



Thursday 6th May 2021

RE: Primary Update

Dear WSO Primary Community,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and in good health. It is May - How did that happen! Collectively, we have come so far in so many ways since returning for this academic year. We are proud of our achievements however we don't stop now, we have 2 months remaining and we want to make it as special and memorable for our students as possible. This is the time when your children make significant progress in so many ways and it is our joint responsibility do everything we can to help them achieve their goals – Let's do this! Please take some time to read over the following updates and information – thank you.

A look inside Primary this week . . .



*This week in **FS1**, FS1D and FS1F have been on an exciting train journey! They listened to the story 'Train Ride' and made their very own model trains using recyclable items. FS1H have been busy learning through the nursery rhyme 'Incy Wincy Spider, making their own spiders and re-telling the story through play. FS1A and C have been exploring growing, and used their senses to investigate herbs and vegetables. FS1D and FS1B love their new Dinosaur topic and made their own dinosaur fossils and learned the dinosaur names.*

*This week the children in **FS2** began a journey into the woods.... They explored the wonderful story 'The Gruffalo' and developed their literacy skills through creating story maps. They also investigated where animals live and made real-life models of different habitats. They got very creative using natural materials*



to design and build. In Mathematics, children experimented with different ways to represent doubling.

*In **Year 1** Maths this week we have been practicing counting in 2's, 5's and 10's using a hundred square. We have also practiced making equal groups of objects and writing the corresponding repeated addition sentence. In Science we investigated the different properties of materials through an investigation using spoons. We tested wooden, metal, plastic and paper spoons to see which material would be most suitable. We are really enjoying our topic 'Back to the future'. This week we have used our knowledge from our science investigation to design and make our very own 'spoony' toy.*

*This week in **Year 2** we have continued our journey around the world and have been exploring Italy. Each class has their own pet snail and we have been feeding and looking after them as part of our work on life cycles in Science. In our Maths lesson we have begun to explore shapes and have been making shapes in order to identify their properties. We have also been writing our own versions of 'Zog the Dragon' as he goes on all of our adventures around the world!*

*This week in **Year 3**, we have been doing Talk 4 Writing to adapt the Greek myth of Theseus and the Minotaur to create our own version. In Maths, we have started a new unit on time and this week we have been recapping AM and PM, O'clock, half past and quarter to. We have enjoyed exploring what life was like before cities during our Integrated Curriculum sessions.*

*It has been another brilliant week in **Year 4** this week! In our integrated curriculum lessons, the children have become entrepreneurial inventors of the future! In our technology topic, the children have been looking at future inventions that will improve our lives and they have even designed their own inventions. We've had some fantastic ideas, from flying, driver-less cars to virtual reality gaming suits to diagnostic health scanners. They have also written news articles to promote their new product. The children have also really enjoyed the science lessons this week, they have learned about and experimented with electrical circuits to test if materials are insulators or conductors.*

*In **Year 5** this week, the children have been learning about the main parts of a flower in Science. The children dissected a flower to explore the male and female parts, as well as investigating each parts function. The children loved investigating each part and sharing their amazing knowledge.*

