



Newsletter 9 2020-21

Friday 16th October 2020

Dear Parents and JIS community

We all hoped for a return to a full 'normal' week and yet the weather had different plans on Tuesday, for us all! Still we have had a busy week and continue to enjoy the students being back in school. See below for our new application to HK EDB for some changes to our school day.

Around school:

Dress Casual Day - today

Many thanks to everyone who has supported the HK Community Chest today with their participation in Dress Casual Day. The donations are spread around a wide range of HK based charities who do some excellent work in supporting families and children less fortunate than ourselves.

Today we have raised: \$3, 090 – thank you so much for the support!

HK Government Student Grant forms - sent out from the school office

Copies of the Student Grant claim forms for 2020-21 have been sent out from the school office. Please thoroughly check all details to complete your form as accurately as possible. The checking of the previous forms by HK Govt departments was done in great detail and many were returned for editing. Families who have put in a claim previously have generally received a green form and new claims are to be on a white form.

All forms need to be returned to school by Thursday 29th October in order for us to officially chop them and submit them to the HK Govt departments.

JIS – COVID 19 updates and JIS school day

Further to our update last week I can confirm that the school has submitted a revised 'school resumption' plan for consideration by HK EDB. The plan involves getting all students back to school for either a full day (8:15 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. – lunch at school) which is our preferred model or for an extended morning (8:15 a.m. – 1pm) with no lunch eaten on campus. We have outlined the purchase of Perspex screening and full cleaning arrangements for both plans to comply with regulations and look forward to a response to the ideas as soon as possible. We have asked for the changes to begin from November 2020, if possible. As soon as I have news I will share it with the JIS community.

Parent Teacher interviews – November 10th and 12th

In line with our normal assessment procedures all parents will receive an invitation to book an appointment for a meeting with their child's class teacher on Tuesday 10th November or Thursday 12th November, between 3:30pm and 6 p.m. The invitation email gives you access to a short questionnaire booking system to allow us to plan the evenings ahead more easily. The appointments will be 10 minutes long and will be online (Google Meets video conference) to facilitate ease of joining and also safe hygiene practices within the school building. We are sending the details out early to make sure that appointments can be made to fit in with schedules for everyone.

Outdoor learning update from Fiona Merrill

Last year JIS invested in some large, outdoor loose parts play equipment that have been set up in the adventure playground area; boxes, planks, tires, bamboo structures and ladders are some of the materials the children are enjoying exploring.

Loose parts are open-ended play materials that can be used in a number of ways, encouraging children to experiment, work together, test theories and problem solve. There are endless possibilities and decision making opportunities for children as they engage in this kind of play and we are seeing the benefits for children on a daily basis.

There is a growing body of scientific evidence and research that shows that “children need ‘managed’ opportunities to explore and engage in risky play as this will enable them to manage future risks independently and to develop an understanding of safety.” Exposing children to a range of opportunities to engage in risky play in the outdoors promotes their ability to assess risk and learn how to self-regulate.’ (Hanrahan, 2018).

All classes have an opportunity to play with this new play equipment on a scheduled day and older children and younger children are benefitting from playing and working together. As a school we have created Essential Agreements to help us use the equipment safely and responsibly, the children have been asking the questions whilst at play ‘Is this safe, how can I make this safe?’



(Note: All students are required to fully sanitise their hands before using the equipment and at the end of each recess there is a full cleaning routine)

On November 5th JIS will be participating in Outdoor Classroom Day. Throughout this week classes will be taking even more curriculum outside and finding ways to utilise our outdoor environment as much as possible in new ways.

Outdoor learning can enhance cognitive ability and focus, increase cooperation and motivation and develop self esteem. Our forest learning curriculum will hopefully be able to further develop this year, once conditions allow us to take students out more. We clearly saw its benefits for students in previous experiences and hope to integrate it more into our curriculum in the future.

Hong Kong is a wonderful place for children to explore. We have beautiful natural environments right on our doorstep! Get out and explore somewhere in nature this weekend!

Capoeira Club at JIS

Capoeira Club has restarted for Y2-6 every Friday at recess time with Ms. Merrill. We ask that if your child attends they make a commitment to come every week. Capoeira is a Brazilian martial art which encompasses dance, music, kicks and acrobatics.

Notice from library – Cath Wan update

All children should have received a library essential agreement, please read this with your child, sign the return and then return to school. Then send the form back to school after the school holidays.

Due to home learning the library staff have been very lenient on returns of books as they are keen for the students to enjoy reading – however, this cannot last forever !Be warned. ☺

School uniform shop: Opening hours – open 21st October, if needed

In order to get ready for the cooler autumn weather the shop will continue to be open on Wednesdays

- Wednesday – 8:30 – 3:30pm
- You can visit the company shop in Jordan at any time and arrange orders through online shopping and home delivery - <https://www.jis.ufsonline.com.hk/> to contact the uniform supplier

JIS school office closed

The school office will be closed for the mid-term break next week.

Parents / community members in the school building

Can I please remind all parents that the school is still under COVID-a9 procedures and as such we are limiting access to essential visits only by parents or community members. If you are waiting for a child attending an after school activity, please wait outside by the main entrance. Anyone who needs to enter the school should do so through the main entrance only , sign in and get temperature checked and leave as quickly as possible. Thank you for your understanding.

ICHK Newsletter

Each week we share the newsletter from ICHK to keep our community informed of the news from our partner secondary school.

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

Halloween Parade dressing up day – Friday 30th October

A bit of advanced planning - a popular request from the students is for a Halloween Day at school on Friday 30th October. All students are invited to wear their Halloween costume for school on this day – this is totally voluntary and students only need to get involved if they would like to.

Wishing everyone a very pleasant mid – term break, the weather looks like it could be amazing for camping, hiking and being outdoors in the beautiful Hong Kong countryside. School will reopen on Tuesday 27th October, after the Chung Yeung festival.

Simon Walton
Principal