



Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021

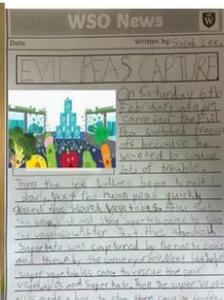
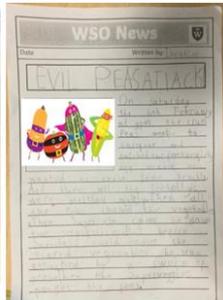
**RE: Primary Update**

Dear WSO Primary Community,

I hope this letter finds you and your family in good health. I would like to start by recognising what a challenging week it has been for our school community due to the devastating news of the passing of Shirley Balagtas. As you would have seen from my official announcement on Sunday, Shirley had worked at WSO for over 3 years in both FS2 and Year 1 and she was (and will always be) sincerely loved by many. Over the last few days, we have ensured our staff and students have been supported as much as possible as we all struggle to come to terms with this news – a huge thank you to our school counsellors. Words cannot describe how proud I am of the students who were closest to Shirley and the bravery they have shown. Additionally, my teachers and leadership team are navigating through an experience that we all wished would never happen in our careers; I can't thank them enough for what they are doing.

To share some positive news with you all, earlier today you would have received an official letter stating that Sarah O'Regan will be returning to WSO as the Academy CEO/Principal. For those of you who have been at WSO prior to this academic year, you will of course know Mrs O'Regan very well as she was the previous Primary Principal for 5 years and a founding leader since the school opened in 2011. We are all looking forward to Mrs O'Regan returning and being part of the team to continue to drive WSO forward.

**A look inside Primary this week . . .**





*This week some **FS1** classes explored the story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', learning about the life-cycle of a butterfly and even trying out some caterpillar yoga! For expressive arts we experimented with different musical instruments during free painting time. FS1G learned all about tortoises and how to look after them and FS1C and A learned all about pirates and treasure*

*After a visit from Pirate Pete in **FS2** we have been applying our phonics knowledge to write WANTED posters to track him down and take our treasure back. This has inspired us to investigate different materials, create a pirate map and use our imagination to go on a pirate adventure. Subtraction in maths, has allowed us to practise our take away skills using pirate coins.*

*This week in Maths, **Year 1** have been exploring money. We practised making amounts of money using different notes and coins. We have also been writing an information text about our own mythical creature during English lessons. We thought creatively about our creature's habitat, diet and behaviour. In Science, we discussed the season of autumn and learnt about how the animals, plants, weather and daylight hours change. We're looking forward to our 'Sensational Seasons Day' during the last week of term!*

*In English, **year 2** became newspaper reporters. They were challenged to use time openers, adjectives, adverbs and conjunctions to write a report about the crimes of the Evil Pea!*

*In **Year 3** this week, we have had lots of fun dissecting flowers to learn about the different parts of a flowering plant. During our Well-being lesson, we were exploring what it means to have a growth mindset and made our own positivity jar.*

*During the week, the **Year 4** students investigated the impact that COVID-19 has had on the world. At the start of the unit, they looked at the concept of responsibility and what might happen if people did not accept responsibility. After that, they took on the role of Data Scientists and explored data connected to the pandemic and how difficult countries have been affected. Towards the end of the week the students had a chance to be creative while thinking of potential solutions to slow down the spread of COVID-19*

*This week in **Year 5** the children have enjoyed planning investigations in science. They have really enjoyed exploring our science topic 'Properties of Materials' with the Outdoor Learning teachers through fun investigations. In class, the children have looked at how to plan their own investigations, ensuring that it is a fair test and their results are trustworthy.*

*In **Year 6** we have finished off our journey through the 60s and 70s by creating Tie Dye t-shirts. We started our exploration into the 80s and 90s by using drama, debate and music as vehicles for our learning. The students also enjoyed an exciting and engaging assembly in secondary with the Head Boy and Head Girl about transition and what to expect when they start school in September.*

### Key Messages

**Ramadan Timings** – On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, you were emailed a quick questionnaire to fill in with regards to Ramadan timings. This email came from our PRE, Juliet Freeman. As you may or may not know, during the holy month of Ramadan, schools are required to reduce their opening hours, starting later and finishing earlier. The KHDA have contacted schools and requested that we survey our parents to find out what times work best for the majority, which will help inform our planning. Even with reduced hours, it is vitally important that we continue to ensure students arrive and depart safely without large crowds gathering, therefore we will still keep staggered times for the beginning and end of the day. We will share these with you as soon possible.



## Upcoming Events and Dates

~~W/B 14<sup>th</sup> March – STEAM Week~~ – Postponed until Term 3

**W/B 14<sup>th</sup> March – FS and KS1 virtual performances (Music through the Movies)** – Each FS and KS1 class will be going over to the auditorium to perform their class song as part of the Music through the Movies event! They are all super excited, and the performances will be recorded and shared with parents via seesaw.

**15<sup>th</sup> March – Emirati Children's Day** – further information to be shared on seesaw.

**W/B 21<sup>st</sup> March – Teacher Appreciation Week** – During the final week of term, there will be additional events and exciting surprises to show our teaching staff how valued and appreciated they are. *Please note: every day is teacher appreciation day! However, we like to make this week extra special!*

**21<sup>st</sup> March – World Down Syndrome Day (Rock your Socks!)** – Wear funky socks for the day, in recognition of World Down Syndrome Day. For those able to drop your students, please look out for further information in the parent reception.

**21<sup>st</sup> March – Secondary Showcase Event (Year 6 students)** - An exciting opportunity to show parents and students what WSO offers by way of learning experiences in secondary. Please be aware COVID and associated Health and Safety guidelines necessitate the need for a booking system.

**25<sup>th</sup> March – Wear Blue For Autism Awareness** – All students will be asked to wear as much blue as they can to support Autism Awareness Day which is during the spring holidays (2<sup>nd</sup> April).

**25<sup>th</sup> March – Term 2 Reports emailed to parents** – teachers will be emailing the Term 2 reports to you on the final day of term. As mentioned in recent parent engagement sessions, these reports are different to previous years as they will be the most detailed reports of the academic year, giving the whole of term 3 to really focus on those targets!

**25<sup>th</sup> March – Last day of Term 2** – Enjoy your two-week holiday safely!

**11<sup>th</sup> April – Start of Term 3**

As always, thank you for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact any member of the school if you have any questions. Have a lovely weekend and please do stay safe, keep your distance, and remain positive!

Warm Regards

**Nathan Sadler**  
Primary Principal

