

GNS PARENT GUIDE 2024-2025



جيمس البرشاء الوطنية
مدرسة جيمس البرشاء الوطنية
GEMS
Al Barsha National School

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GNS VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

VISION

Our vision is to provide an outstanding British education rooted in the values and culture of the UAE. We empower students to excel in all areas and believe that they can make a difference .

MISSION

Empowering through Excellence.



GEMS JEWELS OF KINDNESS



EMPATHY



HELPFULNESS



COMPASSION



RESPECT

HAWIATEE VALUES

HAWIATEE means 'My Identity' in Arabic. This framework captures the values that we believe are at the heart of UAE identity and success. These are: Hard work, Agility, Wellbeing, Innovation, Ambition, Trust, Empathy, Excellence.

HARD WORK AGILITY



WELLBEING INNOVATION AMBITION



TRUST



EMPATHY



EXCELLENCE



EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM



MICHELLE THOMAS
PRINCIPAL/CEO



EMMA BAKER
VICE PRINCIPAL



PRIMARY LEADERSHIP TEAM



SARAH LEWIS
HEAD OF PRIMARY



MICHELLE MAHER
PRIMARY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



LAURA CLARIDGE
PRIMARY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



GARETH COOPER
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



HALA KOUSSOUS
HEAD OF INCLUSION

WHOLE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

SECONDARY LEADERSHIP TEAM



GEORGINA MICHAELIDES
HEAD OF SECONDARY



AHMED SAHBI
SECONDARY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



NICK WASHBROOK
SECONDARY ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION LEADERSHIP TEAM



ZEINAB MAJED
HEAD OF ARABIC AND MINISTRY OF
EDUCATION



SOMIA CHENNOUNE
HEAD OF ISLAMIC STUDIES



DOAA SOLIMAN
HEAD OF UAE SOCIAL STUDIES

TERM DATES

TERM ONE

TERM TWO

TERM THREE

Monday 26th August 2024	FS1, FS2 (staggered start) Y7, Y11 and Sixth Form students (full day)
Tuesday 27th August 2024	FS1, FS2 (staggered start) All students onsite
Wednesday 28th August 2024	All students onsite FS1: 7:45 - 10:00AM FS2: 7:45 - 12:00PM
Thursday 29th August 2024	All students onsite including FS2 FS1: 7:45 - 10:00AM
Monday 14th – Friday 18th October	Half Term
Saturday 1st December	Commemoration Day*
Monday 2nd-3rd December	UAE National Day
Friday 13th December	Last Day of Term

Monday 6th January	Start of Term
Monday 10th – Wednesday 12th February	Half Term
Saturday 1st March*	Ramadan Starts*
Friday 21st March	Last day of term

Monday 7th April	Start of term for all Students
Thursday 5th June	Eid Al-Adha* Public Holidays
Thursday 26th June	Hijri new year * Public Holidays
Friday 27th June	Last day of term

Total School Days: 182

All Islamic holidays are subject to confirmation from the Ministry of Education and KHDA*



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Al Barsha National School

SCHOOL TIMINGS

FOUNDATION STAGE 1 - YEAR 2

Monday – Thursday 7.15am: School Doors Open 7.40am: Start of the School Day 1:00pm FS1 End of the day 2:10pm FS2, Year 1 and Year 2 End of the day Tuesday and Thursday Optional ECA Friday 7.15am: School Doors Open 7.40am: Start of the School Day 11.00am: FS1 –Y2 End of Day

YEAR 3 - YEAR 13

Monday – Thursday 7.15am: School Doors Open 7.40am: Start of the School Day 2.40pm: Year 3–13 End of Day Tuesday and Thursday Optional ECA

Friday

7.15am: School Doors Open 7.40am: Start of the School Day 11.00am: FS1-Y6 End of Day 11.30am:Y7-Y13 End of Day



