



أكاديمية جيمس ويلينغتون واحة السيليكون
GEMS Wellington Academy
SILICON OASIS

Term 2 Changes to the Primary Educational Model

Start Date: Sunday 3rd January 2021



EDUCATION

PO Box 49746, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
+971 (0)4 515 9000 +971 (0)4 342 4412
gemswellingtonacademy-dso.com

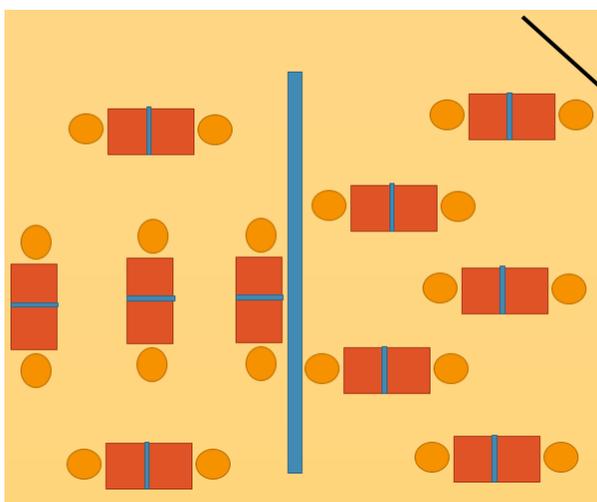
gemseducation.com
linkedin.com/company/gems-education
@gems_wso gems wso

Foundation Stage 1 and 2 - What changes will there be?

FS students will continue to come to school every day, all day. The drop-off and collection timings have been altered slightly, which are mentioned in the section below (*What are the new Drop-off and Collection Procedures?*).

The students will continue to remain in a bubble of no more than 10 (KHDA protocol 64), however the two bubbles of 10 will now be in the same classroom, not in a separate classroom. During Term 1, the teacher and teaching assistant were rotating between the two classrooms, however now they will both be in the same classroom with both bubbles of 10 students.

Transparent Perspex screens have been installed on each desk, which allows for 2 students to sit end-to-end on one desk (1.5m apart). There will be 5 desks per bubble of 10 students. Additionally, a large 6 foot screen has been placed down the middle of the classroom to separate the two bubbles of 10. Students from one bubble will not mix with students from the other bubble whilst being in the classroom.



The toilet in the classroom will continue to be cleaned and sanitised between each use. Also, where lockers are installed on only one side of the classroom, boxes will be placed on the other side of the classroom so that students are not going between the two bubbles.

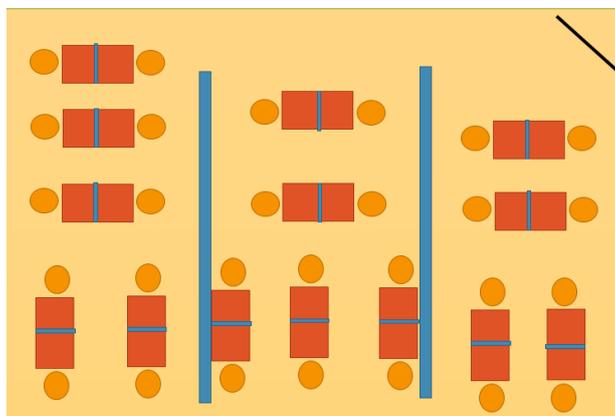
All classroom resources will continue to be sanitised between each use. Resources will only be used between two bubbles if they have had a deep clean and full sanitisation.

Year 1 - What changes will there be?

Year 1 students will continue to come to school every day, all day. The drop-off and collection timings have been altered slightly, which are mentioned in the section below (*What are the new Drop-off and Collection Procedures?*).

During Term 1, we were able to get all of the students from a class, in the same physical classroom (instead of two classrooms). We did this by providing all students with a desk each and remaining 1.5m apart. Bubbles of students remained at no more than 10 (KHDA protocol 64) and were separated by two sets of 6

foot Perspex divides. This created 3 bubbles of 9 within one classroom. Now that we have permission to use transparent Perspex desk divides, we no longer need to have one desk per student, instead we can have two students sharing one desk but still being 1.5m apart with a screen in between them.

