

GLS / C / 419-21

CIRCULAR

30th June 2021

End of the First Quarter

Dear Parent,

As we conclude the three months of blended / hybrid learning from April to June 2021, and all the challenges and successes that came with it, we thank you for your unstinted support and whole-hearted co-operation in making sure that our students' learning and well-being was not compromised.

The last working day for all the students would be Thursday, 1st July 2021. All students of Gr1-6 will disperse at 12 noon along with the KG students. Parents of KG students, please make a note, that there might be a slight delay in the drop-off time for KG students on account of the early dispersal of Grades 1- 6.

The summer break for all students commence from 4th July, 2021 and the school will reopen after the summer break on 29th August. Although we encourage all students to return to school in September, we await directives from KHDA regarding this depending on the pandemic situation then. You will receive more detailed information about the mode of learning in September, closer to the date of reopening.

The distribution of Ministry textbooks (Arabic, Islamic Education, Moral Education and Social Studies India-Gr1- 6) and Math in Focus books (KG1- Gr5) will close on 8th July 2021.

The Administrative Department of the school will be open on all working days during the summer holidays (except Friday, Saturday and Public Holidays). The school office and fee counter timings are as follows:

Fee Counter: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

School Office: 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Some of the key highlights of the first quarter are outlined below:

ASSET 2021

We are happy to inform you that our students have outperformed their previous ASSET scores and have done exceedingly well with outstanding attainment in English, Math and Science in ASSET 2021, the mandatory National Agenda Parameter Test for Grades three and above. Please find appended the data table indicating the outstanding achievement of our students in ASSET examinations.

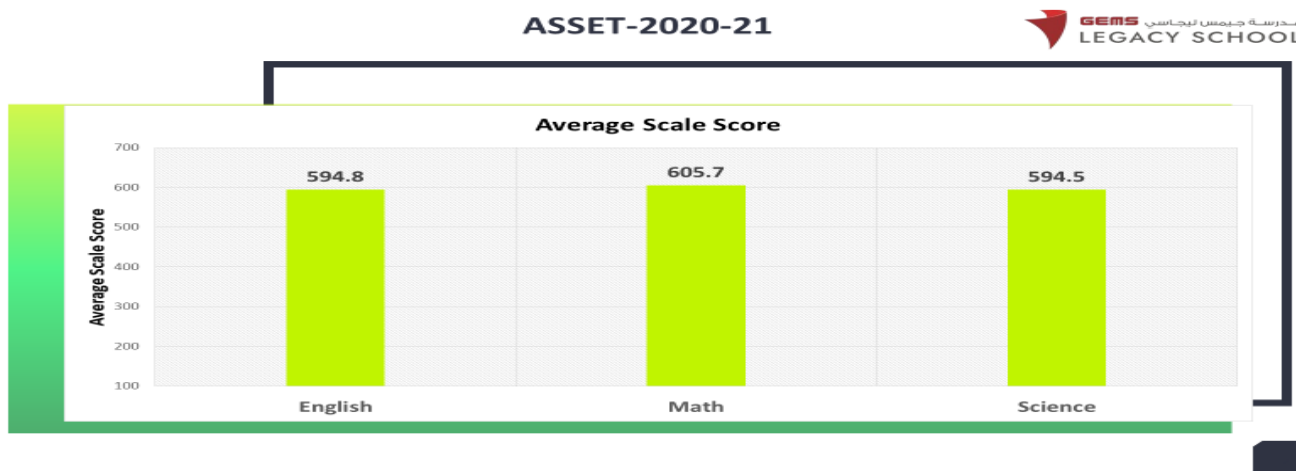
**GLS
ASSET 2020-21**

English				
Class	Average Scaled Scores	% of students at and above stanine 5	% of students at and above stanine 6	Attainment
3	616.1	95.2%	86.9%	Outstanding
4	580.1	85.3%	69.2%	Very Good
5	580.1	90.6%	76%	Outstanding
Overall	594.8	91%	78.6%	Outstanding

Math				
Class	Average Scaled Scores	% of students at and above stanine 5	% of students at and above stanine 6	Attainment
3	629.1	95.2%	87%	Outstanding
4	594.6	89%	71.7%	Very Good
5	585.1	88.6%	73.7%	Very Good
Overall	605.7	91.4%	78.6%	Outstanding

Science				
Class	Average Scaled Scores	% of students at and above stanine 5	% of students at and above stanine 6	Attainment
3	616.8	93.4%	84.9%	Outstanding
4	601.6	90%	77.6%	Outstanding
5	560.1	85.5%	68.3%	Very Good
Overall	594.5	89.9%	77.6%	Outstanding

Our students have secured advanced average scale scores in English, Math as depicted in the graph below.



We congratulate all our students on their stupendous accomplishment in ASSET.

Open Door Assessments:

Students of Grades 3-6 have benefitted immensely by gaining mastery in concepts in Math and Science through the learning and relearning cycles in their first round of Open-Door Assessments held in May, 2021. Students are challenged to apply the concepts learnt in challenging contexts and are stretched to think deeper through these assessments, thus developing their problem solving and computational skills.