DROP OFF AND PICK UP ARRANGEMENTS



Drop off and pick up arrangements

1. Students' Safety: Traffic Marshals and the School Support team are at designated points at the school gates as well as around the school parking areas during pick-up and drop-off times to ensure efficient traffic flow and the safety of both our parents and students.
2. Traffic Management: Vehicles enter from Gate Number 2 at the front of the school and leave from Gates 1, 3 and 4 depending on the drop-off location of the student. Gates open at 07:00 am sharp to allow parents to gain access into the school building to drop-off their children.
3. Students' Segregation: designated entry and exit points are allocated to secure dedicated boys and girls supervised access points where female students enter and leave school through the main reception and male students in Year 5 and above enter and leave school through Door Numbers 4 and 6.

Drop Off

Students should be dropped off in the morning between **7:15 am and 7:40 am**.

FS1 to Year 1 students: One accompanying adult with their parent or guardian lanyard can enter the school's building through Reception or the FS Entrance to drop off the student in FS or Year 1 corridor.

Year 2 to Year 13 students: Parents can drop off their children at the allocated entry points by the side of the main building. Please refer to the above table depicting drop off and pick up points. Year 2-12 parents can walk their child to the side dedicated entrance but are kindly requested not to enter the building.

Students will be considered **late from 7:45 am**. Late students should enter school through Main Reception except boys in Years 7-13. Boys in Years 7-13 should use their main entry point (Doors 4 and 6) until 8.00am and Main Reception after this.

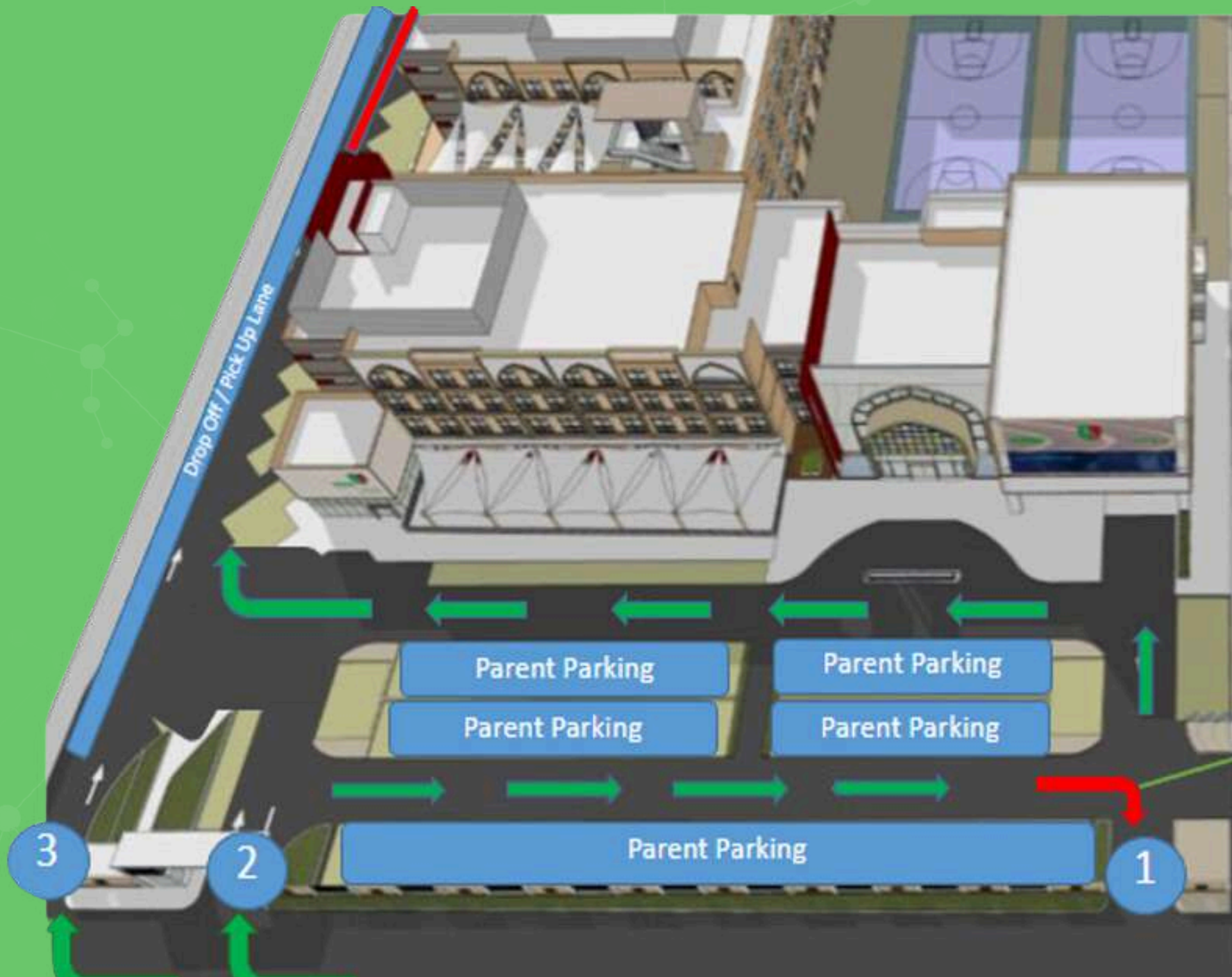
Families with more than 1 child can drop off all children at the earliest allocated time; children will then go directly to their class where supervision will be in place from 7.15am.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP POINTS:

