



Newsletter 16 2020-21

Friday 11th December 2020

Dear Parents and JIS community

A busy week for everyone online this week. Thank you to everyone for keeping up the positive efforts and for supporting the many activities and learning sessions this week.

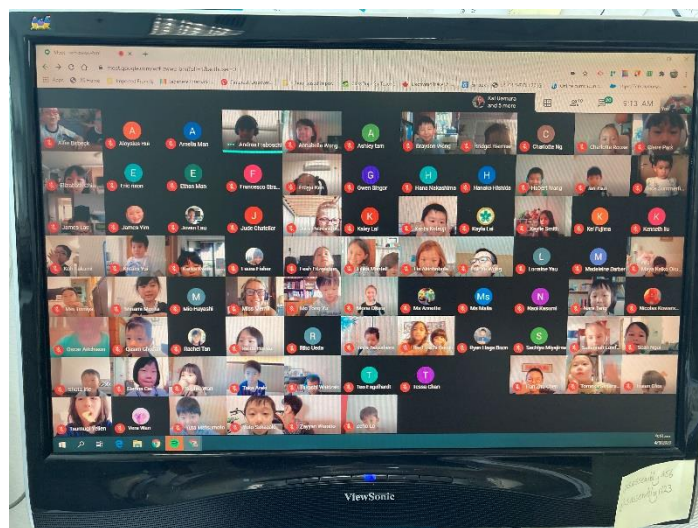
Around school:

Schedules and adaptations – starting next week, 7th December

Thank you to everyone who has adapted to the timetable changes this week.

As mentioned in last week's newsletter we went back to our original online schedule once the whole school was back online together. This allows for class teachers to work closely with their students in the mornings and brings focus to their work. Then after a lunchbreak the students know they have time to focus on other areas of their school life through the specialist subjects.

Fridays we have kept as assembly day and then some specialist and library lessons. We have also now introduced the 'relax' sessions with Ms Le Scelle to look at unwinding or relaxing techniques before the weekend. Thanks to those who attended the 'relax' sessions today, our first time, today.



JIS delivery of resources and library books – Friday 11th December

The JIS Happy Bus was out and about today to meet up with small groups of our students and parents. We were obviously careful to keep distances appropriate, wear a mask and sanitise hands etc, before giving out goods at each location.

It is always great to see the students, so thank you to everyone who was able to make it.



We shall wait and see about the arrangements for school in January 2021 and then arrange a collect from school and Happy Bus in early January if we need to support everyone at home.

There is no official news yet as to what schools will be asked to do starting in January 2021. We will of course let you all know if there is any information to share.







We have arranged a small gift bag for all the students as a small Christmas present from the school.

The gift bag has some gingerbread cookies inside with some icing to decorate them – a fun activity for all the children and one that they can eat!! Obviously the use by dates will be limited to early next week, so if you are coming to school to collect resources, please do this on Monday or Tuesday. Lauren in P4 has done hers already!



We hope you all enjoy the gingerbread biscuits.

Friday Assembly Challenge – Toilet roll Christmas decorations.

Thanks to all those people who have sent in a photo of their Toilet roll Christmas decoration, inspired by Mr. Walton's 16 year old Santa! Please send in your picture when you have had a go! Email to Mr Walton (s-walton@es.jis.edu.hk) or on Class Dojo.



There have been a big variety of ideas – some Christmas trees too!

Students born in 2014 – places at JIS in P2 class

We are aware that we have some relocations out of Hong Kong over the Christmas holidays and we have done a few interviews to fill places in some of our classes for students to have the opportunity to have the experience of a JIS education, from January 2021. We do have possible places in P2 class if there are members of the school community or friends who may be interested in trying out for interview. Please contact Ms Miyajima in the school office for further information 2834 3531

MySchools term 2 invoices

A polite reminder that invoices for next term have been issued. Please log in to find your account and settle payment.
Many thanks.

JIS school uniform shop: 16th December 10am – 2pm

The school uniform shop will be open on December 16th from 10am until 2pm for new students and all members of the school community.

Please remember there is an option to visit the company shop in Jordan or order online if you prefer home delivery.

Please find the below online link and QR code for your reference.

