



## Newsletter 18 2019-20

Friday 7th February 2020

Dear Parents and JIS community

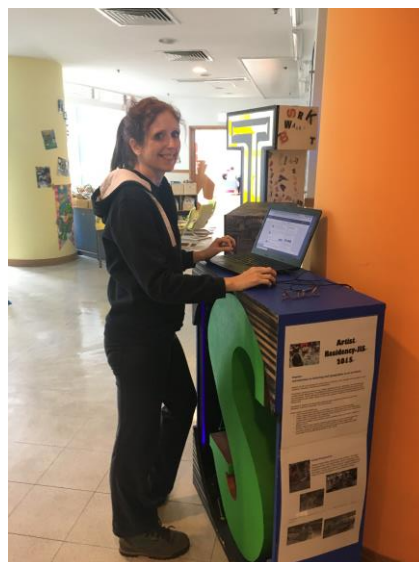
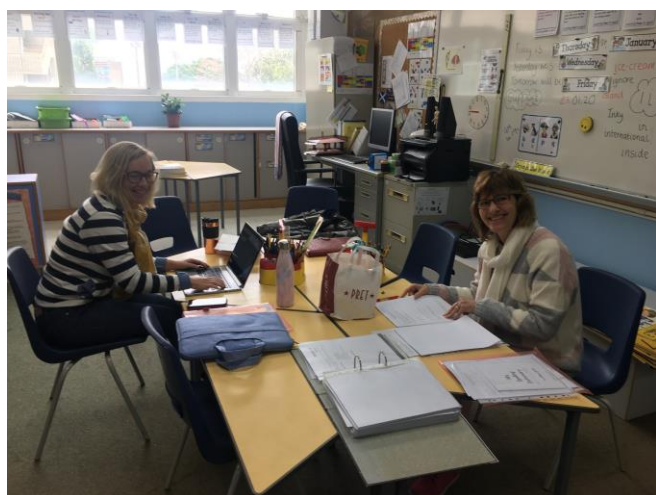
### School closure – February 2020

The staff and I send our best wishes to you all and hope that you are managing to stay healthy and busy during the school closure. We fully appreciate it is very difficult and far from ideal but we are trying to make the best of the situation. Contact between staff and students has been at very positive levels and we will review what is best and how things work as we go forwards. We know it is hard; teachers spend hours responding individually to students when in school a group chat would be better; parents are struggling with technology and ideas that they are unfamiliar with – give it a go and please talk to us if you need support.



Obviously we need feedback – we totally appreciate that we do not want students on computers all the time, so we are trying to balance activities between different methods and resources. The staff have more ideas about expanding what we do in the coming weeks ahead, so we hope to be able to vary what the children are able to do and keep them motivated and busy learning. If you have not already follow Mr Jason's keep fit videos – great fun and designed to keep the kids moving if they are not going outside so often.

### Around school: it's very quiet here!



It is quiet but lots of sorting, planning and engagement is happening with students and staff – please get involved, wherever you are in the world. Staff are here and ready to do what they can.

## JIS Community Survey – Home Learning Programme week 1 and beyond

We would be really grateful if you can spare a moment or two to complete this simple survey to give us feedback and help us build the Home Learning programme for week 2 and beyond. Click the link below:

<https://forms.gle/EpEhDJEheEdSrK3Z6>

Thank you.



## The UN Global Goals display

The UN global goals inspired display from last term's workshops with environmental artist Roz Keep and Reception, P3 and P4 is looking great. Some of our students are currently doing research and projects related to the Global Goals – we hope to inspire with a few memories of work going on at school!

## Salvation Army CNY Appeal 2020: Clothing and toys – busy all ready, thank you

Any JIS parent or student who is bored at home now has an ideal opportunity to sort out and have a good clear out of good quality clothes and toys as we have arranged for the Salvation Army donation bins to be left at school until the week of March 16<sup>th</sup> – 2 weeks after schools return.

