

GEMS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL, SHARJAH



Newsletter Issue #5
12th September, 2024



Message from the Principal/CEO Ms. Valerie Thompson

Dear WSS Parents,

School Start Timings

Please note that the start time for students is **7:15am (Lesson 1 starts at 7:25am)**.

Parents, it is critical that your children arrive by latest 7:20am, so that they avoid missing Lesson 1 learning time. **After the Forecourt gates close at 7:25am, parents will be asked to drop their late children at the main gate, & not to enter Reception.**

Safeguarding; FS1-Y1 & New Parent ID Cards

We are in the process of printing new FS1-Y1 & newly joined parents ID cards. However, before printing, we need to have **both Mother & Father's photos uploaded onto your Phoenix Account**. Currently there are 800 fathers & mothers who have not yet uploaded their photo. If you have not yet completed this, please do so urgently. Thank you.

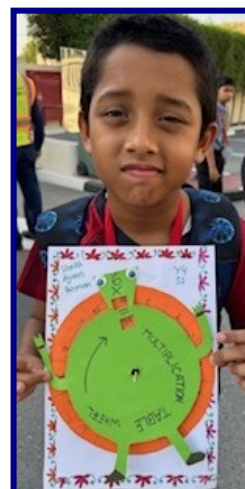
Compulsory SPEA Registration on Daleel 2

Parents, have you completed urgent Daleel 2 Registration for your WSS children? If not, please do so urgently. Any **Authority fines would be passed to the parents.**

Applying for Early Exit from Monday 16/9/24

From Monday 16/9/24, for your convenience, parents will **apply online for Early Access approval through the Parent Portal/GEMS Connect**. A detailed Guide will be emailed to you.

Dates for Your Diary	
Date	Details
Mon. 2/12/24 & Tues. 3/12/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible school closure for UAE National Day holiday (TBC by the Authorities)
Friday 13/12/24 to Sunday 5/1/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-weeks Winter Break (please see p4 for this year's approved calendar) T1 Exams will be held during the 2 weeks before the Winter Break (exact dates TBC)



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

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة



النشرة الإخبارية رقم # 5
12 سبتمبر 2024



رسالة من المديرة / الرئيس التنفيذي
السيدة فاليري تومسون

أولياء أمور مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر
الشارقة الأعزاء،

مواعيد بدء الدراسة

يرجى ملاحظة أن وقت بدء الدوام للطلاب هو 7:15 صباحاً (يبدأ الدرس الأول في 7:25 صباحاً). أولياء الأمور، من المهم جداً أن يصل أطفالكم بحلول الساعة 7:20 صباحاً على أقصى تقدير، حتى يتجنبوا فقدان وقت تعلم الدرس الأول. بعد إغلاق أبواب الساحة الرئيسية في تمام الساعة 7:25 صباحاً، سيطلب من الآباء ترك أطفالهم المتأخرين عند البوابة الرئيسية، وعدم الدخول إلى الاستقبال.

المواعيد

التاريخ	التفاصيل
الاثنين 2/12/24 والثلاثاء 3/12/24	احتمال إغلاق المدارس خلال عطلة اليوم الوطني لدولة الإمارات العربية المتحدة (سيتم الإعلان عن ذلك من قبل السلطات)
الجمعة 13/12/24 إلى الأحد 5/1/25	إجازة الشتاء لمدة 3 أسابيع (يرجى الاطلاع على الصفحة 4 لمعرفة التقويم المعتمد لهذا العام) سيتم عقد امتحانات T1 خلال الأسبوعين قبل العطلة الشتوية (سيتم تحديد التواريخ الدقيقة لاحقاً)

الحماية؛ بطاقات هوية الوالدين للمراحل الدراسية FSI-Y1
نحن في عملية طباعة بطاقات هوية الوالدين الجديدة للمرحلة FSI-Y1. ومع ذلك، قبل الطباعة، نحتاج إلى تحميل صور الأم والأب على حساب **GEMS PARENT PORTAL** الخاص بك.

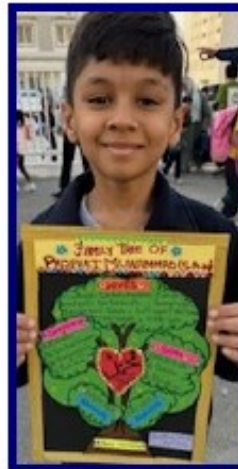
يوجد حالياً 800 أب وأم لم يقوموا برفع صورهم بعد. إذا لم تكن قد أكملت هذا بعد، يرجى القيام بذلك على وجه السرعة. شكراً لك.

التسجيل الإلزامي في SPEA على دليل 2

أولياء الأمور، هل ضمت بإكمال عملية التسجيل العاجلة في دليل 2 لأطفالكم في مدرسة واحدة العلوم الاجتماعية؟ إذا لم يكن الأمر كذلك، يرجى القيام بذلك على وجه السرعة. أية غرامات تفرضها السلطة سيتم تمريرها إلى الوالدين.

التقديم على الخروج المبكر من يوم الاثنين 16/9/24
اعتباراً من يوم الاثنين 16/9/24، ولراحتك، سيتم تقديم الآباء بطلب عبر الإنترنت للحصول على موافقة الوصول المبكر من خلال **Parent Portal/GEMS Connect**.

سيتم إرسال دليل مفصل إليك عبر البريد الإلكتروني.



رؤيتنا؛ "التميز من خلال العمل الجماعي؛ نجاح 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.



Contents

Parent Handbook Access QR Code

Newsletter Contents	
Page	Includes:
1, 2	Dates for Your Diary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Message from the Principal; Date for Your Diary, general notices
3	Contents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contents Table QR Code to Access our online Parent Handbook
4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11	Whole School News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Developments—an Update SPEA Registration Survey WSS Superstar Champions—WSS Awarded by SPEA for Elite International OECD PISA Maths results, 10/9/24 GEMS Governance; Supporting Ongoing School Development Story Board Top Tips; 1) Bus Safety, 2) Student Wellbeing (Primary Letterboxes) Family First Environmental & Recycling Superstar Champions Happy Birthdays
12-13 14-15 16 17-20 21-23 24-28	Junior Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Junior Section Superstar Champions Colours Week FS1 Learning Activities FS2 Learning Activities Y1 Learning Activities Y2 Learning Activities
29 30 31 32-34 35-36 37-39	Primary Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Section Superstar Champions Assembly Time with Y6BH & Y6GS (Reading & Literacy/Roald Dahl Week), 11/9/24 Assembly Time with Y4F1 (Reading & Literacy/Roald Dahl Week), 11/9/24 Y3 Learning Activities Y5 Learning Activities Y6 Learning Activities
40-42 43-45 46 47 48 49	Secondary Section News <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secondary Section Superstar Champions; IGCSE Toppers 2023-2024 Wellbeing Champions Assembly Time with Y9GH, 9/9/24 (Sustainability & Kindness) Assembly Time with Y9BD, 10/9/24 (Growth Mindset & Kindness) Literacy Week Y9 Learning Activities

Whole School News; Digital Developments!