Problem Based Learning (PBL) Approach to Learning:

Since April our students have been using the problem-based learning approach wherein they have used the design thinking process to collaboratively ideate and build prototype solutions to local and global problems thus moving a few steps towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of transforming the world.

Our students proudly present the tangible outcomes of their problem-based projects over the last 3 months as virtual exhibitions on the 30th of June and the 1st of July. You will be able to witness the virtual exhibitions under three different categories for Kindergarten, Grades 1 and 2 and Grades 3-6. Please do visit the virtual exhibitions and celebrate our students' successes as they present their innovative solutions, evidencing their creative thinking, critical thinking and problem-solving skills. At the Kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2 virtual exhibitions, you will explicitly see the positive impact of the Reggio Emilia inspired enquiry process on students' visible thinking. Students of Grades 3 to 6 will surprise you with their investigations and solutions to real life global problems, demonstrating their growing ability as global citizens.

Student and Staff Well-being:

Mastering Mental Health Curriculum by Diana Ketterman has been introduced in Grades 3-6 this academic year, to support students to cope with loss, depression and other painful emotions during the pandemic and to grow as balanced individuals with a strong emotional and mental quotient. This has positively impacted student attitudes to learning and has nurtured greater well-being of all students. Collaborative well-being sessions held intermittently for staff and students have helped in positive emotions and relationships.

Self-Organized Learning Environment (SOLE)- One period a week has been dedicated to SOLE which is designed to promote learner agency and self-directed learning. This is already beginning to show a positive impact on students' independent learning skills, research and problem solving.

Right to Read:

We conclude the first quarter with a successful edition of the Right to Read – Untold Stories, wherein we had several authors, GEMS dignitaries and renowned personalities narrated their own inspiring stories to our students followed by student interactions. These enriching interactions of students with the wider community engaged them at higher levels of thinking and questioning, thus deepening their quest for learning through active listening and widening their perspectives. Student reflections and feedback indicate that these untold stories have had a palpable impact on these young impressionable minds and have motivated them to read more.

Virtual Inter-school Events:

Two virtual inter-school contests were organized by GLS which saw the participation of more than 25 schools across the UAE and India. The events, Build the Planet and Only One Planet aimed to amplify student voice and fortify their actions towards building a sustainable future.

GLS initiated the GEMS Global Ambassadors' program, wherein 29 student and teacher ambassadors were invested with the GEMS Global Ambassador badges to lead on Education for Sustainable Development. These global ambassadors will twin with local and global schools and collaborate to work on problem-based projects related to the Sustainable Development Goals for transforming the world.

Taking in Goodness - Food and Behaviour Research (FAB):

The action research undertaken by GLS in association with Food and Behaviour Research (FAB) under the expert guidance of Dr. Alex Richardson, Director of Food and Behaviour Research, has resulted in significant improvements in students' diet patterns in terms of higher nutritional value and a balanced diet, which in turn has positively impacted student outcomes in Reading, Spelling and Math as well as their moods and behavior. 949 students of Grades 3, 4 and 5 and 30 teachers participated in this research and benefitted through the process. The results and detailed report will be formally shared with all parents for their understanding.

Assertive Mentoring:

Students working towards the curriculum standards have been supported and their learning scaffolded through Assertive Mentoring sessions conducted by teachers, which has impacted in better progress of these students in lessons and assessments.

GLS uniform:

We are delighted to inform you that the GLS uniforms will be available for sale from mid-August onwards. Students will be given time to buy the GLS uniforms until March 2022. However, from September 2021, students are expected wear either their KGS uniforms or the new GLS uniforms. Please note that home clothes will not be permitted from September 2021.

Summer Spring and Summer Sprouts:

We have organized several exciting summer programmes for our students to engage them effectively during the summer break. Students could choose from a range of activities such as Art and craft to space exploration and research. Please refer to the attached circular -Summer Musings.

Summer Assignments:

We would like our students to be engaged with their learning and reading during the summer break. The summer assignments for all students will be sent by the class teachers through email, with pathways to access the assignments on Phoenix Classrooms. These assignments will generally focus on enhancing students' reading, writing, research and problem-solving skills to stimulate their thinking and to meaningfully engage them throughout their long summer break. Please encourage them to set aside at least an hour every day to complete their assignments.

We have had successful engagements with all our parents through the Virtual Open House and Parents in Partnership Meetings and the GEMS Parent Survey conducted recently. We immensely value your feedback and suggestions and it is our constant endeavor to partner with you in making learning enjoyable and life -worthy for all students.

Wishing you all a restful and rejuvenating summer vacation. Stay home and Stay safe.

Warm regards,



Asha Alexander

آشا ألكسندر

Principal

مديرة المدرسة

Executive Leader - Climate Change

الرئيس التنفيذي - تغير المناخ