



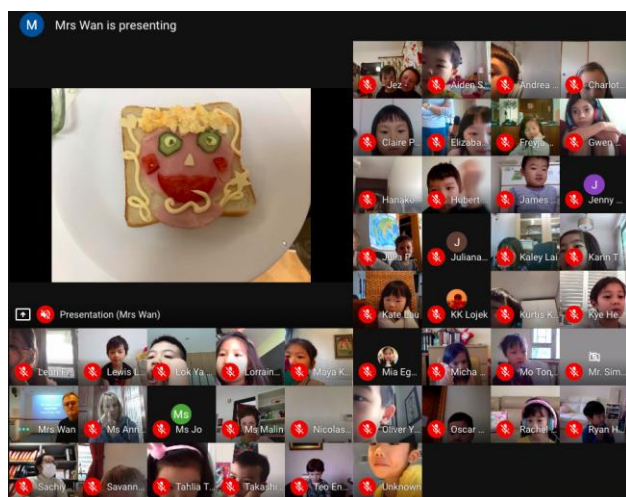
## Newsletter 25 2019-20

Friday 3rd April 2020

Dear Parents and JIS community

### In and around JIS this week:

School assembly this morning was a big group affair – in fact 3 big group affairs! We met with Rec, P1 and P2 first and then P3 and P4, and then P5 and P6. It was good to have some normal school routines by sharing a photo gallery of the achievements from the last term and also to discuss some of the successes and wish everyone well for the coming holiday.



At the end of the assembly we shared our end of term 'Happy' video to give everyone a smile to take away. (Apologies for the sound not being so good, which was derailed by Mr Walton's computer suddenly malfunctioning at 8:30a.m.) Still enjoy the full version of the video by clicking the link here:

[Get Happy with JIS staff here](#)

As the holidays come along it is important that everyone takes a step away from their screens when they can. I appreciate screens are also a place to relax for many children but obviously we all must try to get a balance here. The on-line home learning has obviously gone on far longer than we all initially expected but we know we are still involved from April 20<sup>th</sup> onwards. There has been no official word from the HK Govt or HK EDB as to when schools will be resuming, so we are all planning ahead with a continuation of our programme and incorporating some new ideas to keep the momentum going. See you soon!

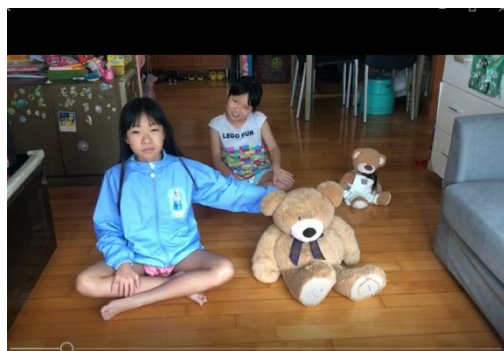
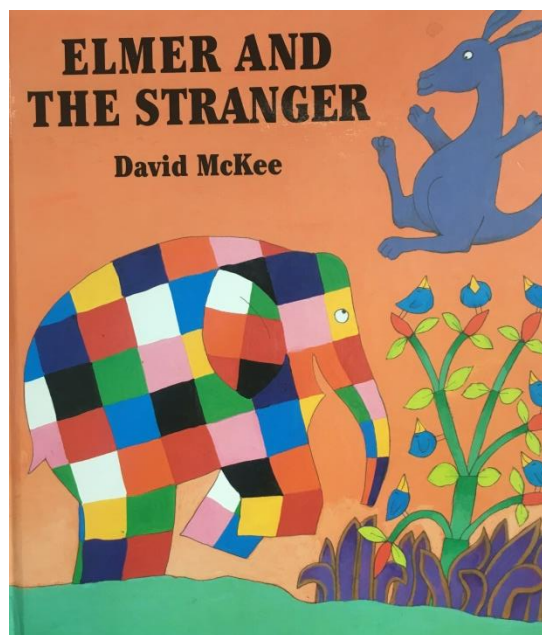
### A few end of term “Thank you” messages to many people in our JIS community:

The students:

Well done and thank you to everyone who has got involved in their on-line learning programme and also in many, many cases, a whole lot more! Schools are very lonely places without children so I am sure all the JIS staff will join in me in saying ‘well done’ and ‘keep going’ – the energy and effort is very much appreciated. Thank you for all the work turned in, the photos and videos uploaded, the creative ideas in Google classrooms and the responses to Friday Fun challenges.

Remember to take a break and relax over the holidays when you can.

A few photographs from activities today already sent in for Friday challenges.



Exercising with your teddy bear has proved popular so far today – but remember, don’t let go! There is also a colour and Elmer elephant theme to the activities this week which hopefully if students are busy today they can go back to try, when the holidays are a bit wet and grey!