Year Group	Entrance/Exit	Drop off and Pick Up
Foundation Stage 1 and 2	Foundation Stage - Door 1	Classroom
Year 1 and 2	Door 3	Classroom
Year 3 and 4	Door 5	Classroom
Year 5 and 6 Girls	Door 2	At Door 2
Year 5 and 6 Boys	Door 4	At Door 4
Year 7-13 Girls	Reception	Reception
Year 7-13 Boys	Doors 4 and 6	At Doors 4 & 6

Pick Up Students leave school and are picked up from school at the same points as they enter in the morning. Please refer to the above table depicting drop off and pick up points. Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs) and Intervention lessons are scheduled at the end of the day on Tuesday and Thursday.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP MAP



1. Entry through Gate Number 2.

2. Three dedicated exits through Gate Numbers 1, 3 and 5 (located at the rear of the building).

3. Dedicated parking available for parents in front of the main entrance.



PARENT LANYARD

Families must provide a passport sized photo of the adult(s) approved to obtain a parent lanyard to gain access to the school building to collect their children from school.

The school will provide two adults per family with a yellow parent lanyard to access school.

If you require additional lanyards for approved nannies/drivers to collect your child, please apply for this via our Reception or Admissions Team.

Additional lanyards can be made available for a cost of AED 20/- so long as they are for appointed adults to collect your child.

The person who is dropping off/picking up your child from school MUST always wear their parent/guardian lanyard from the moment of entering the school gate.

مرحبا بكم في مدرستنا
تنويه امني هام

من اجل امن و حماية طلابنا , الرجاء التأكد من ارتداء الشريط باللون الخاص بكم في كل اوقات تواجدكم داخل المدرسة.

فريق الامن لدينا و جميع العاملين بالمدرسة سوف يعترضون اي شخص بالغ بدون شريط ملون

الأباء و أولياء الأمور

العاملين بالمدرسة

اذا كنت زائرا لمدرستنا يرجى الحصول على هذا الشريط من مكتب الأمن بوابه رقم 2

مقاولون و موردون

نشكركم على حسن تعاونكم للحفاظ على سلامة طلابنا

GEMS EDUCATION

Welcome to our School
Important Security Notice

In order to safeguard our students, please ensure you are wearing the appropriate coloured lanyard at all times whilst on site.

