



مدرسة جيمس متروبول الواحة
GEMS Metropole School
AL WAHA

Parent
NEWSLETTER

Volume 01 | Issue 03 | 2023 - 24



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the fourth edition of our newsletter! I am thrilled to introduce you to our dedicated team of specialists who are instrumental in shaping your child's educational journey. Their detailed bios will give you insight into their expertise and passion, ensuring a well-rounded education for your child.

I also want to highlight the Principal's Challenge, which has gained remarkable momentum. Our students' enthusiasm and determination to make a positive impact on their communities are truly inspiring.

Please note that an updated academic calendar for the upcoming year is pending approval by the KHDA. We will share the finalised calendar as soon as it is approved, allowing ample time for planning and preparation.

Finally, I recently attended the Tenth National Dialogue for Climate Ambition, where I gained valuable insights to integrate sustainability and environmental consciousness into our curriculum and practices.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we provide a nurturing and enriching environment for our students.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Hallum



PLEASE CLICK ON THE PHOTO TO VIEW THE VIDEO



We are delighted to introduce you to more of our school's staff of dedicated and enthusiastic educators. They are excited to motivate and guide your children towards personal growth and academic achievements. We strongly believe that our staff members play a crucial role in establishing a nurturing and supportive learning environment for our students.

To help you become better acquainted with our teaching team, we have prepared biographies for each year group and this issue we would like to introduce our Specialist Teachers. These bios provide valuable information about the qualifications, experiences, and teaching philosophies of our team members.

We encourage you to take some time to read through these biographies and learn more about the teachers who will be guiding your child's educational journey. We firmly believe that a strong partnership between home and school is essential for your child's success, and having an understanding of our team members' backgrounds and expertise can foster effective collaboration. Please click on the links below to access the team bios:

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us. We are here to support you and your child throughout the academic year.

Thank you for your ongoing trust in our school. Together, we will create a rewarding and inspiring educational experience for your child.

Specialist

Exciting Announcement:

Our Principal, Jeremy Hallum, at the forefront of Climate Ambition!

Our very own Principal, Jeremy Hallum, recently attended The tenth National Dialogue on Climate Ambition (NDCA) under the theme "Reimagining the Future of Industry." This prestigious event brought together leaders from various sectors to discuss and shape the future of industry in the face of climate change.

But that's not all! During the NDCA, Jeremy Hallum went a step further by signing the UAE Climate-Responsible Companies Pledge.

The UAE Climate-Responsible Companies Pledge is a crucial initiative that encourages businesses to integrate sustainable practices into their operations, reduce their carbon footprint, and support the global effort to mitigate climate change. By signing this pledge, our Principal Jeremy Hallum and our organisation as a whole are demonstrating leadership and taking concrete steps towards a more sustainable future.

We are immensely proud of Jeremy Hallum's active involvement in such a vital event and his dedication to championing climate ambition. His participation and the signing of the UAE Climate-Responsible Companies Pledge reinforce our commitment to environmental stewardship and inspire us to do even more in the realm of sustainability.

As a community, we will continue to prioritise sustainable practices, innovate for a greener future, and play our part in addressing the challenges posed by climate change. Stay tuned for updates on our sustainability initiatives, as we work together to create a better world for generations to come.

Thank you for your unwavering support and enthusiasm as we strive for a more sustainable future.

UAE Climate-Responsible Companies Pledge

Deeply concerned with the serious threat of climate change and its adverse impacts on biodiversity, oceans, soil and land, food security, water security, public health, and biosecurity, and its role in increasing the frequency, scale, and duration of extreme weather conditions that affect people's wellbeing and the health of the planet,

Emphasizing the importance of solidarity and partnerships in facing this global challenge and committing to supporting the objectives of the Paris Agreement of limiting global warming to well below 2°C, preferably 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels, and achieving climate neutrality by mid-century,

Responding to the call of the Glasgow Climate Pact, an outcome of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), for member countries of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to increase the ambitions of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and seek higher greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets for 2030,

Realizing the paramount role of the triple helix in implementing the UAE Net Zero by 2050

Strategic Initiative through facilitating access to finance, strengthening the contribution of all actors to the net-zero drive, and accelerating the development and adoption of competitive and sustainable climate-smart technologies and innovations,

We, as climate-conscious and responsible private sector companies based in the UAE,

Commit to stepping up our collective efforts to combat climate change by:

□ Measuring and reporting our GHG emissions in a transparent manner, developing measurable plans in line with national sectoral climate targets to reduce our carbon footprint, and sharing these plans with the UAE government to contribute to achieving the national net-zero target by 2050 or earlier;

□ Factoring in climate change mitigation and adaptation measures as core principles of our businesses and operational models;

□ Encouraging and engaging stakeholders including, for example: suppliers; partners; and consumers; to actively take part in climate action to help the UAE reach Net Zero by 2050; and

□ Adopting an all-inclusive approach that engages youth, women, and vulnerable segments of society in developing our net-zero plans.

