



Newsletter 1 2018-19

Friday 24th August 2018

Dear Parents and JIS community

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

A very warm welcome to all of you for this our new school year, 2018-19. We have had an excellent start to the year, with the school looking great and everyone happy and keen, following a summer holiday. We hope everyone has been busy getting to know their new teacher and settling in and making new friends. 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 email: esinfo@jis.edu.hk or my email s-walton@jis.edu.hk or office: 28343531

We welcomed the Reception Class in small groups (A and B) for just a morning session this week and next week we will see how they settle for a full day. They have all been very brave and settled well into their new school. They all joined in with the action very comfortably with Ms. Merrill and Ms. Janice. Well done to all of them and to the rest of our new students for getting involved in school as soon as possible.



Around school this week!



The school building is looking really good, ready for the year ahead. During the break we have discussed using all aspects of our building as creatively as possible. Children can learn in a variety of ways and in a variety of spaces, so we want to reflect that in our use of the building. We have also reviewed our access for health and safety reason to make the school as protected and as safe as possible – we will be sharing some new security arrangements in the coming weeks ahead.

We have repainted the inside of the school – all classrooms and common areas, with some upgrading and useful additions around the school campus.



Life in the playground is back to normal with lots of action and activities going on and places to sit and have a good 'catch up' chat!

JIS Staff 2018 – 19:

I am delighted to welcome all the teaching staff back to JIS for another great year and thank them for their efforts in getting the school ready to start the new school year. Classrooms are well prepared and the school environment looks clean and fresh. We had some excellent whole staff meetings last Friday and on Monday 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. Fiona Merrill (Teacher) and Ms. Janice Tam (Education Assistant)

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

P2 – Ms. Amber Le Scelle (Teacher) and Ms. Malin Vart Education Assistant)

P3 – Mrs. Vikki Rixon (Teacher) and Ms. Ada Cheung (Education Assistant)

P4 - Mr. David Rixon (Teacher) and Ms. Adele Hughes (Education Assistant)

P5 – Mr. Nicholas Cheung (Teacher) and Ms. Shabnam Tapia (Education Assistant)

P6 – Ms. Resham Premchand (Teacher) and Ms. Shabnam Tapia (Education Assistant)

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

Japanese – Ms. Yoko Yoneya (Teacher) and Ms. Kiyomi Ichinose (Language Assistant)

Student Support Coordinator – Ms. Glenda Bailie

Student learning support – Mrs. Angela Bilbow (part time), Mrs. Yuki Delong (part time)

Music: Ms. Jill Tse

Resources management and first aid: Ms. Christine Lau

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

PYP coordinator and Library – Ms. Cath Wan, Library Assistant – Mrs. Cong Contreras

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

New class teachers:

Ms. Amber Le Scelle – P2

Amber has been living and teaching at an international school in Hong Kong for 5 years. Originally from Perth, Australia she also spent time living in Toronto, Canada and enjoys travelling to new destinations. Amber loves practising and teaching yoga, to both adults and children, and has developed an interest in mindfulness and meditation. She authored a series of books to help teach mindfulness to children and looks forward to sharing her knowledge with her students and the JIS community.

Ms Vikki Rixon – P3

Vikki is excited to begin a new role as a teacher within the JIS community this year. She is coming up to celebrating ten years of living and teaching in Hong Kong and enjoys spending time out and about, especially with her family and dog near their home in Sai Kung. Vikki grew up in England and has also lived in Taiwan and South Korea. She enjoys travelling, cooking and keeping fit. Vikki is looking forward

to joining P3 on their learning journey and finding creative and fun ways of sharing and building upon our knowledge, experience and skills together

New Education Assistants:

Ms. Johanna H. Cristobal – P1

Jo has been working in early years education for several years in Hong Kong. She has worked in international school and kindergarten as an assistant and a part-time teacher. Jo is creative, enjoys drama activities and is interested in developing her experience in an international primary school, like JIS. When not at school she likes to cook. She may not be as good as a chef but she believes ‘food tastes better when we eat it with our loved ones and friends’.

Ms. Malin Vart – P2

Malin has been the lead teacher in a Hong Kong based language centre for many years and is keen to learn more about international school life in Hong Kong. She has recently completed her Masters degree in Education and looks forward to getting involved with all the students and community of JIS. When not at school she likes to read, go for hikes and spend time with her son and friends. She loves cats and has a kitten called ‘Sammy’, who is wilder than wild!