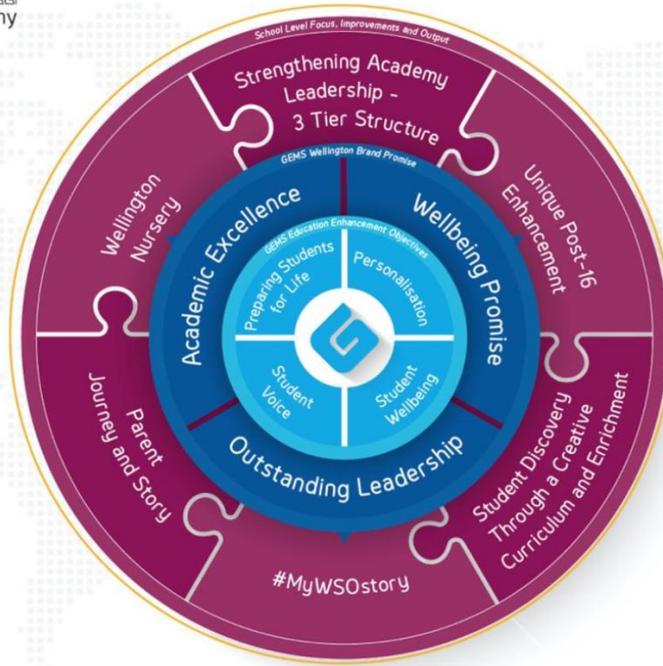
*Wellbeing and self-reflection have been at the heart of our learning this week. **Year 6** have been working closely with Year 7 on an exciting writing project. Children have reflected on the last 12 months, the lessons they have learned along the way and crafted this into a fun and engaging story. After EID, the children are excited to share their writing with Year 7, which will form an important part of their transition. Thank you to Heather Howard from secondary for supporting our students with this great project.*

Key Messages

WSO Vision Part 2 - Some of you may have joined the recent 'Meet the Principal' live zoom sessions, held by Sarah O'Regan, Andy Kai Fong and myself. If you were not able to attend, the below graphic illustrates the vision and priority areas for WSO over the next few years. The core of our vision identifies the importance of four key priorities: student voice, personalised learning, student well-being and preparing students for life. Later this term, all parents will be receiving a link to the bi-annual GEMS parent survey, which will explore these 4 areas with you. Therefore, I want to take this opportunity to share some of our school actions against these areas, finishing with 'preparing students for life' and 'personalisation.'



**Wellington
Vision
2021-2024**



Preparing Students for life – The aim of a WSO education is not simply to prepare students to be successful in tests or examination, but to prepare and equip them to live a fulfilling and successful life. There is not one simple way to achieve this, but it is certainly a journey that begins with the individual and an understanding that each child needs to be nurtured along a personalised pathway towards their own unique and individual interpretation of success and fulfilment in the future. There is no doubt, that in order to achieve future professional success our children will need to have mastered the fundamental academic skills within our core curriculums of english, mathematics, science, Arabic and Islamic. We take great care to ensure our core provision is rigorous and challenging, yet delivered in a personalised, supportive and creative manner to ensure every child is growing in confidence and making accelerated progress.

Studies show that character is a better indicator of future success than academic achievement and therefore at WSO we are not content with the question “What do our students need to know and understand to be successful?” but “Who do they need to be in order to be a successful?” One way we develop the character of our students is through our WSO competences; a collection of 11 skills and attributes that we believe will support them in being successful in their immediate learning and in the future. These are not something extra that we learn in school, but how we learn. Through our investment in the WSO competences, our students come to understand themselves better as learners; looking inward to assess their progress, rather than comparing themselves with their peers. They understand that intelligence and proficiency is malleable and something that results from effortful practice rather than being innate skills or gifts. This developed sense of learner identity is also advanced by a broad curriculum which provides students with deeply relevant learning experiences. An emphasis on the integration of curriculum and an exciting project-based approach ensures our student are able to transfer their learning and apply it in the



real world. Our pioneering use of technology supports students to acquire new information, express their learning in innovative and creative ways and communicate their learning to specific and inspiring audiences within and beyond the immediate WSO community.

Through our comprehensive specialist provision our students gain cultural capital and an immense range of skills that will allow them to differentiate themselves from others in the future. Our Outdoor Learning sessions support students to understand that learning is something that is not confined to the classroom but in rich abundance in the world around us. Our Performing Arts lessons connect our students to their humanity and support them to express themselves in creative and authentic ways. Our PE curriculum develops our students' ability to be effective team players and leaders as well as instilling an investment in personal health. While our Modern Foreign Languages department, equip our students with an outward looking global mindset.

