



## CURRICULUM HANDBOOK

Year 1

2023 - 2024

EXPLORING LEADERSHIP



مدرسة جيمس متروبول  
GEMS Metropole School  
MOTOR CITY



[gemsmetropoleschool-dubai.com](https://gemsmetropoleschool-dubai.com)

**GEMS**  
EDUCATION

## Introduction

### 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 Year 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 aim for you to be involved as much as possible in your child's learning.

We have planned some great opportunities for activities and workshops to celebrate and showcase your child's learning.

**Helen** Spencer  
Head of Year 1



## Infant Leadership Team

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**1 Emily Smith**  
Head of Infant School

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**2 Emily Shepherd**  
Deputy Head of Primary

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**3 Neil Corrigan**  
Deputy Head of Primary

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**4 Alexander James**  
Assistant Head of Primary

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**5 Brynn Cooper**  
Assistant Head of Primary

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**6 Gemma Brown**  
Assistant Head of Primary

7



**7 Erin Nelson**  
Assistant Head of Primary





## The Metropole Curriculum Journey

At Metropole, our programme of learning embodies the GEMS Education core values and ensures that students receive a high-quality education in a happy, supportive and nurturing environment, where they are encouraged to explore and take risks.

Teachers plan challenging, well-organised and interesting lessons which engage and motivate our students. There are regular opportunities for leadership, enquiry based learning, critical thinking, decision-making and problem solving where students are encouraged to take an active role in the learning opportunities they encounter. All staff have high expectations of both students and each other.

## Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum – FS1 and FS2

Children learning in Foundation Stage follow the statutory Early Years Foundation Stage framework (EYFS) for teaching and development. This stage is very important in a child's life as it helps prepare your child for school 'readiness' as well as for their future learning and successes.

Children learn skills, acquire new knowledge and demonstrate their understanding through 7 areas of learning and development: Communication and Language, Physical Development, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. All 7 areas of learning are used to plan children's learning and activities. Teachers make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs.

## The National Curriculum of England Years 1–11

From Years 1–11 students follow The National Curriculum of England and are exposed to a wide range of compulsory subjects which includes: Mathematics, English, Science, Computing, Design and Technology, History, Geography, Art and Design, Music, Physical Education, Modern Foreign languages.

The national curriculum is a non-textbook curriculum which provides pupils with an introduction to the essential knowledge they require to be educated citizens. It introduces pupils to the best that has been thought and said, and helps engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievements.

## Ministry of Education Curriculum

Alongside the Early Years Curriculum and National Curriculum of England, students also study the Ministry of Education Curriculum. Through this, students learn Arabic, Islamic Studies and Moral, Social and Cultural Studies. The UAE leaders along with GEMS Metropole promote the learning and using of Arabic language as it is considered a fundamental pillar of the Emirates national identity, its people's history and its deep-rooted traditions. The Arabic framework supports both native and non-native Arabic speakers. This framework illustrates the levels expected to be achieved by the learner in each of the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing). Where Arabic is the student's non-native language, the curriculum links the achievement of these levels to the number of years spent in studying Arabic, regardless of the learner's current grade.



## High Performance Learning at GEMS Metropole

GEMS Metropole School is on a very exciting journey to become world-class! Students at Metropole develop the language and skills to help them explain the current stage of their learning and the next steps they need to take to improve and deepen their understanding. The High Performance Learning approach recognises that all learners have the potential to achieve the very highest results and develops the attitudes and performance characteristics required for this to happen.

High Performance Learning is based around a framework that includes 30 generic characteristics that students need to develop to be high performing learners. These are based around, 'How we think' and 'How we behave'. High Performance Learning is embedded throughout the curriculum at Metropole and across the wider school. We truly believe that all students can be high performance learners and we strive for all our students to have a performance mind-set and reach their potential and beyond!

## Forest School

Throughout the academic year, Year 1 will learn a variety of skills and gain a great deal of knowledge and understanding as part of their Forest School sessions. However, the main focus of Year 1 Forest School sessions will be on developing children's imagination; fine motor skills and their understanding and appreciation of the natural environment around them.