Our Security team and school staff will challenge any adult without a coloured lanyard clearly on display.

Parents & Approved Guardians

School Staff

If you are a visitor to our school, please ensure you collect one of the lanyards from our Security office at gate 2

Visitors & Contractors

Thank you for your co-operation in helping keep our students safe!

GEMS EDUCATION

SCHOOL TRANSPORT SERVICES

Foundation Stage 1 and 2

Daily arrival at school - 7:15 AM - 07:40 AM

Departure from school - Monday - Thursday - 12:40 PM for FS-1
and 02:50 PM for FS-2

Departure from school - Friday 11:50 AM

Years 1-13

Daily arrival at school - 7:15 AM - 07:40 AM

Departure from school - Monday - Thursday - 02:50 PM

Departure from school - Friday - 11:50 AM

Please note that school transportation is not provided for
students attending after school activities.

For any queries regarding our Bus Services, please don't hesitate to send an
email to samuel.fernandes@sts-group.com



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (ECA)



Unpaid Extra Curricular Activities

Our free ECAs run on Tuesday and Thursday, which include sporting and non-sporting activities throughout the academic year, for children from FS2 through to Year 13.

Timings will be shared through ECAs parent communication.

Paid Extra Curricular Activities

ESM Our external provider, ESM, offers a range of additional activities outside of school hours at an additional charge. ECA programmes are released to parents at the beginning of each term with information on how to sign up.

We aim to cover an extensive range of ECAs each term, including academic, performing arts, vocational and sporting activities.



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SICKNESS AND UNEXPECTED ABSENCE

If you need to report an unexpected absence, i.e. due to sickness, please email attendance_gns@gemsedu.com before 7:15am, copying in your child's class/ form teacher.

If your child is unwell and absent from school for two days or more, you must provide a doctor's note before your child returns to school. Doctor's notes can be forwarded to the clinic email or given to the class/ form tutor on return.

Please note that all absences will influence the attendance percentages in student reports.

SCHOOL APPROVED LEAVE

All student vacations/ travel should strictly be kept within school closure times.

It is very unlikely that we will approve leave requests during term. We follow strict guidelines from the KHDA and can only approve leave in extreme circumstances. Should you wish to request leave for your child, please complete the leave request form at school reception. Any additional holiday leave must be approved by the Head of School and School Principal following a request of a Leave of Absence Form.

UNEXPLAINED ABSENCE

Parents will receive an automated email after completing the registers which includes updates on lates and sickness. If we haven't received an email from you before 7:15am, your child will automatically be marked as unauthorised which in turn will affect their attendance percentage . We will amend your child's record once you provide us with the reason or doctor's note.

EARLY COLLECTION REQUESTS

Early collection from school is not acceptable without a valid reason for safeguarding purposes. Parents are encouraged to try and make doctors' appointments etc. outside of school hours. Interrupting lessons is not only detrimental to the child's learning but that of the rest of the class too. If the child usually uses the Bus Service to go home, it is the parent's responsibility to contact the Bus Company to inform them that they will not be using the service. If a parent needs to collect their child early, an email to the Head of School and Class Teacher/Pastoral Lead 24 hours in advance is required. The email needs to include the date, time and reason for early collection.

TEACHING AND LEARNING



Teaching and Learning

At GNS we are committed to expanding the opportunities of all our students. Our teachers continuously build on what they know and understand, whilst enabling them to explore the unfamiliar. We aim to increase their knowledge of each subject, as well as the world they will live in.

Our curriculum will:

- Meet the needs of all our students
- Be delivered by consistently strong teachers
- Enable our students to make continuous gains in deep knowledge and skill fluency
- To secure a successful future
- Focus on highly effective teaching as the motivation for deep learning which will
- Lead to the examination success required for a students' next steps.

At GNS we focus on creating successful citizens who are ambitious, welcoming of difference, whilst accepting of continuous change. The GNS strapline '**Empowering through Excellence**' is supported by this.



