



مدرسة جيمس متروبول الواحة  
GEMS Metropole School  
AL WAHA

*Parent*  
**NEWSLETTER**

Volume 01 | Issue 02 | 2023 - 24



Dear Parents,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all to the second issue of our Parent Newsletter. We are pleased to announce that our staffing is now complete, and we have an exceptional team of educators who are passionate about providing an excellent learning experience for our students.

We are also delighted to inform you that the construction of our building and infrastructure is on track to be completed in early July 2023, and we are excited to invite you all for a tour of our facility once the construction is finished. We are confident that our state-of-the-art facilities will provide the perfect location for your children to learn in a safe and stimulating environment.

We will be sharing the timetable structure of how a day would look like for a student. This will give you an idea of how your child's day will be structured and what they can expect from their daily routine.

Furthermore, we would like to address a query from some of the parents in the last issue regarding the uniforms. We will be attaching a picture of the uniform shared by the company Threads. Please take a moment to review the image and let us know if you have any questions or feedback. Your opinion is valuable to us, and we will be happy to address any questions you may have in the next parent newsletter issue.

Penultimately, we will be sharing the academic calendar for the 2023-24 school year, which is subject to KHDA approval. We understand that planning ahead is essential for parents, and we hope that this calendar will assist you in preparing for the upcoming academic year.

Please don't forget to scan the QR code and share your feedback and questions with us. We value your input and are committed to providing the best possible learning experience for your child.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to working with you to ensure your child's academic success.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Hallum



# SIOBHÁN SCANLAN

## HEAD OF INCLUSION

STAFF

BIO

My name is Siobhan Scanlan and I moved to Dubai from Ireland in 2016 after completing my studies and working in an international school in Dublin for three years. After arriving in Dubai, I worked in GEMS Metropole, Motor City for seven years.

In that time, I worked my way from a Foundation Stage teacher to FS leader to Deputy Head of an impressive Inclusion Department. My role as Deputy Head of Inclusion allowed me to deepen a life-long passion of working with students of all needs and abilities.

As part of my role, I gained valuable experience in helping children to reach their full potential including those with additional needs, English as an additional language and those who are gifted and/or talented.

I also had the privilege of setting up and teaching the alternative curriculum class in the Infant School and developing the alternative curriculum pathways throughout the school enabling all of our student to succeed.

I am delighted to be taking up the role of Head of Inclusion in GEMS Metropole Al Waha. I look forward to building an inclusive community which allows every child reach their full potential. It will be a pleasure to get to know each individual family and I look forward to supporting you on your educational journey.

*“We, as a school, will support you as families to ensure that your child is receiving the best possible education during their formative years and prepare them for a life beyond school.”*



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# HEAD OF AYAT M.O.E ISMAIL

Hello, My name is Ayat and I am a dedicated educational leader taking on the role as Head of MOE at Metropole School Al Waha for the 23/24 academic year. I look forward to this fantastic opportunity to work with the wonderful students and families within this new school community. I have completed my bachelor's degree in French and began my teaching career in Egypt.

I moved to Dubai in 2007, where I worked in International Schools. Over the next twelve years I had successfully served in leadership roles within GEMS. At Cambridge International School, I was the Director of Languages and successfully lead Arabic, Islamic and French across the whole school. Within my role I implemented strong and creative strategies to ensure that high standards of Arabic, Islamic were achieved to meet the KHDA recommendations.

My expertise and reputation for success has made me a sought-after mentor and coach across the GEMS cluster, supporting Arabic and Islamic leads.

In addition to being the Director of Languages, in 2014, I joined the Senior Leadership Team with a whole school focus on leading the Teaching and Learning Team.

This academic year, I completed my Level 2 Penta accreditation, qualifying me to serve as a BSO inspector. Throughout my career, I have consistently been graded as an Outstanding teacher and leader.

I strive for ways to improve the education for pupils, both within the curriculum and extra curriculum to make a real difference, providing students with distinct opportunities and advantage to develop their full potential academically, socially and personally.

“All of us do not have equal talent, but all of us should have an equal opportunity to develop our talent.  
John F. Kennedy”



**NATHAN  
PRICE**

# FOREST SCHOOL LEADER

STAFF

BIO

Hello, my name is Nathan Price, and this will be my third year working as a teacher in Dubai.

I will be joining Metropole Al Waha, as Head of Forest School and English, from our sister school in Motor City.

I completed my PGCE at Manchester Metropolitan University, England in 2011 through the Graduate Teacher Programme.

I have previously introduced a Forest School approach to learning here in the UAE and in the UK and I am looking forward to building it here at MTW.

Forest School allows me to teach children about our natural environment and I believe it's creative, child centred approach to learning helps to develop children's confidence, problem solving skills and encourages them to take risks in a controlled environment.

