

Dear Parents,

I am writing to inform you that in line with the government's announcement The Kindergarten Starters will not increase school fees for the 2018-2019 academic year in an effort to relieve the financial burden on parents.

At The Kindergarten Starters we thank you for the trust you place in us and want to assure you that we work very hard to ensure that your children are developing to their fullest potential. We passionately believe that education is the most important gift we can give to our children.

In the 2017-2018 academic year we have had many successful initiatives. These include:

- Almost 59% of our students being awarded Merit and Distinction in World Class Test-the Math assessment for gifted and talented.
- Six students were recognized with the IBT Award for Honour, with a further two recognized for Excellence in Arabic for achieving the highest score in each Grade in the Middle East.
- ASSET Scores in English indicating Very Good attainment in Grades 3-5 showing an increase of 7% in the ASSET scores of two successive cohorts of Grade 5 in English
- We have seen an increase in 11% in Math Scores in ASSET from 2016-17 to 2017-18 and an increase of 10% in the ASSET scores of two successive cohorts of Grade 5 in Science.
- Recognized by Creating Communities of Innovation- Project Zero for the contributions of KGS which will be cited in their action research at Harvard.
- Recognized as a Microsoft Showcase School having 229 teachers and 60 Learning Support Assistants receiving certification for completing Microsoft Education courses through Microsoft Educator Community.
- 100% of staff using Twitter as a learning platform and for sharing best practice.
- The Kindergarten Starters is the only school in the region to have 10 teachers awarded for their outstanding performance in CENTA (Centre for Teacher Accreditation) teaching professionals Olympiad, 2017.
- We have been awarded as a Green Flag school for promoting sustainability and green practice.
- The school won the GLOBAL GREEN SCHOOL STEWARDSHIP AWARD - 2017 for the commendable interest and initiative towards introducing sustainable practices in education.
- We have been nominated as GESS Finalist for Community award for citizenship 2018
- Nominated as STEM finalist 2018 sponsored by Digital First. and we are looking forward to even more success for our students.

Earlier in the academic year the school was inspected by the Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) through the Dubai Schools Inspection Bureau. The Kindergarten Starters was judged to be Good.

The report highlighted many areas of improvement. This includes the following:

- The school has incorporated innovative approaches and practices in the curriculum to stimulate curiosity and develop their thinking such as LEGO, use of engineering kits, and web-based learning
- Students are responding positively to recent developments, such as the introduction of

Robotics and Engineering is Elementary programmes (EIE) to the curriculum. They are increasingly able to recognise the relevance and importance of science to the wider world.

- Students' attainment in the N.A.P assessment (ASSET) indicates less than acceptable results. However, the TIMSS 2015 results indicate significant progress compared to the 2011 performance.
- Students demonstrate excellent work ethic. In the KG, children are encouraged to be independent and develop skills of experimentation and enquiry. In the primary phase, students demonstrate their work ethic and entrepreneurship skills by participating in carnival games, exhibitions, and auctions. Students show an insightful understanding of environmental sustainability.

Over the past year we have continued investing in our school with educational resources for the Kindergarten like KODO, LEGO manipulatives that include LEGO TechMachines, LEGO Story Tales, LEGO CAFÉ+, EV3, AR/VR to develop and enhance critical thinking and problem-solving skills in students.

We continue to make improvement to the school. Significant investment in the last academic year includes;


- July 2017 - Reception refurbishment
- August 2017 - Installation of interior plants
- August 2017 - Lego Purchase
- Sept.2017 - Floor painting on Asphalt surface
- Sept.2017 - Installation of rubber flooring
- Oct.2017 - Notebook/Tablet
- Nov.2017 - Lego
- Dec. 2017 - Playground equipment
- Dec.2017 - Screens to classrooms

We are proud to attract the highest quality of teachers and will continue to invest in our schools as well enhancing the world-class professional development our teachers currently receive.

GEMS Education is in a position to guarantee that our GEMS Rewards programme gives you the opportunity to avail savings on school fees. We also offer a variety of payment options for parents to alleviate financial burdens, including a GEMS CARES programme which is set up to assist families that may require more payment flexibility.

We are committed to delivering quality education and we look forward to your continued support. I assure you of our ongoing commitment to providing The Kindergarten Starters families with an excellent education in the academic year ahead.

Yours sincerely



Asha Alexander
Principal