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GNS HOUSE SYSTEM

There are four Houses at GNS and each name is derived from UAE's culture and values and adopt the colours of UAE Flag: Strength/ Black, Peace/White, Courage/ Red and Hope/ Green.

Your child is assigned to a house on enrollment.



OUR HOUSES

STRENGTH



PEACE



HOPE

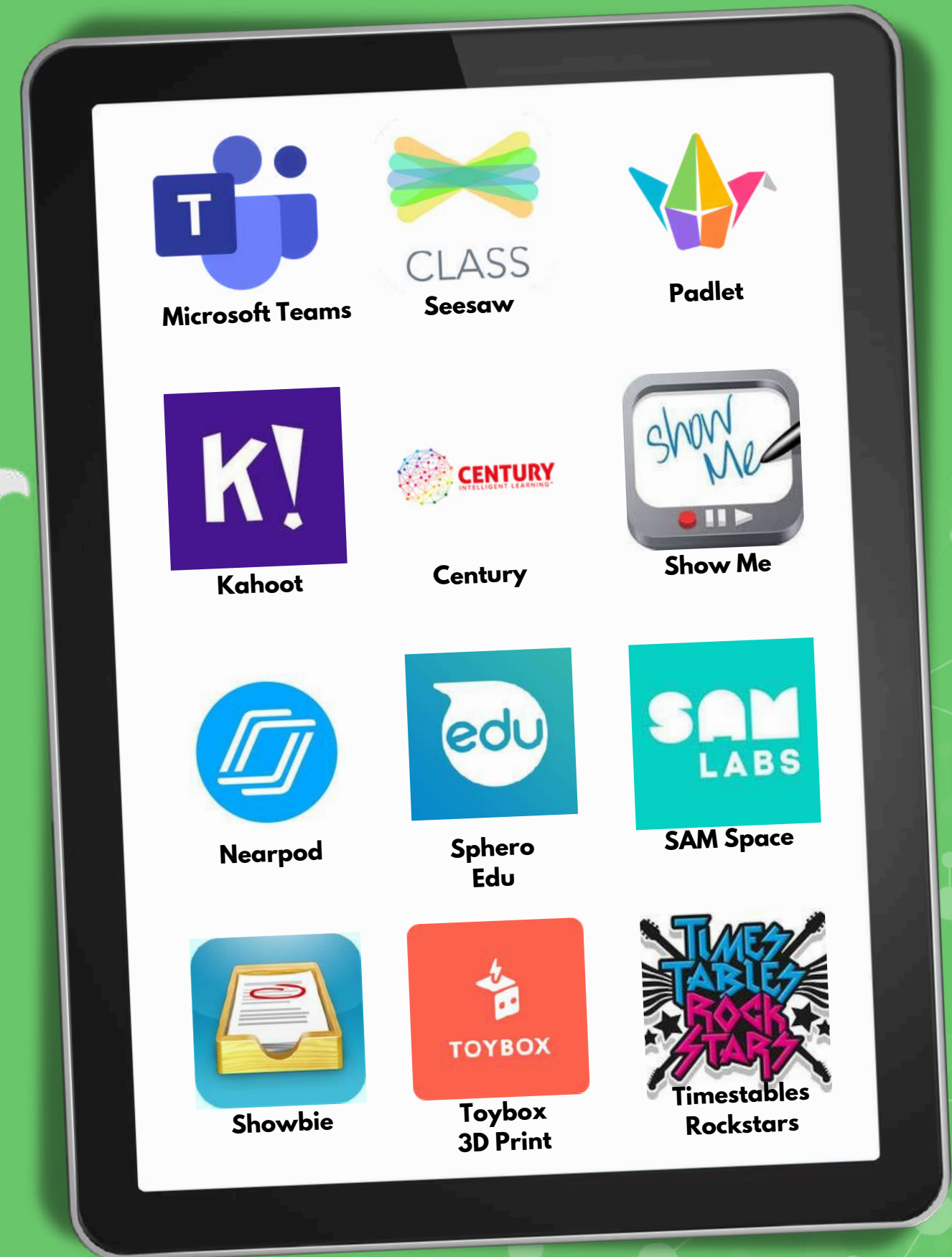


COURAGE



BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (Y2 - Y13)

