



# CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

Year 1  
2021 - 2022

EXPLORE LEADERSHIP



مدرسة جيمس متروبول  
GEMS Metropole School  
MOTOR CITY

**GEMS**  
EDUCATION



## Welcome to Infant School

On behalf of all of the staff at GEMS Metropole, it is a pleasure to welcome you and your family this academic year.

In the Infant School our focus is on leading learning through play and this is at the heart of everything we do. This takes place in our world class facilities of the forest school, farm and indoor environments. Beyond the school day we provide opportunities for the students to develop extra curriculum interests which are also celebrated inside of school.

Parents are strong partners in our learning and it is a pleasure to invite you in to share our journey through the year to a variety of exciting events. We make no excuses for your children being confident, imaginative learners taking risks to lead change in our community.



**Emily Smith**  
Head of Infant School

## Welcome to Year 1

On behalf of everyone at Gems Metropole, I am delighted to welcome you and your child to Year 1. This is an exciting year, where your child will transition from Foundation Stage to Key Stage 1.

The Year 1 team are looking forward to working with you and your family to support and guide your child through this learning journey. In Year 1, we will continue to provide children with continuous provision opportunities that will challenge and stimulate their learning as well as develop the learning skills they acquired in FS1 and FS2.

As we introduce the National Curriculum, we aim to spark a lifelong passion for learning within your child. You can find out a little bit more about our engaging curriculum in the following pages. We value our parent partnerships and hope you will be involved as much as possible this year. We have planned some great opportunities for activities and workshops to celebrate and showcase your child's learning, please see the dates section below for more information.



**Emily Merton**  
Head of Year 1



## Year 1 Teachers



### **Emily Merton**

Head of Year 1 & Year 1 Teacher

My name is Emily and I am very excited to join GEMS Metropole this year. I enjoy creating an environment where children can be independent in their learning and lead things in their own directions. I am looking forward to meeting you all at the start of the year.

### **Fiona Baker**

Yr 1 Teacher



Hello, my name is Miss Fiona and in September 2018 I joined Gems Metropole. I am looking forward to being in Y1 this year. I enjoy seeing each learner reach their full potential and enjoying each step of the way is what drives me to be a passionate teacher. I am looking forward to working with you this year!



### **Abigail Saleh**

Yr 1 Teacher

Hello, my name is Miss Abi and I am extremely excited to be joining GEMS Metropole School this September. I am an enthusiastic, creative and committed teacher who loves to implement both engaging and memorable lessons for all learners. I look forward to getting to know each member of my class and creating an enjoyable learning environment where all children are encouraged to reach their full potential; academically, socially and physically.

### **Valerie Hutchin**

Yr 1 Teacher



Hello, my name is Mrs Valerie and this will be the start of a new year for me as I joined in January 2021. This is my 11th year as a teacher after qualifying as a teacher in the UK. I am looking forward to meeting you all in September. I have worked in International Schools in the Middle East for eight years and and excited to get started with my new class.



## Year 1 Teachers



**Lisa Corbett**

Yr 1 Teacher

Hello, my name is Miss Lisa and I will be your teacher in Y1F. This is my 6th year in Gems Metropole and my first year teaching in year 1 at the school, having previously taught in FS2 for the past 5 years. I do however, have previous experiences with this age and stage of learning. This year I look forward to incorporating some of my FS2 insights into our classroom and continuing to develop a love of learning. I look forward to the new adventures this year will bring and I cannot wait to meeting you all very soon!

