



# Kindergarten Newsletter

April 2020



## Introduction

Dear Parents,

It has been a great first month of school, and we have enjoyed getting to know your children. Our focus this month has been on teaching and practicing procedures and expectations so that students had a better understanding of how Synchronous and Asynchronous Learning functions.

To get off to a great start in Kindergarten this year we have special note from our School Leadership team!

## A note from our Principal



Dear Parents,

We are now midstream using Online-learning portal. Teachers and students have picked up strings of Remote Learning and are steadily improvising new skill sets. Terms such as Synchronous and Asynchronous have now entered the learners' lexicon.

Our journey so far has been both challenging and exciting. Nevertheless, our resolve for pitching the best practices will be evident through our programs that cater curricular and co-curricular learning opportunities in the digital space.

GEMS Education parents who successfully applied for the COVID-19 Relief Package have to date received discounts on the current term's fees ranging from 25 per cent all the way up to 100 per cent in cases of extreme hardship. More than 26,000 students across the GEMS network are set to benefit from the financial assistance designed to support families that have been adversely impacted by the Coronavirus outbreak. Our school has dished out relief packages to 320 families so far!

We do not take arbitrary decisions regarding the relief provided. Every application is screened and we take a decision based on the circumstances of the family. It is important to note that we, as an educational provider, must also take into consideration the best interests of our teachers and non-teaching staff, several of them being parents themselves.

Our teachers and education leaders have been working tirelessly to deliver the highest quality remote learning for all our students, and we are committed to honouring our obligation to continue to pay our teaching staff in full. With the help of parent feedback, we are also continuously looking at ways to improve and refine our E-learning programmes. Our mission is to provide the best education possible during this extremely testing period – an education that assures the academic success, well-being, health and happiness of our students. I am confident that you as partners in our endeavour will support us through your unstinted co-operation.

Thank you and Stay Safe!

Warm Regards

**K George Mathew**

Principal/CEO

## A note from our Vice Principal



Dear Students and Parents

Here's wishing you all a peaceful and blessed month of Ramadan!

The Leadership team and teachers cannot thank you enough for all the sincere efforts you have been making to ensure the Remote Learning Program is a resounding success! We are now truly sailing smoothly in these winds of change and I thank all the teachers and leaders who have made this possible.

Staying at home can be a challenge and we all have realized this more now, than ever before. While it is in our best interest to stay home, it is also important to keep ourselves active and healthy. I request all eligible student groups to log onto the ACTIVE KIDS portal and engage with the fitness activities planned exclusively for GEMS students.

Parents who have signed up for TMG have appreciated age-appropriate stories and activities that keep children engaged and motivated. Here are some links to their current (free) digital edition for you to read out to one another at home and have fun while role-playing.

KG 1 & 2: Mekids Junior: <http://tmg-worldwide.com/emagazine/aprilmkj/index.html>

Grade: 1 – 3 Mekids: <http://tmg-worldwide.com/emagazine/aprilmk/index.html>

Grade: 4 & above - The Youngest: <http://tmg-worldwide.com/emagazine/apriltyne/index.html>

The e-magazine files are downloadable and printable for convenient and future use. Competition pages have the topics for the month and submission related details.

I'd like to close by encouraging all students to set weekly goals (for academics, fitness, creativity, relaxing and helping about at home) for themselves and work towards achieving them. This will keep you motivated and sharp.

Remember, even while in lockdown, you can still be kind and respectful to all around you thus keeping the flame of our UIS Jewels of Kindness & Respect burning bright!

Till next time,

Warm regards,

**Shaikh Murad Sarfraz**

Vice-Principal

## A note from our KG Supervisor



Dear Parents,

Greetings! It gives me immense pleasure to share information on the success of our first month of KG - Remote Learning Program. It was amazing to see our tiny tots take to online learning like a fish takes to water.

The KG students adapted to the routine with ease and I have to appreciate the support from all our parents. Our students' parents have been instrumental in our success.

My team of KG teachers have reached out to all our students' parents through calls to support and guide them.

Thank you once again dear parents for partnering with us through this platform of teaching and learning.

Stay safe!

Best wishes,

Preeti Ravela

KG Supervisor

Some social media links which you can check out - KG

<https://www.facebook.com/1094781230542561/posts/3171461656207831/?d=n>

<https://www.facebook.com/1094781230542561/posts/3139732999380697/?d=n>

<https://www.facebook.com/1094781230542561/posts/3132765476744116/?d=n>

<https://www.facebook.com/1094781230542561/posts/3105871339433530/?d=n>

# A glance at learnings' for the month of April

It has been a busy few weeks as children adapted to our Remote Learning Program routines. All students are busy in demonstrating and sharing exciting discoveries of their learning!