- To support with learning, all children from Year 2 to Year 9 are requested to bring in an iPad and a pair of headphones every day.
- All students from Year 10 to Year 13 are requested to bring a laptop and headphones to school every day.
- Please ensure that your child's device and headphones are brought to school fully charged. Charging stations are provided to support battery life when needed, but these may be limited.
- Ensure the device has a protective case to avoid damage and breakages.
- Devices will only be used for educational purposes during lesson times.
- Make sure the device is labelled with your child's name and class.



STUDENT PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

At GEMS Al Barsha National School, our staff will regularly take photographs and videos on school devices to evidence and celebrate your child's learning. This may see your child involved in group and individual educational experiences, including school trips and performances. These photos and videos may be used on school displays, on our social media pages and, occasionally, for marketing purposes. If you do not wish for your child to be photographed or recorded in school, please request a 'Photograph and Video Non-consent Form' from your child class teacher.



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Al Barsha National School

SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

GNS is committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of our students and young people and expects the same from its parents, visitors and volunteers.



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If you have concerns, please email: safeguarding_gns@gemsedu.com or reach out through the Primary or Secondary Worry Box.



PRIMARY WORRY BOX
Link: [Wellbeing Worry Box](#)



SECONDARY WORRY BOX
Link: [Wellbeing Worry BOT](#)

SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Gareth Cooper
Assistant Principal
Whole School
Designated Safeguarding Lead
(FS - Post 16)




Emma Baker
Vice Principal
DSL and Assistant Allegation Manager
(FS - Post 16)



Michelle Thomas
Principal/CEO
Allegation Manager
(FS - Post 16)




Sarah Lewis
Head of Primary
DSL Primary
(FS - Y6)



Georgina Michaelides
Head of Secondary
DSL Secondary
(Y7 - Y12)



Laura Claridge
Assistant Principal - Primary
DSL Primary
(FS - Y6)



Paola Sassine
School Counsellor
DSL Whole School
(FS - Y12)



Lorraine Clarke
Class Teacher/Pastoral Lead
DSL Secondary
(Key Stage 3)



Emily Hillman
Class Teacher/Pastoral Lead
DSL Secondary
(Key Stage 4 & 5)



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Al Barsha National School

All staff and visitors have a responsibility to keep all students safe. If you have concerns regarding safeguarding, please contact a member of the Safeguarding Team immediately.

Tel: 045069222 or via RECEPTION

To raise a concern out of school hours please email: safeguarding_gns@gemsedu.com

SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Gareth Cooper
Assistant Principal
Whole School
Designated Safeguarding Lead
(FS - Post 16)



Emma Baker
Vice Principal
DSL and Assistant Allegation Manager
(FS - Post 16)



Michelle Thomas
Principal/CEO
Allegation Manager
(FS - Post 16)



Sarah Lewis
Head of Primary
DSL Primary
(FS - Y6)



Georgina Michaelides
Head of Secondary
DSL Secondary
(Y7 - Y12)

LEADS



Laura Claridge
Assistant Principal - Primary
DSL Primary
(FS - Y6)



Paola Sassine
School Counsellor
DSL Whole School
(FS - Y12)



Lorraine Clarke
Class Teacher/Pastoral Lead
DSL Secondary
(Key Stage 3)



Emily Hillman
Class Teacher/Pastoral Lead
DSL Secondary
(Key Stage 4 & 5)

GEMS are fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people.