مدرسة جيمس ويستمنستر المشاركة
GEMS Westminster School
SHARJAH

Date: September 2024

Dear Parents,

Subject: Technology in Education

Greetings from GEMS Westminster School, Sharjah. As we observe the changing landscape of education & the learning environment that is so different from much of our own experience of school, we wanted to share some updates related to the digital book initiative. Rest assured that WSS initiatives are introduced for the long-term benefit of our learners.

The Rationale:

- Introducing digital books is the next steps in extending our successful BYOD programme to ensure accessible learning, anywhere in the world.
- Students have additional opportunities to develop much-needed skills in the use of digital resources in our context of digital dominance.
- *'You said... We did...'* Following parent feedback about bag weight, e-books significantly reduce the load each child has to carry in their school bag, which is a health and safety bonus.
- Achieving international 'Sustainability' goals is a priority. E-books support this critical national agenda item.
- Hard-copy 'traditional' forms of printed books definitely have advantages. However, as we become more confident with using newer forms of knowledge-sharing, we will be more able to support & guide our children to become experts in using a digital format.

The Reality:

- All WSS digital books are licensed copies from the publisher (not pirated or unauthorized downloads).
- The digital resources have every option that the students can use just as they have done with the hard copies in the past.
- These books are individually licensed and need password to access.

The Myth:

- *"Digital books will increase screen time."*: **Not True.** In class the students will be involved in collaborative learning and in the use of educational apps. The e-books will be used alongside.
- *"Digital books will reduce the student's touch with the analogue world."*: **Not True.** Except for the textbook, which is a reference source, all other resources in class (notebooks and workbooks) are analogue. The students will continue to use paper-based resources alongside the digital.
- *"It is difficult to monitor children's progress."*: **Not True.** The progress of students is monitored through the work they produce in their notebooks (formative) and end-of-term exams (summative). Digital (or printed text) books are *one* of the reference sources (along with PPTs etc. that are uploaded).
- *"Digital books may increase the screen time if added with the digital recreational activities."*: **Partially True.** This depends on the individual learner. Children have multiple recreational options, such as outdoor activities, practicing team sports or develop skills in fine arts, whilst others may prefer to spend their leisure time digital gaming. Parents need to regularly monitor on-screen time to ensure a balanced, healthy lifestyle, as usual.

In summary, digitalization an intrinsic part of our society & is unavoidable. We need to embrace new opportunities to harness the available powerful, effective tools for learning & personalisation. What we as educators need to do (both parents & school) is to equip our children with the skills needed to live in our digital world & to ensure they are able to make smart choices about what to access & how to use their knowledge. We wish our children every success in this exciting step forward.

Regards,

WSS Management

Whole School News; SPEA Registration Survey!



هيئة الشارقة للتعليم الخاص
SHARJAH PRIVATE EDUCATION AUTHORITY



Dear School Principals,

Sharjah Private Education Authority is pleased to extend its warmest greetings to you...

Following Circular No. 40 for the year 2024 regarding the Registration Survey for the Academic Year 2024/2025, we would like to inform you that the deadline for completing the survey has been extended to Thursday, September 12, 2024.

We kindly request that you encourage parents and guardians of students to participate in the survey.

Below is the survey link:

<https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/k6CIMH>

Thank you for your cooperation.

Best Regards

السادة/ مديري المدارس الخاصة المحترمين

يطيب لهيئة الشارقة للتعليم الخاص أن تهديكم أطيب التحيات وصادق الأمنيات...

بالإشارة إلى الموضوع أعلاه، إلحاقاً بالتعميم رقم 40 لسنة 2024 بشأن استبانة تسجيل العام الأكاديمي الجديد 2025/2024، نحيطكم علماً بأنه تم تمديد موعد استكمال الاستبانة ليوم الخميس الموافق 2024/09/12.

لذا يرجى دعوة أولياء أمور الطلبة والطالبات للمشاركة في الاستبانة.

تجدون أدناه رابط الاستبانة:

<https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/k6CIMH>

كريمين حسن تعاونكم

وتفضلوا بقبول فائق التقدير والاحترام

WSS Superstar Champions; WSS Awarded by SPEA for Elite International OECD PISA Maths Results, 10/9/24!

المدارس المتفوقة في
البرنامج الدولي لتقييم الطلبة
PISA 2022
Top Performing Schools in
PISA 2022



SHARJAH PRIVATE EDUCATION AUTHORITY | هيئة الشارقة للتعليم الخاص

المدارس الحاصلة على أعلى من المعدل العالمي
أو مايساويه في **أربع محاور** في اختبار **PISA**
Schools Meeting or Exceeding the Global Average
in Four PISA Domains

مدرسة جيمس ويستمينستر الشارقة
GEMS Westminster School Sharjah

المدرسة الهندية النموذجية الجديدة
New Indian Model School

المدرسة الهندية بالشارقة
Sharjah Indian School

SHARJAH PRIVATE EDUCATION AUTHORITY | هيئة الشارقة للتعليم الخاص



Key Speakers at the Elite Schools PISA results Ceremony on 10/9/24



*Whole School News; GEMS Governance—
Supporting Ongoing School Development!*



GEMS Corporate Inclusion Lead Ms. Berna visited WSS on 11/9/24, to review WSS Inclusion provision for students. She toured the school with the Principal & Head of Inclusion Ms. Rema. She was very impressed by our wonderfully confident & happy students, 'Team Around the Child' approach & the nurturing learning environment.

Whole School News; Storyboard Top Tips!

WSS Bus Code of Conduct

Good morning sir! Today I have heard that someone got an incident report on the bus. I am scared to get one.

Good morning students! How are you today? Let's talk about safety rules on the bus.

Dangerous behaviour is not acceptable due to safety considerations.

Safety on the bus is essential. We are not allowed to touch anybody while we are inside the bus. Instead, behave properly in accordance with the policy to avoid any issues.

Being safe and sensible behaviour on the bus means:

- I behave sensibly so as not to distract the driver.
- I stay sat down in our place with our seat belt on while the bus is moving.
- I never throw items inside, or out of the bus.
- I talk quietly, using polite, respectful language to all.
- I am kind to others - no bullying or fighting.
- My litter goes in the bin, or stays in my bag.
- I take care of the bus so there is no damage to the bus.
- I am sensitive to others' needs for space and quiet.
- I am punctual, so the bus arrives at school, leaves school, on time.
- I bring my bus ID. card daily.
- For health, safety and hygiene reasons, eating on the bus is not permitted.

