

WELCOME TO THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of a new academic year and a brand new name- GEMS Legacy School. We will continue to deliver the quality education that we are known for and strive to make it even better in the years ahead.

A whole year has passed and we are still in the very same mode of delivering blended learning to students. However, things are slightly altered from the previous April when we were in a mode of complete lockdown, unable to understand where this was going.

In a year's time we have almost all been vaccinated at school and are receiving more than 1000 students on a daily basis. This alters the demand being placed on our teachers who are at present handling a larger number of students face to face, dealing with the transition from TEAMS to Zoom and welcoming hundreds of new children to our school. Our teachers are extremely brave and extraordinarily committed. They face each day and its challenges steadfastly and I would like to make an earnest appeal to parents to give your children a couple of weeks more to settle into the new ways of learning.

Every year is fraught with change. They may be the ordinary changes of moving from one Grade to another or adjusting to new teachers. They may be learning and adapting to new technological platforms. They may be about changing to a new second language or learning to commute by bus. Whatever the changes, we need to understand that both adults and children need time to settle in to the new routine. Then there are changes beyond our control such as those posed by the pandemic. In these extraordinary times, we need everyone to be empathetic and kind and try to understand the situations that beset our children and our staff in a completely changed learning environment. We all need to be patient as we learn to charter unknown seas. I know from experience that both our children and our staff are remarkable and will settle down sooner than we expect. Just trust them.

As a school we begin the year with the great news that we are a signatory of the Global Schools Program and one of two schools in Dubai (the other being GEMS World Academy) to have been accepted into this select band. This has been made possible as we have begun to incorporate the sustainable development goals into our curriculum and have made it an integral part of our learning objectives. Global Schools' mission enables teachers to educate their students on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to transform learning environments globally and make schools the hubs of education and leadership,

ultimately empowering students to prioritize sustainable development in their lifestyles, behaviors, education, and professional careers.

One of our first activities in this direction is to celebrate Earth Day on April 22 by planting a tree anywhere in the world. We seek the active support of every parent, as it is what we model, that children learn. We are also hosting an inter-school competition – a precursor to SCOPE 2021- with 23 schools already having registered to be a part of it. These platforms allow our children to express their ideas, creativity and opinion enabling them to share their perspectives with the rest of the world.

We begin April as the first Handwriting Centre in the Middle East where our teachers have been trained to assess writing and provide interventions to enable speed, fluency, right posture and formation with respect to writing. This will be extended through KG to Grade 1 and for those students requiring attention in older Grades.

We have been joined by a young curriculum specialist, Ranjani Ramnath, who will help to design the curriculum and raise our provision to another level. We are delighted to have her on board. Our Senior Leadership Team has also seen the addition of three new teaching and learning coaches for Grades 1-3 to ensure greater rigour in monitoring and supporting the core subjects in the lower Primary.

Very soon we will be holding our investiture ceremonies of Prefects, Student Council Leaders and the Green Teams as we begin our journey as GEMS Legacy School. Your children are writing a part of the history of this school and will always cherish that they were the first batch of students when the school made this transition.

As always, we will keep you updated of all the exciting things in store as the year unfolds. We wish to leave behind a legacy of empathy, resilience, leadership and sustainable living for all.

Have a wonderful year ahead as you journey with GLS and be assured of our support at all times.

Warm regards,



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