل بين الناس وتحقق السلام. نظالما الهمتها القصص عن الملوك والملكات الذين ساعدوا شعوبهم بحكمة وحنان. ذات يوم، جلست كندا لترسم لوحة لقصر خيالي، وقالت لنفسها: "كيف يمكنني أن أكون أميرة في الواقع؟ كيف أساعد الآخرين؟"



Literacy development; what a great idea— Kinda & her mother created a special story book. Kinda's mother explained, "This is a story about Kinda and she participated in writing it with me. It required peace, tolerance, apology and fairness."

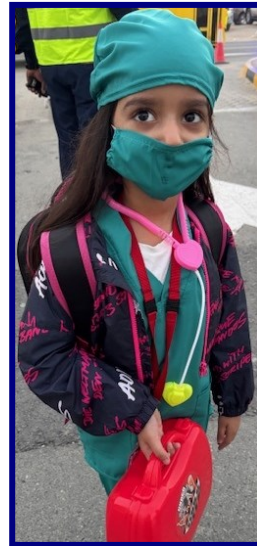
This story taught Sila about confidence, courage & the uniqueness of all of us! Thank you both for sharing your lovely cute learning videos!



Y1 learning to classify herbivores & carnivores with Ms. Beena.



Junior Section News; Learning Activities!



We are learning about Careers & community helpers!



Junior Section News; Learning Activities!



We are learning about Careers & community helpers!



Junior Section News; Assembly Time with Y2F2, 23/1/25!



Junior Section News; Assembly Time with Y2F2, 23/1/25!



Amazing job from a great teacher !

The assembly was so great 🥰!!!

Thank you for your continuous and unlimited support.

I loved it so much ! You really made our day so beautiful !!!

Happy weekend ❤️



Junior Section News; Y1D Learning Activities!

Y1D1 with Ms. Beena and Ms. Rahna

Learning about nouns



Science lesson



Y1D2 WITH MS. SADIQA AND MS. NOORA

Science activity



Fun in learning nouns



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. ASMA



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



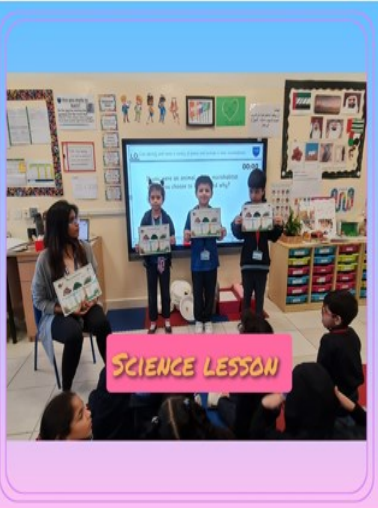
Junior Section News; Y2D1 Learning Activities!

Y2D1 with Ms. Uzma and Ms. Askia



Junior Section News; Y2D2 Learning Activities!

Ms. Millicent and Ms. Tahira Y2D2



Junior Section News; Y2F1 Learning Activities!



Y2F1 - Ms Sabiha & Ms Ashika



Junior Section News; Y2F1 Learning Activities!

Junior Section: Y2 H1 Learning Activities!

Miss Jinitra and Miss Maryam



Junior Section News; Y2F1 Learning Activities!



We are learning about homophones

Y2S2 with Ms. Safia and Ms. Catherin

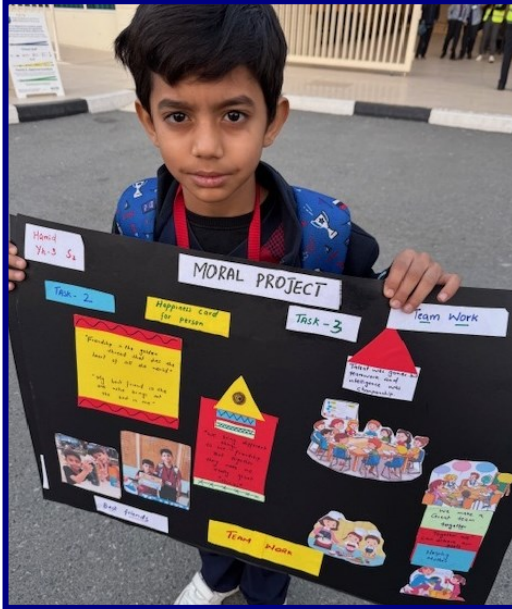


PIC-COLLAGE

Y2S2 interpreting data  using Pictogram



Primary Section News; Learning Projects!



WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!