<https://www.jis.ufsonline.com.hk/>



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

Learning, Growing and Staying Connected

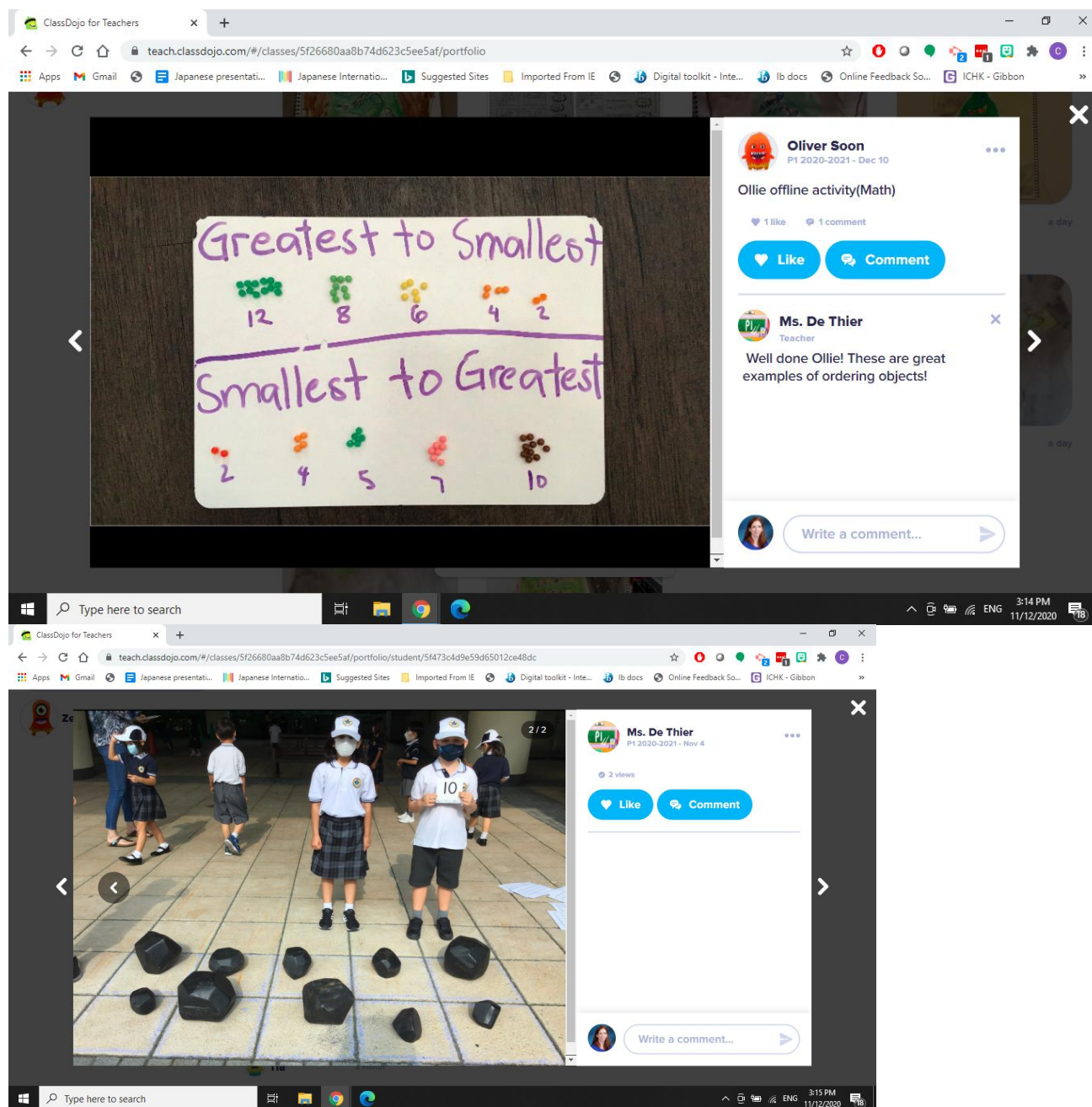
Wow - what a term it has been! Online, half in school, all in school, back online again, new timetables, perspex, sanitisation - the list goes on. But it is good to pause for a moment and celebrate what has NOT changed: the children are still learning, they are still growing and although it is not as 'real' as we would like, we have still stayed connected as a community.

This term, Reception, was the first set of 3 and 4 year olds I have ever seen to learn to use technology so quickly and effectively to connect with their new classmates. Upon their return to school, we didn't experience any tears - students transferred their online connections to physical connections with the ease and resilience of which I have never seen before. They have developed their maths skills by going on number and shape hunts around their homes; making their own 'ten frames' and developing their number sense. They have started to develop strong foundations for reading and writing; their verbal communication has developed during online and real time opportunities to listen to and share their ideas.

Reception students have developed relationships, responsibility and independence through play and in their current unit have developed awareness of their own and other's feelings -essential in developing intra and interpersonal relationships.



Primary 1 have been just as busy. They have completed a phonological awareness programme which gives a solid foundation for reading skills and have developed their language and mathematical literacy skills through a wealth of activities, many of which were linked to their units of inquiry. P1 students have been particularly creative with using objects around their home to help develop their number sense. They also became our 'plant experts, learning about life - cycles and how to care for plants.