General Bus safety rules are:

1. Stay seated safely.
2. Follow directions given by WSS staff.
3. Be quiet.
4. Students must be met at the drop off point by a designated adult with an ID card.
5. Bring ID card each day.

Code of conduct on the bus is very important. We must be safe and sensible at all times.

Our three bus rules are:

1. Sit safely!
2. Quiet please!
3. Manners



STUDENT LETTER BOX

It is a great opportunity for students to pen down their thoughts and feelings.

Ms. Sara, We see a letter box hung on the wall. What would it be used for?

Sure, here it is.

September 18, 2023

Dear Students,

I am happy to see you in complete uniform.

Students who are yet to buy, kindly buy it at the earliest.

I am sure we can achieve the target of 100% perfect uniform soon.

Your Teacher
Ms Sara

Ms. Can you give us an example?

Great!! Go ahead and start expressing your feelings.

It is a good initiative to improve our communication and writing skills.

Whole School News; Family First!

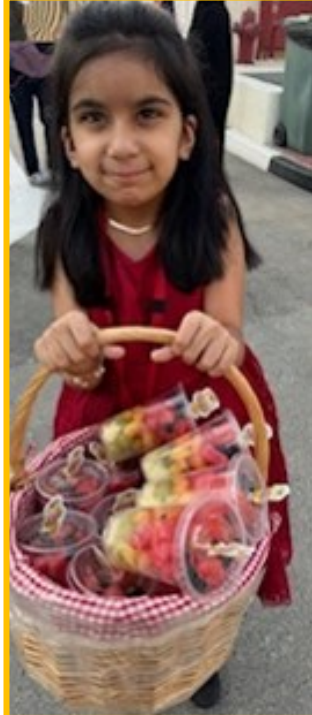


Environment & Sustainability Superstar Champions!



Please bring in your clean, empty plastic water bottles to school for recycling to help sustainability & a cleaner planet Earth. Thank you

Happy Birthdays!



Happy Birthday! Thank you for bringing yummy, healthy fruit treats to share with class mates, to support our Healthy Lifestyles Policy.

Happy birthday 🎂



WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!

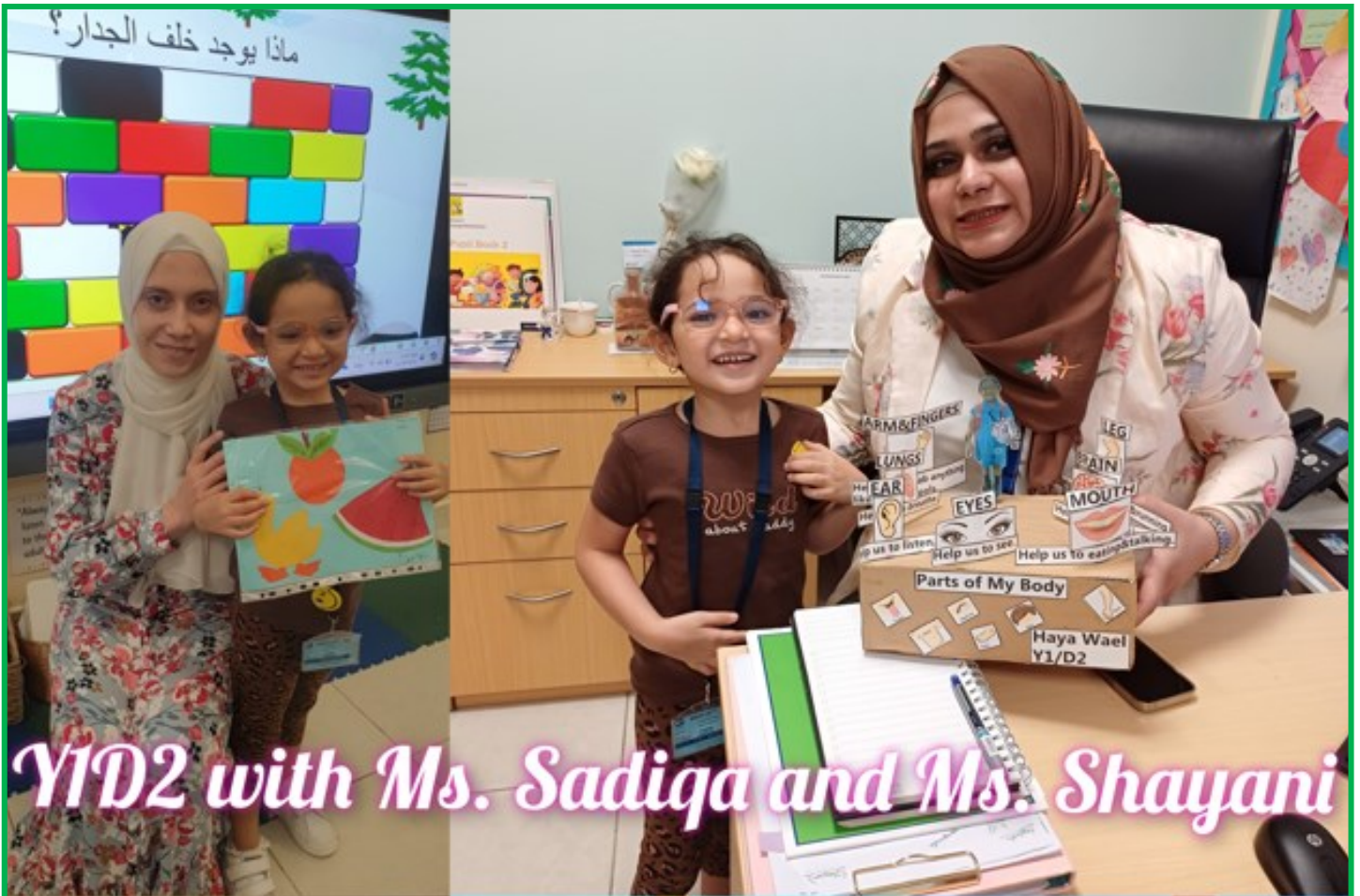


WE GOT STICKERS FROM MS SHAMAIL

Y2 H2 WITH MS.ROOMANA AND MS.AQUEEN



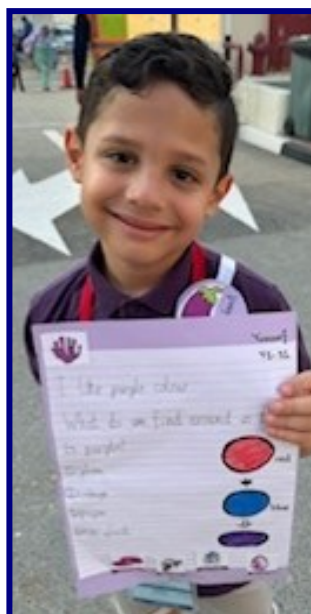
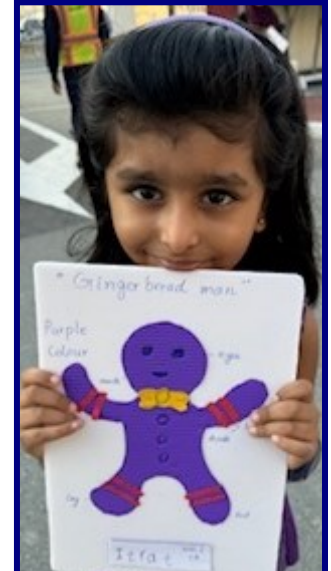
WSS Junior Section Superstar Champions!