**Holly Roberts**

Yr 1 Teacher

Hello, my name is Miss Holly and welcome to 1B. This is my fourth year at MTS and I look forward to our learning journey together. I look forward to meeting all the children



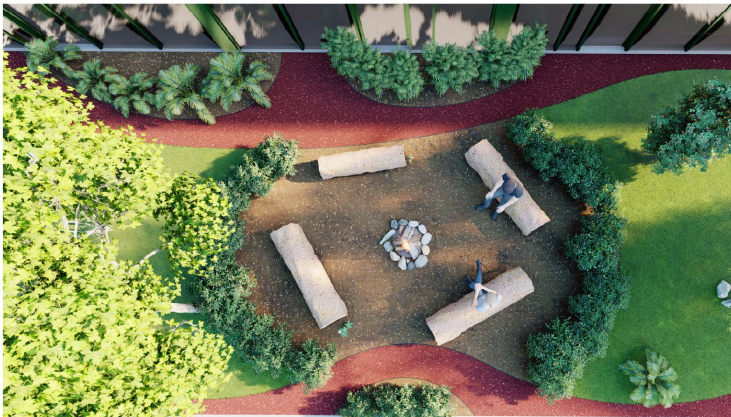
## Forest School

Welcome to our Forest school. This is where any good story starts, through the gate and into the forest where the adventure begins.

Forest school is a long term outdoor programme of learning delivered by our trained practitioners, in a natural environment. Our programme is tailor made to the needs of your children as they grown in confidence, skills and understanding in order to support them in their first exploration of leadership.

We are fortunate to be the proud owners of a brand new, world class forest school facility which includes, a woodland walk, an outdoor classroom and growing gardens. Along the way there will be many more features added as we watch how the children use the space and adapt it for them.

The forest school sessions build on what the children are currently learning in their topic and across the curriculum or will consolidate prior learning. The children are encouraged and supported in recognising risk and managing this for themselves, through real life situations and experiences.



## Term 1A

### Moon Zoom!

Our first term in Year 1 will be out of this world. In our topic Moon Zoom! our exciting adventure will begin igniting the children's interests by discovering a Space craft Crash Landing in the GEMS Metropole's Forest School. The children will find clues and predict who has crashed their space craft, where they came from and why they are here. With the support of engaging key texts such as 'How to Catch a Star' and 'Beegu' the children will learn a range of key language to enrich their learning. An educational trip to the Sharjah Plantetarium will give the children an insight into the world above them and spark the question 'Is there anybody else out there?'. Throughout the topic children will be thinking about ways we could travel into space and as a celebration of learning, we will invite parents to design and build a rocket that could fly into space!



## Term 1B

### Excellent Explorers. Where would you like to explore?

To start this exciting topic, the children will find that somebody has set up camp in our school, and this is filled with clues about who is here. The children will investigate what they have found to work out who they think has been camping in our school and where they are from. This will hook the children in to our new topic, Excellent Explorers! During the topic, the children will be learning about significant explorers who were some of the first to travel to unseen parts of the world. The children will be encouraged to think about what these expeditions would have been like and whether they would like to take on an adventure similar. To end our topic, the children will be designing a snow mobile, similar to the ones used by the explorers taught during our topic. These will be put into an exhibition ready for you to come and admire our amazing inventions.

## Term 2A

### Paws, claws and whiskers. Do all animals crawl?

Our new topic will start with the children taking a trip down to the GEMS Metropole farm, where they will discover videos that have been left by the talking animals. This will excite the children into wanting to know more about these farm animals as well as animals from all around the world. The children will build on their explorer skills from their previous topic and travel to different continents to learn about different types of animals. The children will be encouraged to think about how our planet is changing and what we can do to protect endangered animals. To end our topic, the children will use their knowledge of their favourite endangered animal to educate and bring awareness to others by creating and sharing their own YouTube channel.

## Term 2B

### Dinosaurs. Are dinosaurs really extinct?



Have you ever wondered what it would be like if Dinosaurs were still alive? Well you might just be about to find out! To kickstart our new topic Dinosaurs, we will discover clues in the playground and be shown some top secret CCTV footage that shows us a T-rex is in our school! Throughout the term we will become Palaeontologists, using tools and digging deep into the ground to discover fossils and clues from that past, we will visit the Dinosaur Park to see some 'real' dinosaurs. Let's not forget a Dinosaur is loose in the school and as Palaeontologists Year 1 are the only ones who are equipped to catch him. Using our knowledge and what we have learnt this term the children will design and build traps to catch the dinosaur and return him to a suitable habitat.

