

THE KINDERGARTEN STARTERS - DUBAI

KGS / C/ 382-21

CIRCULAR

22/03/2021

Dear Parents,

I hope this finds you all well and in good health.

Further to my communications in December and January, I am writing to share with you details of the latest milestone in The Kindergarten Starters' exciting journey to becoming a full through-school. As you know, we have received approval from KHDA to extend our provision to Grade 6 and beyond, and plans are already well underway to ensure we are ready to do so.

As a key part of this reinvention, I am pleased to confirm that we have now also received approval to rename our school. This means that from next month we shall be known as **GEMS Legacy School** – a name that, I hope you will agree, pays tribute to our school's long, proud history, while at the same time embodying our commitment to always making a lasting positive impact moving forward. It is also a name befitting of our school's new extended provision.

While the name of our school is changing, I want to emphasise that the exceptional quality of education and close sense of community, that have made The Kindergarten Starters such a success, are not. Our aim is to build on our long-standing legacy of instilling qualities of empathy, resilience and leadership in our students as well as promoting sustainable living. That is our enduring promise to you – our valued parents – and my team and I are honoured and privileged to be tasked with delivering on it.

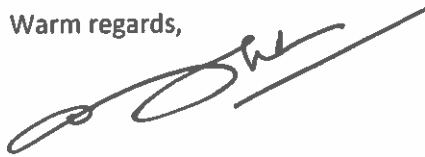
From next academic year onwards, we will therefore be introducing Grade 6 for the first time, which will form part of our Middle School. Unique features of this new provision, as well as enhancements to our existing provision, include:

- Introduction of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence as an additional learning domain in line with CBSE to equip our students with future fluencies and skills for the future
- Introduction of Space and Astronomy as afternoon enhancement programmes as well as associated activities in conjunction with space research organisations and NASA
- Free optional enhancement programmes in the afternoons (2.15pm – 3.45pm), incorporating reinforcement, or home assignment, time and group games to nurture students' physical, emotional and social wellbeing
- Financial literacy and entrepreneurial projects to prepare our students for life and jobs that do not yet exist
- Extension of the Indian language choices offered, to include Urdu and Tamil, for all students from Grades 1 to 6
- Provision of fully equipped physics, chemistry and biology labs for Middle School, complete with modern amenities
- A fully equipped Middle School Library and a Junior Library, with contemporary design and learning spaces
- Introduction of a mental health curriculum for Grades 3-6, focusing on strengthening students' personal, social, mental and emotional quotient as they grow into responsible global citizens
- Adoption of a Problem-Based Learning (PBL) approach across the school, aimed at the holistic development of students through cognitive activation by solving real-world problems

I can assure parents that our existing campus has ample space to accommodate this extra provision, which means we will continue to operate from our current location. I know that you will have lots of questions regarding the upcoming changes and enhancements – and we will make every effort to answer these in the days and weeks ahead. In the meantime, please refer to the attached Q&A document, which should address your most pressing queries. You can of course also contact me directly at any time on/via asha.a_kgs@gemsedu.com .

Finally, let me reiterate how excited we are to be opening this new chapter in the story of our school. Our transition to a full through-school promises to positively transform and enhance the learning experiences of our students, complete with increased opportunities and prospects for all. My team and I are incredibly privileged to be able to offer you and your children so much more in this regard.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Asha Alexander', written over a horizontal line.

Asha Alexander
Principal
Executive Leader- Climate Change, GEMS Education

GEMS Legacy School

Parent Q&A

Why is The Kindergarten Starters becoming a through-school?

This is an important and exciting milestone in the 30-year history of our school. It comes in response to sustained requests from parents over several years for the exceptional education provided by The Kindergarten Starters to be extended all the way up to Grade 12. We have now received approval from KHDA to open Grade 6 at the start of the new academic year in April 2021, after which we will continue to add further grades year-on-year, subject to further KHDA approval.

Why is The Kindergarten Starters changing its name to GEMS Legacy School?

Given that we are becoming a K-12 through-school, it is only right that we rename the school to reflect our extended provision. Our new name, GEMS Legacy School, pays tribute to The Kindergarten Starters' long, proud history, while at the same time embodying our commitment to always making a lasting positive impact moving forward.

While the name of our school is changing, the exceptional quality of education and close sense of community that have made The Kindergarten Starters such a success are not. Our aim is to build on our long-standing legacy of instilling qualities of empathy, resilience and leadership in our students as well as promoting sustainable living. That is our enduring promise to you – our valued parents – and we are honoured and privileged to be tasked with delivering on it.

What do these changes mean for students?

The biggest difference for our students is that instead of saying goodbye at the end of Grade 5, they will now be able to continue in the same school, with the same friends and familiar faces, all the way up to Grade 12.

In addition, a number of unique new features as well as enhancements to the school's existing provision are being introduced from the beginning of the new academic year in April 2021 onwards. These include:

- Introduction of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence as an additional learning domain in line with CBSE to equip our students with future fluencies and skills for the future
- Introduction of Space and Astronomy as afternoon enhancement programmes as well as associated activities in conjunction with space research organisations and NASA
- Free optional enhancement programmes in the afternoons (2.15pm – 3.45pm), incorporating reinforcement, or home assignment, time and group games to nurture students' physical, emotional and social wellbeing
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Will tuition fees be affected?

Information about tuition fees was already communicated to parents on **25/02/2021** – please refer to Circular **KGS/C/367-21** and see below:

Grade	KHDA-approved fees 2021-22
KG 1	7,888
KG 2	7,888
Grade 1	10,528
Grade 2	10,528
Grade 3	10,528
Grade 4	10,528
Grade 5	10,528

For Grade 6, the following fee structure will be applied, as communicated in Circular KGS / C/ 339-20 on 8 December 2020:

Grade	KHDA-approved fee	Discounted annual fee (payable monthly over 10 months)			
		2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Grade 6	14,000	10,292	11,900	12,600	14,000

Will students need to purchase new uniform?

GEMS Legacy School will have a uniform that is different to that of The Kindergarten Starters. However, we do not expect parents and students to switch immediately. The new uniform will be available for purchase from September 2021, with all students required to wear the updated uniform by April 2022. Further details will be shared with parents in due course.

Who can I speak to for further information?

Ms. Asha Alexander, Principal: asha.a_kgs@gemsedu.com

Mr. Ragesh K.R, Accounts Officer: ragesh.r_kgs@gemsedu.com