I originally became a teacher because I am passionate about working with children and helping them to reach their full potential. I strive to create a fun, engaging, nurturing and supportive classroom

environment where children of all abilities can make academic progress. However, I also want pupils to develop socially and emotionally too.

As well as a class teacher, I have previously held the roles of Assistant Head of School, Staff Governor and Deputy Safeguarding Lead.

I graduated with a degree in Sports Journalism and I'm still very passionate about sport. I love keeping active, playing sports and getting outdoors.

Trying new sports and learning new skills is really important to me because I feel it helps me to empathise with the pupils in my class and how they feel when they are learning something new.



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AL WAHA

We would like to introduce you to the official school uniform that your child will be required to wear during their time at our school. The uniform has been designed to ensure that it is comfortable, practical, and most importantly meets our school's standards for appearance and behaviour.

The uniform can be purchased from the Threads Outlet located at Cityland Mall, Dubailand. (Google Maps Link: [goo.gl/maps/prLnDA4MHeTY48os8](https://goo.gl/maps/prLnDA4MHeTY48os8)) You can also visit their website at [www.threadsme.com](http://www.threadsme.com) to place your order online. The outlet offers a wide range of sizes, so you can find the perfect fit for your child.

To make the process easier for you, we have provided a school uniform sheet that outlines the uniform requirements for each grade level. This sheet can be downloaded [here](#). Please take the time to review the requirements carefully to ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for school. We believe that a uniform helps to create a sense of community and unity within our school and we look forward to seeing your child dressed in our school's uniform.



# GEMS METROPOLE SCHOOL

Date: 21-06-2022

| CORE UNIFORM - UNISEX<br>Mandatory Uniforms | PS1 - YEAR 2<br>(Infant School) | BOYS - CORE UNIFORM<br>Mandatory Uniforms  | Y3 - Y6<br>(Junior School) | BOYS - CORE UNIFORM<br>Mandatory Uniforms  | Y7 - Y9<br>(Prep School) | CORE UNIFORM<br>Mandatory Uniforms | Y10 - Y13<br>(Senior School) | SWIMWEAR<br>ALL YEARS |
|---|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
|   |                                 |  |                            |  |                          |                                    |                              |                       |
| PE UNIFORM - UNISEX<br>ALL YEARS            | Mandatory Uniforms              | GIRLS - CORE UNIFORM<br>Mandatory Uniforms | Y3 - Y6<br>(Junior School) | GIRLS - CORE UNIFORM<br>Mandatory Uniforms | Y7 - Y9<br>(Prep School) | ADDITIONAL ITEMS<br>ALL YEARS      |                              |                       |
|   |                                 |  |                            |  |                          |                                    |                              |                       |

Signature: GEMS Metropole School

[www.threadsme.com](http://www.threadsme.com) || 800-THREADS(8473237)



SCHOOL

UNIFORM



We are excited to share with you the timetable structure for the upcoming academic year. This will provide you with a clear understanding of how your child's day will be structured and what they can expect from their daily routine.

Our Senior Leadership Team has carefully designed the timetable to provide a balanced approach to learning that caters to the academic, social, and emotional development of your child. Each day will be divided into several periods, including core subjects such as Math, English, Science, and Social Studies, as well as specialist subjects like Art, Music, and Physical Education.

Our aim is to provide a stimulating and engaging learning environment that fosters creativity, critical thinking, and lifelong learning. Our experienced and dedicated teachers will use a variety of teaching methodologies, including group work, individual projects, and multimedia presentations to ensure that your child is fully engaged in the learning process.

Please take the time to review the timetable structure with your child and ensure that they are prepared for each day. We believe that a well-structured timetable is an essential component of academic success, and we are committed to supporting your child in achieving their full potential.

If you have any questions regarding the timetable, please do not hesitate to contact us through our QR code. We are always here to support you and your child on their academic journey.

### Student Timetable Foundation Stage

|                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 7:40am - 08:00am  | Registration & Form Time |
| 08:00am - 08:40am | Lesson 1                 |
| 08:40am - 09:20am | Lesson 2                 |
| 09:20am - 09:40am | Break                    |
| 09:40am - 10:20am | Lesson 3                 |
| 10:20am - 11:00am | Lesson 4                 |
| 11:00am - 11:20am | Break                    |
| 11:20am - 12:40pm | Lesson 5                 |
| 12:40pm - 01:00pm | Story Time               |

### Student Timetable Key Stage 1 & 2

|                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 7:40am - 08:00am  | Registration & Form Time |
| 08:00am - 08:40am | Lesson 1                 |
| 08:40am - 09:40am | Lesson 2                 |
| 09:40am - 10:00am | Break                    |
| 10:00am - 11:00am | Lesson 3                 |
| 11:00am - 12:00pm | Lesson 4                 |
| 12:00pm - 12:40pm | Lunch                    |
| 12:40pm - 01:40pm | Lesson 5                 |
| 01:40pm - 02:40pm | Lesson 6                 |
| 02:40pm : 03:00pm | Story Time               |

