



Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021

## RE: Primary Update

Dear WSO Primary Community,

I hope this letter finds everyone safe and in good health. I want to start by acknowledging the departure of Mr. Kevin Loft as CEO of our school last week. I wanted to take a moment to thank him for his leadership during his tenure. Some of our teaching faculty followed Mr. Loft from his days at Royal Dubai School to WSO to continue to work with him. We will have fond memories and stories of our time under his leadership and guidance. We wish him and his family well on this next part of their journey.

On that note, I wanted to reassure you that day to day procedures in and outside of the classroom remain the same and continue as normal. As you know, our focus from the start of the pandemic has been health and safety, the quality of learning and teaching and the wellbeing of all members of our community. These priorities remain firmly in place. Whilst we wait for official communication regarding the successful appointment of a new CEO, both myself and Mr. Kai Fong are being supported by our cluster leader, Maryssa O'Connor (CEO Wellington International School), as well as other school leaders from across the network.

### A look inside Primary . . .



*This week **FS1** have been on journeys Into the Jungle and Under the Sea! FS1A, B and C are learning all about the different animals that live in the jungle through the wonderful stories 'Rumble in the Jungle' and 'Giraffes Can't Dance'. They even learned what the word 'camouflage' means and made their own camouflage animals! FS1 D, E and F have gone down into the deep blue sea and enjoyed the story 'Hooray*



*for Fish'. They designed their own fish and made beautiful jellyfish sun catchers! We also welcomed a new class to FS1 – The FS1G Gecko Class with Mrs Davies and Miss Bel.*

*Wow, what an amazing week in **FS2**, the children are now sharing their ideas and have chosen their favorite ocean animal and labeling it using their phonics knowledge. In maths we have been adding groups of ocean animals and beginning to record the number sentences. We have enjoyed our continuous provision time where we have been able to explore sinking and floating activities, painting their favourite ocean animals, play dough tasks and lots, lots more.*

*In **Year 1**, this week in Maths we compared numbers and objects using the language less than, greater than and equal to. In English, we wrote a character description of the character 'Wild'. We used a range of adjectives to describe her appearance and personality. We had a great time in our Science 'weather walk' this week. We explored different kinds of weather including a storm, rain and fog.*

*What an amazing couple of weeks we have had in **Year 2!** In the past 2 weeks, we have been engaging in various learning experiences around our topic 'Superheroes.' As part of our English learning, we have explored different sentence types and have enjoyed being great communicators when using 'bossy verbs' and adding correct punctuation when writing our own sentences. We have also been Explorers and Enquirers during our flipped Science learning on Plants, investigating the stages of a plant through role play and creating our own homemade terrarium!*

*We have had another exciting week in **Year 3**. During our English lessons, we have written our own Dinosaur adventure story which we will be editing and publishing next week. We have become 3x tables whizzes for both division and multiplication facts and have applied our skills to reasoning and problem-solving activities. In Science, we have been investigating and testing the properties of rocks, focusing on permeable and impermeable rocks. This week in Learning Enquiry, we have been comparing life now in 2021 and in the times of Pangeaa when the dinosaurs roamed the earth.*

*The **Year 4** children are continuing their learning about the Roman Empire. This week we've been focusing on the features of Roman architecture and how it has inspired modern day architects. We've even been building our very own Roman cities using Minecraft Education!*

*In **Year 5**, we have been exploring the book 'Rose Blanche', which follows the life of a young girl in WW2. We have been using 'social distanced' drama to bring her story to life and to inspire our creative writing. We have loved reading the book as a class and practicing our reading skills. We can't wait to find out what happens to Rose at the end of the book.*

***Year 6** have explored entrepreneurship in Social Studies. The students enjoyed learning about different entrepreneurs and showing an entrepreneurial mindset in various open-ended tasks. A special thanks to Sajith Anser CEO of Idea Spice and WSO parent for donating his time to help the students develop a deeper understanding of entrepreneurship. The students are excited to put him in the hot seat next week.*



## Key Messages/Updates

**COVID Cases in School** – Over the last few days, you would have received email updates regarding the current situation regarding COVID cases in school. There has unfortunately been an increase in cases since the return from the winter holidays, however I want to reassure you that everyone in school continues to work tirelessly to ensure your children are safe whilst on site. As soon as we are made aware of any cases, we act on these instantly (day, night or weekends) to ensure we contact any students who are confirmed as close contacts. I request that all parents read the following points carefully as it will really help us to keep ALL of your children safe:

- If your child is not well, KEEP THEM AT HOME! I completely understand the impact this can have on you as a family however we all must follow this rule.
- Please check your emails regularly (including weekends) and ensure that your correct email and mobile numbers are registered with the school. On a couple of occasions this week we have had to call parents to collect children early, therefore do keep your phones close by.
- Please always keep the school informed of any changes in health for your child. For example, if they are not feeling well and you are taking them to the doctors or for a PCR test, please tell your class teacher that you are going for the test. Then let them know once the test has been administered, followed by the results as urgently as possible.
- If your child unfortunately gets COVID, it is vital that you inform the school straight away. We will start contact tracing from the time spent in school, however we must also know of any students who your child may have socialized with outside of school.
- If your child has been a close contact to somebody outside of school (family member, etc), please still inform the school of this and follow the correct quarantine rules.
- If your child has to quarantine due to being a close contact, this means staying safely inside your home environment. They cannot leave your home unless for medical reasons. It is so important that everyone follows this guidance from the DHA to reduce the chances of COVID spreading.
- In these difficult times, it is vital that everyone listens and acts on factual information provided by the school staff, not on information passed on by others. There have been examples of inaccurate information being shared via Whatsapp which can cause added stress for others. If you ever have any questions, please just reach out to the school.
- Please respect each other's privacy with regards to COVID cases. School will continue to not publicly name students or staff members who have tested positive to respect their privacy. We have been notified of instances on Whatsapp groups or private messages where parents are directly asking which student is positive. All close contact families will be notified without needing to know the name of the person. Thank you

**KHDA Parent Survey** – This week you should have been emailed by the KHDA with regards to their annual parent survey. Please do fill this in, I believe they are giving away prizes for parents who do complete it!



### Upcoming Events and Dates

**W/B 24<sup>th</sup> January** -The Great Kindness Challenge initiative across Academy

**W/B 24<sup>th</sup> January** -ArtsEd West End star, Jordan Shaw, visit

**25<sup>th</sup> January** - Parent Engagement: FS1 Developing pre-writing and reading skills

**26<sup>th</sup> January** - Parent Engagement: Arabic A Creative Writing

**26<sup>th</sup> January** - Parent Engagement: FS2 Reading Parent Engagement

**2<sup>nd</sup> February** - Parent Engagement: Anxiety - Counselling Team

**3<sup>rd</sup> February** - Parent Engagement: Supporting Maths Learning at Home

**11<sup>th</sup> February** – End of Half Term

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**

