



# Whole School Newsletter: 09 January 2020

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## 2. From the Principal



Dear Parents

Happy New Year – it has been a pleasure to welcome our families back after the Winter break.

Just before my vacation began, I returned to the UK to interview potential new teachers for the next academic year. Whilst we have a very low turnover of staff compared to other schools in Dubai and Internationally, there will be some members of staff who decide to return home or look for alternative global opportunities. The appointment of new staff is very rigorous with due diligence undertaken before candidates are interviewed by GEMS HR, a thorough interview process in the UK, references and police checks followed by induction training in April and August for those teachers who are successfully appointed. I hope this provides reassurance that we recruit staff of the highest quality who understand the ethos and expectations of our school.

On the topic of staff, please join us in congratulating Mr and Mrs Cooper on the birth of their baby girl Amelia Rose and also Ms Hana welcomes baby Jana into her family. We are fortunate to have Ms Rasha (regular contracted Arabic cover teacher) and Mr Champsey (Digital Coach) to support whilst those staff members take maternity leave.

The new year is a very exciting time in the future development of the school as it is our annual opportunity to revisit the schools priorities and areas for development. To this end, we will be holding sessions with students, parents and staff over the coming weeks to gather areas for improvement. Ms Shelley (PRE) and Mrs Basson (Parental Engagement Lead) support Senior Leaders in analyzing the feedback (strengths and next steps) from the latest parent survey. We will then collate the most prevalent areas for development and ask for your ideas (both in school and online) to suggest the actions we can put in place to achieve the desired goals.

Finally, I would like to ask for your support in several matters of importance:

1. School Uniform – with the cooler weather we often see non-uniform items emerging in school. A reminder that we have the option of both a jumper/pullover and fleece as part of the RDS uniform. Students will be asked to remove non-uniform jackets when they are in school to adhere to our uniform policy. Please also support the school’s policy of footwear. A reminder that black/navy **shoes** not trainers should be worn with the formal uniform (non PE days).
2. Absence – Our primary concerns are always the well-being of students and their opportunity to access learning. The school follows clear guidance from the KHDA regarding absence. We would ask that you support us by informing the school when your child is absent and ensuring that they are in school during term times providing they are well.
3. Sleep and Breakfast - Finally, a recent Dubai wide student survey has shown that slightly less children are having breakfast before school and there has been a slight drop in the number of children sleeping for the recommended 10-12 hours per day. One of our students has created a magazine article on this area which is shared below. Thank you for your continued support to ensure children arrive in school, well rested, hydrated and well nourished.

Yours in Education

**Vicky Martin**

مارتن فيكي

Principal/CEO



Children who consistently get a good night's sleep:

- a) are more creative
- b) can concentrate on tasks for longer
- c) have better problem-solving abilities
- d) are better able to make positive decisions
- e) are more able to learn and remember new things
- f) have more energy during the day
- g) can create and maintain good relations with others.

### 3. ICARE Weekly





HPL skills have been imperative to our learning this term in Year 4 and we have loved understanding them at a greater depth!

The children have carried out explicit lessons focusing on a skill which they then confidently applied across many other subject areas.

We have really seen a difference in the children's understanding and they articulate them very well indeed.

During our STEAM project the children demonstrated the skill of **Fluent Thinking**. They had to generate new ideas, as many as possible, with whatever came to mind connecting them. To begin with we played a game of '1 minute thinking!' They thought of as many ideas linked to blue. At first they named things that were blue such as the sky, but the more they allowed their minds to think, they started thinking outside the box such as, blueberries and feeling cold.

This **fluency** allowed them to generate more creative ideas and deepen their thought process. After this they confidently shared their ideas and compromised on which idea they would like to take forward. This was extremely successful, not only were each group's idea different, they were varied and often unique!

The children were given a brief that because of Atlantis 2 opening, Atlantis The Palm needed to be repurposed or it was at threat of being knocked down. The children did a fantastic job at researching options of sustainable and repurposed spaces and used this information to apply it to their context. Through their English Guided Reading sessions, they gathered useful information that would help them in their Discovery lessons. Their '**Speed and Accuracy**' HPL skill focused their attention to specific and relevant information which helped them further with their portfolio and idea. Once they had decided on their final idea. They then designed what it would look like and presented it to an audience. Their HPL skill of '**Originality**' allowed them the freedom to create innovate prototypes.