We recognise our responsibility to take all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and to protect children from harm, abuse and exploitation. GEMS acknowledge our duty to act appropriately in response to any allegations, reports or suspicious of abuse.



Parents/carers are the most important people to keep their children safe. You should always:

- Wear your yellow parent lanyards at all times around school .
- Refrain from taking pictures of students who are not your own.
- Feel confident to speak to a staff member if you have concerns about a child's welfare.
- Feel confident to raise concerns about the conduct of other adults or students.
- Talk to the school if you need help or support Let the school know if your child has a medical condition.
- Let the school know if there is a change in your circumstances such as a house move, a new contact number, a change of name, a change of parental responsibility.
- Let the school know who will be dropping off or collecting your child and provide us with a total of two emergency contact names and numbers. You must inform the school of any changes to the agreed arrangements.
- Let the school know if your child is going to be absent and the reasons why.
- Let the school know if you have any court orders relating to the safety of your child.
- Read the school policies about Safeguarding available on the school's website.

OUR PRINCIPLES

- Students have a right to be safe, to be listened to, valued and respected. Parents and carers have a right to be informed of any concerns regarding their child.
- Children are best protected when parents and the school work together. All staff and volunteers are given appropriate training and support. All staff and volunteers are subject to rigorous recruitment checks.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

threads™

Dressing up the Future World Leaders

Threads is the official school uniform supplier for GEMS Al Barsha National School.

If you have any questions about the uniform, please do not hesitate to contact us or contact Threads directly on 800 THREADS (8473237) at Threads, Cityland Mall Dubai Branch.

All children must wear the correct uniform with the correct accessories.

Only official uniform wear must be worn.

All students are expected to wear their school uniform and their PE kit on PE days, for ECA and squads.

National Dress is not permitted as part of the school uniform.

CORE UNIFORM



FS1 - FS2

Y1 - Y6

Y7 - Y11

Y12 - Y13



FS1 - FS2

Y1 - Y6

Y7 - Y11

Y12 - Y13

PE & WINTER UNIFORM



PE All Years - Unisex

Winter Wear All Years - Unisex



PE All Years - Unisex

Winter Wear All Years - Unisex

SCHOOL CATERING



Slices are delighted to have integrated the Slices cashless system in the GEMS Parent Portal.

1. Parents can top up and view consumption through GEMS Parent Portal <https://connect.gemseducation.com/>
2. All student data is held in this portal without the need to create a secondary account.
3. Catering Payment is accessed from the 'fees' drop-down option.
4. Parents can top up via credit or debit card through the system and balances will be immediately available for student spend.
5. Parents can also use the cash top up facility in the schools, and this will be reflected in the parent portal catering balance.
6. Transaction history will also be updated to allow parents to review their children daily spend.

Any parent queries can be directed to the customer service team at Slices customersupport@slices.ae.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

24/7 LIVE ASSESSMENT DATA

BOOKED MEETINGS



**INDIVIDUAL
COMMUNICATION**

**PRIVATE FACE-TO-
FACE OR PHONE
CONVERSATIONS**

EMAIL



**OUR PRIMARY
SOURCE OF
COMMUNICATION**

**DIRECT MESSAGES
TO AND FROM
INDIVIDUAL
PARENTS**

GEMS CONNECT APP



**GEMS CONNECT APP
STUDENT INFO,
SCHOOL TRANSPORT,
COMMUNICATION,
PAYMENTS**

FS and Primary - You will find all essential communication on the GEMS Connect App, including the class newsletter, homework, and resources. We will also share daily updates with images of the school day on the Class Dojo page. Written school reports are made available via the GEMS Connect app at the end of each term and we invite you to formal Parent Teacher Conferences (PTCs) soon after reports are released.

Secondary - You will find all secondary communication on the GEMS Connect app, including homework, attendance and behaviour. We will also share written school reports via this app at the end of each term and invite you to formal Parent Teacher Conferences (PTCs) soon after reports are released.