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 – 2018 -19

I will continue to keep the JIS community informed of news and events at regular intervals. 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. Class teachers will also be updating parents on their classroom activities and news through email contact and through our Class Dojo app (more later)

Please make sure that when you complete the **student data form emailed to you all to ensure the school has an up to date ‘preferred’ email contact address.** If you change email accounts, please be sure to contact Ms Miyajima or Kim Murch in the school office on 2834 3531 or s-miyajima@jis.edu.hk . Can I also please urge all forms to include a passport or HKID number which is necessary for the use of emergency services vehicles in Hong Kong.

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

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.



Class Dojo; smartphone / device application



This academic year we have committed all the staff to using the same communication system (as well as email) for the school community. It is called Class Dojo and allows staff to upload text, photos and video easily and privately to share with their class community. Each student has their own sharing area which can be accessed by parents, teachers and students. We have trialed the system last year and have now committed to it, to create consistency and clarity in our information sharing. Class teachers will be inviting (some of you are already logged in) all members of their class community to join and get involved. This will obviously develop as the year progresses.

Term 1 school fees; now due

A quick reminder that term 1 school fees are now due for payment. Please pay by cheque (send in to the school office) or by on-line payment (email to school a copy of the payment slip) as soon as possible. Bank details are on the school website in Admission - Fees section. Many thanks.

ESSPA – social ‘coffee morning’ – Friday 31st August – 8:30 a.m.



An invitation for the new ESSPA Board of Directors 2018/19:

‘ESSPA will be holding an informal coffee morning next Friday morning, 31st August from 8:30am – 10a.m. for the school community. New parents and existing JIS parents are invited to come along for an informal chat and information gathering session with other parents and the ESSPA committee. Mr Walton will also be there to answer any questions about the start of term and settling in to JIS routines.

Come and meet fellow parents and find out what our school community is all about. We can help answer your questions about the school and tell you about the events we have planned for this school year.

The coffee morning will be held in the first floor ‘multi purpose room’ – all members of the JIS community are invited to come along.’

ESSPA – Welcome Back Party BBQ!

Friday 14th September 2017, 6-8pm

ESSPA look forward to welcoming everyone back to school and to meet new families/students at their annual term 1 BBQ, scheduled for the evening of Friday 14th September, starting at 6pm.

The event is held in the school covered playground and will be an evening of good food, nice company, with some games and activities. It is a great opportunity to meet some new parents and fellow students. The evening is an event for the whole family, all children are invited and it makes a great start to the school year.



Order forms for food will be sent out to very soon, and will need to be returned to school as soon as possible for catering to be ordered (**Please return by 10th September - latest**). We will ensure a great evening and plenty of food will be available, so no-one goes hungry... we hope!

Please make an effort to come along and start the school year off with the whole school community.

Meet the Teacher Night – Wednesday 5th September, 7:00pm

You will get a chance to meet your child’s class teacher on ‘Meet the Teacher’ evening on **Wednesday 5th September at 7:00pm**. They will be able to talk more about the schedule for their class and how learning is integrated across the spectrum of our PYP (Primary Years Programme) curriculum. More information on this evening will follow shortly.

At the beginning of the ‘Meet the Teacher’ evening there will be a short presentation in the 1st floor multi purpose room (MPR) for all parents. Note: Crèche: - We will be able to show a short movie in the MPR for

those families, without childminding services, who need to bring their children along to this type of evening meeting.

Timetables

Your child's class teacher will be sending home a copy of their specialist timetable. This timetable allows you to know when your child has got specific lessons that may require swimming kit or P.E. clothing and their Music folders or other equipment for Mandarin or Japanese lessons. Please be aware that students are only allowed to wear P.E. kit on the days of their P.E. lessons (except Reception on swimming day). Correct school uniform is expected on all other days.

Weather warnings in Hong Kong – summer season – update

The weather at this time of year in Hong Kong is an important factor of being safe at school. If you have not yet done so, please familiarize yourselves with the procedures for bad weather in times of typhoons or heavy rainfall by reading the section on the school website. If you are unsure of what this means, please contact the school.

