



Newsletter 21 2019-20

Friday 28th February 2020

Dear Parents and JIS community

School closure period update:

As the Google meet sessions have gone well we shall be extending this provision further next week. Feedback from staff, students and parents has been positive and we appreciate that in order to maintain momentum for everyone during the closure period, visual interaction with JIS staff is important and a real bonus. Obviously we notice that different age groups can access and concentrate for longer so we shall try to adapt to suit the age groups in what is shared on screen and how it leads to follow up activities after the screen sessions are over. Getting a balance of on-screen/off-screen, research / creative, indoors and outdoors is key here – we have reviewed our provision in all year groups and are adapting to what seems to fit after 5 weeks already of the school closure period.

We have also continued to deploy as many JIS staff as possible to reach out to some of our students and families – in a way, replicating what would happen in a class support situation but with live interaction sessions. Thanks to all our Student Support staff and Education assistants for their efforts in supporting the class teachers.

We have also planned a way forward for getting our specialist class teachers involved. They have done a great job so far of trying to offer a range of activities, videos and resources for languages, music and P.E. but they will also begin going 'live' next week. Please be aware that this is challenging for languages classes as ability levels vary in each age group and as we are a small school one teacher for Mandarin has over 90 students and Japanese around 70 students. They will be starting next Tuesday.

A further addition to the home learning programme will be afternoon 'clinic' hosted by Ms Wan and Mr Walton. Some parents have expressed concern that in the afternoons their children get stuck or confused by some of their work – so we will offer a Google link to the whole school for students to log in to if they need support. We can see how this works as we go along, but it could be a useful idea. The link will be the same one each day for ease of use, students dial in and say 'hello' and Ms Wan or Mr Walton will be able to connect.

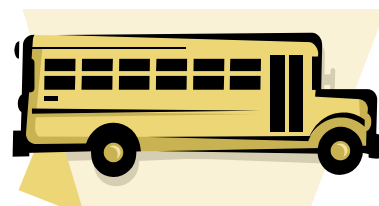
In summary: (links to Google Meets have been shared)

- Class teachers will continue to connect Mondays and Wednesday but for longer periods – especially in upper school
- Mandarin and Japanese P4-6 will start on Tuesday
- St Sppt and E.A.'s will continue to connect daily with small groups or individuals
- Afternoon clinic – 1:30 – 2:30pm access through: **obp-fcpc-ysa** . Open up Google Meets browser and follow 'use a meeting code' to insert the code above. The link will stay the same all week. Students say 'hello' and staff will know they are there to connect with.

School bus delivery service: Library books to your bus stop!

Thanks to Ms Miyajima and Ms Wan who have got the bus delivery service up and running for next week. The school buses will deliver library books to student bus stops to those who have ordered. We will start with small numbers next week but it may grow as more students and families realise the service possibilities.

A JIS staff member will travel with the bus to deliver the books and greet the students.



EPIC book club: (repeat message FYI)

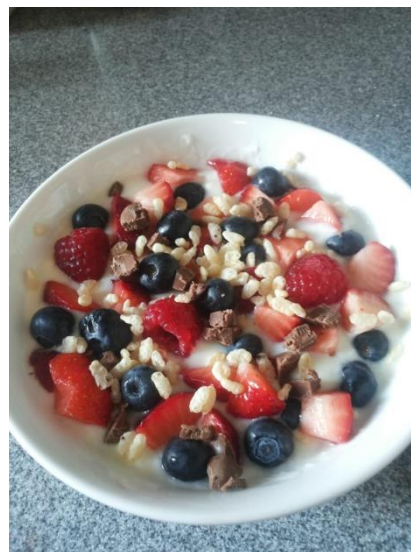
The EPIC on-line book club has been accessed by quite a few families. Please use it as a great resource for enjoyment reading and for research. There have been a few issues for those logging on that everyone should be aware of.

- The book club seems to be designed to fit with Hong Kong school hours. Logging on for some families beyond these hours has been problematic beyond this
- The desktop version also seems to be Hong Kong sensitive but the app version (eg on an iPad) seems to be accessible anywhere in the world
- You do not need to buy a parent package unless you wish to. Using the library during HK school hours is open to all JIS students.