GEMS_GNS



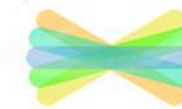
@GEMS_GNS



GEMS AL BARSHA NATIONAL SCHOOL

At GNS, we operate an open door policy. You are free to contact your child's teacher at any time via email. You can also request a meeting, either onsite or online, at any point throughout the year. You do not need to wait for Parents' Evenings. You can also keep up with all GNS news via Weekly Newsletter and our social media accounts.

Please note that teachers cannot check emails during teaching times. If you need to pass on an urgent message, please call GNS Reception (04 5069222).



CLASS

**STUDENT DIGITAL
PORTFOLIOS
EXAMPLES OF YOUR
CHILD'S LEARNING**



**GEMS CLASSROOM
PROGRESS AND
ATTAINMENT INFO.
REPORTS AND LIVE
ASSESSMENT DATA**



ClassDojo

**BUILD WONDERFUL
CLASSROOM
COMMUNITIES
WITH PARENTS AND
STUDENTS**



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Al Barsha National School

GEMS REWARDS

GEMS AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

Refer a friend with GEMS Ambassador Programme and earn 4% of the referred child's fees, in GEMS Points, for every successful referral visit gemseducation.com/ambassador-programme or call 04-5069222 for details. T&Cs apply.

GEMS FAB CREDIT CARD

GEMS REWARDS members who pay for their children's tuition using their GEMS FAB Credit Card will be eligible for a discount of up to 4.25%. This will be reflected in your Savings Calculator. Parents can also convert the payment into up to 12 easy instalments at no cost i.e. 0% interest and no processing fees. Please visit the GEMS FAB Credit Card web page for further details on terms and conditions.

<https://www.bankfab.ae/en/cards/gems-titanium>

GEMS REWARD APP

Earn and redeem GEMS points on flights, hotels and gift cards. Introducing the new and improved GEMS Rewards. The newly revamped GEMS Rewards app.



GEMS
AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

REFER SAVE

Refer family and friends to our school to SAVE ON YOUR CHILD'S TUITION FEES!

EARN TODAY



EARN AS THEY LEARN

SAVE ON SCHOOL FEES WITH YOUR GEMS TITANIUM CREDIT CARD

- Get up to 4.25% discount on GEMS school fees
- 12 months 0% Easy Payment Plan and no processing fee
- A chance to win back your annual fee payments**

Additional Benefits:

- Access from AED 10
- Complimentary airport transfers, meet & greet services* and lounge access*
- Redeem your Stars for United Quest miles, AirAsiaX Skywards miles or bank tickets from 300+ airlines through Stars Travel Portal, or Stars prepaid cards

Sign up for a GEMS Credit Card for a chance to win back your child's annual school fees**

SMS 'GEMS' to 2121 or call 600 52 5500
www.bankfab.ae



Dine Shop Leisure Wellness



GEMS
REWARDS
Making quality education accessible

GEMS Parent GEMS Employee GEMS Family & SKIP

USEFUL SCHOOL CONTACTS



PRINCIPAL
principal_gns@gemsedu.com

RECEPTION
reception_gns@gemsedu.com
Main Reception: 045069222

VICE PRINCIPAL
e.baker_gns@gemsedu.com

PRE
r.saeda_gns@gemsedu.com

FINANCE TEAM
finance_gns@gemsedu.com

HEAD OF PRIMARY
s.lewis1_gns@gemsedu.com

MSO
c.barraj1_gns@gemsedu.com

REGISTRATION TEAM
registrar_gns@gemsedu.com

HEAD OF SECONDARY
g.michaelides_gns@gemsedu.com

SCHOOL TRANSPORT SERVICES
samuel.fernandes@sts-group.com

GNS ATTENDANCE
attendance_gns@gemsedu.com

MEDICAL CLINIC
clinic_gns@gemsedu.com