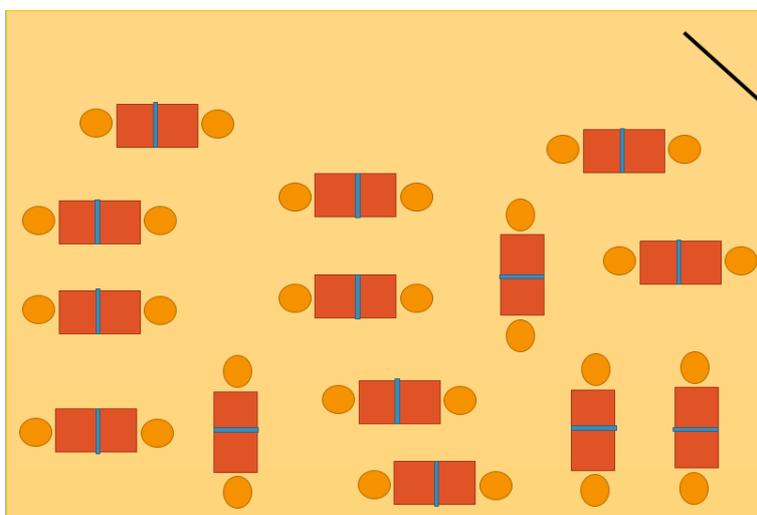


Year 2 - What changes will there be?

Year 2 students will continue to come to school every day, all day. The drop-off and collection timings have been altered slightly, which are mentioned in the section below (*What are the new Drop-off and Collection Procedures?*).

During Term 1, we were able to get all of the students from a class, in the same physical classroom (instead of two classrooms). We did this by providing all students with a desk each and remaining 1.5m apart. Now that we have permission to use transparent Perspex desk divides, we no longer need to have one desk per student, instead we can have two students sharing one desk but still being 1.5m apart with a screen in between them.

There are no requirement for students in year 2 and above to have a capped bubble size, therefore class sizes of 27 (maximum) will make up one bubble and will fit comfortably within one classroom. Where some of the classrooms in year 2 are larger than others, students may remain having one desk each without a table divider (based on teacher discretion).



Year 3-6 - What changes will there be?

The biggest change of all for Term 2 is being able to offer 100% on-site learning for all students in KS2, years 3 to 6. In Term 1 we had a 50% model where students were in school on alternate days, 3 days one week and 2 days the next week. The week A and B model will now be removed as all children are able to attend school every day, for the full length of time (correct timings below).

We are now able to offer this provision as we are able to use Perspex table dividers to separate two students on one desk. With teachers no longer needing two classrooms, it creates the space needed for all classes to return to school.



There may be some classes that have to physically move classrooms before we return in Term 2. This is due to utilising the large rooms we have available. Class teachers will ensure parents and students are aware of this in advance.

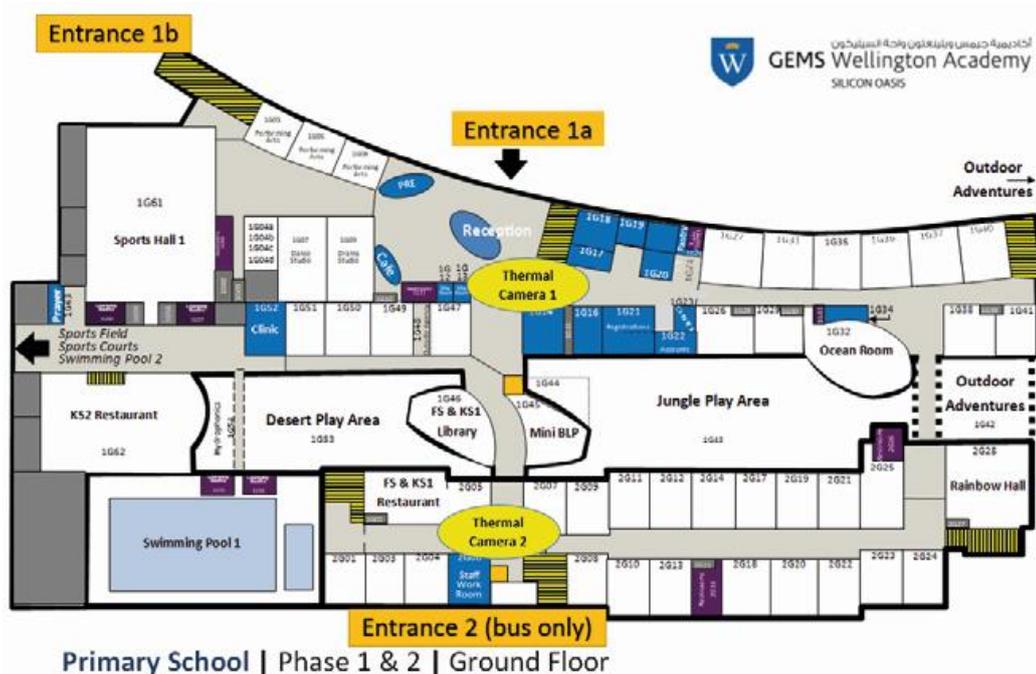
With more students now in one classroom, teachers will ensure that strict rules are followed so that health and safety protocols are kept to. Students will only be permitted to go to their lockers in small groups, keeping their distance from one another. Students will continue to eat their lunch at their desk only and not use any other desks within the classroom.