Creative / Fresh air Fridays. (Week 3 is on Dojo and in Google Classrooms)

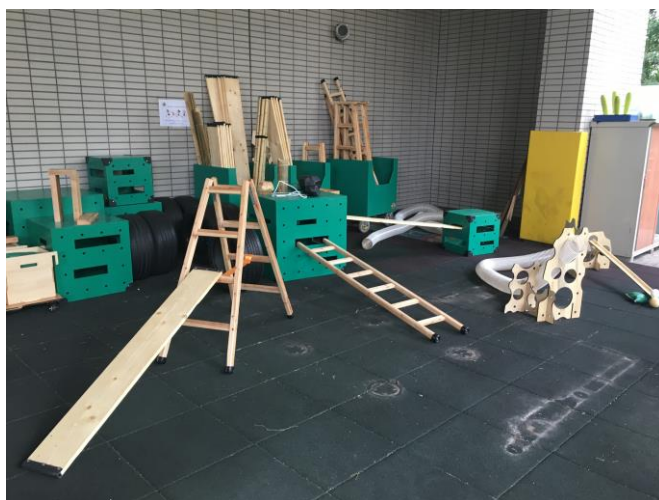
Our alternative activities for Fridays continue to be popular so a new set of activities have gone out again today – check the class Dojo app or your child's Google classroom. We shall continue to give students the option to get involved in other activities, catch up on class work, have time to be outside and free on a Friday. Class teachers will continue to post daily / weekly activities on Monday – Thursday as normal and Ms Wan and Mr Walton will support Fridays.

JIS Home Learning gallery:



New playground equipment ready for students!!

Danie and the crew at Forest Adventures made us all smile the other day when they delivered our order for the outdoor loose parts play equipment. The order nearly got lost in the recent Ma On Shan hill fire, but a change in the wind direction saved it/us/them! Some of you will remember the logs that we saved from Typhoon Mangkhut – we dried them out in the school for a year or so and many of them have been used to create a whole new set of resources and natural materials. Fabulous!



They have created some fantastic equipment for all the students to use (Rec – P6 everyone!) which we know will be a superb way to welcome the students back to school, in a few weeks' time. We look forward to some real creativity and problem solving as the students build obstacle courses, ramps, climbing frames, homes, kitchens, houses – the sky is the limit!



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

Online learning review

Mr. Walton wrote a word on our staffroom whiteboard the other day *'problemtunity'*. After my initial cringe at the word combination, I have found that word to be a source of inspiration this week as our school has continued to collaborate and evolve our online learning.

Yes, we are in a challenging situation right now and we can't wait to get back to our normal school routine. However, learning, though different is continuing and certain skills and learning habits are being developed in our whole school learning community.

There are countless articles in the media right now on skills that will be needed for when this generation leaves school (I'll put some interesting links below for those who are interested). Here are a few '21st Century Skills' that are currently on a huge learning curve that I've noticed students are really progressing in.

Self-regulation skills such as time management and impulse control. Communication skills, ICT skills

A perfect example of this has been seeing students learn to use Google Meet as an effective communication tool. According to age groups this varies immensely. For our younger children, learning how to communicate using this tool has been an amazing learning curve. In the classroom, students generally learn how to take part in class discussions, taking turns and listening to each other's comments respectfully in a physical setting. The teacher's physical presence is usually key to this – all teachers have the 'magic ability' to remind students to wait for their turn with their own special 'look', whether it be a raised eyebrow or a special sign. This does not translate very well in the virtual world, but I have seen Google Meet sessions go from a loud chaotic chat to a focused discussion as students learn to turn on and off their microphones, wait for their turn to talk and, in the older year groups, use the chat function to add questions and extra to the conversation. Some students are also using programmes such as Flip Grid to have virtual debates and as a learning community we are constantly trialling new ways to communicate using technology.

Flexibility, resilience and creativity

In an ever changing world, flexibility, the ability to 'adapt to changing circumstances' has been identified as one of the key needs. I think everyone in our community is developing their flexibility at the moment as we all adapt the way we teach, learn, communicate and manage our time.