Many thanks to Christine Lau for supporting and arranging this for us all



## School reports: Sent home on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

Half year school reports were sent home on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January – if you received a survey in your envelope (around 10 per class) please hold on to it and return it to school when we start back or scan and email into school at any time – [kmurch@es.jis.edu.hk](mailto:kmurch@es.jis.edu.hk)

## Change of dates:

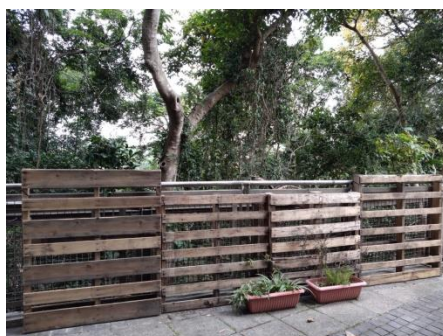
- Staff professional development days will now be happening during the school closure – with special permission from I.B. HQ in Singapore
- JIS Swimming gala scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> March will now be in June, provisionally on the 4<sup>th</sup> 8:30 – 12 in the morning.

## Events for term 2 at JIS – Week 9, March 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>

We have a variety of events that have been postponed in February but we shall keep our calendar for March engaged until we are advised otherwise.



**Green wall initiative:** We are going to get this started during the school closure so if any students wants to start growing a plant at home that they can out on our plant wall later – please get growing!



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

Thank you all for your support in helping our JIS students through this challenging time. Although we haven't been able to welcome students into the building, all JIS staff have been working very hard to continue to provide the best education that they can and it has been reassuring to see the continued communication between teachers, students and parents and everyone's commitment to learning.

Today's article is a culmination of 'top tips,' gathered from JIS educators and other schools in Hong Kong, to help us face these challenges. Many of our staff are parents too, and we join you in navigating our family and full time work commitments. Here are our top tips:

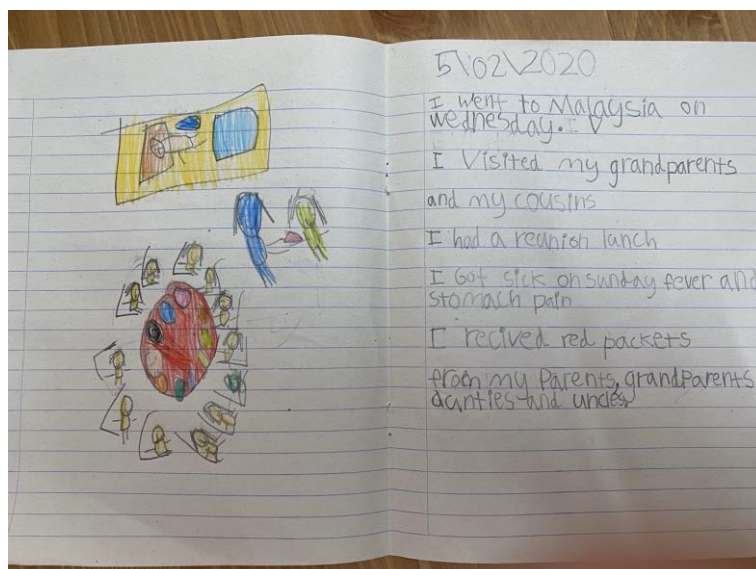
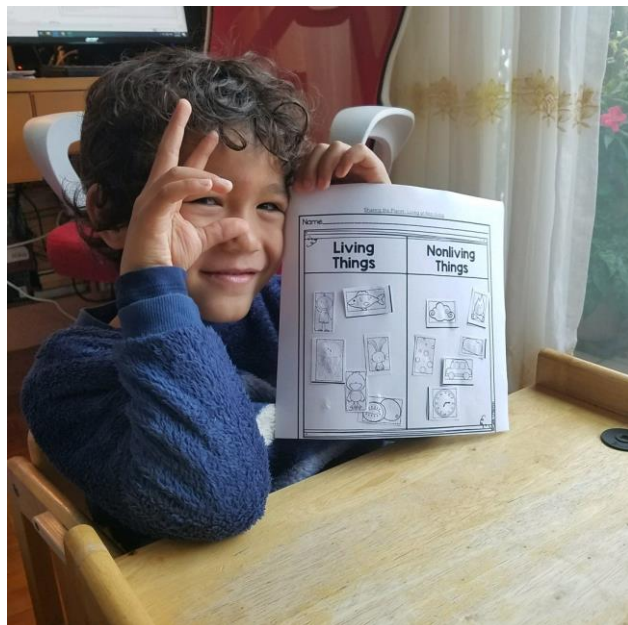
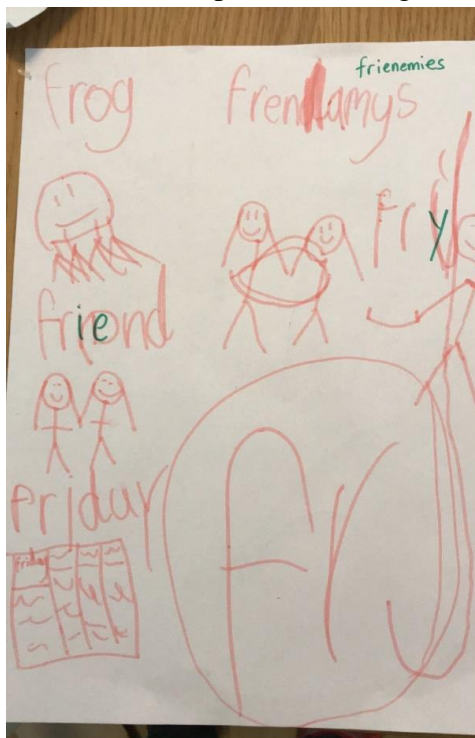
1. Look after yourself. Just as airlines ask you to put on your own oxygen mask before your children's, your wellbeing is especially important in times of challenge. We all have our different ways of recharging, and we may need to recharge a little more often during times of stress.
2. Think about your priorities for your family and children and focus on those. For example, if your priorities are that your children remain happy and enthusiastic for learning, then worries such as missing an assignment because of technical issues doesn't seem as important. At JIS we do realise that each family has its unique situation and whilst we encourage commitment to learning, no-one will be judged for missing an assignment because of individual circumstances. We have asked you to tell us your priorities in the survey (link earlier in this letter), to help us with our planning ideas.
3. Keep a routine. This may sound contrary to our beliefs on flexibility and creativity, but at school we have set times for starting and break times and routines for things such as saying good morning and clearing up after ourselves. Routines are a set of reasonable expectations. When children know what to expect, it helps them to feel safe. In times of uncertainty, elements of certainty give children something to hold on to.
4. Get physical! If it's possible to have your children go out in nature, please encourage it - outdoor, physical play is extremely beneficial to children. If this is not possible, Jason has posted some great exercise videos on Class Dojo. Putting on lively music and letting your children 'go wild' with their bouncing and dancing is also a fun way of keeping them active.
5. If you need something in addition to the online learning to keep your children amused and away from screens, games are a great way to go. The old classics such as Othello and Rumikub are great as

