



## Newsletter 2 2020-21

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020

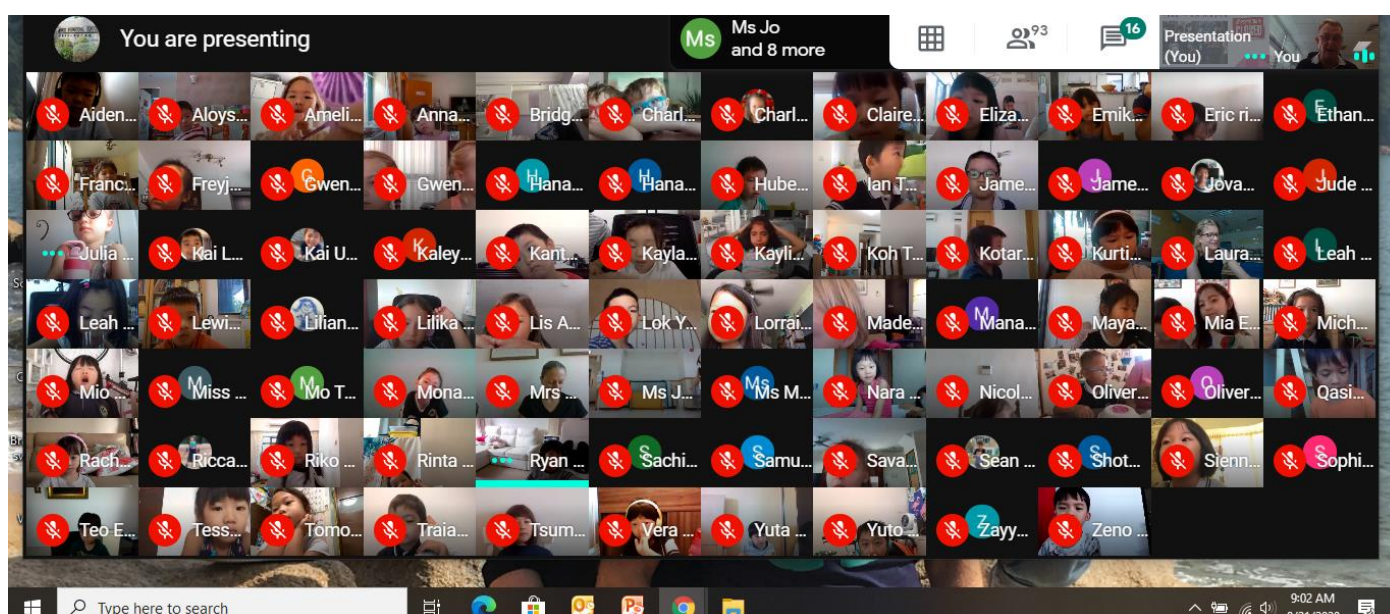
Dear Parents and JIS community

### Welcome back and a big welcome to our new JIS families!

A very warm welcome again to all of you for this our new school year, 2020-21. We have had a crazy, unusual start to the school year but we are getting into the swing of it all and will build up next week as class communities develop some social bonds and people become increasingly familiar with the new routines. For our new families and the existing JIS community, please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions as the first few weeks' progress. We will do our best to keep you informed but should there be things you are unsure of please let us know.

School office email: [s-miyajima@jis.edu.hk](mailto:s-miyajima@jis.edu.hk), Mr Walton email [s-walton@jis.edu.hk](mailto:s-walton@jis.edu.hk) or office: 28343531

We welcomed the school in classes on Thursday and then in two large scale assemblies on this morning. Starting your school year off with a series of faces on a video screen is sadly what none of us want but here we are and we shall make the very best of it!



*Morning assembly with Reception class, P1, P2 and P3 this morning:*

### Around school this week!

#### Getting logged on and used to Class Dojo and Google Classrooms:

We hope that everyone is becoming familiar with the routines and methods for getting connected. If in doubt, please ask. We have had to initiate some changes with our Google meeting connections to ensure that all the students are safe whilst on line and that connections are secure. The students will get become familiar with where to go and what codes to input, and we have tried to minimize the codes by using some for many purposes linked to the same class. Please check with your child's class teacher or check the Google Classroom (P2 – P6) or Class Dojo (Reception or P1) for details.

**Note:** It appears that Google across Asia had a bit of a hiccup yesterday around lunch time and into the afternoon which slowed down a lot of our operations in our school based 'Google Suite' and some tasks were not available. Life seems back to normal now and we were able to run school assembly for around 100 people relatively smoothly.

### **JIS Staff 2020 – 21:**

I am delighted to welcome our 2020-2021 staff to school. We had some excellent whole staff development meetings on Monday and Tuesday, to discuss interesting plans for the school and the new year ahead.