Y1/D2 with Ms. Sadiqa and Ms. Shayani



Junior Section News; Colours Week!



Junior Section News; Colours Week!



Ayza Nasir
FS2S2



Junior Section News; F1H1 Learning Activities!



Colours week



FS1 H1 Celebrated Blue day

PIC•COLLAGE



Colours week



FS1 H1 Celebrated Red day

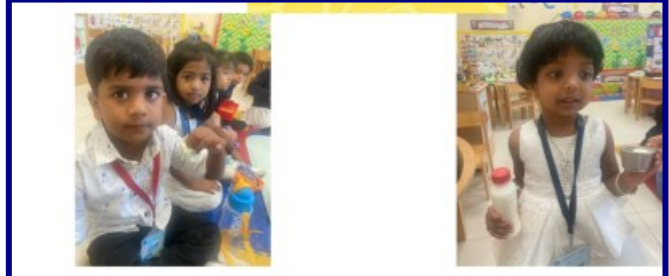


PIC•COLLAGE



Colours week

FS1 H1 Celebrated Yellow day



FS1 H1 Celebrated White day

PIC•COLLAGE

Junior Section News; FS2D1 Learning Activities!

FS2D1
celebrating blue
colour day ❤️



FS2D1 can count the
dots on the dice and
add their favourite
fruit sprinkles on the
icecream with Ms.
Nikhat and Ms. Afroz



Free play: where learning meets fun



FS2D1 celebrating
red colour day



Junior Section News; FS2D2 Learning Activities!



Fs2 D2 Engage in our class activities



heba



sobaan

Junior Section News; FS2H2 Learning Activities!

FS2H2 with Ms. Karen and Ms. Monika



Junior Section News; FS2S1 Learning Activities!



Junior Section News; Y1D1 Learning Activities!

Phonics lesson



Y1D1 Ms.Beena & Ms.Rahna

Tasty orange bites!



Fun @ Free play area



Learning about body part



Junior Section News; Y1D2 Learning Activities!



Y1D2 Colours week with Ms. Sadiqa and Ms. Shayani

Junior Section News; Y1H2 Learning Activities!



Y1 H2 Ms. Kishwar & Ms. Mani

Junior Section News; Y2S1 Learning Activities!

Y2S1 With Ms. Sara & Ms. Fiza



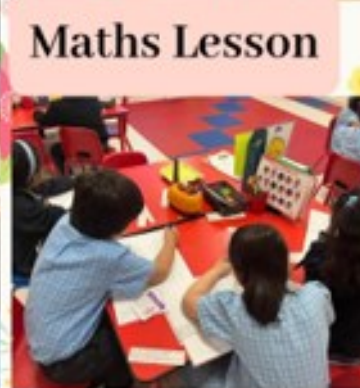
West Play Time



English Lesson



Maths Lesson



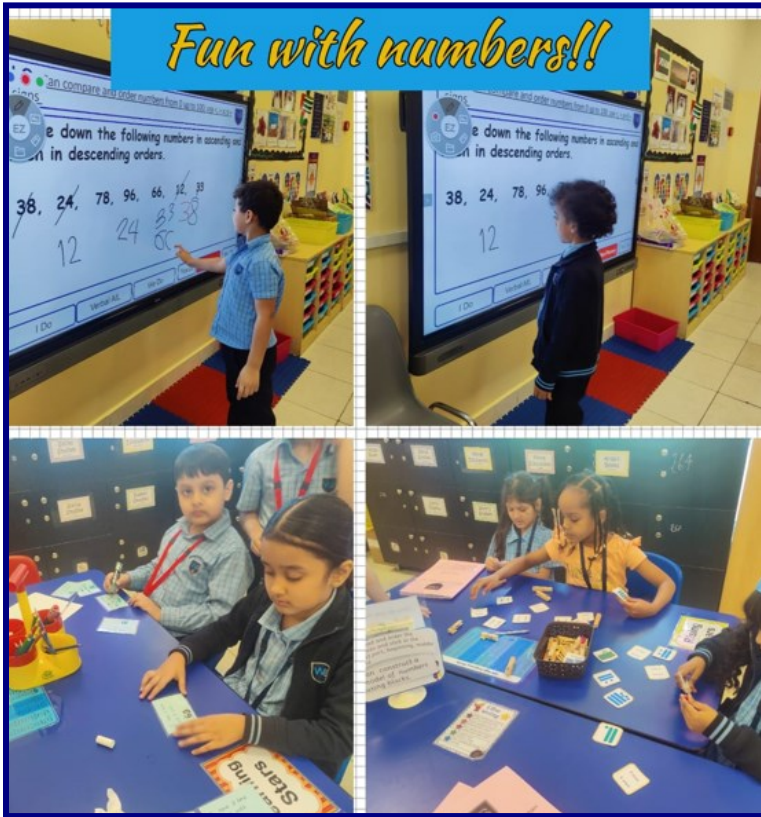
OLA Time



Junior Section News; Y2D1 Learning Activities!



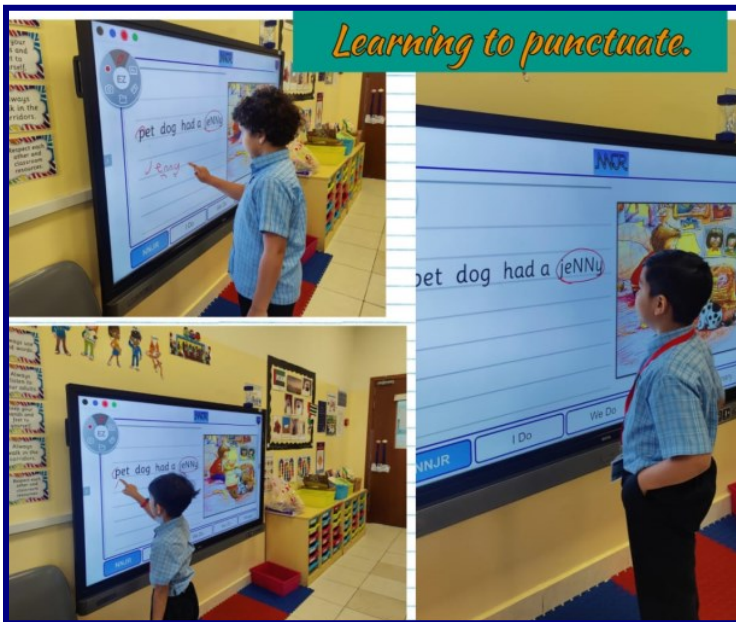
Junior Section News; Y2D2 Learning Activities!



