



Thursday 20th May 2021

RE: Primary Update

Dear WSO Primary Community,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and in good health and I hope everyone enjoyed the extended Eid break earlier in the month. Since Eid, we have now completed our first week back at school with normal school hours; there were definitely a few tired people coming into school on Sunday morning!

In a slight change to the format, instead of the year group updates, I wanted to share with you what has been taking place across Primary this week for Arabic Culture week.

A look inside Arabic Culture



We have all had a wonderful experience sharing Arabic Culture Week with our WSO community. The week has been filled with learning about different traditions, cultures, and exploring a variety of languages. We have been immersed in lessons with all of our teachers, who have embedded Arabic culture and language. We hope you have enjoyed sharing our experiences on social media, and taking part in cooking and competitions too!

Over the week, we have been greeted with performances as we walk into the primary reception area, followed by lunchtime activities and a wonderful calligraphy Enrichment for all students. In Arabic lessons, we have creatively performed stories, poems, and explored and dance, fashion and famous places. Our



class teachers have joined in our Arabic lessons to learn and teach us conversational Arabic alongside the Arabic Department.

And to round off a wonderful week, we had a whole Primary Assembly with a special guest, our KPA Ambassador Soulmaz, who kindly taught us the importance of body language and taught us some gestures and traditions. We celebrated our competition winners – well done to our students and teachers and shared our singing, dancing and amazing achievements of the week.

Such a wonderful week, could not have been possible without the passion and dedication of our Arabic Department, teachers, and all staff. It has been a truly inspiring team effort for our students and community, and we thank you all for your continued support. We are already looking forward to the next annual Arabic Culture Week!

Key Messages

GEMS Parent Survey, 30th May - As you are aware, you will be invited to complete the Parent Survey on the 30th May. We have valued your input from the last survey during Term One and have focused our efforts on the 4 key areas you identified as needing further work:

Student Well-being

Preparing Students for Life

Personalised learning

Student Voice

For a reminder of the actions, efforts and improvements taken place since the first survey, please refer back to the Primary Parent Newsletters from 6th May 2021 and 22nd April 2021. To access these letters again, they are located on our school website [here](#). We hope you will see we have been responsive and we welcome your acknowledgement and further ideas in the coming survey. As well as identifying next steps, we also use this as an opportunity to share all of the amazing, positive comments you write with our teaching staff. We highly encourage all of our parent community to complete this survey – thank you in advance.



Detractors

Detractors
(score 0–6) unhappy



Passives

Passives
(score 7–8) satisfied



Promoters

Promoters
(score 9–10) happy



Key Stage 2 GL Assessments in English, Maths and Science –Our annual GL assessments measure student 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 3 have now completed theirs – well done! We now move onto Year 4 next week and Year 5 the week after that. Please remember to check seesaw updates from the class teachers with how your child can be best prepared.

Collection Time Reminder – Now that we have returned to Pre-Ramadan school timings, I wanted to remind you of the correct collection times for your students. Please remember that these collection times are staggered due to health and safety restrictions. Also, for parents entering the building to collect their children (FS1-Year 2 only), please can I remind you that as per KHDA rules, the maximum time allowed in the school building is for 10 minutes. Therefore, whoever is collecting your child must proceed directly to the classroom to collect and then exit the school building following the one-way system. As we cannot have multiple parents waiting in our reception area for collection, I highly encourage you to remain in your cars or in shaded areas outside the school until the thermal camera entrance is opened. Similarly, for Years 3-6 collection, for adults meeting students at the designated pick up points, please try to remain in your cars as long as possible to avoid time waiting in the increasingly hotter conditions. Please remember to not crowd and keep socially distanced – thank you.

Year Group Collection	Time Security will allow you to enter the school site	Time Thermal Camera gate opens (no earlier)
FS1	12.28pm	12.30pm
FS2	1.28pm	1.30pm
Year 1 and Year 2	1.48pm	1.50pm
Year 3 and Year 4	2.45pm	N/A
Year 5 and Year 6	3.15pm	N/A

Re-enrolment deadline – 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. For those parents who have not informed school of re-enrolling for next academic year, I highly encourage you to do this as a matter of urgency. The leadership team and admission team are currently clarifying class teachers and student allocations for next academic year. We can only do this for students who are re-enrolled. For the students who are re-enrolled, they will soon be making their friendship choices for their classes for next year.

FS Table screens being removed - On Sunday 23rd May, there will be adaptations made to the classroom environments in the Foundation Stage. The plastic dividers which are fitted to the tables will be removed, which brings us in line with common practice for FS classrooms across Dubai now. Children will continue to



remain in their safe learning bubble of ten, continue to practice social distancing and the students and tables will be 1.5m apart which is in accordance with the KHDA and DHA guidelines. This is an opportunity to improve the learning environments of our students without compromising their health and safety therefore, we are looking forward to this positive change for our students and teachers.

Upcoming Events, Engagements and Dates

W/B 23rd May – Primary parent Consultations

W/B 23rd May – Year 4 GL Assessments

W/B 30th May – Year 5 GL Assessments

May 30th – GEMS Internal Parent Survey

W/B 6th June – Year 6 GL Assessments

Parent Engagement Sessions

- **Sunday 23rd May** - Developing Maths Mastery in the Foundation Stage. (Sarah Hollingworth)
- **Monday 24th May** - FS Virtual Storytime, 4:30pm (Miss Wilson and Mrs McClennan)
- **Tuesday 25th May** - The Importance of Languages (Celine Dwyer)
- **Sunday 30th May** - How to support your child with a Healthy Active Lifestyle. (Reece Davis)
- **Monday 31st May** - FS Virtual Storytime, 4:30pm (Mrs Littlewood and Mrs Awad)
- **Tuesday 1st June** - Confidence, Communication and Expression, how to support your child during COVID times? (Matt Bowden)
- **Thursday 3rd June** - My child as my Arabic teacher

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