There will naturally be a reduction in the amount of time spent on a digital device, due to all of the children being in one classroom. However, as we continue to innovate within the school, we will continue to utilise platforms such as Seesaw, Microsoft Teams and Microsoft OneNote to store student learning.

What are the new Drop-off and Collection Procedures?

Strict Rules to Follow – Thank you to everyone for following the strict rules in place with regards to dropping students off and end of day collection. We have outlined them again below for your reference, especially for families returning to the school for the first time this academic year:

- One adult only can drop off a student from FS or KS1. Two adults cannot enter the building with just one student. We need to limit the number of adults accessing the school building. We encourage all families to not bring siblings (who do not attend WSO) into the Academy, however we understand in some circumstances this is unavoidable.
- For FS and KS1 parent drop offs, please drop your child at the door with the teacher and continue to exit the building. Long conversations between parents and teachers cannot take place under the current rules, therefore please support the flow of parent traffic by moving along the corridor once your child is dropped off.
- Any adult entering the school grounds strictly should be wearing a face mask, covering mouth and nose, even when outside. Staff members on duty will politely intervene if a parent is not following this rule.
- Adults are not permitted to drop off students in KS2 (years 3-6). We ask for all goodbyes to take place outside the school building, not inside reception, as this limits the numbers of adults having to walk the corridor.
- There is a strict one-way walking system when entering the school building, which remains the same from Term 1. Once you have passed the thermal camera in the reception area, you are not permitted to walk back through this entrance. Parents must follow the flow of traffic down a corridor and exit at the end of the building. This does cause further distance for adults to walk in the morning, however it is for the safety of your children why we do this.
- Only enter the school building via the main reception doors, or the doors located next to the performing arts department. This ensures everyone entering the building passes by the thermal camera. No other doors should be used to access the building, as these will be exit doors.



- When walking through the thermal camera, please keep 2m distance from other adults and students, by filtering through carefully and not rushing past others.
- If dropping off siblings who are both in year groups FS1-Y2, you are permitted to walk briefly back down a corridor to get to your next corridor, without exiting the building. You are required to carry a 'sibling pass' on your parent lanyard (green card with an 'S' on it). Please request this from your class teacher. These are not for parents where the sibling is in KS2.
- There are some exemptions to the rules above, including students with special educational needs or a specific access arrangements. These exemptions should be arranged through the inclusion support team or from an Assistant Principal.

Drop-off timings – With an increase in students attending the Academy on site, we must ensure that we continue to stagger the arrival times for each year group. Our general aim is to get most of the older students into the building first, followed by the younger students. It is extremely important that the following timings are strictly followed as this provides the safest experience for everyone. Students arriving by bus will be taken directly to their class on arrival. The following drop-off timings are general to each year group; class teachers will be able to provide more specific timings which will support our staggered movement.

Year Group	Drop-off Window	Notes
KS2 (Years 3-6)	7.15 – 7.35 (20 mins)	The school gates will not open until 7.15am
KS1 (Years 1-2)	7.25 – 7.45 (20 mins)	Please do not drop off at the class before 7.25am
FS (FS1 & FS2)	7.30 – 8.00 (30 mins)	Please do not drop off at the class before 7.30am

Drop-off timings (siblings) – If you have multiple children attending school, you will see from above that the drop off timings for each year group overlap with each other. Whether it is a parent dropping off, or an older sibling dropping off, we are asking that siblings arriving at school utilise these overlapping times which are outlined below:

Sibling Combinations	Drop-off Window	Notes
KS2 and FS	7.30 – 7.35 (5 mins)	Drop off FS child first (sibling or parent), no earlier than 7.30am
KS2 and KS1	7.25 – 7.35 (10 mins)	Drop off KS1 child first (sibling or parent), no earlier than 7.25am
KS1 and FS	7.30 – 7.45 (15 mins)	Drop off KS1 child first, no earlier than 7.30am, followed by FS child
KS2, KS1 and FS!	7.30 – 7.35 (5 mins)	If KS2 sibling dropping off multiple children, start with the youngest, no earlier than 7.30am

