



Thursday 22nd April 2021

RE: Primary Update

Dear WSO Primary Community,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and in good health. Welcome back to term 3 at WSO and Ramadan Kareem to our Muslim community. As always, we have hit the ground running across primary by delving straight back into our learning to ensure we make the most of our final term of the academic year. Students will be working on their targets this term with help from their peers, teachers and yourselves. Term 3 is always a term where rapid progress takes place and I'm sure this term will be no exception.

Thank you for your continued support with regards to keeping school as safe as it possibly can be. For those that travelled over spring break, everyone was extremely cautious and followed the rules correctly for returning to school. I can confirm that even though we are two weeks into the term, there has not been a positive covid case in the primary school (hence there being no medical update) which shows how careful everyone is being.

Please check out the learning updates from each year group below as well as some messages and key dates for your awareness:

A look inside Primary this week . . .





Over the past two weeks **FS1** have been learning all about Road Safety, Ramadan and Spring. FS1C practiced crossing the road safely and made our own special Spring flowers. FS1G are completing a daily 'Ramadan Kindness Challenge' and FS1D made beautiful prayer mats. We celebrated Earth Day by talking about how we can take care of our Earth. We are all working so hard on continuing to be independent learners and growing everyday in confidence.

Wow, what an amazing 2 weeks we have had in **FS2**. Last week we started out new topic 'Into the Woods' and celebrated 'Road Safety Week'. The children talked about how to stay safe in the car and by the roads. In literacy we imagined we went through a magic door and wrote about where we would find ourselves, reading what we had written and correcting any mistakes we noticed. In Maths we looked at numbers 11-20 and started to learn about tens and units. We celebrated Earth day exploring ways we can look after the environment and used natural material to create nature pictures.

We have had a very exciting week in **Year 1** learning all about toys. We shared our favourite toy and created a VLOG about it. We also found out about toys from the past, in particular toys our parents played with. This week in Maths we used balance scales to weigh our toys. We compared them with other toys to find out which were the lightest and heaviest! In Science we investigated different materials. We went on a material hunt around school in order to see how many materials we could find and thought carefully about which materials our toys were made from.

This week in **Year 2** we began our new topic 'Where in the World?' Our journey began in the United Arab Emirates. We have been learning about the local currency of the UAE, this also helped us when looking at fractions of different amounts in Maths. In our English lessons, we have been adding our actions to the story of 'Zog.' Another fun-filled week of learning!

In **Year 3** this week, we have been learning about equivalent fractions in Maths and made our own fraction walls to help us. During English lessons, we have been writing character descriptions based on the Greek myth of Theseus and the Minotaur. We are enjoying our new Integrated Curriculum sessions by exploring the concept of how humans adapt to the world around them.

What a fantastic week we've had in **Year 4**! We began our new unit on 'Technology'. We have been exploring how it has changed over time and the improvements that technology has made to healthcare, education, entertainment, transport and communication. We have even been thinking about what technology might look like in the future by designing our own futuristic modes of transport.

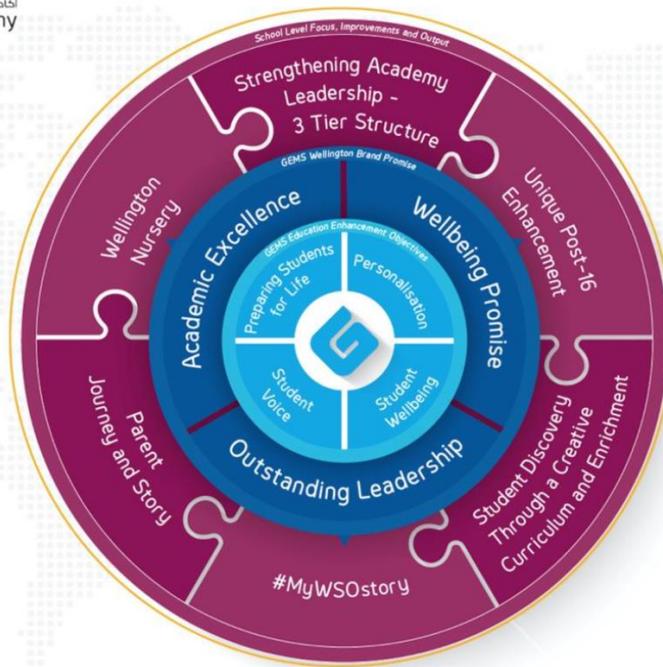
In **Year 5** this week, we have been learning about earthquakes in our Term Three topic 'Our Planet'. We have looked at what causes earthquakes and where they occur most around the world. Our focus this week, has been how to measure the strength of an earthquake. The highlight of the week, was creating our own seismograph and took readings. We have also applied this knowledge to our writing and have produced fantastic newspaper reports about an earthquake in Dubai.

This week in **Year 6** saw the launch of our 'Explorers and Discoverers' topic. Students loved learning about different types of species, classification and adaption. Students applied their new learning and understanding of these concepts to a new secret ecosystem discovered on Mars!



Key Messages

WSO Vision - 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, starting with student voice and well-being.