Through our primary education, WSO students are placed on an incredibly personalised and enabling pathway that ensures they have rich, diverse exposure to an inspiring and relevant curriculum and school culture. Throughout their time in Primary our children grow into incredibly proficient and aspiring learners who know themselves well and who actively and enthusiastically engage with the wider world.

Personalisation – To get an idea of what personalised learning is, try to picture a classroom that doesn't have a "one size fits all" approach to education. The teacher doesn't lead all students through the same lessons. Instead, the teacher guides each student on an individualised journey. The what, when, where and how of learning is tailored to meet each student's strengths, skills, needs, and interests. Below are some examples of how we personalise learning for our students:

- Tailored questioning to challenge the individual
- Provide sufficient support or scaffolded resources to ensure each student can access the learning and make progress
- Each student has a personalised 'data story' document which contains quantitative and qualitative information including specific targets, learning suggestions and wellbeing and assessment data. Teachers use these data stories to personalise learning for your children
- Individualised education plans (IEP's) for students receiving inclusion support
- Child-led learning approach in various lessons. Students get to choose the direction of their learning and teachers help to facilitate this
- Students get to choose their learning pathway with a variety of enrichment lessons
- New approach to home learning shows value for all learners and types of learning. Students are able to select the challenges that most appeal to them or address their needs

India Situation - Our thoughts and sympathies are extended to staff and the community who are impacted by the current situation in India. We know that we have many who are connected to the situation directly or indirectly and we continue to offer support where we can. If we can be of any support to you and your family, please reach out to our Counselling Team who will be only too happy to offer their guidance.



Key Stage 2 GL Assessments in English, Maths and Science – After the Eid holiday and over a four-week period, our Key Stage Two children will be taking part in the annual GL assessments which measures their attainment in English, Maths and Science against age related expectations. This is the fifth year of our students completing these assessments, which are part of the UAE National Agenda for education. Year group specific information will be shared with parents in due course regarding how you can best support your children during this time.

Ramadan website – With Ramadan almost over, I encourage you to check out our WSO community Ramadan page which has been shared previously. [CLICK HERE TO VIEW WEBSITE](#). On this website, members of our WSO community can share their experiences of Ramadan in an effort to inspire and support others. While Ramadan is the Islamic holy month, this website is for everyone and you will see vlogs from many familiar faces.

Social Distancing reminder at collection time – For those collecting children at the end of the school day (1.30pm currently), please can we ask for your support to remember to keep socially distanced from other parents, especially around the main reception area. We need to ensure no crowds are formed and that our students can safely exit the building. The leadership team will be actively asking people to separate so we thank you for your support and understanding.

Re-enrolment deadline MAY 13th – Thank you to the significant number of families that have re-enrolled for 2021/22. We are looking forward to continuing the relationships and educational journey with you. Preparations for next year are well underway and we need to be placing students in classes and houses. We can only do this with those that are re-enrolled. We would appreciate your attention to this process. You may receive a phone call soon regarding this matter and if you have any questions please contact our admissions team. admissions_wso@gemsedu.com

Little Mermaid at the QE2 - We would like to draw to your attention to an upcoming show featuring WSO Students, Amelia and Rhian Arnott. In conjunction with a UK-based crew, the girls are part of the local talent that bring to you The Little Mermaid. There is a school discount code for your convenience 'SCHOOL10'. Link to booking [here](#).

Upcoming Events and Dates

9th May @10am – New Parent Community zoom – Information has been shared directly with Term 3 new starters

10th May - **Parent engagement – Are you school ready?**

11-13th May – Possible school closure due to Eid Al Fitr (awaiting confirmation from KHDA)

W/B 16th May – Primary parent Consultations – Information to be shared with parents via seesaw in the coming weeks

May – GEMS Internal Parent Survey (Part 2) – This will be sent to parents directly from GEMS. Please refer to CEO letter sent earlier this week.



W/B 16th May – Year 3 GL Assessments

W/B 23rd May – Year 4 GL Assessments

W/B 30th May – Year 5 GL Assessments

W/B 6th June – Year 6 GL Assessments

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