Collection timings – Students in the primary school finish at different times depending on the age group. There are children leaving the Academy between 12.15pm and 3.20pm. With regards to the health and safety rules when collecting, please follow the guidance listed above in the ‘strict rules to follow’ section, as these apply for collection as well. A couple of further points:

- Please do not arrive at school before your allocated collection time. We do not want crowds of parents waiting outside the school gates or outside the building. If you have parked your car to collect, please remain in your car until it is the correct time to walk straight into the school. Similarly, we do not want parents making their way up to the corridor to wait outside the classroom.
- Please respect all of our security team and members of staff on duty during these collection times. Our security team will question which year group you are here to collect from to ensure no one is arriving at the wrong time. They may continue to do this every day, as they see hundreds of parents each day! We have tasked them to be extra vigilant during these unprecedented times.

The following collection timings are general to each year group; class teachers will be able to provide more specific timings which will support our staggered movement.

Year Group	Collection Window	Notes
FS1	12.30 – 12.45	Little Falcons after school provision runs until 2.15pm
FS2	1.30 – 1.45	Little Falcons after school provision runs until 3.20pm
Year 1 and 2	1.50 – 2.00	Little Falcons after school provision runs until 3.20pm
Year 3 and 4	2.50pm and 3.20pm	Year 3 and 4 will continue to be walked to their pick up points outside the front of school. Parents can wait in this location from 2.45pm and 3.15pm
Year 5 and 6	3.20pm	Year 5 and 6 will exit the school building by themselves at their designated exit points. If collecting younger siblings, they can re-enter the main reception to do this.

Collection Timings (siblings) – When collecting siblings from school, please can parents collect all children within the space of 10 minutes. For example, If collecting an FS2 child and a Year 2 child, please do not collect the FS2 child at 1.30pm and then wait in school until 1.50pm. In this example, you can collect the FS2 child either at 1.45pm (before Year 2), or at 1.55pm (after Year 2). As another example, if collecting a Year 1 and a Year 4 child, please collect the year 1 child at 2.45pm and then walk around the front of the school to collect your year 4 child from their class meeting point. For any advice on collecting your children, please do ask your class teachers or the Assistant Principals.

Is Little Falcons After-School Care (previously known as sibling club) remaining the same?

We will continue to offer free after-school care up until 3.20pm for all families in years FS2-Year 4, and until 2.15pm for FS1 students. If you were using this facility in Term 1, your place for Term 2 is secured. If you wish to enquire about this for Term 2, please contact the relevant Assistant Principal listed below:

- FS – Sarah Hollingworth (s.hollingworth_wso@gemsedu.com)
- KS1 – Bryan McAuley (b.mcauley_wso@gemsedu.com)
- Lower KS2 – Mark Tiley (m.tiley_wso@gemsedu.com)

Are bus timings remaining the same?

We are pleased to announce that with the increase in students being back in the Academy, we will be able to go back to 3 departure times at the end of the day. STS are currently organising the new routes and timings, and will be in contact with parents shortly. The departure times will be:

- 1.30 – FS
- 2.00 – KS1
- 3.20 – KS2, secondary, and younger siblings

What will Remote learning provision look like in Term 2?

100% remote learning provision will still be available for the small number of parents who still require this option. Those families that have been 100% remote learning throughout Term 1 would have been in contact with the relevant phase Assistant Principal with regards to the provision model. Please see below key information regarding remote learning for Term 2.

- For students who are having to isolate or quarantine for up to two weeks, learning will continue to take place through synchronous and asynchronous experiences. This would be on either Seesaw, Zoom, Phoenix Classroom, or OneNote/Teams.
- Due to the changes in on-site learning, the remote learning offerings will differ slightly from Term 1.
- Even though we will continue to offer a variety of blended models to support families, please note that students are not able to regularly change between onsite learning and remote learning.
- If your circumstances change and you need to switch between on-site and remote learning (or vice versa), parents must have this conversation with the relevant Assistant Principal. This allows a formal process to take place to ensure your child's education is not disrupted.
- Students will be able to switch from onsite learning to remote learning in cases where a child/children cannot attend school due to; genuine health concerns, having vulnerable family members or having to be in quarantine.
- Attendance is still monitored extremely closely, as part of the parent-school contract, therefore students cannot simply switch to remote learning to have extended holidays or days off due to family convenience.

Will Outdoor Play be affected in Term 2?

Outdoor Play at break and lunch times will continue for all year groups, however the amount of time spent outside for KS2 children may be reduced, due to the increase in student numbers and importance of social distancing requirements. We will continue to inform parents of any changes.

Will Outdoor Learning start being outside?