Year 1 begin by focusing on the story of Stanley's stick and how using our imagination and some natural resources can give a simple stick, infinite possibilities. We will use these sticks to go on endless adventures and to create transient art.

Year 1 then move into helping the Little People who inhabit our Forest School by building them a new village; preparing them for Winter and helping them avoid predators.

During this time, the children in Year 1 will learn to tie simple knots; how to use a range of tools and equipment safely; use natural resources to build dens and shelters for the little people, and themselves; and learn about how camouflage works in various environments.









## Termly Topic Overviews

### Term 1A: Is there anyone else out there?

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 in to design and build a rocket that could fly into space!

### Term 1B: Is a pirate's life for me?

Yo ho ho a pirates term for me! In this 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 use their detective skills to work out where the pirate has gone! During this topic the children will learn about pirates, sailors and seaside towns, focusing on human and physical features - we will deepen our knowledge by going to one of Dubai's beaches on a class trip. There will be a focus on the story 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch', the children will have a go at writing their own instructions on 'How to make a Jam Sandwich'. They will will design and make their own treasure chests and begin to think about what special objects could be treasure to them.

### Term 2A: How Does Your Garden Grow?

Our new topic will be about plants. We will use the forest school area to observe the life of plants including trees. We will have the opportunity to have 'green fingers' by planting our own seeds and making observations of how they grow over time. We will identify, name and describe a variety of garden and wild plants when we look at the plantation around school including the farm. We will be able to label different parts of a plant and look at plants that produce different fruit and vegetables. Plants can grow everywhere around the world, so we will look at the special features needed to grow strong, healthy plants by working scientifically.





## Termly Topic Overviews

### Term 2B: If you were an animal, what would you be?

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 the 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 3A: How would you catch a dinosaur?

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 3B: 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.







## Year 1: Curriculum

### English: Reading

The Reading curriculum here at Gems Metropole focuses on word reading and comprehension by encouraging students to maintain positive attitudes to reading and demonstrating an understanding of what they read through the reading strategies. Reading lessons at Gems Metropole are taught as a whole class providing ample opportunities for students to practice the skill of reading aloud fluently with intonation that shows understanding and developing their verbal reasoning skills to aid comprehension and a comprehension lesson based on the class texts. To support students progress and development in reading we ensure we make strong links between home and school reading. Students are assessed half termly on reading skills to produce a ZPD level which enables them to choose books and quizzes. The quiz results can be shared with parents via renaissance connect. Throughout the school year there are ample opportunities for students to engage in a range of book based activities as well as our student leadership opportunities for students in the Junior school.

### English: Writing

At Gems Metropole the English curriculum is based upon the National Curriculum of England with some adaptations to suit the needs of our students in the UAE and focuses on spelling and transcription, vocabulary, grammar, punctuation, handwriting and composition.

English writing lessons here at Metropole are taught using the Talk for Writing approach which allows students to internalise a text through oral rehearsal and its key features to support higher writing outcomes. This approach is based the principles of how children learn – by providing pupils with visual, auditory and kinaesthetic learning opportunities.

Talk for Writing enables children to imitate the language and structure they need for a particular story by creating pictorial story maps and practicing retelling a story orally, before reading and analysing it, and then writing their own version of the story. Throughout their time at Metropole, children will also receive specific handwriting and spelling lessons which will supplement and support our Talk for Writing approach to English and aid children to develop their skills as a writer.

At Metropole, children begin their English journey in FS where lessons will centre around, and build upon a range of Nursery rhymes and Traditional Tales, such as Humpty Dumpty and Incy Wincy Spider.

As children move through Key Stage 1, they will begin to retell familiar stories orally and in written form, before going onto invent their own characters and stories.. Children will also be introduced to Non-fiction writing where they will write instructions, information texts and much more.



## Year 1: Curriculum

### Year 1 English Overview by Terms

#### Term 1

In our GPS, we will be learning about how to structure a sentence. We will learn what a full stop is and when to use them and when we need to use a capital letter. By the end of term 1, the children will be using capital letters and full stops in their writing.

