



مدرستنا الثانوية الإنجليزية، الشارقة (فرع البنين)  
**OUR OWN ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOL**  
**SHARJAH (BOYS' BRANCH)**



**Keeping in Touch - F R O M A D I S T A N C E**

**Ref. No. KIT 004-24Jun20**

24 June 2020

**On behalf of the Principal and CEO, Mr. Srivalsan Murugan**

Dear Parent,

***“Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection” - Mark Twain***

The Distance Learning evaluation aims to evaluate how far schools are planning to and actually managing to reach the standards that ensure learners' entitlement to a quality education.

We welcomed the Distance Learning Evaluation team on the 16 June 2020. It included online meetings with the Principal and the Senior Leadership Team, as well as remote observation of lessons. This unified approach would surely help us to improve the key aspects of distance learning.

The morning assembly undoubtedly holds the numero uno position providing a platform to young learners in public speaking thereby boosting their confidence and imbibing a feeling of team spirit in their nascent minds. The virtual assemblies continue to unfold infinite possibilities day by day, providing a ray of hope amidst the pandemic.

The first virtual assembly of KG2 on 'World Ocean Day' was celebrated on 8 June culminating in a sense of protecting the ocean and concluding that 'A healthy planet needs a healthy ocean'. This was all about a day to explore the oceans and its inhabitants. This assembly provided a channel for our kindergarteners to display their confidence and communication skills.

So, are we returning to our normal lives in the UAE? Looks like it. The signs are definitely there. On 11 June, the students of class 2B presented a thought provoking assembly on the topic 'Living in the New Normal'. On behalf of the OOB community, Ms. Manju, a parent and a frontline worker, was honored for her commitment, courage and sacrifice. Together, let's build a safer world.

On 18 June, the little munchkins of Grade 1 hosted their first ever virtual assembly on 'The Magic of Reading'. They performed a skit where their favourite characters such as Charlie from the 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and Mowgli from 'The Jungle book' came to life. The assembly served as a reminder that 'Today's readers are tomorrow's leaders.'

If one good thing has come out of these strange times, it is that we have started to realize that keeping fit doesn't necessarily mean hitting the gym for hours every day. Yoga is an invaluable gift of India's ancient tradition which embodies unity of mind and body. The morning assembly by Grade 6A on the theme International Yoga Day 2020: 'Yoga At Home with Family' affirmed the transformative impact of yoga on the lives of individuals.

21 June proved to be truly a 'virtual' day of celebrations. Thoughtful creatives he'art'ful messages for the superhero in the family – the father, flooded the day. World Music day resonated with mellifluous sessions along with mindfulness for the body and the mind, as part of International day

of Yoga. Learning attained celestial heights as the captivating images of the cosmic spectacle - Solar eclipse 2020 reverberated across the online rooms as part of experiential learning.

Not to be left behind, the Kindergarten 1 also celebrated the International Father's Day on 21 June with their first ever virtual assembly, to honor the fathers and the father figures in our lives. Various fun-filled activities with fathers participating added zest to the celebrations.

On this day, the Primary department organized, My Daddy MasterChef –'Cooking without fire', a virtual activity where fathers were given an opportunity to team up with their ward and showcase their culinary skills.

While adapting to a new change, we should be mindful to take care of our emotional health. The Grade 12 assembly on 21 June stressed on the need to reach out for help if students ever felt low. Virtual schooling has made it possible for parents to take an active part in their children's learning and we have parents who regularly join us for class assemblies, much to our delight.

***"The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty."* – Winston Churchill**

Education can be a rich, eventful journey of discovery and expression, where all students and teachers grow together. For this to occur, students need not just the knowledge but opportunities to develop, coupled with the skills and the mindset. Our boys have risen to the challenge and we are so glad they are finding the positive in this bleak scenario, sharing their brilliance and good cheer.

It gives us great pleasure to announce that our own Vidyut Vivek of grade 7A was the winner at the Star Dance Competition, an all India contest, held at Dubai. This energetic youth beat scores of contestants to bag the first position. Adding another feather to the OOB cap, Ashlyn John of grade 7C, won the e-Quiz contest on Covid 19, organized by Jubilee Mission College of Nursing, Thrissur, Kerala.

Startup Sharjah is an intensive boot camp to build a startup, from idea to prototype. The event brings together aspiring entrepreneurs with backgrounds in business, design, coding and marketing to rally around great ideas, racing to bring them to life. All ideas revolve around the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. We are extremely proud to share that we are one of the thirteen schools out of 34 entries to have students reach this vital stage!!!

Om Gupta and Mohammed Firas Adil of Grade 12 bagged the first runner up and second runner up position in the Curtin Hackathon. The Curtin Hackathon was a 2 round challenge that consisted of an online quiz and a case study involving application of programming skills to build a universal converter.

'A parent is a teacher at home and a teacher is a parent in school and the child is the center of our universe.' The Arabic Department organized an e-orientation programme for all the parents of Grade 1 to familiarize them with the Arabic curriculum and the teaching methodologies with an emphasis on learning Arabic as the language of the land.

The Investiture ceremony is one of the most important events of the school. The Primary School hosted its first ever 'Virtual Investiture Ceremony' on 22 June 2020. The interviews and selections of Prefects, members of the Student Council and the coveted Office Bearer Positions were

conducted online. Hamad Baig was invested as the Head Boy and Faaz Siddiqui as the Asst. Head Boy. Hani Nazim was invested as the Sports Captain and Pranesh Subramanian as the Asst. Sports Captain. The elected Captains of Jupiter, Mars, Neptune and Saturn Houses are Shaurya Kapoor, Mohammed Ayan Ashraf, Jayden Shelvi and Hussain Reza while the Vice-Captains are Nihar Rajith, Gokul Prasath, Shaurya Krishna and Gautham Krishna respectively. The elected members of the Student Council who took the oath of their offices are Devanand Babu, Nandakishore, Govardhan Kumar and Kanishk Tharwani.

A parent teacher conference is a great opportunity to share academic progress and discuss enrichment or intervention strategies to support students' learning post PT1. Meetings will be scheduled on the 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of this month and you will receive a circular with relevant details from the Supervisors' desk.

An essential part of maintaining our emotional health is reflecting on the inner strengths that have got us this far. These will help us in the journey ahead. The energizing/rejuvenating tip from our Counselling team for this week is...

Stretch and Relax!! Practice rainbow breathing!!

Step 1: Think of a colour in a rainbow! Stretch your arms sideways!

Step 2: Breathe in through your nose as you slowly move your arms up, pushing your colour up to the rainbow!

Step 3: Breathe out while move your arms down back to your chest level, thinking of the colour!

Repeat it 5-10 times, as per your time and convenience.

Post Covid, we have the unique opportunity to rediscover what togetherness means. Solidarity, unprecedented collaboration and new ways of thinking can help us emerge stronger and smarter from this pandemic. Let us be mindful of the information we take in and ensure that we are surrounded by a good support system of people who can help us through this time.

Please do check out our regular updates on the day-to-day happenings of our school on our Twitter account @OOB\_GEMS, Our Instagram @gems\_oob, and our Facebook account.

<https://www.facebook.com/GEMSOurOwnBoys/>. Do follow them, so as to never miss the pulsating life of the OOB campus.

We thank you for your unstinted support and cooperation.

Stay safe and stay in touch!

**Warm Wishes**

**Priya Sajit**  
**Head of Primary & Kindergarten**