



مدرسة جواهر دبي الخاصة DUBAI GEM PRIVATE SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

Encouraging Your Child's Reading for Pleasure: Our new school Reading Cloud will shortly - be available online.

Our school is strongly committed to improving literacy and knows the importance of reading for pleasure. There is good evidence to suggest that young people who read for pleasure daily perform better in reading tests. We want to encourage children to enjoy reading and to read a wide range of good quality literature.

I am delighted to inform you that, **thanks to your help and donations**, the school has recently made a significant investment in our library with the introduction of a new online Reading Cloud. The new system allows pupils, staff and parents to view our school library catalogue online and pupils are encouraged to use this to help with research, to write reviews about books they have read, blog about what they are reading and their favourite authors and search for new books and other library resources.

Children will also have the ability to chat about books etc. with their friends in this safe environment. Staff will be using this too to ensure it is moderated and used sensibly. The chat facility will allow us to introduce the idea of social networking for children in a safe environment which is focussed around reading. We would also encourage children to use the 'Home Library' function to catalogue books they have at home which can then be shared with friends.

The system includes a fantastic new feature called 'Who Next' which recommends new books and authors based on the books that your child has already read. You will be able to use this feature at home to help your child select their next book. You will be able to access the system via the school website or directly using a link which will be sent to you.

If you have access to an iPhone, iPad, iPod touch or Android phone, then you can also download a new App called 'iMLS' to access the library from those devices. The app is available from the App Store and Android Market.

Having the library accessible in this way and having parents engaged with reading, will help to support our commitment to improving literacy standards. Shortly we will send you details of your child's username and password so that you can use the new app to also track their reading history and borrowing patterns.

We hope you find the new facility useful and welcome any feedback.

Yours faithfully,


Dr. Tassos Anastasiades
Principal