Please note: If the school is closed due to bad weather a notice will appear on the school website – front page, as soon as possible after the HK Education Department confirmation, which is usually around 6a.m. Please check the school website and local TV/radio broadcasts or your preferred weather 'app', on your device/phone if bad weather is expected in the form of heavy rain or a typhoon moving towards Hong Kong, to see if schools are in session. At no time do we expect any students or families to travel to school if they regard their local situation as being dangerous.

Should school be closed, all families will receive an SMS message from JIS as soon as possible after the HK EDB has posted any decisions about school closure.

You have all been emailed a **student data form** to complete which will give us up to date emergency contact details to use should we need to close the school or keep the children safe at school. Our school management system is able to send out messages to all parents by SMS (text) to your registered phone number(s).

Security and school – i.d. cards and car park passes



JIS is a very safe environment for children to learn in but we have to make sure we have appropriate security measures to maintain this. All new families to JIS will receive an i.d. card and lanyard holder from the school. All families have been sent their new (2018-19) cards for pedestrian i.d. Car park passes can be collected from the school office or ordered for students to bring home. These cards are issued to all JIS families for each new school year. Our security staff is very familiar with many of our parents and their domestic helpers but we feel it is important to make sure this is enhanced by **asking all members of the JIS community to identify themselves.**

All members of our school community are expected to identify themselves whilst on school premises. Please wear your i.d. tag to visit the school or when collecting or dropping off your child(ren). Car park i.d. cards should be displayed clearly in the front windscreen area of your car. Should your family need extra cards these are available from the school office.

Car parking and drop off at JIS – important information for all motorists

In order to help new parents in Reception and new families to JIS I will quickly explain car parking arrangements for the school as it does sometimes cause a bit of confusion because of our two schools, one building arrangements. (Japanese Section students are not in school until Monday 3rd September this year)

Morning - When dropping off your child at school please try to arrive **around 8am or later** please use the front car park, (**thus allowing the school buses priority for the use of space in the rear car park**). If the front car park is busy, please drop off your child using the rear car park but only after 8a.m.. Around 8am

the Japanese Section school buses need access to the main car park, so please keep the traffic flowing and park sensibly.

Afternoon – School buses have priority in the rear car park. Do not park in the rear car park for afternoon pickup. If you park your car in the main school car park (front) please move your car before 3pm as this area has to be clear for Japanese Section buses to enter at this time. If your car is in this area, eg. in the car park along the wall next to Tai Po Rd., we will ask you to move it. If your car is in a designated car park space this is fine but be aware that the car will not be able to get out until Japanese Section buses leave around 3:40pm – so plan your exit time carefully! On a Wednesday afternoon Japanese Section leave early at 2:30pm so the whole of the main car park is full of buses from around 2:15pm. Please do not arrive early for pick up on a Wednesday afternoon. School buses have to take priority for spaces at this time. Please follow the guidance of Mr. Lun our school security staff member (or his colleague). Thank you for your support. To enhance school safety and security the rear car park barrier will be closed at 3:30pm everyday. All persons are asked to leave the school through the main entrance area after 3:30pm, so that we can carefully monitor who is in the building and account for them.



Hats and being ‘sun smart’

Hats and hot weather are also an important issue for us to consider. At JIS we are very lucky to have plenty of shade available for the children to play in on very hot days. Some children still prefer to play on the school field but they must follow the ‘No hat, no play’ on the field rule. Please make sure your child does have their own hat or a JIS hat (white one), available from the school shop in their school bag. They should also be wearing a hat for P.E. on their ‘pitch’ days. Thank you for your support in teaching excellent ‘sun-smart’ habits.

Backpacks

As we start the school year please check that your child’s backpack is an appropriate size that can hold equipment and reading folders – but that it is not too big. At JIS, students do not need to bring in large amounts of books to school – we provide the things they need, so please do not overload the bags. Please also make sure that the bag can be carried – and not just on wheels, as the students need to carry their bags up and down the stairs to get into school. All items, including the bag need to be labelled with a name very carefully.



News from the Library – Mrs. Wan and Mrs. Contreras

The students were very excited to have their first visit of the year to the library today. Ms. Cong has been very busy processing new books; we now have over 15,000 books in our library and we’re very proud of our enthusiastic readers at JIS.