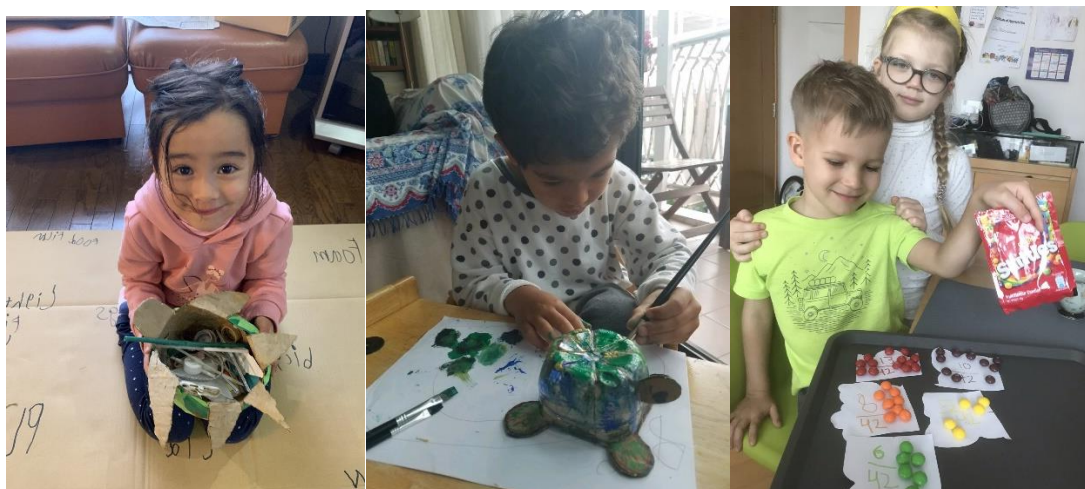
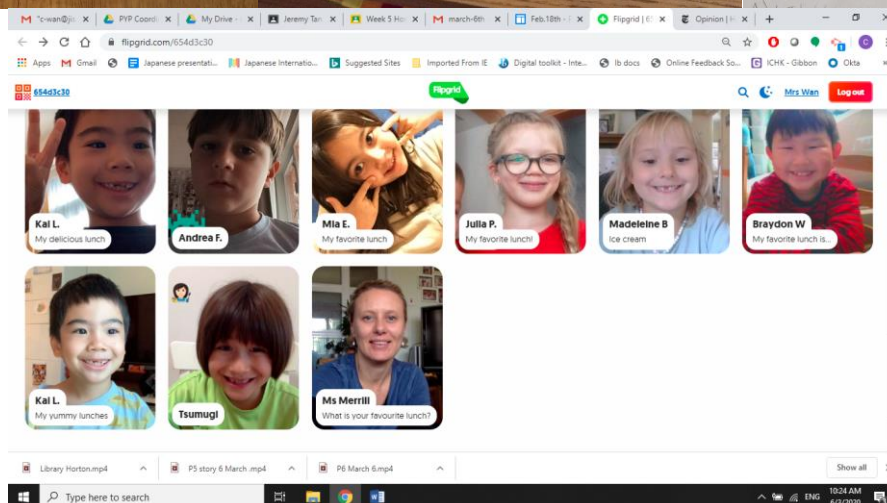
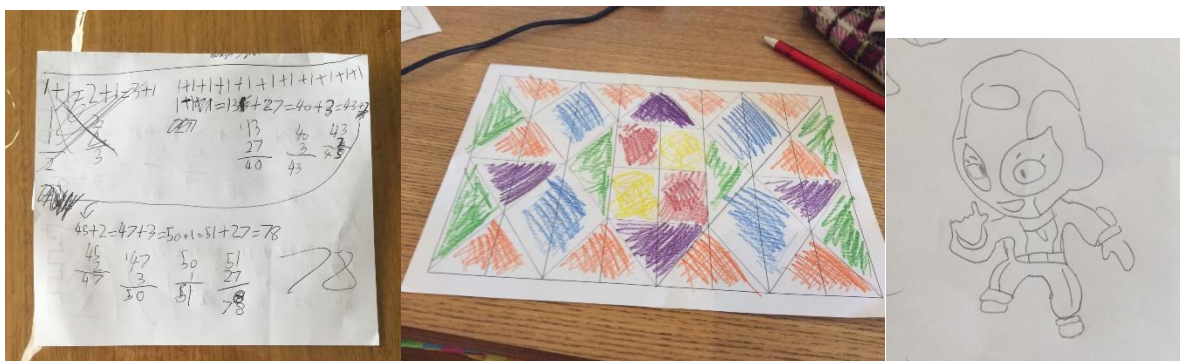
Some of the activities we are providing are activities intentionally designed to support student resilience in times of challenge. Mr. Walton's and Ms. Wan's 'Friday Challenges' are designed to include opportunities for students to be creative, active and focus in on a positive mind-set. Certain classroom activities are also designed to develop these mind-sets and skills. Examples of these which I have seen across the year groups include:

