



Thursday 25th March 2021

RE: Primary Update

Dear WSO Primary Community,

I hope this letter finds you all well and in good health. Firstly, this week the UAE received sad news of the passing of Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Deputy Ruler of Dubai and Minister of Finance, on Wednesday 24th. WSO expresses our sincere condolences and sympathies to the Al Maktoum family.

Term 2 is now officially complete – and what a phenomenal term it has been! Over the 11 weeks of learning, our students have continued to show a fantastic willingness to learn. They have continued to progress and definitely deserve a two-week holiday. This morning, we had our very first live whole primary assembly on Zoom for all of our students and staff (both at school and learning remotely) and it was a great success! I worked out that we had over 2200 people part of the assembly and it was so lovely to see all of our students unite as one.

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 . . .





*This week Spring arrived in **FS1!** We learned what happens in Spring time and made our own chick pictures and watched them hatch! We explored using eggs in different ways with experiments and decorations. Some classes investigated the farm in Spring time and even used some vegetables for painting! We also celebrated mothers day, talking about why we love our Mummies and took home some very special gifts.*

*We have had a very busy week in **FS2**, celebrating inclusion week and Mother's day. We loved drawing pictures of our Mum and used our phonics to write sentences saying why they are special to us and the amazing things they do. We really enjoyed using our socks to create sock puppets on 'Rock your Socks' day and spoke about how we are all different and how special we are in our own way! In maths we explored capacity and got very messy using the water in the water tray to fill up cups to different levels. During our science experiment this week we looked at how plants absorbed water and watched the white flowers in class change colour!*

*In **Year 1** Maths lessons we learned how to double numbers. We used practical equipment and number lines to help us. In English this week we looked at the features of letters. We wrote our own letter to a friend telling them about our mythical creature. We had a great time during our Sensational Seasons day on Wednesday. We shared our presentations about our favourite season and completed lots of fun activities related to the four seasons.*

*In **Year 2** Social Science lessons, we explored how weather changes throughout the year. We enjoyed drawing clothing for each season and explain why we chose them, with reference to scientific properties such as waterproof, insulating etc.*

In our Moral Education lessons, we learned how to care for the school environment and continued to develop our 'care guide' by adding part three; how to care for our school environment

*Over the last few weeks in English, **Year 3** have been writing fictional newspaper reports about Trevor the Triceratops destroying our school library. This week we have had fun presenting our newspaper reports in the role of a news reader using props. During our Maths lessons, we have been exploring fractions pictorially, practically and by using part-whole and bar models. We are looking forward to finding out the end of result of this half term's Science experiment on what plants need in order to grow well.*

*It has been a very eventful final week of term in **Year 4!** Our integrated curriculum studies of COVID-19 have moved on to our students turning into authors about a very delightful subject... travelling through the human digestive system. The children have brushed up on their understanding of how to write speech, vary sentence structures and have even created some beautiful expanded noun phrases to describe life as a piece of food inside the stomach. We have seen such a big development in the open creativity of the classes, as well as their independence to generate their own writing. After the holidays, we will only continue to see this wonderful collective imagination grow!*

*This week in **Year 5**, we have finished off Term Two with a Science week! The children have brought in their lab coats and have loved the practical investigations. We have built catapults to investigate levers and forces, we have helped 007 capture villains using friction and we have explored irreversible changes using diet coke and Mentos. We have many future scientists in the making!*

*This week in **Year 6**, we have continued to work on our Through the Decades topic. The children have loved diving into the past, taking a look at important events, famous people and even the rise of the gaming industry. From biographies about famous individuals to persuasive adverts about their own toy invention, the children have showcased their learning brilliantly and continue to display a huge amount of enthusiasm for each and every lesson. Who knows, maybe one day, the children in schools will be writing biographies about them!*



Key Messages

Ramadan Timings – Ramadan will begin during the first week back after the holidays. An official announcement will be shared with our school community once this is confirmed. Please see the below school timings that we will follow once Ramadan begins.