Fun with numbers!!



ENGLISH LESSON WITH MS MILLICENT AND MS TAHIRA IN Y2 D2

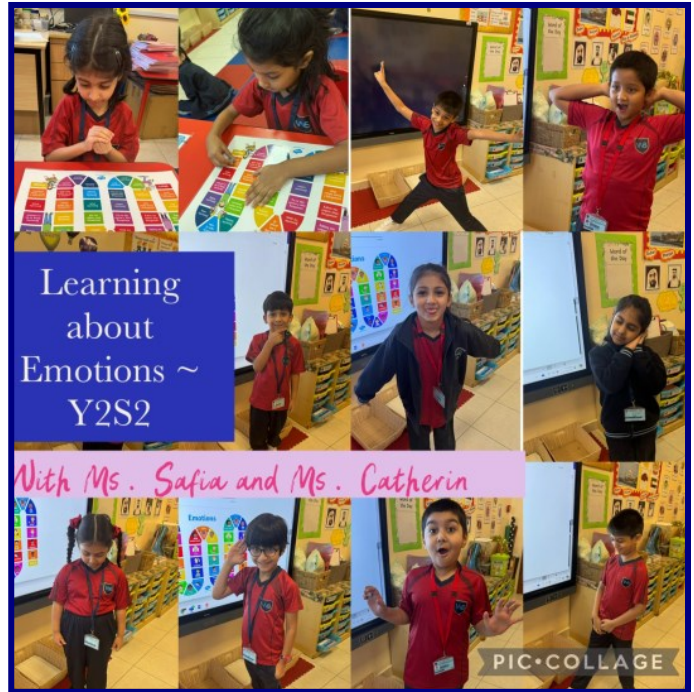
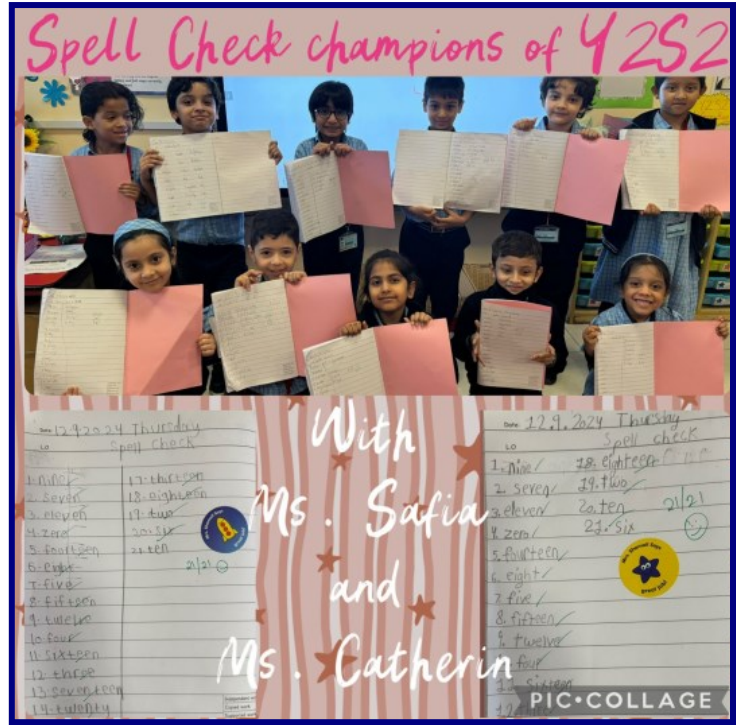
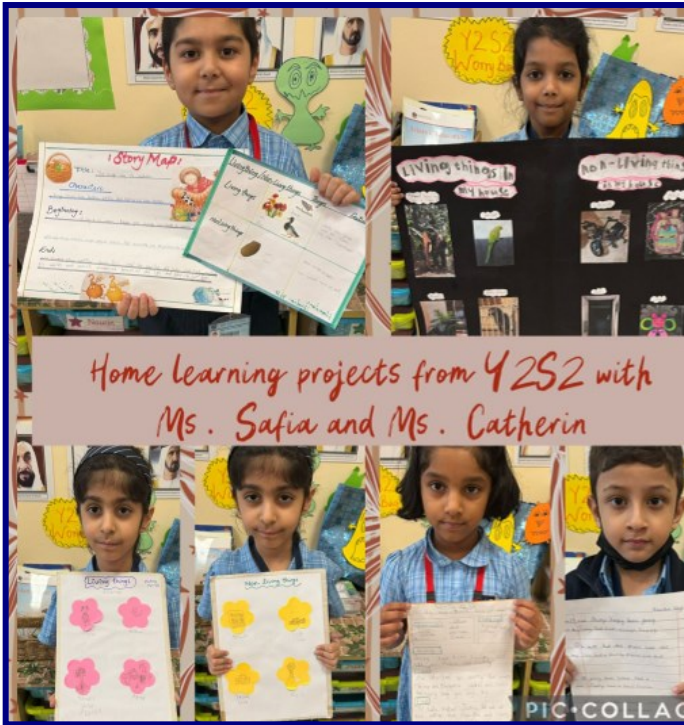


Learning to punctuate.



OLA ACTIVITIES WITH MS MILLICENT AND MS TAHIRA IN Y2 D2

Junior Section News; Y2D2 Learning Activities!



Y2F2-Class Activities

Teacher: Ms. Fauzia

TA. Ms. Benil



WSS Primary Section Superstar Champions!

Maryam Mohamed of Y6 GF received a gold medal at fitness first competition.



She participated in the Junior BOOTCAMP (5-15) at Sharjah Sahara Center.

