



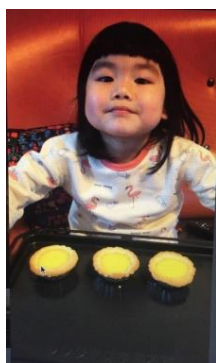
Newsletter 22 2019-20

Friday 13th March 2020

Dear Parents and JIS community



How is everyone doing? This is tough! I sincerely hope everyone is healthy and managing to make the best of a very strange situation that we all find ourselves in. Keep strong everyone. A few happy photos of JIS kids to break up the week – we really miss them all.



School closure and EDB deadlines and news updates:

We continue to hope to see the students on April 20th as currently stated by the HK Govt and EDB. We are all probably aware of some different opinions and thoughts expressed in the HK media this week but they are not an official line so we hang on in hope to see the students someday soon. There are regularly leaks and mis-information spread around us but please be assured that as soon as official information is given related to any aspects of the current school closures we will share it with you as soon as we can.

Coronavirus and family health:

No doubt all of us have blitzed ourselves with information (perhaps too much!) about all aspects of the Covid-19 outbreak around the world. It is a challenging time for everyone but as Hong Kong residents we seem to be doing a great job in our phase of delaying and monitoring the virus in our community. Well done, Hong Kong!

We must also be aware of the impact of the news and adult conversations going on around them has on our children, Some of them are scared as they feel tension in their home or in the words of family members and relatives, Some of them have questions that need a response to create understanding and balanced reasoning. If you have not yet – please as parents, take time to discuss with your children what is happening and why. Also discuss the positives and success of the medical profession and all our community efforts in working together to keep us safe and healthy.

There are lots of publications and options to help you if you need it – I attach a few recent ones I have been made aware of:

[How to talk to your anxious child about the coronavirus](#)

by BrainPOP – the JIS students are familiar with the characters in this video as we use BrainPOP at school as a resource.

[Supporting Children Through The Health Crisis](#)

by Central Health

School closure period update:

As the Google meet sessions have gone well we shall be extending this provision further next week to meet with students every morning (Monday – Thursday). Feedback from staff, students and parents has been

positive and we appreciate that in order to continue to maintain momentum for everyone during the closure period, visual interaction with JIS staff is important and a real bonus.

Getting a balance of on-screen/off-screen, research / creative activities, indoors and outdoors is increasingly important and we did send out a message regarding our concerns this week about some of the students being on-line very late at night and we are aware that video calling between groups of students is now popular. All aspects of digital learning are a great asset in these difficult times – but please monitor your child carefully to make sure they are having appropriate length of time on devices and at an appropriate time of day. Children need sleep – a lot of it.



We will continue to deploy as many JIS staff as possible to reach out to some of our students and families – which in a way is replicating what would happen in a normal class support situation but with live interaction sessions. Thanks to all our Student Support staff and Education Assistants for their efforts in supporting the class teachers.

The home learning programme afternoon ‘clinic’ will continue to be hosted by Ms Wan and Mr Walton. Some students have joined in to ask for support for their homework activities, so far.

In summary:

- Class teachers will connect on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays for longer periods – especially in upper school.
- Mandarin and Japanese P4-6 will run on Tuesday and P1-3 on Thursday
- St Sppt and E.A.’s will continue to connect daily with small groups or individuals
- Afternoon clinic – 1:30 – 2:30pm access through: **obp-fcpc-ysa** . Open up Google Meets browser and follow ‘use a meeting code’ to insert the code above. The link will stay the same all week. Students say ‘hello’ and staff will know they are there to connect with.

Top tips on managing school closure with your children:

After consulting both the JIS community and our world IB community of educators, we have compiled a list of top tips to support the continued learning and well - being of our students:

1. Keep a schedule, children love routine - it makes them feel secure.
This includes:
2. Keeping a strict bedtime and get up time
3. Getting dressed and having breakfast just as if children are going to school. (Of course, they don’t have to wear uniform, but changing promptly out of their pyjamas into their daywear helps to signal the start of a new learning day.)
4. Try and have a suitable area for your child to work - the dining room table or a desk. A bed or a sofa is not the best place to work.
5. Try to have the Google Meet sessions mimic a classroom as much as possible. Teachers will be expecting the same standard of respectful communication as in the classroom. Although students are still learning to communicate through technology, they are learning quickly and the teacher’s high expectations are supporting this
6. Whilst we encourage a parent to be present in the room, please do not feel that you should participate in the conversation or instruct your child on what to say, as this is often counterproductive to the learning. These online sessions are a great way for teachers to ‘check in’ with students, find out where they are at and take that into account in their planning for the next steps. A student’s independent participation is useful for this to take place.
7. Take active breaks from the screen. The school is offering many active/away from screen activities, please use them. If you can get out for a walk, run, climb every day, please do.
8. Take the ‘less academic’ activities seriously (for example, the Friday challenges on kindness, positive thinking and gratitude; the active and creative challenges). These activities are designed to boost your child’s well-being and resilience - something all of us need, especially in times of challenge.

- Discuss with your family the positives around us too. Children feel negativity and stress very easily from those around them. Be open and talk regularly with your children, respond to their questions. Help clarify their understandings and misunderstandings.

School bus delivery service: Library books to your bus stop!



The school bus library service got up and running last week and a new set of books will be delivered on Monday. The school buses will deliver library books to student bus stops to those who have ordered.

A JIS staff member will travel with the bus to deliver the books and greet the students. Monday it will be Mr Walton, Ms Ada and Ms Miyajima – a new set of faces to say ‘hello’ to!



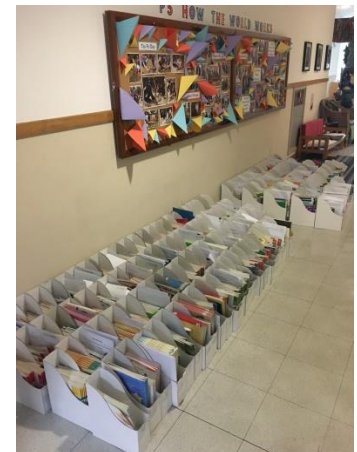
Creative / Fresh air Fridays. (Week 4 is on Dojo and in Google Classrooms)

Our alternative activities for Fridays continue to be popular so a new set of activities have gone out again today – check the class Dojo app or your child’s Google classroom. We shall continue to give students the option to get involved in other activities, catch up on class work, have time to be outside and free on a Friday. Class teachers will continue to post daily / weekly activities on Monday – Thursday as well as meeting with students via video call as normal and Ms Wan and Mr Walton will support Fridays.

Around school updates:



School student reading library being re-checked, reordered and new layout, by Ms Charmaine, Ms Christine and Ms Liu. Great job, ladies!



Gallery of recent pics for a Friday!



Change of dates:

- JIS Swimming gala scheduled for 27th March will now be in June, provisionally on the 4th June 8:30 – 12 in the morning.

Wishing everyone a very healthy and happy weekend.

We all appreciate the struggles of the current school closure – we will continue to develop and refine our programme for all the students. Thank you very much for the positive messages of support and praise for the school staff, received this week. It is much appreciated. Please keep in touch and let us know how you are doing!

Here's hoping the forecast sunny weather holds for the next few days.

Simon Walton

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