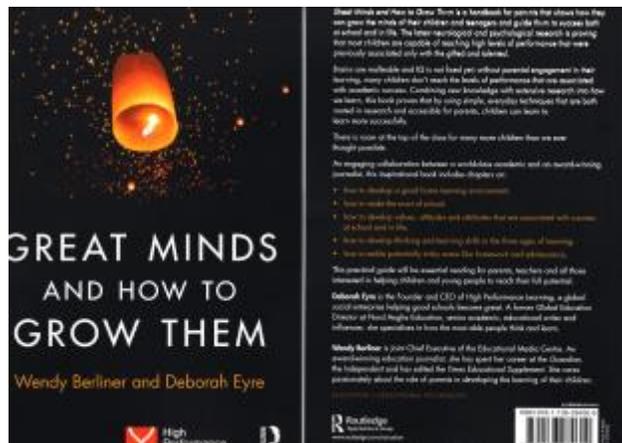


### Great Minds and how to Grow Them

As a HPL school RDS are delighted to share with you information on a book written by Wendy Berline and Deborah Eyre, called **Great Minds and how to Grow Them**.

The book helps parents guide their children to success in school and in life and is an essential read for parents who are interested in helping their children reach their full potential.

To view a copy of the book please see Shelley. If you wish to order, please make the payment of Dhs 95 to Shelley, she will order the book through Bookworm. Orders will be placed at the end of each week and will take 3 weeks from order for delivery.



## 4. PE Department

### Hat reminder

A reminder that all students in FS2 – Year 6 need a hat for every PE lesson this term! Students who do not bring a hat will be unable to participate in their lesson. Thank you for your support.

## Key Stage 2 morning clubs

We have so many exciting sporting opportunities for our KS2 students this term. Our morning clubs start at 7am and are such a great way to start the day!

**Sunday** – Year 3-6 Boys Rugby (*Skills and touch rugby*)

**Sunday** – Year 3-6 Racket Games

**Monday** – Year 4-6 Girls Touch Rugby

**Wednesday** – Year 4-6 Basketball

**Thursday** – Year 3-6 Athletics

*If your child hasn't signed up yet they can come along to the first session to be added to the register.*

## SPORTS DAY 2020

Thursday 6th February FS1: 8.30—10.00am & FS2: 11.00—12.30pm

Sunday 9th February Year 1: 8.30—10.30am & Year 2: 11.30—1.30pm

Monday 10th February Year 3: 8.15—10.45am & Year 4: 11.30—2.00pm

Tuesday 11th February Year 5: 8.15—10.45am & Year 6: 11.30—2.00pm

## 5. Notifications

**slices**  
Week Commencing Jan 12th

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<b>Snack</b>	Leek & Potato Soup	Leek & Potato Soup	Tomato & Basil	Corn & Bean	Leek & Potato Soup
<b>Vegetarian</b>	veg Lasagne/Butter Pie	Roasted Potatoes, Carrots, Peas	Vegetable Tortilla Pie Potatoes and Onions	Past & Veg	Vegetable Burgers
<b>Non-Vegetarian</b>	Beef Bulgoghgan, Roast Beef, Vegetables	Chicken & Mushroom Sauce, Potatoes, Carrots	Fish Gables, Potatoes and Cauliflower	Jack Chicken, Roasted Potatoes	Chicken Burger, Salad
<b>Salad</b>	Endive	Roast Potatoes and Spring Salad	Roasted Chickpea Salad	Roast and Spring Potato Salad	BT Salad
<b>DESSERT</b>	Fresh Fruit Salad	Muffin	Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt	Banana Bread	Fresh Fruit Salad
<b>Fresh Fruit</b>	Curdles & Hummus	Milkshake	Curdles & Hummus	White Fruit	Curdles & Hummus
<b>Beverage</b>	Milk, Lemon or Water	Milk, Lemon or Water	Milk, Lemon or Water	Milk, Lemon or Water	Milk, Lemon or Water

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Location : Assessment Room (near Tiger Turf - 12-16 January 2020)

Class	12th Week										13th Week									
	12/1	12/2	12/3	12/4	12/5	12/6	12/7	12/8	12/9	12/10	12/11	12/12	12/13	12/14	12/15	12/16	12/17	12/18	12/19	12/20
10000001	8:45	9:30	10:15	11:00							8:45	9:30	10:15							
10000002	8:45	9:30	10:15	11:00	11:45						8:45	9:30	10:15							
10000003	9:15	10:00	10:45	11:30	12:15						9:15	10:00	10:45							
10000004	9:15	10:00	10:45	11:30	12:15						9:15	10:00	10:45							
10000005	9:15	10:00	10:45	11:30	12:15						9:15	10:00	10:45							
10000006	9:15	10:00	10:45	11:30	12:15						9:15	10:00	10:45							

### SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Lensman shall be visiting GRDS from 12-16 January to take the children’s individual photographs and class photo.