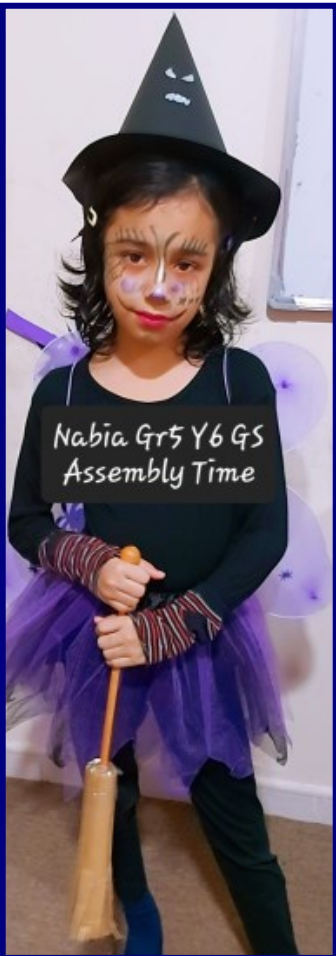
Maryam demonstrated her perseverance and determination by showing up on time for class and giving her complete attention for a month without taking a break during her fitness classes.



Thank you Nabia & Mother for sharing this cute Literacy Week dress-up plus Healthy Eating Week photo.

Many thanks to all the amazingly supportive parents who engage so actively with their children's learning. Your investment of time & energy to support with Home Learning, costumes & projects pays dividends in improved learner outcomes. Thank you for your teamwork!

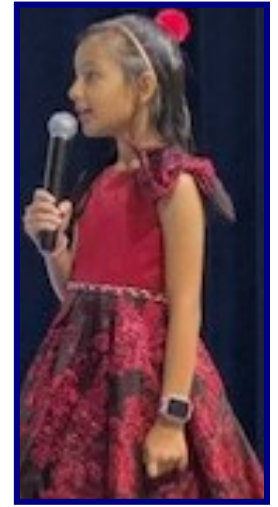
Primary Section News; Assembly Time with Y6BH & Y6GS, 11/9/24!



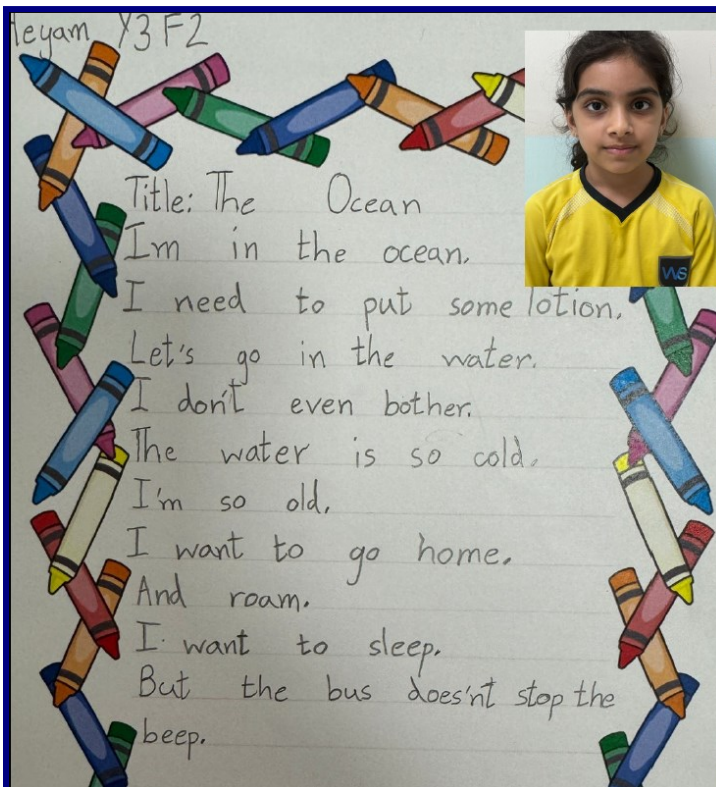
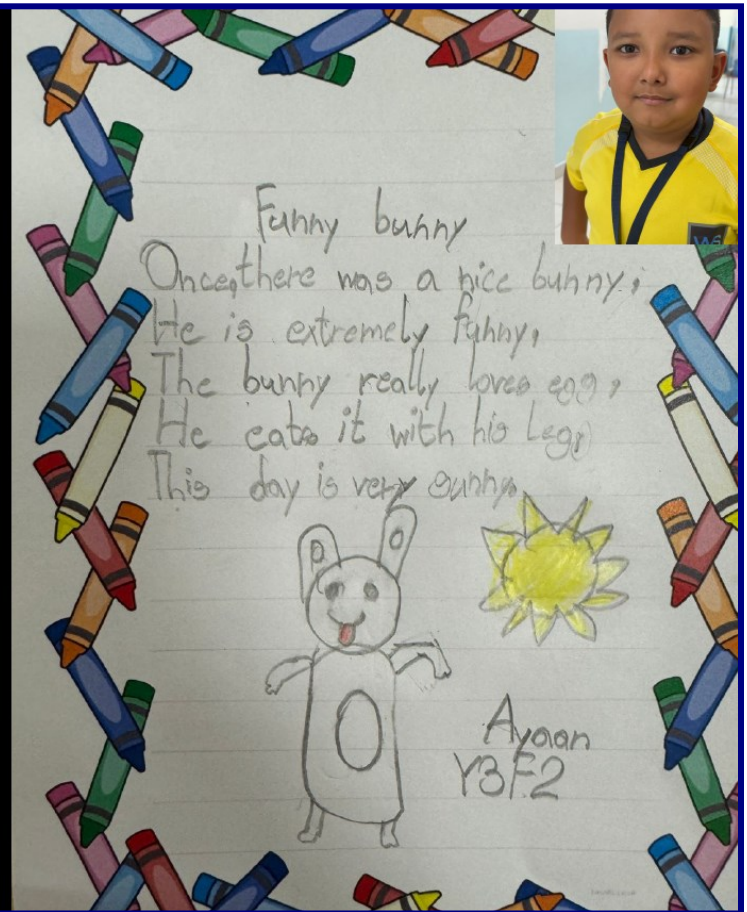
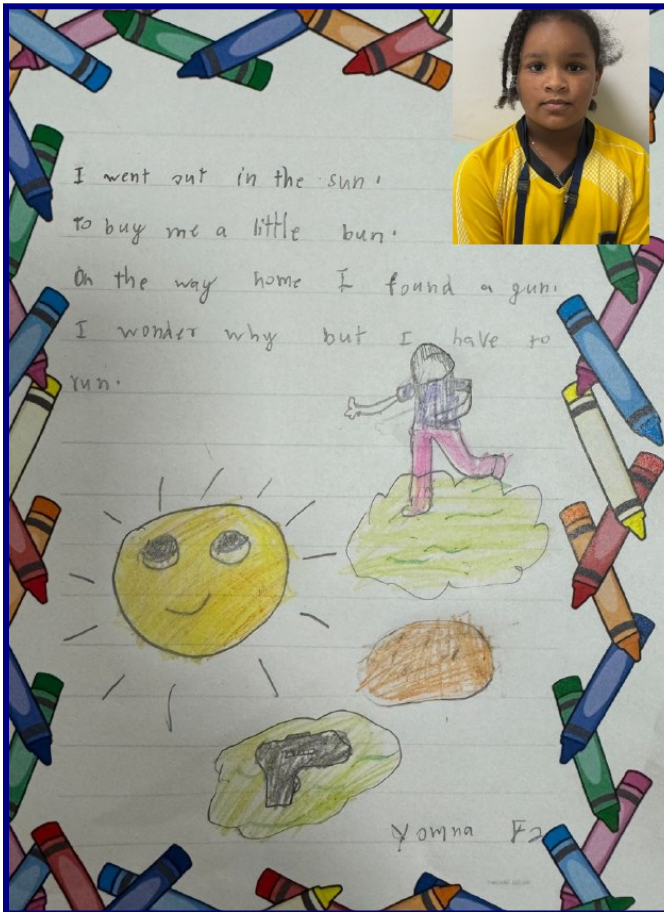
WSS celebrates Literacy Week around Roald Dahl's Birthday each year. We learnt how books can transport us on new adventures & learning, while sharpening our vocabulary & comprehension skills. We also enjoyed a skit & songs. Thanks Y6!



