



Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021

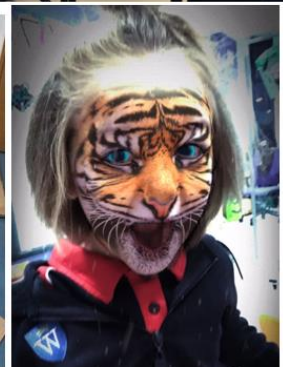
## RE: Primary Update

Dear WSO Primary Community,

I hope this letter finds you well and in good health. Every time I write these letters, it amazes me how quickly time is going! We are into February and have reached the halfway point of the academic year. Reflecting personally, even though we continue to face challenges due to the pandemic, I am thoroughly enjoying my role as the Primary Principal. I cannot be prouder of everyone in our community and how we continue to push forward in a positive way. Our students, staff and parents are the life of our school.

I'd like to thank everyone for your support last week when we had to revert to Remote Learning for 5 days. The community transitioned seamlessly and everyone involved did their part to ensure learning continued. I am sure there was some logistical issues for families regarding childcare and we thank you for making it work. Of course, we do not want to close however we must ensure that safety of everyone remains the top priority.

### A look inside Primary . . .



**FS1** have continued their exploring journeys this week Into the Jungle and Under the Sea. We absolutely loved the story 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea', drawing our own tigers, designing our own tea party and even making our very own tiger jam sandwiches! We got a very big surprise when the tiger even turned up right here at WSO! Some classes read the story 'A House for Hermit Crab'. We learned some crab facts and made our own hermit crabs. We had so much fun in our first Outdoor Learning sessions outside, where we were able to explore nature through play and sensory fun!



This week in **FS2** have been continuing to explore 'our under the sea' topic, we loved going on 'An Adventure with Alex' and looking at all of the different ocean animals he observed and used our phonic skills to write a list of the animals we saw. We have been continuing to practice addition and subtraction by catching crabs in the classroom, it turns out we are very good fishermen! During our science experiment this week we learnt all about buoyancy by dropping objects into salt water, it was amazing to see the different objects float after we added salt to the water! We used our imagination to create port hole pictures, painting what we thought we would see if we looked out of a submarine!

It has been a very exciting week in **Year 1** this week. The children have been working on an alternative version of the story 'Wild'. They picked 3 new characters to feature in the story and decided on a new setting for the story to take place. They then brought their version to life by creating a shoebox theatre and character puppets, they enjoyed performing to each other and hope parents enjoyed watching at home.

For **Year 2**, in English we have been creating and writing our own Superveggie stories. We have enjoyed creatively thinking of ideas on how our super veggies managed to catch the Evil Peas. As part of our English learning, we have applied different sentence types, descriptive language and punctuation into our writing to create more interest. In Science, we have found out interesting facts about how seeds are dispersed. Did you know that some plants disperse their seeds through explosion? Maths lessons have been extremely fun and hands on and we've been practicing our times-tables. We really enjoyed understanding and practicing the 2 and 5 timetables this week, especially when we painted our hands to make groups of 5s.

In **Year 3** this week, we have been writing imaginative diary entries based on the book *The Boy who Grew Dragons*. In Science and Learning Enquiry we have been investigating fossils found in the UAE and even got to make our own dinosaur fossil. We have begun to multiple 2 digits by 1 digits with exchanging using the column method in Maths and have impressed our teachers with how quickly we are picking it up. In Social Studies, we have been exploring the world using digital maps, we even found WSO!

What an amazing week we've had in **Year 4**...We've been working hard to design our very own Roman themed hotels! So far, we have created some sketches of what the front of our hotel will look like and designed our floor plans. We have continued to explore the architectural features that the Romans used by making our own Roman arches and columns, the Colosseum and a Roman aqueduct. Alongside this, we have planned and created an exciting advertisement to persuade others to come and stay in our hotels!

This week in **Year Five**, we have started our new unit based on the amazing short film 'The Piano'. The children have been using their inference skills to make predictions about the characters. We have also focused on writing from different viewpoints, the children have loved using the drama technique 'Hot Seating' to explore the story through the eyes of the different characters. The highlight of the week for the children, was completing their Anderson Shelter design on Minecraft Education, they worked collaboratively to design and choose the most suitable materials to build a successful Anderson Shelter.

Students in **Year 6** have explored how the heart and lungs work this week. A highlight of the week was learning what is in our blood. Students made blood in class using a range of materials and independently explored each component. Another highlight has been secondary transition lessons. The opportunity to participate in various secondary classes, including textiles, performing arts, maths, and science, helps Year 6 students get ready for their next steps and has been a massive hit.



## Key Messages/Updates

**TIMSS Results** – Your may have seen this on social media already, however I wanted to reiterate how excellent our year 5 students did on the 2019 TIMSS International assessment (Trends in Maths and Science studies). The results have just been published and our year 5 students did incredibly well, surpassing the tough targets set by the KHDA and ensuring we remain a ‘High International Benchmark School’.



**Re-enrollment Update** – Re-enrollment for the next Academic Year will open on Sunday 7th. While we fully understand that there continues to be a great deal of uncertainty that may make it difficult to confirm plans moving forward, we would be grateful if you could kindly confirm your intentions. Families will receive a system generated email which will ask you to confirm yes or no. If you are unsure at this time, please speak with our PRE Juliet Freeman, who will be able to support you further: [pre\\_wso@gemsedu.com](mailto:pre_wso@gemsedu.com)

## Upcoming Events and Dates

**9<sup>th</sup> February** – Arabic Guided Reading Parent Engagement (On Seesaw)

**10<sup>th</sup> February** – Inclusion Support Team – How Assistive Technology can support with specific learning difficulties

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

**21<sup>st</sup> February** – Return from Half Term

**21<sup>st</sup> February** – International Mother Language Day

**24<sup>th</sup> February** - Parent Engagement: Self Esteem and Self Worth - Counselling Team



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**