## Term 3A

### Bright lights, big cities. If you could live in any city, where would you live?

If money was no object, where would you go? Well during this topic the children are going to enter their classroom, which will have been transformed into an airport check in. They will design and make their own passport and earn stamps as and when they travel to a new continent during the topic. The children will be learning about different countries from around the world and what makes them so special; from what delicacies they eat and what magical celebrations they share. Throughout the topic, children will have lots of opportunities to explore different countries through food tasting, dressing up and learning new skills. We will complete the topic with an all around the world celebration, where we will celebrate the diversity of our school and the children have the opportunity to show off how proud they are of where they come to.



## Term 3B

### Land Ahoy. Would you like to be a pirate?



Yo ho ho a pirates term for me! For our final topic the children will discover a message in a bottle from a pirate! The message will also include a treasure map for the children to use to go on a treasure hunt. They will need to keep their eyes peeled incase the pirate is still lurking around school... During this topic the children will learn about pirates and seaside towns, focusing on human and physical features. Towards the end of the topic, children will design and make their own treasure chest. They will also create their own treasure map and parents will be invited in to join us on our



## Dates for your diary

Term 1	
Sunday 29th August	First day of Term 1
Tuesday 7th September	Year 1 Curriculum Evening
Sunday 19th September	Shared Learning Morning
Tuesday 5th October and Wednesday 6th October	Parental Engagement Evenings
Tuesday 12th October	Space Showcase
Wednesday 13th October	Year 1 Phonics Workshop
Sunday 17th October	Mid-Term Break
Sunday 31st October	Term 1B begins. Year 1 Topic launch day
Monday 8th November	Year 1 Maths Workshop
Sunday 14th November	Shared Learning Morning
Monday Tuesday 22nd 23rd November	Ski Dubai trip
Wednesday 24th November	Excellent Exhibition
Tuesday 7th December	Year 1 Winter Performance
Thursday 9th December	End of Term 1

Term 2	
Sunday 2nd January	Term 2 begins
Monday 24th January	Shared Learning Morning
Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th February	Parent's Evening
Thursday 10th February	MTS Planet' parent showcase
Sunday 13th February	Mid-Term Break
Wednesday Thursday 9th and 10th March	Dinosaur Park
Monday 7th March	Shared Learning Morning
Monday 14th March	Year 1 and 2 Parent Science Workshop
Thursday 24th March	Parents invited to 'trap the dinosaur'
Thursday 24th March	End of Term 2

Term 3	
Sunday 10th April	Term 3 begins
Monday 16th May	Shared Learning Morning
Thursday 19th May	Around the world celebration
Wednesday 15th June	Parent Treasure Hunt
Wednesday 22nd June	Year 1 Seaside (in school with ice cream van)
Sunday 3rd July	Year 1 End of Year Performance
Thursday 7th July	End of Term 3





## Parent Workshops

Across the year we will be providing many opportunities for you to learn about how children learn specific concepts in Year 1. Just in case you are unable to make these dates, we will record them so that you can access them all year around.

## Year 1 Child Support

We know that you will be eager to help your children at home. On the link below we have provided the resources that you will need to help your child.

<https://www.gemsmetropoleschool-dubai.com/>

## Year 1 Communications

Over the year we will communicate with you in a variety of ways. You can expect to receive communication for your children in the following ways:

### Class Email

Each week your child's class teacher will email out information specific to your child's class. This will include learning that has happened that week as well as what will be coming up in the following week.

### Year Group Newsletter

Every Thursday you will have access to the year group newsletter. This includes information relevant to the whole year group and can be accessed through GEMS Connect.

### Head of Primary Newsletter

This will be received bi-weekly and will be available on GEMS connect. This newsletter contains a wider view of what is happening within the school.

### GEMS Connect / School Reports

You will receive three reports each term and will be available on GEMS Connect for you to review & download the same.