With these commitments, we pledge to support the UAE government in reaching Net Zero targets by 2050 through the implementation of a nationwide cross sectoral process that pursues climate neutrality to fulfill both National and International climate commitments.





As we strive to ensure a smooth transition to our school, we have devised a unique initiative called the Principal's Challenge for all our new joiners to undertake during the summer break.


The Principal's Challenge comprises a curated list of tasks that your son/daughter can engage in over the summer. We believe these activities will not only be enjoyable but also contribute to their personal growth and development. We encourage your child to take on these challenges, as they are designed to prepare them for their exciting journey at MTW.


We kindly request you to review the challenges outlined on the next page and discuss with your son/daughter the number of tasks they realistically feel they can tackle between now and the end of August.

We understand that every child is unique, and their individual circumstances may influence the extent to which they can take on these challenges. The purpose is to encourage participation and growth, and we want to ensure that your child's engagement is both enjoyable and manageable.

We eagerly await your child's enthusiastic participation in the Principal's Challenge.

If your child has completed the summer challenge please email, pre_mtw@gemsedu.com sharing your child's full name and year group.

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- Recyclable Art:** Create artwork using only recyclable materials, such as cardboard, paper, or plastic bottles.
 - Plant a Seed:** Plant and care for a small vegetable or flower garden, learning about the importance of nurturing plants. You could use the MTW plantable pencils.
 - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:** Learn about the three R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and find creative ways to implement them at home.
 - Sustainable Crafts:** Make eco-friendly crafts using natural materials like twigs, seashells or leaves.
 - Entrepreneurial Spirit:** Encourage children to come up with a small business idea, such as a lemonade stand or a homemade craft sale.
 - Donate and Give:** Collect gently used toys, clothes, or books to donate to a local charity or shelter.
 - Random Acts of Kindness:** Perform small acts of kindness, such as writing thank-you notes or helping someone in need.
 - Team Building Challenge:** Engage in team-building activities that promote leadership, cooperation, and problem-solving. (To build the tallest Marshmallow Tower using only Marshmallows and Toothpicks <https://youtu.be/c-1fd7NaQBw>)
 - Book Club:** Start a summer reading club with friends, choosing books that focus on sustainability or promote positive values.
 - Family Cooking:** Plan and prepare a sustainable meal using locally sourced ingredients and reduce food waste.
 - Fun with Science:** Conduct simple science experiments that teach children about sustainability and environmental concepts. (Example here: <https://www.smorescience.com/water-cycle-in-a-bag-experiment/>)
 - DIY Bird Feeder:** Build a bird feeder using recycled materials and observe different bird species in your area.

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- Cultural Discovery: Prepare a list of countries or regions from around the world, each representing a different culture or tradition. Write the names of these countries/regions on individual index cards or slips of paper.
 - Energy Detective: Identify ways to conserve energy at home, such as turning off lights when not needed or unplugging electronics.
 - Creative Storytelling: Encourage children to write or illustrate their own stories that promote kindness, respect, or sustainability.
 - Puppet Show: Create puppets from recycled materials and put on a puppet show with a positive message.
 - Sustainable Fashion: Organise a fashion show using clothes made from recycled materials or organise a clothes swap event with your family or friends.
 - Mindfulness and Meditation: Teach children techniques for mindfulness and meditation to promote self-confidence and relaxation.
 - Practice yoga poses, promoting physical and mental well-being.
 - Gratitude Jar: Decorate a jar and encourage family or friends to write down things they are grateful for each day.
 - Creative Recycling Bins: Decorate recycling bins for different materials and place them strategically in your home.
 - Respect for Wildlife: Learn about local wildlife and their habitats and discuss ways to respect and protect them.
 - DIY Natural Cleaners: Teach children to make natural cleaning solutions using ingredients like vinegar and baking soda.
 - Entrepreneurship: Offer your natural cleaning products for sale to family and friends.
 - Reflection and Celebration: Reflect on the summer challenge experience, discuss what was learned, and celebrate accomplishments with a small gathering.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR
2023 - 2024



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Nurturing
LEADERSHIP

August 2023

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

September 2023

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

October 2023

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

November 2023

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

December 2023

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

January 2024

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

February 2024

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29			

March 2024

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

April 2024

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

May 2024

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

June 2024

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

July 2024

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

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

* PENDING KHDA APPROVAL *

* T.B.C

COMING

SOON

BYOD - Bring Your Own Device

At our school, we're all about embracing technology and empowering our students to learn in new and exciting ways. That's why we have implemented a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policy!

We are an Apple school and as such children from Year 1 to Year 8 will be using Apple devices.

We will use technology to enhance their learning journey but, they won't be spending all their time on devices.

In the coming weeks we will be bringing you more information on BYOD.

*Coming
Soon*

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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