We are delighted to say that our new school staff are settling in well and are keen to get involved with the JIS community:

Reception- Ms. Lilian Chen (Teacher) and Ms. Janice Tam (Education Assistant)

P1 – Ms. Annette De Thier (Teacher) and Ms. Johanna H Cristobal (Education Assistant)

P2 – Ms. Fiona Merrill (Teacher) and Ms. Malin Vart (Education Assistant)

P3 – Ms. Laura Fisher (Teacher) and Ms. Ada Cheung (Education Assistant )

P4 – Ms. Anouchka Chatelier (Teacher) and Ms. Charmaine Mok (Education Assistant)

P5 – Mr. Nicholas Cheung (Teacher) and Ms. Charmaine Mok (Education Assistant)

P6 – Ms. David Rixon (Teacher) and Ms. EnHsing Liu (Education Assistant)

Mandarin – Ms. Judith Tseng (Teacher) and Ms. Karen He (Language Assistant)

Japanese – Ms. Sora Satonaka (Teacher) and Ms. Kiyomi Ichinose (Language Assistant)

Student Support Coordinator – Ms. Jenny Procter

Student support department – Ms. Vikki Rixon (full time), Mrs. Yuki Delong (part time counsellor)

Music: Ms. Jill Tse

P.E. and Swimming – Jason Chan / Stephanie Tsui and swimming coaching team

Deputy Principal and PYP coordinator – Ms. Cath Wan

Resources management and first aid: Ms. Christine Lau

Library Assistant – Ms. Anna Lamont

IT Manager – Mr Wa Man Lee

Office staff – Ms Sachiyo Miyajima (Office Manager) Mrs. Kim Murch (Office Assistant)

### **New class teachers:**

Ms. Lilian Chen – Reception

Ms Laura Fisher – Primary 3

Ms Anouchka Chatelier – Primary 4

We look forward to getting to know them more in the coming weeks and months ahead.

### **Information update and start of year routines:**

As ever, there is a lot of information for the first newsletter of the school year, but please read it through in detail, especially if you are new to the school, and remember we are always here to help.

### **Newsletters – 2020 -21**

The school office will continue to keep the JIS community informed of news and events at regular intervals during the school year. Our school newsletter will be sent out on Friday each week. The newsletter will be emailed to all families using your preferred email account. We will also post the newsletters on the school website should you need a copy or wish to download an extra one. We will also be sending some of our shorter or more urgent messages to you by email and through our Class Dojo app (more later)

Privacy - In accordance with the HK Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, all data kept at JIS is for the use by the school for maintaining the operation and systems of the school only. Any parent not wishing to receive school newsletters or information, should contact the school office. Please ask for a copy of our Privacy Policy Statement and Personal Information Collection statement should you need more details.

### School website – [www.jis.edu.hk](http://www.jis.edu.hk)

The school website is designed to keep you informed as to what is going on as well as a celebration of many of the things that go on in school. It is also an information resource for prospective families or educationalists.

Our school website has an updated Google calendar which can be linked to your own smartphone or device if you wish. We also post on the 'Calendars' page an A4 PDF version of a calendar which may be useful to print off and attach to the family noticeboard. It is updated when necessary and is numbered to allow you to see if it is the most up to date copy. (Draft 4, 2020-21 is the latest version)



### Class Dojo; smartphone / device application



We continue to use our useful and user friendly app – Class Dojo. This allows staff and the school office to upload text, photos and video easily and privately to share with the school community. Each student has their own sharing area which can be accessed by parents, teachers and students.

**Please Note:** For online learning classes in the early years of the school – Reception and P1 will use Dojo as their way of communicating and uploading activities and students' work.

### Timetables – Online classes in August

Your child's class teacher has sent home a copy of their current timetable. As mentioned in previous notices the schedules were developed to try to replicate a school day with a balance of online and offline activities. Our main focus for the start of term has been to allow students to get to know their new teacher and also for staff to make positive connections with students. We have a few new students in every class and obviously a completely full new class for Reception. Staff engaging with new students one on one takes time and has been an important priority for some classes these last 2 days.

We shall allow the school schedules to settle into a routine and will then explore options to extend provision for some areas and classes as the weeks go on. We have become adept at using the full range of all our staff for a large variety of roles, to create greater opportunities for the students.

### Weather warnings in Hong Kong – update on school hours

As we were all taken a bit by surprise regarding tropical storm Higos on Wednesday, I share with you the process for on-line learning during typhoons.

- School will be in process for typhoon 3 and below. Should a T8 or above be hoisted before 7a.m. school will close for the day.
- Should there be an amber or red rain warning school will be open. Should there be a black rain warning hoisted before 7a.m. school will be closed.

We need to have some of our school staff on site for the correct running of online learning, so it is not possible to ask them to travel in dangerous weather conditions. We appreciate the difficulties in Hong Kong when weather can be very localized (typhoon winds appear calm in some areas and gale force in others) but we have to plan for safety at all times.