Parents appreciation to Mr. Arvie

Dear Teacher,

I want to thank you for the exceptional preparation and effort you put into guiding the students for the assembly. The performance was outstanding, and it truly reflected the hard work, dedication, and talent you instilled in them.

Your guidance and support have made a remarkable impact, and it's evident in how confidently the students presented themselves.

Regards,

Reem

Dear Mr. Arvie,

Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to witness our children's performances, we could clearly see the efforts you have made and your passion to let your students shine. Thank you so much. Stay blessed.

With warm regards,
Sumaira Ali.

Primary Section News; Assembly Time with Y3D2, 22/1/25!



Y3D2 presented a lovely play about Peace. We learnt that to have peace we need kindness, listening & teamwork. We also enjoyed a beautiful song, that even included 2-part harmony!



Primary Section News; Assembly Time with Y5F21 22/1/25!

Y5F1 performed on stage their amazing assembly on “Wellbeing”.



Collaboration in Mr. Arvie’s English Y5D1 class.

Students are engage in developing a scene of a playscript.



WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!



Congratulations to Hana Ahmed (Y8GF). Hana participated in a gymnastics competition on 18/1/2025 and won 3rd place. She faced her nervousness and is looking forward to working harder and going for first place next time. We love your growth mindset, Hana—best wishes for even more success in the future!

Congratulations to Mu-h'd Kashif for his UAE National spelling bee semifinals success! We love his commitment to developing his literacy & learning skills!



The Spelling Bee Championship



Nov'24



The Spelling Bee Championship

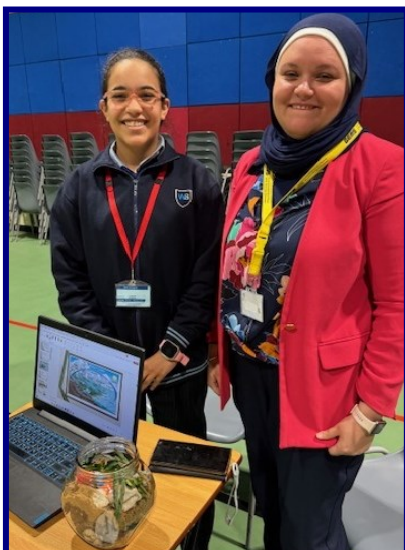


Nov'24

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MEDIA

With Support From
bee

*Secondary Section News; Parent Engagement—Sustainability
& Terrarium Competition, 20/1/25!*



Secondary Section News; Parent Engagement—Sustainability & Terrarium Competition, 20/1/25!



Secondary Section News; Learning Activities!



*Secondary Section News; Parent Engagement—Sustainability
& Terrarium Competition, 21/1/25!*



*Secondary Section News; Parent Engagement—Sustainability
& Terrarium Competition Winners, 21/1/25!*



*Secondary Section News; Parent Engagement—Sustainability
& Terrarium Competition Winners, 21/1/25!*



Secondary Section News; KS4 Leadership—Peer Support!



In a world dominated by screens, our KS4 Digital Detox Breaks are here to help students unplug, refresh, and refocus.



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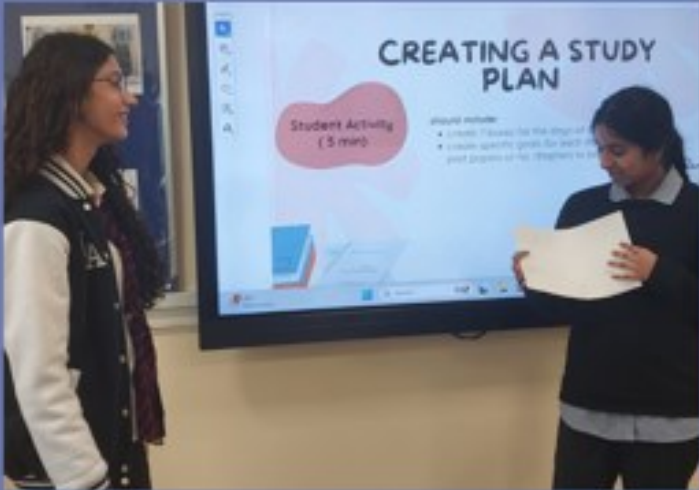
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Feeling the pressure of upcoming exams?
Our Support Session to Manage Exam Stress is here to help you stay calm, focused, and confident.



KS4 WELL-BEING MONTH



a workshop conducted for Year II IGCSE students on “Exam preparation and study skills” facilitated by senior students.



DESKERCISE WITH KS4 GIRLS

Empowering KS4 girls with fun, engaging exercises that boost fitness, confidence, and well-being while promoting teamwork and resilience.