Primary Section News; Assembly Time with Y4F1, 11/9/24!



Primary Section News; Y3F2—Literacy Week!



**Students of Year 3
F2 framed some
amazing limericks
during their lesson.
How beautifully
articulated with
their creative
minds.**

Primary Section News; Healthy Eating Week with Y3H1!



"A healthy outside starts from inside" - Y3H1 students celebrating Healthy Eating Week



Y3H1 students participating the literacy day parade

Primary Section News; Y3S2 Learning Activities!

Y3S2 students, in the process of learning through fun and memorable experiences. The dress-up and the portrayal of their favorite characters were done with great enthusiasm as a part of Literacy Day.

With Ms. Lissy



Primary Section News; Y5 Learning Activities!

WALT: How do I plan to stay healthy by promoting nutritious eating habit?

Y5F1 with Mr. Arvie



BALLOON CAR Technology of Y5F1 STEAM lesson

with Mr. Arvie



Primary Section News; Y5 Learning Activities!

Mr. Arvie delivered an interesting and interactive English lesson in Y5F1 and Y5D1 about how to write a folktale using the story mountain structure.



WSS promotes reading. Y5F1 are all excited to read using the read theory app with Mr. Arvie



Primary Section News; Y6 Learning Activities!

Math Lesson –Y6GH
Introducing the online tool 'Pickers'.

With Ms. Anju Kumar

Pickers is a classroom response tool that allows teachers to collect real-time formative assessment data without the need for student devices. Students respond to questions using specially designed cards, and the teacher scans the room with a mobile device (like a smartphone or tablet) to capture the answers.

Science Lesson
Y6BF ★

LFQ: How do I analyse the brightness of the bulbs by increasing the number of batteries in a circuit?

The Y6BF students demonstrated their understanding by analyzing the brightness of a bulb when three batteries were added to a circuit.

With Ms. Anju Kumar

Primary Section News; Y6 Learning Activities!

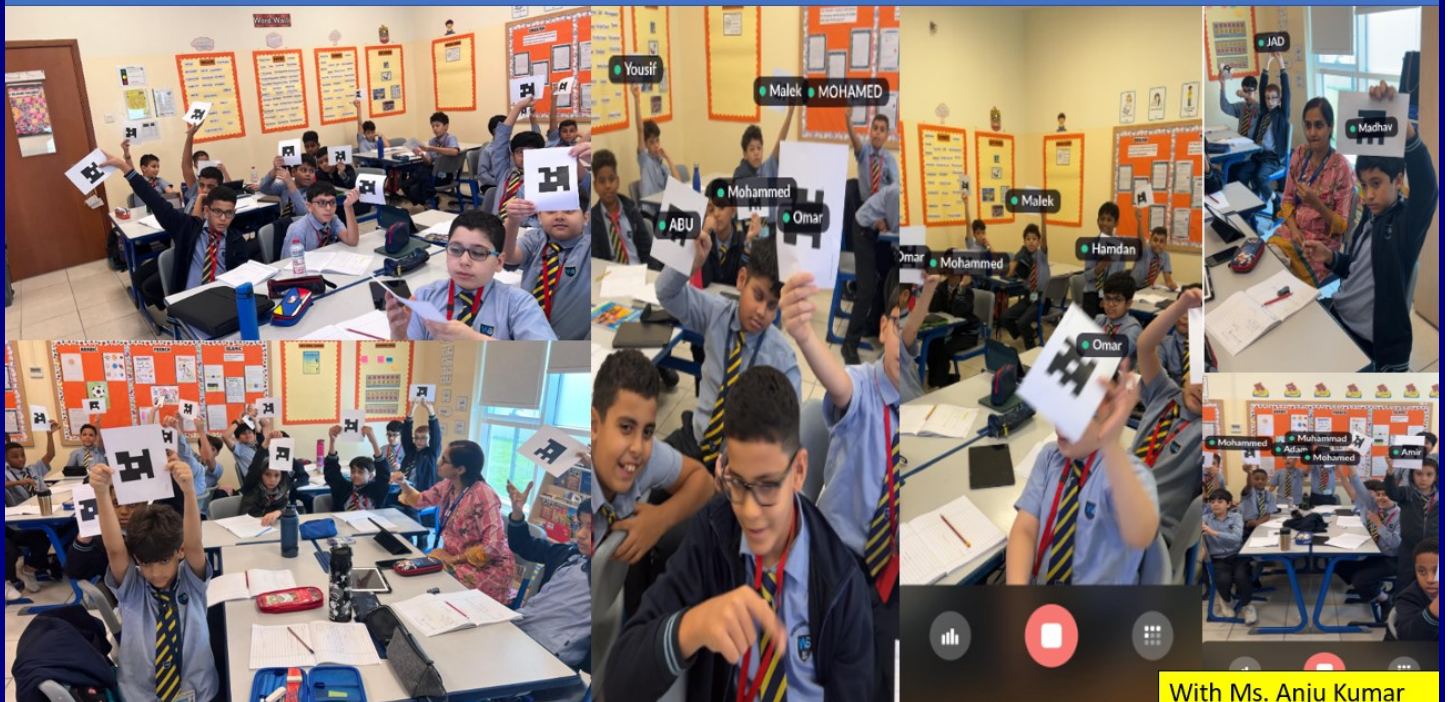
"Round up Round down Decimals Game, Decimal rounding bingo"

Y6GH



With Ms. Anju Kumar

Maths Lesson – Y6BF Introducing the online tool 'Plickers'



With Ms. Anju Kumar

Primary Section News; Y6!