### Chromebook computers:

Many thanks to all the parents who have asked to purchase the 50% discounted chromebooks through school. We have been amazed by the response. A final order form will be sent out to all those who have applied. Computers will be ready to collect from Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August. We shall confirm direct with the applicants. We currently have allocated all stock ordered.

### Curriculum news:

#### Student Support Department:

Jenny Procter would like to remind all members of the JIS community that Ms Yuki our school counsellor and also consultations from our agency linked (SPOT) Speech Therapists or Occupational Therapists are available as on-line opportunities, should any family wish to use their services in the coming weeks.



## PE classes; consent forms

HK EDB have advised that all schools seek some form of consent form before students join in with P.E. classes online, due to the potential for accidents in the home. We have always been extra careful for these activities with Mr Jason's videos last term. A consent form has been sent out from Stephanie Tsui our PE coordinator. Please complete the short form to allow your child to be involved in our PE and Keep Fit lessons.



## Learning at JIS – from Cath Wan, Deputy Principal/ PYP Coordinator

Welcome to our new school year! For people who I haven't had the pleasure of meeting yet, I am Catherine Wan, Deputy Principal, PYP Coordinator (managing the International Baccalaureate curriculum) and I also love joining all the students in the library every Friday. Every 2 weeks, I write an article in our school newsletter on the theme of learning at JIS. I am also here to answer any of your questions on any parts of our JIS vision "to create educated, compassionate, creative, active, and empowered citizens of the world."

For this week's newsletter, I am going to ask a question:

### **"What matters most for your children, now in education?"**

Allow me to expand: there is no denying that at the moment, we are living in challenging times, or as a recent IB leadership training called it: "VUCA" - volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity. Life as we know it has changed and we are having to adapt. We are desperate to welcome our students back into school again, but we can't.

As a staff, we read an article together this week, by the well-known educator Kath Murdoch. An idea which resonated with many of our teachers was:

### ***"We didn't choose this, but we CAN choose how we respond."***

Last year, the extent of school closure took us by surprise. Teachers, with many years of training had to completely revamp the way they teach overnight. We were, in effect, "building the airplane whilst flying it." This term is different. Our whole community has been on a learning curve and while the medical profession has been working around the clock for our health and safety, the education profession has been working around the clock to investigate how we can support our children the most.

A wonderful thing happened earlier this week. When we asked our JIS educators about "what matters most" in their teaching, we noticed patterns between their thinking, based on years of training and working with children with recent reports out from Harvard, MIT, and the IB research teams. Interestingly enough, a lot of the responses also mirrored the huge project undertaken by OECD: *The OECD Learning Compass, 2030*, which highlights competencies that our children will need for our future.

Here are a few things that are precious to us at JIS and are backed up by professionals across the world:

- Student well-being - including physical, social and emotional
- Nurturing curiosity and questioning
- Developing creative and critical thinking
- Developing concepts and skills that can be transferred from one context to another, including the unknown.
- Agency (being able to make choices for oneself and take ownership )
- Flexibility

As a school, we are intentionally choosing to hold onto these things, along with our core values of kindness, commitment and respect. We are having to adapt our communication styles and there will be times of technical difficulties, but *we will* be nurturing your child's well-being and curiosity; *we will* be encouraging their creative and critical thinking skills; *we will* be developing concepts and skills that can be transferred; *we will* be giving them opportunities to practice choice and ownership and as a community, we

will be the model of flexibility, getting to know your children and adapting our teaching according to their needs.

We're prepared. We have years of experience and a whole world of researchers helping us out. We're committed to our learning journey. We've got this.



We'd love to know "what matters most, educationally, now" from your perspective as parents. If you'd like to share, please do so, by filling in this short form. It will help us to learn and grow and a community of educators and families.

**<https://forms.gle/VwqvUWVdgQiNcCqz9>**

If you are interested in the future of education, this link <https://www.oecd.org/education/2030-project/teaching-and-learning/learning/learning-compass-2030/> takes you to the OECD education 2030 project - a series of videos and a very long, but interesting report.

If you have any questions on learning at JIS, feel free to contact me at [cwan@es.jis.edu.hk](mailto:cwan@es.jis.edu.hk)

***Have a lovely weekend!***

### **International College Hong Kong - Newsletter for this week**

Each week we share the newsletter from ICHK to keep our community informed of the news from our partner secondary school. All students at JIS have the option for an automatic place at ICHK for secondary schooling.

To access this week's newsletter click [here](#)

### ***Finally.....***

It was fabulous to host two assemblies this morning. It was a rush and I now know we may need a few more minutes in between each one – my computer was struggling! But I look forward to this being a regular feature of our online school week. A big 'THANK YOU' to all the people who have sent in photos, and messages from our Friday Challenges already. I will post some photos up on Dojo and perhaps in next week's newsletter.

In the meantime, should you need any support I can be reached on: [s-walton@jis.edu.hk](mailto:s-walton@jis.edu.hk) or by phone JIS office: 2834 3531.

Wishing everyone a very pleasant weekend.

Simon Walton  
Principal