### Student Timetable Key Stage 3

|                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 7:40am - 08:00am  | Registration & Form Time |
| 08:00am - 09:00am | Lesson 1                 |
| 09:00am - 10:00am | Lesson 2                 |
| 10:00am - 10:20am | Break                    |
| 10:20am - 11:20am | Lesson 3                 |
| 11:20am - 12:20pm | Lesson 4                 |
| 12:20pm - 01:00pm | Lunch                    |
| 01:00pm - 02:00pm | Lesson 5                 |
| 02:00pm - 03:00pm | Lesson 6                 |

**Friday: 12:00pm**  
**End of the day (For All Students)**



Here is the academic calendar for the upcoming 2023-24 school year. This calendar provides an overview of all the important dates and events that you and your child need to be aware of throughout the academic year.

The academic calendar is subject to approval by the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA). We understand that planning ahead is essential for families, which is why we have provided the calendar as early as possible.

The academic calendar includes the start and end dates of each term, holidays, and other important events such as parent-teacher conferences, school trips, and exams. We encourage you to mark these dates on your calendar and plan accordingly to ensure that your child is fully prepared for each term.

We understand that the academic year can be a busy time for families, and we want to ensure that you have all the necessary information to make informed decisions.

**ACADEMIC CALENDAR**  
2023 - 2024



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| August 2023 |    |    |    |    |    |    | September 2023 |    |    |    |    |    |    | October 2023 |    |    |    |    |    |    | November 2023 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| M           | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M              | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M            | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M             | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  |
|             | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |                |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |              |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |               |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |
| 7           | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 4              | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 2            | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 6             | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 14          | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 11             | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 9            | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 13            | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 21          | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 18             | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 16           | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 20            | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 28          | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    | 25             | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    | 23           | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 27            | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |
|             |    |    |    |    |    |    |                |    |    |    |    |    |    | 30           | 31 |    |    |    |    |    |               |    |    |    |    |    |    |

  

| December 2023 |    |    |    |    |    |    | January 2024 |    |    |    |    |    |    | February 2024 |    |    |    |    |    |    | March 2024 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|--------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| M             | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M            | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M             | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M          | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  |
|               |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 1            | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |               |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |            |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 4             | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 8            | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 5             | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 4          | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 |
| 11            | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 15           | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 12            | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 11         | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18            | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 22           | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 19            | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 18         | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25            | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 29           | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    | 26            | 27 | 28 | 29 |    |    |    | 25         | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |

  

| April 2024 |    |    |    |    |    |    | May 2024 |    |    |    |    |    |    | June 2024 |    |    |    |    |    |    | July 2024 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| M          | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M        | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M         | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | M         | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  |
| 1          | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |          |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  |           |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 1         | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8          | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 6        | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 3         | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 8         | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15         | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 13       | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 10        | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 15        | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22         | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 20       | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 17        | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 22        | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29         | 30 |    |    |    |    |    | 27       | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    | 24        | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 29        | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

|   |                                    |   |                               |   |                       |
|---|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> Aug –<br>Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2023 | • New Teachers Induction Programme | Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 2024  | • Term 2 starts               | Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2024                                     | • Term 3 Starts       |
| Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Aug 2023                               | • Staff Return                     | Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2024                                     | • Staff PD Day                | Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> Apr –<br>Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> Apr 2024 * | • Eid al-Fitr Holiday |
| Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2023                                  | • Students return (Term 1 Starts)  | Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> –<br>Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2024         | • Half term                   | Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2024                                   | • Staff PD Day        |
| Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2023 *                               | • Prophet's Birthday (PBUH)        | Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2024                                     | • Staff PD Day                | Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2024                                   | • Staff PD Day        |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct –<br>Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2023 | • Half Term                        | Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2024 *                                      | • Ramadan begins              | Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> –<br>Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 *   | • Eid Al Adha Holiday |
| Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2023                                 | • Staff PD Day                     | Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2024 –<br>Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 | • End of Term 2/ Spring Break | Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2024                                    | • End of Term 3/Year  |
| Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2023                                | • Staff PD Day                     |   |                               |   |                       |
| Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2023 *                                 | • Commemoration Day                |   |                               |   |                       |
| Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> –<br>Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 2023     | • National Day Weekend             |   |                               |   |                       |
| Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2023                                  | • End of Term 1/Winter Break       |   |                               |   |                       |

ANY

QUESTIONS

Please click on the link below to share your question with us or scan the QR code below



<https://forms.office.com/r/2S07fzs4LV>

Inevitably there will be questions that you as parents have when joining a new school. To support in this matter each newsletter we will endeavour to clarify anything you need to know. Please populate the link with any questions that you have and we will do our best to reach out to you & address your questions.





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