Live at WSS Radio Station



RJ Mariam Tarek



RJ Wagio Gacheru



RJ Hirushinitha

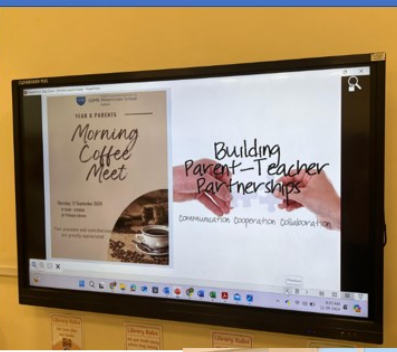


RJ Mariam Abdul

WSS Radio Club
Primary Section



Morning Coffee Meet with Y6 Parents!



WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions; IGCSE Toppers!

IGCSE STUDENT TOPPER 2023-24



BHIPESH SUNEEL
7A*



YOUSEF WAGDY
6A*



AMIR AHMED
5A* 1A



MUHAMMAD JAREER
5A* 1A



HUZAIFA BILLIMORIA
5A*1A



MOHAMMAD EBAD
5A* 1A



BIENN CEDRIC
5A*



SHAYAAN BIN SHUKAT
5A*



SHAH AFEEF
5A*



AHMED ABBAS
5A*



RAYAN BILAL KHALIL
4A* 2A



YOUSEF MOUFID ABOU
4A* 2A

IGSCSE STUDENT TOPPER 2023-24



SYEDA TAYYIBA ZAINUB
6A*



YANA CHINTALAPUDI
6A*



SALI OMAR BADRAN
5A* 1A



FARIDA AHMED
5A*1A



ZAHRA ABBAS
4A* 2A

WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions; IGCSE Toppers!



**YOUNNA OSAMA
ABDELHAMID ALIAN 5A***



**MENNA AHMED
5A* 1A**



**LEEN NAEL
5A* 1A**



**MRIDINI SUR
5A* 1A**



**MAYMOONA ATHAR
5A* 1A**



**ZEINAH JAFAR
4A* 1A**

WSS Secondary Section Superstar Champions!



WELLBEING CHAMPIONS - YEAR 7

Congratulations to the students who received the Wellbeing Award at Westminster School! Your dedication to mental and emotional health, kindness, and positive contributions to the school community is truly commendable. This award reflects your efforts in promoting a healthy, supportive environment. Keep shining and inspiring others with your positive spirit!



WSS Secondary Section Superstar Wellbeing Champions!

WELLBEING CHAMPIONS – YEAR 7

Congratulations to all the students who have been honored with the Wellbeing Award at Westminster School! Your dedication to fostering a positive mindset and supporting others has made a lasting impact. This recognition reflects your kindness, resilience, and commitment to personal growth. Keep inspiring your peers and spreading positivity!



WSS Secondary Section Superstar Wellbeing Champions!

MEET OUR WELLBEING CHAMPIONS, ALWAYS SPREADING POSITIVITY AND LIFTING OTHERS UP



BRINGING BALANCE AND HARMONY TO THE CLASSROOM - THANK YOU TO OUR WELLBEING CHAMPIONS



SPREADING JOY, ONE KIND ACT AT A TIME - OUR WELLBEING CHAMPIONS ARE TRUE HEROES



WHEN IT COMES TO WELLBEING, OUR CLASS CHAMPIONS ARE LEADING THE WAY



LEADING WITH KINDNESS, FOSTERING CARE - OUR CLASS WELLBEING CHAMPIONS



Secondary Section News; Assembly Time with Y9GH, 9/9/24!



This was our very first student-led Assembly for the new academic year. Y9GH presented very confidently on 'Sustainability', a very current, 'hot' topic. Ms. Laneetha also introduced the 'Kindness in a Jar' initiative to promote student Wellbeing.



Secondary Section News; Assembly Time with Y9BD, 10/9/24!

This was an exceptionally useful & well-planned Assembly on 'Growth Mindset'. We learnt that using positive words about our ability to learn through hard work & strategies, will help us continue to learn & succeed.

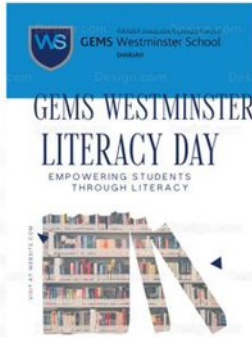


Secondary Section News; Literacy Week!

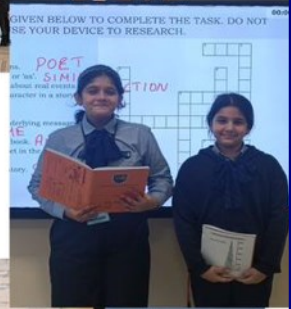
A touching performance



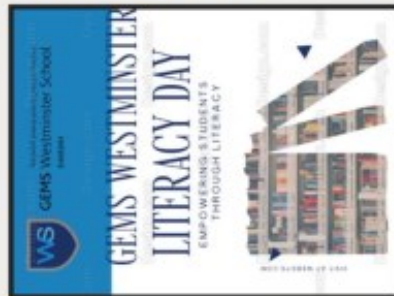
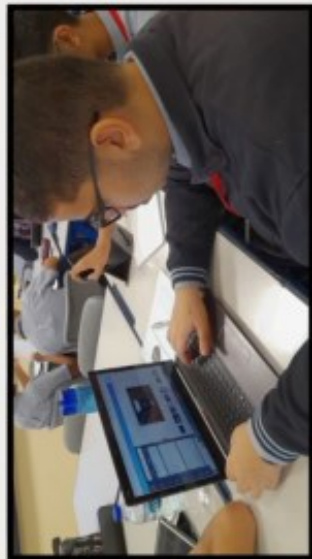
Our actors, directors and play writers



Living a day as your favourite character



Enhancing literacy through crossword puzzles



Living a day as your favorite character



Inspiring young minds, one book at a time.



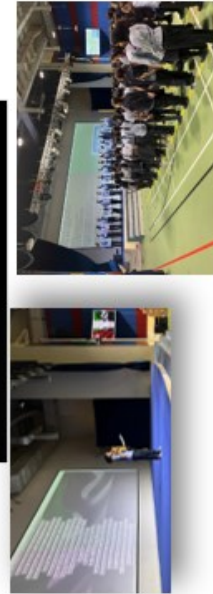
Y9 Learning journey this week



Wellbeing Champions-By fostering a culture of care and understanding, they help create a space where students and staff feel valued and empowered.



Assembly time



SUSTAINABILITY Assemblies
inspire collective responsibility, empowering the school community to take meaningful action

Secondary Section News; Y9 Learning Activities!