The photographs will be taken over 5 days, each class will have a 30 minute slot **chosen by the class teacher**. During the time allocation the children will have their individual photos before forming groups of 3 or 4 students to have the group shots, which will be merged to create one class photo.

**Please ensure that your child is smartly dressed in the GEMS Royal Dubai School uniform and bring a hair brush on this day. No jewelry should be seen in the photograph and will be removed if worn. Cardigans and jumpers will be removed for the photograph. Black school shoes must be worn, NO TRAINERS. Plain dark socks are to be worn by boys (black or navy). White or navy socks can be worn by girls or NAVY tights, no patterns. Failure to adhere to the uniform rules may result in your child being excluded from the class photo.**

Sibling shots will also be available on Tuesday 14 January from 3pm to 5pm. To book your 10 minute slot please email [m.ofiaza\\_rds@gemsedu.com](mailto:m.ofiaza_rds@gemsedu.com).

**Please see the updated schedule for the individual and class photos.**



Year 1 & 2 Arabic A Parents workshop

## Arabic Workshop



Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Time: 07:45 - 09:00 AM

Come along and meet the Arabic A team and learn more about your child's curriculum (only Year 1 & 2), strategies we are using in the classroom and materials to support you at home.

Home Learning Help, Further iRead Information, Navigating and using SeeSaw, Resources to support your child in Arabic A

Scan the QR code →  
to register your name  
or use the link below;

<https://bit.ly/35uDm8G>



This coffee afternoon will be run in the CEZ room at the mezzanine floor

ورشة عمل أولياء أمور الصف الأول والثاني بمعلمي اللغة العربية

## ورشة عمل اللغة العربية



الإثنين 13 يناير 2020

الوقت: 7:45 - 9:00 صباحًا

بمعدنا دعوة حضر انكم لحضور ورشة عمل اللغة العربية لأولياء أمور طلاب الصف الأول والثاني ، لتتعرف عن كتب على معلمي اللغة العربية والمنهاج الذي تقدمه لطلابنا، كما سنستعرض مع حضر انكم بعض الاستراتيجيات المستخدمة في تعلم اللغة العربية. نتطلع إلى مشاركة حضر انكم في ورشة العمل، والتعرف على البرامج التي نستخدمها وكيفية التعامل معها في مادة اللغة العربية

قم بمسح الكود التالي  
للتسجيل وحضور ورشة العمل

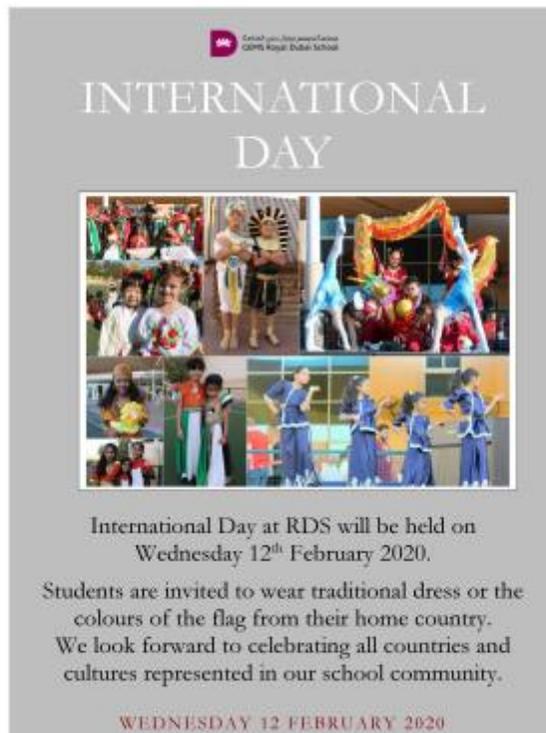
<https://bit.ly/35uDm8G>



سنقدم ورشة العمل بغرفة اجتماعات المدرسة بالطابق المراتين

### International Day

RDS will celebrate International Day on celebrated on 12 February. if you would like to represent the country that you are from in our Global Village, please let Shelley know. We currently have 68 different nationalities of children at GEMS Royal Dubai School and would to see as many countries represented as possible.