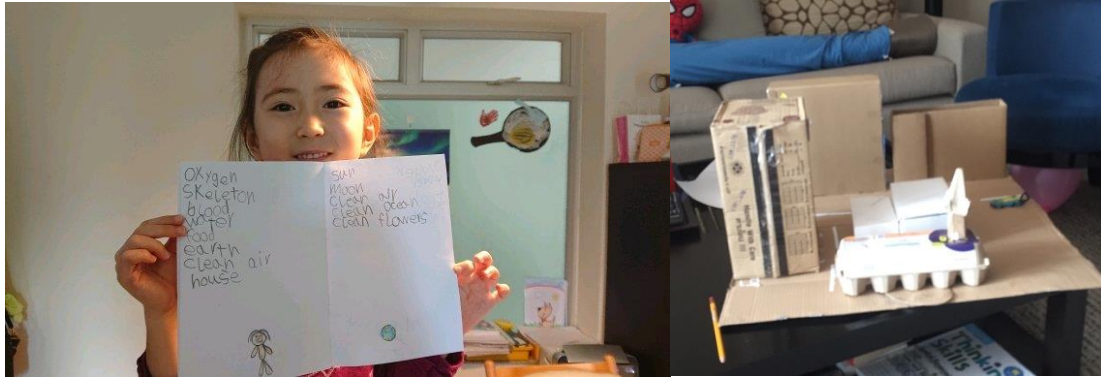
- 'Mindfulness' experiences
- Inspirational/ thought provoking quotes
- 'Passion Projects' – designed to give students choice in their learning and feed into their intrinsic motivation and joy
- Physically active experiences – from Mr. Jason and classroom teachers

One activity from the P5 classroom, which you might all want to try is encouraging your children to do chores. Yes, there are studies out there that link children doing chores to their well-being! (And if it works, probably to parent well-being too!)

Here are some pictures of recent online learning across the school:

	What did you persuade them? How?
Family	I persuaded dad to let me have my privilege for flying the drone By saying "I will not crash it and I will charge the drone right after I am done with it"
Friends	I persuaded coach Chewy my BMX teacher to let me on the extremely enormous track by telling him I can do it I am a pro at the small track so I can build up my strength at the big track
Others	I persuaded the bike shop guy to help me find the right bike and I said in Japanese "could you help me find this bike please because I need it for a bike race" and he said ごめなさい ない です。 and it means 'sorry it is sold out'





As always, thank you for your continued support as our online school evolves and if you have any questions, feel free to contact me at cwan@es.jis.edu.hk

Links to further reading/ videos:

<https://wabisabilearning.com/blogs/literacy-numeracy/skills-every-student-needs>

<https://www.aeseducation.com/career-readiness/what-are-21st-century-skills> (More secondary school based, but gives a good overview of the 21st Century Skills)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z_1Zv_ECy0g (TED Talk by Dr. Laura. A. Jana)

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/going-beyond-intelligence/201908/children-chores-and-happy-productivity> Children and chores

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/08/18/opinion/sunday/children-chores-parenting.html> Another article on the benefits of chores!

Change of dates:

- JIS Swimming gala scheduled for 27th March will now be in June, provisionally on the 4th June 8:30 – 12 in the morning.

Library loan service: Remember you can access the school library through Ms Wan's link that is sent out each week to order some books. You order and we can prepare the books to be collected from the school Reception area. Obviously now some of these books can be delivered by school bus. The new link will be sent out next week for ordering – we had several students' order books this week, so these books are ready. Check the message on Class Dojo for details.

Wishing everyone a very healthy and happy weekend. We all appreciate the struggles of school closure – we will continue to develop and refine our programme for all the students. Here's hoping the sun shines for the weekend ahead.

Please keep in touch and let us know how you are doing!

Simon Walton

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