#### Term 2

In our GPS, we will be learning how to add conjunctions to a sentences – we will focus on 'and' and 'because'. We will continue to focus on sentence structure. The children will be orally rehearsing sentences, using their phonics to write the words and including capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We will introduce exclamation and question marks too.

#### Term 3

In Term 3A, the children will discover an egg in the school, what could be inside the egg? It's a Dinosaur! The children will create wanted posters to catch the dinosaur and learn how to structure and write instructions on how to catch him. Term 3B – At the start of the half term children will be introduced to 'Ed the Explorer'. The children will be learning all about Ed's journey around the world, they will be retelling his journey verbally using Talk 4 Writing. The children will be learning how to identify and use adjectives in their writing. They will then be focusing on how to write a post card.

## Year 1: Curriculum

### Mathematics

At Gems Metropole, we follow the White Rose maths curriculum and long term plan, using additional lesson resources from a variety of other resources. Mastery teaching ensures high expectations for all pupils, and use of the concrete-pictorial-abstract approach. This approach develops children's understanding.

Teaching maths involves employing a range of approaches to help students develop a deep and secure knowledge and understanding of mathematics at each stage of their learning so that by the end of every school year children will have acquired mastery of the mathematical facts and concepts they've been exposed to, equipping them to move on confidently and securely to move advanced material.

Our teaching ensures high expectations from all pupils and the use of the Concrete-Pictorial – Abstract approach. This approach develops children's understanding from Concrete (handling objects, resources, manipulatives), on to Pictorial (visual images and representations), and then Abstract (symbolic stage with more formal strategies).



## Year 1: Curriculum

### Year 1 Math Overview by Terms

#### Term 1

In term 1 B, the children will focusing on numbers up to 20. In week 1 and 2 the children will be taught how to take away (subtract) they will learn what the – symbol means and how to work out subtraction questions. We will also be focusing on 2D and 3D shapes and their properties.

#### Term 2

During term 2, the children will focusing on numbers up to 50. The children will be focusing on partitioning numbers into 10s and 1s. The children will be ordering, finding one more and one less and comparing numbers to 20. They will also be solving missing number such as  $5 + \_ = 20$ . After that, the children will be returning to addition and subtraction, with numbers to 30. We will recap what the + and – symbols mean and which methods we can use to find the answer. We will be recapping the drawing method and focusing on using the numberline.

#### Term 3

In term 3, the children will be learning about measurement. We will start focusing on measuring length and height. First the children will use non-standard units of measure such as cubes, their hands or toys to measure how long something is, before moving on to using a ruler. The children will be taught to use the words, longer, shorter, tall, taller and tallest during this time. We will then be learning about volume and capacity. The children will be taught to measure liquid using litres and millilitres. They will compare two amounts of liquid and use the vocabulary: empty, full, half full. Finally, we will be learning about measuring mass/ weight. The children will use the vocabulary heavy, heavier and heaviest, light, lighter, and lightest to compare objects by their mass.



## Year 1: Curriculum

### Science

At GEMS Metropole School our science lessons are of a practical, investigative nature. Children are allowed time to explore which further develops the children's natural inquisitive nature. Exploring leads to open ended discussions about science in real life contexts and helps the children to understand the world they are living in and their place within it.. Within their lessons, children learn to ask scientific questions and discover how science affects their future. Our lessons are based upon the National Curriculum of England and have been amended to suit the needs of the UAE. In the primary school, science is taught by class teachers and is incorporated throughout other subjects and the relevant topic at the time. This ensures a holistic approach in the acquisition of scientific skills and knowledge. Children have science lessons only a weekly basis and cover both knowledge and working scientific skills within these. 'Working scientifically' specifies the understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science.



## Year 1: Curriculum

### Year 1 Science Overview by Terms

#### Term 1

This half term the children learn all about materials. They will be looking at waterproof and non-waterproof materials. They will carry out experiments to support their learning.