## 6. Coffee Mornings

### SLT Weekly Coffee Meeting - Each Thursday at 08:00-09:00

Join a member of SLT and some FORDS members from 08:00-09:00 in the Community Cafe for an SLT Coffee Meeting for open discussion, feedback and suggestions. Simply drop into to Community Cafe at 8am each Thursday.

This will not be a forum for individual child discussion, which is best discussed with the child's class teacher.

We look forward to seeing you.





## Is your child a picky eater?

### **A Free Seminar on packing a stress free yet healthy school lunchbox**

*Why won't my child eat his food?*

*Why does my child prefer playing rather than eating?*

*My child won't eat anything except junk food. What do I do?*

*What is SD and could my child have it?*

Do these questions sound familiar?

Come join us at 8 am on the 15th January for PS1-PS2 & 12pm on the 16th January for Years 1-3 at CE2 - Royal Dubai School, where our expert nutritionist Mita will share her tips and advice on how to level up school lunch boxes, save your time and avoid the stress of dealing with your fussy eater.

Please RSVP to [hr@yacob.com](mailto:hr@yacob.com) or talk to your school coordinator to reserve your seat. You can also contact us with any questions you may have and we will be more than happy to answer them on the day.

If you want to know more about what the talk will be about and how it can help you, send us an email at [hr@yacob.com](mailto:hr@yacob.com).

**FAMILY  
SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOP**



**Gems Royal Dubai  
Tuesday 11th February | 8:00AM - 9:00AM  
Please Register Attendance**

**Covering the following subjects:**

- Guardianship of Children
- ICE Planning
- Life & Critical Illness Cover
- Wills & Estate Planning




Kids Initiative is a campaign run by Safe Hands, part of the Blue Sky Thinking Group

## 7. Helpful Information

### Friends of Royal Dubai School - FORDS

Friends of Royal Dubai School is run by parents for parents, families and members of the local community to meet socially, in and out of school and to organise events to support our school and GEMS charities. Everyone is welcome to participate and new ideas are always welcome. If you would like to become a member of FORDS or wish to meet our Co-Chairs (Nazli Mouffer and Shatha Al Rabeeah) to find out more about FORDS, please let Shelley know.

### Royal Dubai School – Instagram

Teachers are using Instagram to give RDS families a further insight into life at RDS. This will be another opportunity for parents to keep in touch with all the amazing things going on in our Outstanding school. To ensure that parents can choose targeted content that suits their family, there will be a wide range of accounts to follow. Follow the ones that interest you most or follow them all! Be sure to **like our posts** so that we can learn more about your preferences and the kind of content that you would 'like' to see!

Official RDS accounts to follow on Instagram: @rds\_foundationstage, @rds\_year1, @grds\_year2, @rds\_year3, @rds\_year4, @rds\_year5, @grds\_year6, @rds\_creativearts, @gemsrds\_sport

## **GEMS Ambassador Programme**

Enjoy benefits for referring GEMS Royal Dubai School to your friends, simply click on the GEMS Ambassador tab from our website, sign on with your parent username and password and enter your friends details. Your friend will receive an email with a link to complete a registration for their child. Enjoy your reward once the child has enrolled and attended school.

<http://www.royaldubaischool.com/for-parents/ambassador-programme/>

*Please note, referral rewards will not be granted if the above steps are not completed prior to enrolling online.*

## **FAB GEMS Credit card**

The FAB GEMS co-branded credit card offers an average discount of 4.25% when using the card to pay your school tuition fees in advance.

For details on the benefits please call the GRDS FAB representatives: K. N. Ganesh (058 6862424) or Mahipal Reddy (055 8464790). If you are unable reach our School Representatives kindly email [Mohammad.rais2@bankfab.com](mailto:Mohammad.rais2@bankfab.com) or [vinay.bhatia@bankfab.com](mailto:vinay.bhatia@bankfab.com)

*Please see Shelley (Parent Relations Executive in Reception) for more information on how to make savings with GEMS.*

## **What to do if your child is ill**

Please email [reception\\_rds@gemsedu.com](mailto:reception_rds@gemsedu.com) and your class teachers if your child will be absent due to illness. If more convenient please call Reception on 04 2886499 from 7am. Should your child be absent for 3 days due to illness a Doctor's note will be required and can be submitted to the ladies at Reception.