Yes! Over the winter break, we will be covering over the sand areas with artificial grass, similar to the outside 3G areas. This way, students will be able to safely start accessing the outdoor learning areas. There will of course be differences due to Covid regulations however it is going to be a really positive experience for the students.

What are the rules for returning students who have been off school due to illness, quarantine or traveling?

Key things for us to remember;

- Please don't send your children to school if they are unwell – remote learning continues to be available, so if you are unsure if your child is fit enough to attend school, please opt for remote learning until your child is cleared well enough to return. Staying off school has always been the DHA guideline for any communicable disease, and remains as important now as ever before! Our Medical Team are here to support you with any queries - medical_wso@gemsedu.com. If you are unsure if it is suitable for your child to come to school, please allow our Medical Team to guide you.
- If your child is unwell and off school as a potential COVID case *, the DHA guidelines currently insist parents seek medical advice before the student is allowed to return to school.
 - If the Doctor is in any doubt of the cause of the symptoms, they can only rule out COVID with a PCR, so whilst this won't be pleasant for your child, it is a necessary step for your family. A child can return to school with a negative PCR once they are symptom free.
 - If your Doctor clearly diagnoses an alternative (non-covid) cause for your child's symptoms and clears them 'fit to return', then this Doctor's note will suffice; *we don't insist on a PCR if your Doctor doesn't, their clear alternative diagnosis and clearance is all we need for your child to return!*

* People are considered a COVID suspected case if they have upper or lower respiratory symptoms with or without fever ($\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) AND any of the following criteria;

- *International travel history during the 14 days prior to symptom onset; OR*
- *Been in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case within 14 days; OR*
- *Residing in a community setting where COVID-19 cases have been detected; OR*
- *Influenza-like illness without history of travel or known COVID-19 exposure*
- If at any stage your child tests positive or is confirmed as a 'close contact' of another positive person, **please notify your Class Teacher and Assistant Principal immediately** and ensure your child does not come to school. Your child can switch to remote learning and we can manage the necessary actions at school level as quickly as possible – our ability to act quickly is key, so please support us with timely information. Our Medical Team will be in touch with you during this type of absence to confirm the next steps you need to take and the process when returning to school.
- We have many provisions on site to facilitate and remind our community about social distancing, mask wearing and good hygiene, and for many people these measures are now second nature. If we all maintain this level of vigilance, both inside and outside school, then together we continue to provide the safest environment for our community, so many thanks for your ongoing support.
- Please note the GEMS email sent to all families with regards to travel declarations and the return to school requirements for January – this is applicable for everyone whether you plan to travel or remain in the UAE. Thank you in anticipation of everyone adhering to these guidelines.

Who can I contact in Term 2 from the Leadership Team and who is the right person to contact?

Name	Position	Responsibilities	Email
Nathan Sadler	Primary Principal	Overall running of the Primary School	n.sadler1_wso@gemsedu.com
Jo Keyden	Vice Principal	Term 2 Maternity Leave	
Rebecca Lewis	Vice Principal	Pastoral Lead Designated Safeguarding Lead	r.lewis_wso@gemsedu.com
Ellen Henretty	Vice Principal	Teaching and Learning Assessment and reporting	e.henretty_wso@gemsedu.com
Sarah Hollingworth	Assistant Principal	Foundation Stage 1 and 2 Students	s.hollingworth_wso@gemsedu.com
Bryan McAuley	Assistant Principal	Years 1 and 2 students	b.mcauley_wso@gemsedu.com
Mark Tiley	Assistant Principal	Years 3 and 4 students	m.tiley_wso@gemsedu.com
Anna Clark	Assistant Principal	Years 5 and 6 students	a.clark_wso@gemsedu.com
Jonathan Roberts	Assistant Principal	Curriculum Innovation Islamic lead	j.roberts_wso@gemsedu.com
Hayley Tanser	Assistant Principal	Arabic Lead Moral and Social Studies	h.tanser_wso@gemsedu.com
Gary Rowan	Diamond Head of House	Diamond student pastoral support and wellbeing	g.rowan_wso@gemsedu.com
Justine Saxton	Onyx Head of House	Onyx student pastoral support and wellbeing	j.saxton_wso@gemsedu.com
Claire Smith	Ruby Head of House	Ruby student pastoral support and wellbeing	c.smith_wso@gemsedu.com
Jenny Kilsby	Emerald Head of House	Emerald student pastoral support and wellbeing	j.kilsby_wso@gemsedu.com
Lisa McAuley	SENCO	Inclusion provision	l.boer_wso@gemsedu.com