#### Term 2

We will be learning the different types of animals: mammals, birds, fish, amphibians and reptiles. The children will be able to identify some different animals in each of these categories and learn the different features of animals.

#### Term 3

In Science this term we will continue to learn about different animals and start to identify which animals are Carnivores, Herbivores or Omnivores by looking at their diet and teeth structure. We will learn about the dinosaurs that lived millions of years ago and identify their characteristics.





## Year 1: Curriculum

### Humanities

At GEMS Metropole School, each year group has a range of topics which are taught throughout the course of the year. The topics are history or geography based and usually alternate each half term, giving an even divide of both humanities subjects.

Topics begin with an exciting hook, which allows children to explore the new unit and develop a desire and curiosity to learn. The cross-curricular topic is then linked within a variety of curriculum subjects, creating a fully immersive learning experience.

History and geography are taught through 'discovery time' at GEMS Metropole, allowing flexibility and creativity within the subjects, as there are no set restrictions on time and content.

We provide children with the skills and resources to inquire about topics and independently research and discover new learning. Throughout the topics, children are working towards answering a big question which they showcase in a finale – a final showcase or project which has driven their learning for the term.





## Year 1: Curriculum

### Physical Education

In Year 1, students are introduced to the elements of competitive sports in a fun and supportive way. The Year 1 students will take part in gymnastics and run, jump, throw and send and return activities. They will develop their physical literacy and learn to construct and develop movement patterns in gymnastics, then reflect on their performance and suggest improvements. Pupils should develop fundamental movement skills, become increasingly competent and confident and access a broad range of opportunities to extend their agility, balance and coordination, individually and with others. They should be able to engage in competitive (both against self and against others) and co-operative physical activities, in a range of increasingly challenging situations.



## Year 1: Curriculum

### Performing Arts



In Year 1 we introduce students to 'Performing Arts' through the disciplines of Drama, Dance and Music. Students are taught by specialist Performing Arts teachers once a week in their class groups. In Music, children learn simple songs, chants and rhymes, exploring the essence of pitch.

Children develop their listening skills by sharing a range of musical styles, exploring what they hear through a range of questioning. In addition, we introduce students to composition, and through the use of a variety of stimulus, we show students how they can create their own music.

In Dance, we introduce children to a range of dances from 'Around the World' and look at how dance is used in a range of cultures. In Drama, we focus on developing students speaking skills, exploring how we use our voice to show emotion when acting out a role. We use role play and imaginative stimuli to help students develop their creativity.



## Art

At MTS, we value Art and Design as an important part of the children's entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum. Art and Design provides the children with the opportunities to develop and extend skills and an opportunity to express their individual interests, thought and ideas. Art, craft and design embody some of the highest forms of human creativity. A high-quality art and design education should engage, inspire and challenge pupils, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to experiment, invent and create their own works of art, craft and design.



In KS1 Pupils are taught to develop their techniques, including their control and their use of materials, with creativity, experimentation and an increasing awareness of different kinds of art, craft and design. Pupils are taught, to create works to record their observations and use them to review and revisit ideas. Students will gain an understanding of new techniques, including drawing, and painting with a range of materials. They will also be able to gather knowledge about great artists, architects and designers in history.



# Computing and Innovation

Computing ensures that students become digitally literate – able to use, and express themselves and develop their ideas through, information and communication technology. Throughout their lessons students are informed about the importance of E-Safety and how their actions online can have an impact on others as well as how to keep themselves safe.



## Year 1: Curriculum

### Arabic A

يقوم منهاج الصف الأول على المهارات والمفاهيم التالية:

إنَّ باب العلم الذي نقف في بدايته له بابٌ، ولا يمكن لأيِّ أحدٍ أن يسير في هذا الدَّرب إذا لم يُفتح له هذا الباب، وهذا الباب هو باب اللغة، لغتنا العربية، حيث سنكون فيه في رحلةٍ جميلةٍ مع حروف لغتنا العربية وكلماتها، ومع كل حرف نتعلَّمه سيزدادُ النُّور في عقلنا وقلْبنا، وسنمضي في دَرْبِ العِلْم خطوةً وراء خطوة:

مهارة القراءة: ستقرأ المعلمة للطالب قصص الحروف، وهذه القصص يكون أبطالها حيوان من الحيوانات التي يعرفها الطالب والذي يبدأ اسمه بالحرف الجديد، وبعد أن يتعرف الطالب على قصة الحرف سيتعرّف الطالب كيف ينطق هذا الحرف نطقًا سليمًا مع الأصوات الطويلة والقصيرة

مهارة الكتابة: يقوم الطالب بكتابة الحروف وفق مواقعها من الكلمات بخطٍ جميلٍ على السَّطر بسيطة

المفاهيم النحوية والإملائية: يتعرف الطالب مفاهيم جديدة مثل

(أسماء الإشارة "هذا، هذه" / المقطع الساكن).

### Arabic B

By the end of Year 1, the students are expected to understand the overall meaning of short, simple texts on familiar topics. The students are expected to participate in short, simple interactions on these topics and they will be able to write short, simple sentences. In addition to that, students will be able to use grammatical concepts correctly (speaking and writing) imitating patterns through pictures and drawings. In writing, the students will be able to remember the spelling of some visual words from the learner's linguistic environment, including names, verbs and letters related to the following: name, gender, body parts, feelings, the house, the neighborhood.

## Year 1: Curriculum

### Islamic

كي يكون الطالب مُلمًا بتعاليم الإسلام، ولديه وعي حقيقيّ بدينه وقيمه وثقافته الأصيلة،  
احتوى كتاب التربية الإسلامية على محاور تضمن للطلاب تحقيق معرفة قوية ونضج حقيقي  
يليق به كمسلم، وقد جاء ذلك تفصيلاً كالتالي :  
الوحي الإلهي ( القرآن والحديث ):

يتلو الطلاب السور القرآنية المقررة تلاوة مجودة، ثم ينتقلوا إلى استنتاج المعاني الإجمالية  
الواردة في الآيات الكريمة، كما يتعرف الطلاب على أسس الدين الحنيف وأركانه من خلال  
الأحاديث النبوية الشريفة.

محور السيرة النبوية:

يتعرف الطلاب على رسولهم الكريم محمد(صلى الله عليه وسلم)، ثم ينتقلوا بعد ذلك إلى  
التعرف على مراحل كفالته في بيت جده وعمه، ومنها يحدد الطلاب بعض ملامح حياة  
رسولنا العظيم ويحددوا كيفية التحلي بأخلاق وصفات نبيهم الكريم محمد(صلى الله عليه  
وسلم).

محور الأحكام والعبادات:

يتعرف الطلاب على بعض أسس الدين الحنيف، وعلى مفهوم العبادة وأهميتها في الإسلام ،  
ثم يتعرفوا على بعض العبادات التي يجب على كل مسلم المحافظة عليها دائماً.

محور القيم والآداب:

يتعرف الطلاب على مفهوم القيم ومفهوم الآداب في الإسلام، ثم يقوموا باستنتاج بعض  
الآداب والقيم الإسلامية التي تهدف إلى الرقي بأخلاق وسلوك الفرد المسلم خاصة والمجتمع  
كله عامة.

محور العقيدة الإيمانية:

يتعرف الطلاب على مفهوم العقيدة ومنها ينتقلوا إلى التعرف على أهمية الاعتقاد الصحيح  
لكل مسلم تجاه ربه وتجاه رسوله.

محور الهوية والقضايا المعاصرة:

يتعرف الطلاب على مفهوم الوطن وقيمه في حياة جميع أفراد المجتمع، ثم يتعرض الطالب  
لمناقشة بعض القضايا المعاصرة لحياة جميع أفراد المجتمع ومنها يعرض الطالب بعض  
الحلول والأفكار التي تساعد على تجاوز بعض تحديات الحياة.