## **What to do if you need to collect your child early**

If there is ever an occasion when you need to collect your child early from school please see the ladies at Reception and complete the Exit Log. You will then be provided with a paper exit pass which must be signed by your child/ren's class teacher when you go to the classroom to collect them. Please swap the paper pass for a plastic pass with the ladies at Reception, the plastic pass should be given to the Security Guards as you exit the campus. *The Guards will NOT let you exit with the paper pass, it must be the plastic pass. This is because some exit passes are issued from the School Clinic and teachers and reception would not know you are leaving if you do not surrender the paper pass to Reception.* Thank you for your cooperation.

### Birthday Celebrations at School

Please be reminded of the school's policy regarding celebrating birthdays in school.

- Parents may provide small, individually wrapped treats (cupcakes, muffins, donuts, fruit mix) which will be sent home with the children at the end of the school day including a list of ingredients. Under no circumstances should the treat be distributed for eating in school. (This is to allow parents to decide if and when they want their children eating sugary treats and also so that they can keep an eye out for ingredients that may cause allergies)
- Large cakes should not be brought into school. (This can be very disruptive, messy and difficult for children to transport home)
- Other small and inexpensive gifts instead of sugary treats may also be given such as colouring or playdough (each gift should not be worth more than 30p/each child)
- Parents are not allowed into classrooms during the school day (Each class has about 27 children) if parents attended every time there is a birthday celebration there would be a lot of disruption to learning)
- There is no expectation for parents to bring any treats or gifts to school on their child's birthday. Class teachers will celebrate every child's birthday with the class.



### سياسة الاستقبال بأحداث المولد في المدرسة

- يرجى تذكير إدارة المدرسة فيما يخص بالاحتفال بأحداث المولد في المدرسة:
- من الممكن أن يقدم الآباء والأمهات وجبات صغيرة ومعلّبة بشكل فردي (كالكعك (cupcakes, muffins) أو مزيج الفاكهة والتي سيتم إرسالها إلى المنزل مع الأطفال في نهاية اليوم الدراسي بما في ذلك قائمة المكونات.
  - لا ينبغي توزيع الوجبات المعلّبة تحت أي ظرف من الظروف لتناول في المدرسة (المشروبات والشوكولاتة) إلا إذا القوا لتصبح أواني الأكل - وهو من يقرر متى وهذا يتناسب لاحتياجاتهم ويجب أن يكون لديهم معلومات واضحة حول مكونات هذه الأطعمة.
  - لا يمكن إعطاء الكعك الكبير في المدرسة (إذا لم يقدمه ذلك من الفوضى - ويصعب على الأطفال نقله، ولهذا إلى المنزل).
  - من الممكن تقديم هدايا صغيرة وغير مكلفة بدلاً من الهدايا الشكراة مثل الألوان أو الصمغ اللص (هدايا لا تزيد قيمتها عن 30 سنتاً).
  - لا يسمح للأهل بالدخول إلى الصفوف الدراسية خلال اليوم الدراسي. إن كل فصل لديه حوالي 27 طالباً، إذا حضر الآباء في كل مرة يكون هناك انتقال بعد ساعة سيكون هناك الكثير من الاضطراب في الصفوف.
  - لا نتوقع من الأهل إحضار أي هدايا أو طعام إلى المدرسة في هذا موعد، نظراً لظهور سيمفان سنرسو بعد ذلك كحل بديل مع زملائه في الصف.



## 8. Important Dates

**12 January:** Term 2 ECAs begin

**12-16 Jan:** Individual Student and Class photos (see schedule above)

**13 January:** Y1 & Y2 Arabic A workshop @ 0745-0900

**14 January:** ACe Coffee Meeting @ 8:15-9:15

**15 January:** Fussy Eater workshop FS1 FS2 @ 8am

**16 January:** Fussy Eater workshop Y1-Y3 @ 12pm

**06 February:** FS1 & FS2 Sports Day

**09 February:** Y1 & Y2 Sports Day

**10 February:** Y3 & Y4 Sports Day

**11 February:** Y5 & Y6 Sports Day

**11 February:** Kids Initiative Guardianship Coffee Morning @ 8-9am

**12 February:** SAVE THE DATE! International Day

**13 February:** School is closed to students for Teacher Training Day

**16-20 February: School is closed for Half Term**

**23 February:** School resumes