- 1) Children are issued with a library card, attached to their library bag which is provided by the school. Children need to bring their library card and bag every time they wish to borrow books. Library bags and cards are to be returned at the end of the school year in June, so please look after them.
- 2) All children may borrow 2 books at a time.
- 3) Books are checked out for 2 weeks. Children will have the opportunity to change their books every week if they wish. **However, if a book is not due back and is still being read, it does not have to be returned until finished.**
- 4) All children will bring home a letter outlining our library agreement. Please read this carefully with your child, sign and return the attached student agreement.
- 5) Please be reminded that JIS also has a **parent library**. We have a selection of books on parenting and, of course, you may borrow books to share with your child. Contact Cath Wan or

6) We **really** appreciate volunteers in the library - especially at this time of year when we have new books to cover. If you have time to volunteer (Wednesday mornings work best), please contact Cong Contreras ccontreras@es.jis.edu.hk or Cath Wan at c-wan@jis.edu.hk

Music Lessons at school

Information regarding after school music lessons for this term was sent out by email on Wednesday this week. We have tried to make sure that there is a good balance for all ages to ensure everyone can have some fun and enjoyment through music. Please take a look, complete the form and send in the reply slip and cheque to Miss Jill as soon as possible if you wish to take part.

Extracurricular activities at JIS

Information for all SIS (Sports International Services) extra-curricular activities was sent out on by email and backpack mail from school – please check your child’s school bag for information so that they can apply for the activities of interest to them.

Other extra-curricular activities and clubs have also been sent out by email for you to plan your child’s week! Please read the contact and payment information carefully as some of the activities are not arranged through school, so we cannot accept payment in our school office.

Parent-child Taiko drumming class

There are a few places left on the parent - child taiko class, which will be after school on Fridays 2:45 - 3:30 this term. Originally the class was for P4 - P6 students only, but as there are a few places left, we will open it out to P3 students. Please see the flyer that was sent out earlier this week for more details, or email Ms. Wan at c-wan@jis.edu.hk

After school playing in the school playground areas:

At school we fully appreciate that many of our students live in different areas of Hong Kong and that our building becomes a natural focus for after school play dates or gatherings. In previous years we have asked that all students leave the school grounds by 3:30pm, unless they are attending a school based extracurricular activity. Can I please ask for everyone’s support in sticking to this simple rule? **After 3:30pm please take your child(ren) home.** All students staying after school MUST have a person who is responsible and in charge of them.



Please make sure that all family members and domestic helpers are aware of the time to leave school. Student safety is our primary concern at all times and no JIS staff will be on duty in the playground after school hours.

In previous years, we have had damage done to some of the school playground equipment and fixtures – we please ask everyone to make sure their children are playing appropriately and that they tidy up carefully before they leave to go home.

Mobile devices and students:

We would like to remind all students and families that if mobile phones are really needed for safety on the journey to and from school they must be switched off during the school day. It is not appropriate for students to be trying to arrange play dates themselves during school hours or for parents to be messaging their children during the school day. Mobile devices are an important part of our modern world but we need to teach the students the correct use of when to access them. If your child does carry a device to school – please make sure they are aware of our expectations, otherwise the phones will be taken away during school hours. Students needing to contact their parents during the school day should contact the school office, so that staff are fully aware of the messages being shared.

Year 4-6 classes – Open evening at ICHK – Wednesday 12th September – 6-8:50pm

Mr Toby Newton and his staff at ICHK are inviting families in our P4 – P6 classes to International College Hong Kong for an opening evening and tour of the school. International College HK is our partner secondary school and allows JIS parents a through train education from Reception (age 4) to Year 13 (age 18). Parents of these classes (P4 – P6) will receive a separate invitation letter from the school and will need to reply to them to indicate their attendance and if they will use the bus service offered.



International College Hong Kong

Note: If there are sufficient numbers JIS has in the past arranged a bus service for our own community – we will ask for numbers soon.

Finally.....

I look forward to seeing everyone around school, at the ESSPA coffee morning next Friday and getting to know many of you over the coming weeks. Please do not forget to send in your order form for the Welcome Back BBQ – when they are sent out early next week (Monday 27th).

In the meantime, should you need any support I can be reached on:

s-walton@jis.edu.hk or by phone JIS office: 2834 3531.

Simon Walton
Principal