



Newsletter 19 2019-20

Friday 14th February 2020 – Happy Valentine's Day!

Dear Parents and JIS community

Congratulations to Mr Cheung and his wife Aki:

We are delighted to share the news that last night Mr Cheung and his wife welcomed baby 'Elly' into the world!

Everyone at school sends their best wishes to the new family.



School closure – not before 16th March

Yesterday the HK Govt and EDB announced that in light of the current situation with Covid-19 (coronavirus) management strategies, schools would remain closed until a provisional date of Monday 16th March. All of us share the feelings of frustration and anxiety that this brings but as the whole of the Hong Kong community is involved we will do our share to make sure our students are happy, engaged and learning in the coming weeks.

There is no denying it is hard – on-line learning is not ideal for any of us. We do fully appreciate the issues facing our families; many of our staff are parents too. We are adapting and changing as we go and when we find out what suits different families and students the best. Some families are requesting more work and some are requesting less, some want daily and some want weekly schedules. Our message to all of the JIS community is clear – 'thank you' for engaging with the activities that are planned for you and the children, do not get stressed by what you are or are not able to achieve, do the best you can and get involved when you can. We are trying to be creative and offer variety wherever we can.

It is also important to thank the JIS staff as they are working very hard to connect individually with students and families – often from early morning (7 a.m.) until late in to the evenings (10pm) with family breaks in between. Of course the staff would rather be at 4663 Tai Po Road with the children but this cannot happen for a few more weeks, so we continue to find the best ways to engage with the children's learning. Thank you for the messages of support and gratitude that have been sent in to the school office – we have passed them on to staff.

Issues addressed by some JIS community members in recent requests to school:

Currently, our school year will continue as planned, using our published calendar, we do not have plans to extend or alter holiday periods. Our staff are doing their best to continue a curriculum that is accessible to those JIS students who are engaging with them. The school year is carrying on.

The school fees issue is circulating in the HK media and some of our parents have contacted school. Please let me clarify a few things for everyone. As a not for profit business JIS manages school fees to support the students and their education. We keep our fees as competitive as possible and any minimum profit made is given back to the students for their educational resources and to improve school staffing. School fees are committed for the closure period to pay salaries, utility bills and ongoing maintenance work. There is hence no scope to refund as the closure situation is not the fault of the school or the staff. They continue to work hard to support the students in the best ways they can. Many thanks for your understanding.

Around school: things are growing – is spring here? Let's hope so.

We've started getting some of the plants organized for the green wall garden area at the back of the school. If you have an opportunity to start growing a plant with your child(ren) please encourage them and when they return to school we can put it in the garden.

Tomato soup coming for P1!

The 3rd floor garden is enjoying some of the flashes of sunshine mixed in with some rain and the P1 tomatoes are beginning to thrive! P1 maybe we can make you some soup to try when you get back.

The insects are enjoying the flowers on the cabbages that you grew – the plants have 'gone to seed' a bit but the flowers are a very lovely, delicate yellow.



Congratulations to our P1 gardeners and thanks to Ms De Their and Ms Jo.

Thursday and Friday next week (20th and 21st February)

On Thursday and Friday next week, all staff will be involved in Professional Development days. We have applied to I.B. to run these days during school closure, to give us more focused time with the students once they are able to return to school. Class-based online learning will take a rest on these days. However, Mr. Walton and Ms. Wan will provide a selection of whole school, fun, optional projects for these days through class dojo. Any work your child submits for these projects, will be responded to by Mr. Walton and Ms. Wan.

There will be a choice of 8 projects and you can choose to do as many of them as you wish- your choice completely! Some of the projects will need some common household/ kitchen items such as: paperclips, elastic bands, egg cartons, empty cereal boxes, butter, sugar, oatmeal/ flour. There will be always be a choice of items, so no need to go shopping, but you might want to remember to save your recycling. We will send out details next week to you all.



Change of dates:

- Staff professional development days will now be happening during the school closure – with special permission from I.B. HQ in Singapore. The dates will be 20th and 21st February – for further info see above.
- JIS Swimming gala scheduled for 27th March will now be in June, provisionally on the 4th June 8:30 – 12 in the morning.

Library loan service: Remember you can access the school library through Ms Wan's link that is sent out each week to order some books. You order and we can prepare the books to be collected from the school Reception area. The new link will be sent out next week for ordering – we had 10 students order books today, so these books are ready. Check the message on Class Dojo for details.

Please keep in touch and let us know how you are doing!

Simon Walton
Principal
s-walton@jis.edu.hk
JIS office: 2834 3531