Year group	Soft Start	End of Day collection for non-bus children	Sibling club / Little Falcons (For siblings only)
FS1	8.00 – 8.30	11.45 - 12.15	Stay till 1.30
FS2	8.00 – 8.30	11.45 - 12.15	Stay till 1.30
Y1	8.00 – 8.30	12.30 - 12.45	Stay till 1.30
Y2	8.00 – 8.30	12.30 - 12.45	Stay till 1.30
Y3	8.30 – 8.50	1.30	
Y4	8.30 – 8.50	1.30	
Y5	8.30 – 8.50	1.30	
Y6	8.30 – 8.50	1.30	

During the Holy month of Ramadan please can we ask for parents support with the following drop of and collection recommendations:

- If you have a child in FS – Please drop them off to class between **8 am and 8.30 am**. Your child's class teacher will send further information regarding the staggered start time.
- If you have a child in KS1 – Please drop them off to class from **8 am**
- If you have a child in KS2 – they should arrive from **8:30 am**
- If you have two or more children and they are in FS/KS and KS2 – Please drop the FS/KS1 child to their class at **8:25 am** and the KS2 students at **8:30 am**

Sibling club/Little Falcons notice:

- Please be aware that sibling club/Little Falcons provision during the month of Ramadan will only be for students **who have siblings** at WSO. *We will return to our original sibling club/Little Falcons provision after the month of Ramadan.* This is to ensure we have a staggered end of the day.

As we are working on reduced hours during Ramadan, here are some further details:

- Lessons will be 40 mins long.
- Specialist lessons will still take place as normal; *outdoor learning, performing arts, PE and MFL*

Guidance for students fasting during Ramadan:

- Students can opt to take part in fasting should they wish.
- When other students are eating lunch or snack; alternative arrangements will be made for fasting students.
- Non-Fasting students will be asked to drink water in a respectable manner.



Travel declaration reminder – You should have seen an email from GEMS in the past week which was a travel declaration link. If you intend to travel outside of the UAE, it is important that this link is filled in. Please also fill it in if you are not travelling.

Inclusion Awareness Week - The Academy continues to work towards achieving the SENDIA award for our Inclusion Provision. Our Inclusion student ambassadors who sit on the SENDIA working party have been busy this week with our Inclusion Celebration Week, decorating reception to raise awareness and reduce stigmas around Inclusion support. On Sunday, our students came into school 'rocking their socks' to show their support of down syndrome awareness. Students have been learning about differences during well-being lessons and Assemblies. They have discussed what makes us unique and how to include and support those faced with learning difficulties. Some of our students have been decorating sock shaped cookies and tie-dyeing t-shirts to light it up blue for a more inclusive society.

Legally Blonde Music Video - Dazzle and Adrenaline have been working extremely hard on their pieces for this, while also staying socially distanced through rehearsals and practising in separate year groups. This has been a collaboration of incredible student leadership, as Kyla Munro has choreographed the Adrenaline piece and the BTEC Music Production students have recorded and edited 'Omi God You Guys', in the recording studio for the Dazzle students. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nFAeGhPsSo>

Upcoming Events and Dates

Thursday 25th March – Last day of Term 2 – Enjoy your two-week holiday safely!

Saturday 27th March (8.30pm) – UAE Earth Hour – The UAE is asking everyone to participate in a country-wide event to turn off unnecessary lighting and electrical devices for 1 hour (ending at 9.30pm). Please do take part and explain to your children the importance of sustainable living and conserving energy.

Sunday 11th April – Start of Term 3

W/B 11th April – Road Safety Awareness Week

Tuesday 13th April – Likely start of Ramadan school timings (end 11th May)

W/B 16th May – Primary parent Consultations

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!

Have a lovely spring break!

Warm Regards

Nathan Sadler
Primary Principal