## Literacy

This month our students learnt to write the different strokes and connected the letter 'a' to its phonetic sound. They can now connect the letter 'a', to its sound, its formation, recognize the sound in a story and sing songs relevant to the sound.



## Numeracy

Students learnt about different activities like coloring, sticking, tearing and pasting, alongside pairing, sorting, cutting with scissors and grouping of items. They also sang songs related to the topic for the day.





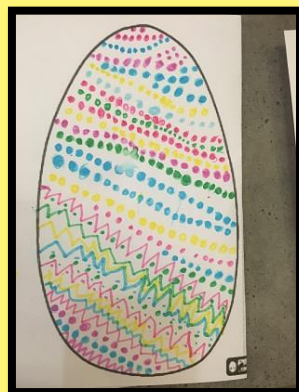
## General Awareness

The concepts of “Myself and My Family” made students to dive into the lesson as it provided an opportunity to encourage self-awareness and develop an understanding of how their families function; they also renewed their appreciation for the members of their family.



## Art

At the beginning of the month, we focused on what art is, including free hand drawing, thumb printing, blow painting and many more. As a result, we have tapped our inner artists all month long and examined a variety of artistic skills of our Kindergarteners.



## A day to honor our mother Earth!



Earth Day celebration at GUIS made our Kindergarteners eco-conscious citizens. The activities conducted on the day helped the student to learn how to reduce, reuse and recycle.



## An upcoming special day



### **Mother's Day is coming! – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

Mother's Day is fast approaching and you can see it in our everyday learning. During our online classes you would have heard your children singing and practicing songs. You would have also heard all the teachers saying "Don't forget to smile" and "Love your mum". We are so looking forward in making this day special and memorable for our wonderful moms. Details of the day will be shared closer to the date.

## Parents' feedback for our RLP sessions.

Greetings,

Firstly, I would take this opportunity to thank the school Management and you for selecting us to put forward our thoughts on e-learning. I am extremely happy and satisfied by seeing Aarna's progress and the efforts of the teacher. As it is rightly said, desperate times call for desperate measures. In today's scenario e learning has become the need of the hour. I was always worried about the way Aarna would react on the E learning as it was a completely new thing for her. But to my astonishment she took it up with full excitement and curiosity on the first day of her class. Aarna had been attending all the classes without fail as she finds Ms. Greeshma very interactive and caring. Ms. Greeshma provides continuous encouragement to my child which helps in boosting her self-confidence and inspires her to learn new things. Gems United Indian school is having a very holistic approach towards the E- learning classes which impresses me the most. As a mother I realize that it is very important to provide quality education to children for their better future and Gems United Indian school is doing the same for my child. I am very happy that my child is a part of this institution.

Regards, Paromita.

Mother of Aarna Biswas, KG1 - Section P

E-learning for KG1 is not an easy task for parents to control our children stationing them in front of the laptop, however I have to say you have done a tremendous and an excellent job in motivating your class with creative activities, keeping them engaged and occupied. Nathan enjoys his activity classes such as drawing, coloring, numeracy, literacy and EVS. These activities help him stay focused, learn and improve his knowledge and arts skills and stay connected with you through a live session every day. Moreover, you explain the lessons by playing educational videos, where students learn to listen, also your interaction with each student individually, praising and encouraging them to participate helps to boost our child's interest and attention towards education. You are always enthusiastic and amazing Teacher from day one, encouraging all kids to take breaks between E-lessons to stretch and hydrate, this helps all students especially our son Nathan to stay focused & energized.

To conclude, we as parents are happy that our son has been enrolled in Gems United Indian School Abu Dhabi, with such an excellent and hardworking class teacher. Thank you Elcy ma'am for your hard work in supporting my son Nathan during these difficult situations through E-Learning. Your patience and commitment along with your expertise has put our minds at ease. Lastly, we would like to extend our gratitude to the school management for taking the initiative and engaging in E-Learning/ Remote learning environment in this difficult phase where both, our child and teacher stay connected.

Thanks and Regards

Blossom Gonsalves

Mother of Nathan Gonsalves, KG1 - Section H

## Newsletter - By Ms. Elcy and Ms. Greeshma