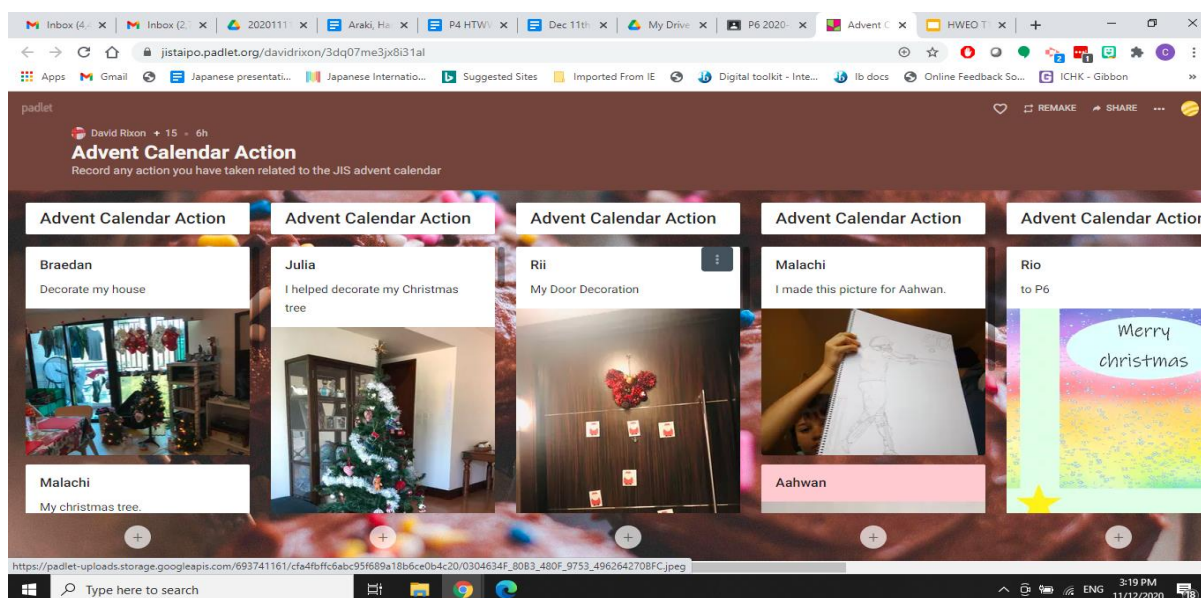
P2 has been an action packed class all term. Their first unit of inquiry this year, was very relevant as they investigated how to take care of themselves -both physically and mentally, More recently, P2s have learned all about the global goals , making connections to caring for our environment.

P3's were our space-explorers at the start of the year, not only researching about our solar system, but also adding their imagination to create stories based on planets that are able to sustain life. In their unit Sharing the Planet, P3 students proved themselves capable of linking their research to practical action that we can take to protect our environment; it was great that we managed our Tai Po Kau trip before school closure!



P4's have been true scientists this term. Their investigations into the human body, as well as developing their scientific understanding, gave them opportunities to take action and make wise choices in caring for their own health. In their How the World Works unit, students managed to carry out scientific experiments into materials and matter at school, as well as refine their research skills to become experts on the production and use of their chosen materials.

P5's have had a true variety of inquiries this term -starting off with investigating art through different contexts, including mathematics; continuing to develop their understanding of the scientific principles of energy and applying their understanding to real world applications. They are presently working with P6s developing their scientific skills; learning how to create deep scientific questions which can be investigated with fair tests.



Before joining the P5s with their scientific inquiry, P6's were incredibly busy developing their leadership skills when investigating how organisations function and way back in August, they made great progress with their research skills, particularly in their selection of sources, in the civilisation projects.



In addition to academic learning, our students' social skills have still grown. Online, they have learned how to communicate effectively with each other through class discussions, use of video and written communication. They have practiced gratitude, kindness and mindfulness -skills that they can use throughout life to build resilience and empower their own emotional well-being. When we did come back to school, everyone's enthusiasm at being able to reconnect was a delight to be part of. Older children and younger children played together on our new 'loose parts' equipment and there was one memorable morning when the P6', taking action from their unit, took the initiative to create and lead a playground game involving students from across the school!



The above, is just a tiny snapshot of the learning and growing that has taken place this term - when I reflected on the students' work this week, I could have written a book about it. Times may be challenging, but our students are living proof - our JIS community is still learning, still growing and still staying connected!

Cath Wan.



International College Hong Kong

ICHK Newsletter update:

The recent newsletters from our partner secondary school is attached: [here](#) and awards information [here](#)

Wishing everyone a very enjoyable weekend ahead – next week will be our last week of the school term. We shall close on Wednesday 16th for our Christmas and New Year holiday.

Enjoy the fresh air and keep healthy and safe.

Simon Walton
Principal