**Wellington
 Vision
 2021-2024**



Student Voice – Student voice continues to drive change and have a positive impact across Primary. With safety measures in place, we have looked at innovative solutions to encourage and support Student Voice and have utilised a range of digital platforms to share ideas, collaborate and reflect on our priorities. We have student representatives from Year 1 – Year 6 and an Executive Student Council with Emirati Student Representatives, these students are supported by Lead Teachers in each year group who meet with them on a regular basis to ensure that year group priorities are shared and plans made to support the school priorities and student ideas. Student representatives use a range of ways to gather ideas and suggestions from their classmates to drive change forward. Our Primary Executive Student Council meet weekly and are consulted on many Academy wide events and initiatives, they support the Parent Ambassadors, where appropriate, and enjoy feeding back on key documents to move the Academy forward. Student Voice has had a huge impact on well-being within the Academy with many of our Primary Student Council initiatives supporting this, such as Road Safety Week.



Student wellbeing – Our GROWELL is a bespoke, differentiated well-being programme, designed by WSO, to support, strengthen and develop the emotional, social and physical well-being of all of our primary students. This tailored approach focuses on 5 core skills, which are: self-awareness, self-management, relationship skills, responsible decision making and social awareness. From FS1 to Year 6, our children begin a well-being journey of discovery, enabling our teaching community to equip each student with the necessary tools to lead positive, fulfilling and successful lives. Weekly, timetabled GROWELL sessions ensure that every individual student's well-being needs are identified, guided and supported. External and internal data informs the content of the programme, as well as any common themes identified throughout the year group. This ensures that all the GROWELL sessions are purposeful, current and personalised. Our aim is that the GROWELL initiative will also be embedded across all specialist lessons to further enhance the emotional intelligence of all of our young gems.

Road Safety Week (message from Mrs. Smith, Ruby Head of House) - We would like to share the success of our Road Safety Week with you. The Primary Executive Student Council decided that it would be important to share information on how to stay safe as a passenger and on the roads around our school (and beyond)! We worked as a team to decide on the areas of safety that we should focus on for each year group. We worked with the Student Council Representatives across Primary and their supporting teachers to create lessons, information for assemblies and the video below for parents to keep us all safe. Our key message was 'responsible decision making.'

We are very pleased with how the week went and how children from FS1 to Year 6 were able to learn how to stay safe on and near roads. It feels amazing that an idea that we had as students has had such a positive impact on all of the children across the school and we are proud of what we have achieved as a team. It shows the power of student voice at WSO.

Please watch the video at home as a family to share the highlights of the week and to hear the video from the School Operations Manager, Mrs Baldwin, who has some great ways for parents to help stay safe near the school too! This will be a great opportunity to find out what your child has learned and how you can stay safe as a family.

Video link: <https://youtu.be/V0hF1FUt5-I> including the interview with Mrs Baldwin!

We would love to hear your feedback on what went well and what could be improved: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=3Kez0n7Vf0GQrRSbhy6aoeixk4XsB8VGp_Bd_uXUQVUOFhOMEZJWDUzRzNEOTZDR1FSWTgyTIJTQS4u

Thank you! - The Primary Executive Student Council and Mrs Claire Smith (c.smith_wso@gemsedu.com)





Water consumption – With temperatures increasing, we are really looking for your support at providing enough water for your child to last them the whole day. On PE days especially, they may require more water. We are still unable to use the public water fountains due to covid. We would never let a child go thirsty, and we do have some emergency bottles, however some students have started to rely on these emergency bottles and not bring in their own. Our assembly theme this week for all students was about protecting the earth and we mentioned the importance of using re-usable water bottles; your help as parents/carers would be greatly appreciated.

Ramadan website – our very own WSO Ramadan website and Vlog is up and running! Please do check it out by clicking the following link: [CLICK HERE TO VIEW WEBSITE](#). Throughout Ramadan we will be connecting as a WSO community through our WSO Ramadan Website. A really important part of the website will be our Vlog (video log). On this platform, 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.

International Francophonie Day - On this day where we celebrate the French Language, Our Modern Foreign Languages Department hosted a competition across the Academy where students danced to a famous French song. Included here is the [LINK](#) to the Wsok WSO winners. It was fantastic to see the number of entries from all ages.

Gulf News WSO Teacher feature - One of our year 4 teachers, Mr Gabriel, featured in a recent gulf news article sharing his families Ramadan journey. Please [click here](#) to take a look!

British teacher in UAE who had embraced Islam shares his Ramadan journey

Dubai-based teacher Alexander Gabriel, who is unable to fast, makes the most of Ramadan

Published: April 17, 2021 16:56
Faisal Masudi, Chief Reporter



Y7 fee structure reduction – We are pleased to share with our community that our Year 7 tuition fee reduction proposal to the KHDA was accepted this week, therefore from September 2021, the fee increase from year 6 to year 7 will be reduced. Please contact our admissions teams on admissions_wso@gemsedu.com for more information.

Re-enrolment – If you are yet to re-enrol your child/children for the next Academic year, I urge you to please do this as soon as possible. As a leadership team, we are now having to ensure our staffing



structures align to the number of students that we have. For late re-enrolment, we cannot guarantee that your child will remain in the same house or with their current classmates. We of course will do everything we can to not let this happen, however we really need official confirmation that your child/children will be continuing their journey with us. Again, please contact our admission team as soon as possible if you need any help.

Upcoming Events and Dates

27th April - Parent Engagement – Much more than lights, camera, action – Why Performing Arts is fundamental for every child’s journey (Jodie Quirke) – [Click here](#) to sign up for this exciting engagement session from Miss Quirke, which will show the importance of how PA improves various life skills

6th May – Parent engagement – Activities to enhance learning Arabic

Thursday 13th May – Possible school closure due to Eid Al Fitr (end of Ramadan celebration)

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. More information to follow shortly.

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