children can play to their own level and they do really develop their thinking skills in these games. At parent night, you should have received our 'developing number sense' maths games list. If you have misplaced this, please let me know and I'll send you another copy. These games were collated from class teachers. They require minimum equipment and develop number sense at an appropriate level. Puzzles are also a great way to engage children - many families have these stashed away in a cupboard somewhere. Now is the time to get them out!

6. Read, read, read. I have yet to meet a child at JIS who doesn't love to curl up in the library with a good book or to listen to a story being read aloud. Reading is a workout for the brain, it stimulates the imagination, develops language skills and connects with our emotions. If you are able to take advantage of our library collection service, please do so. We are here to support you!

Hopefully, we'll be able to return to our regular school routine in the not too distant future. Until then, please continue to engage with us. We are a dedicated learning community and we are here for you!

And to finish, some examples of learning from our Early Years!



We look forward to the communications we get from the students and hope that everyone can stay healthy and safe. From our survey this week we know that some of our JIS families are temporarily not in Hong Kong but the majority of us are still around in HK.

**Library loan service:** Remember you can access the school library through Ms Wan's link that will be sent out each week to order some books. You order and we can prepare the books to be collected from the school Reception area. The new link will be sent out next week for ordering – we had 6 students order books today, so we got started. Check the message on Class Dojo for details.

I look forward to the sunshine this weekend to help lift everyone's spirits! Please keep in touch and let us know how you are doing!

Simon Walton

Principal

[s-walton@jis.edu.hk](mailto:s-walton@jis.edu.hk)

JIS office: 2834 3531