## Year 1: Curriculum

### Extra Curricular Opportunities

At GEMS Metropole education does not belong solely in the classroom. Opportunities for enrichment activities help students to develop their interest and abilities, provides valuable learning experiences outside their studies and promotes independence and inter-personal skills. Educational visits off-site are complemented by numerous cultural events in school. Our curriculum also includes specific events to enrich the lives of our students: dedicated days to learn about key life skills such as internet safety and eco weeks supplement our students' learning. We offer a fantastic range of extracurricular activities: our pupils are lively and curious so we love to feed their enthusiasm!

### Masterclass

We run a fantastic Masterclass program which gives students opportunities to get involved in a wide range of projects, societies and activities, creative and performing arts as well as academic subjects. Many activities are run by our own staff but we also work with external organisations and specialist providers to ensure a high-quality offer for students. Masterclass is a timetabled lesson in which students get to select the activity they take part in to further develop a skill or to learn a new one! Activities range from arts and crafts to water polo, rounders, and theatrical face painting. In every year group there is a wide range of activities to suit every child's passion.

### Resources To Support My Child

In Year 1, we encourage children to learn through play and continue explore the concepts they have learnt at home. Make sure to read the weekly update each week as teachers will put videos and resources in there to help support current learning in the classroom. To support reading and spelling at home children will be given two weekly reading books and weekly spellings which they can practice with an adult at home. To support with learning spellings, you can buy some magnetic letters for the fridge and practice making them each day .



## Year 1: Curriculum

### Assessment

At GEMS Metropole School, we believe that accurate, regular and robust assessments are essential tools necessary for ensuring successful teaching and learning. Assessment is a continuous process integral to learning and teaching.

It is how teachers gain knowledge of their students' needs, achievements and abilities, enabling planning and delivery to be more effective, thereby raising attainment for every child.

**Assessment is at the heart of teaching and learning:** We ensure that assessment is central to classroom practice. Teachers will plan tasks, activities and questions which will help students demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills.

**Assessment for learning focuses on how students learn:** We recognise that every student is unique and students learn in different ways. We help students become aware of how they learn as well as what they learn.

**Assessment for learning is a key skill for all educators:** We ensure that all staff are skilled in assessing student's learning, identifying the next steps and helping the students to progress effectively. Through the triangulated use of CAT4, Progress Tests, PASS and teacher judgement.

**Assessments are always sensitive, constructive and accurate:** We ensure that all assessments are accurate, meaningful and are used to inform teaching and learning. We ensure that students are suitably challenged to fulfil their full potential.

**Assessments motivate learners:** We are aware of how students' confidence can be affected by comments on their work. We celebrate what each student can do, emphasising progress, achievement, effort and attitude.

**Assessment for learning helps students understand their goals and the criteria by which they are assessed:** We use assessment to help students know how to improve and to reflect on their own learning. We work in partnership with parents and carers, sharing information about their child's progress and help them support their child's learning.



## Year 1: Communications

### Year 1 Communication

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

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Each week your child's class teacher will email out information specific to your child's class. This will include learning what has happened that week as well as what will be coming up in the following week. It will also detail any upcoming events, trips or important information.

#### Weekly Infant Newsletter

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Every Friday you will have access to the infant newsletter. This includes information relevant to the infant school and can be accessed through GEMS Connect as well as through your email.

#### Head of Primary Newsletter

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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

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You will receive two reports each term which will be available on GEMS Connect for you to review & download.





## Student Wellbeing

At GEMS Metropole School, we are committed to promoting and supporting the positive mental health and wellbeing of our students. We recognise that mental health and emotional wellbeing is just as important as physical health. Individuals are better prepared for a happier fulfilled life when they are healthy, safe and thriving.

GEMS Metropole School supports the UAE vision for wellbeing by sharing the following vision:

**'We are proactive in promoting wellbeing, allowing us all to personally thrive'.**

This vision is based on a proactive, positive psychology model, reinforced through the PERMAH framework allowing our community to build their personal sense of happiness and wellbeing, rather than a reactive only approach. Across the school we achieve this through LEAD time, assemblies, happiness rooms, pastoral curriculum, school events, Metropole Mustangs, School Farm and through the 4 school model we have here at GEMS Metropole.