The parents:

Many thanks to our JIS parents who have been able to support, mentor and create some wonderful opportunities for the students. We appreciate parents are not teachers but many of you have done a great job! Thank you. It is obvious that much of the work on Google classrooms and in Class Dojo uploads has been supported with patience and creativity along the way.

The staff – teachers, Assistants and office staff:



Many thanks to our very dedicated and wonderful staff who have put in many, many hours of time and energy to get the on-line programme up and running and then even more to constantly update and innovate to keep it going. It has evolved hugely as the weeks have progressed and now involves every member of staff on our team. Thank you.

Thank you for the videos:

We have also received some great videos of a variety of activities, which are more difficult to show or share. Once again, thank you to the many parents and helpers for their videoing skills and patience as they support their children. We do watch them all!

Attendance at Google Meets remained high this week as we have most of the students back in Hong Kong. We hope to keep everyone busy, healthy and safe in the coming weeks ahead. If your child has not been involved much so far, please review their Google classroom or Dojo feed/portfolios over the holidays to get some ideas for activities.

### School fees for term 3, 2019-20

As mentioned before, any families who would like some support in managing these payments, please get in touch with us. We have had many discussions and are very happy to arrange payments spread over several months if this would ease any family situations. Contact Ms Kim Murch – [kmurch@es.jis.edu.hk](mailto:kmurch@es.jis.edu.hk) or myself on [s-walton@jis.edu.hk](mailto:s-walton@jis.edu.hk) . Many thanks for your understanding.

### School closure period update:

The school assembly idea seemed to work well so we will continue with this next term. It is a listening time as mics have to be off but the students responded to this really well this morning. Some of the staff also have ideas for on-line exercise, yoga or mindfulness classes and other such activities.

In summary:

- Class teachers will connect on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
- Mandarin and Japanese P4-6 will run on Tuesday, Wednesday and P1-3 on Monday, Thursday with additional options being explored
- St Sppt and E.A.'s will continue to connect daily with small groups or individuals – this is successful and will expand as we move forwards
- Afternoon clinics have now expanded to most classes as well as the one run by Ms Wan and Mr Walton. The office based clinic is from: 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. Everyone is welcome!

### Note: JIS G suite Google Meets disabled for holidays:

The use of JIS owned (G suite) Google Meets facilities will be disabled for the Easter holiday period. We are very conscious of our key 'child safeguarding' responsibilities and in order to maintain due care and safety for the students our I.T. staff will disconnect student access for 2 weeks.

**Reminder: Ms Yuki** the school counselor is available to work with students and their families who may be feeling stressed, anxious or confused by aspects of our extended school closure. Contact Jenny Procter on [jprocter@es.jis.edu.hk](mailto:jprocter@es.jis.edu.hk) if you would like to set up any discussions with Ms Yuki.

### Coming soon – get ready over the holidays! The JIS Home Talent Show is on its way!

. The JIS Talent Show has been a firm favourite for many over the years SO we will make sure it can happen again in term 3 – by video.

Think of an activity – anything is possible – that can showcase one of your talents. Send in a video of you performing your activity and we will set up a Talent Show forum for everyone to share your talent.

Have fun, get creative and send it in next term.



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



The school bus library service will go again after the school holidays. Watch out for details from Cath Wan.

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

## HELP ! Goldfish dilemma – please help Ms Christine!

Ms Christine has taken her goldfish home from school – the ones that live in the corridor near to the music and resources rooms - **BUT she does not yet have a name(s) for them.....can you help?**

There are 2 goldfish that need names. Contact Ms Christine on [clau@es.jis.edu.hk](mailto:clau@es.jis.edu.hk) to send in your name suggestions. We can publish ideas next week.



## Learning at JIS – from Cath Wan, Deputy Principal/ PYP Coordinator School Closure, Family Wellness and Easter Break

As we close our online classrooms for Easter Break, first of all, I must say a huge thank you to the whole JIS community for their kindness and respect towards our community and the commitment to the ongoing learning and well-being of our students. The last 9 weeks have been challenging for everyone, but we are a caring community and with our children's well-being at the centre of everything we do, we will get through this challenge together.

Below, I have resources to help you and your family catch a breath, rejuvenate and be ready for another term, whichever format it takes, in a few weeks. Ideally, the holidays should be a time for families to connect and just enjoy being together, but we all know that with social distancing, our usual Hong Kong leisure activities closed and children going stir crazy at home, sometimes we need a little help. The resources are aimed to help you prioritise health and well-being through exercise, playfulness and rest.

### **Unplugging from the screen:**

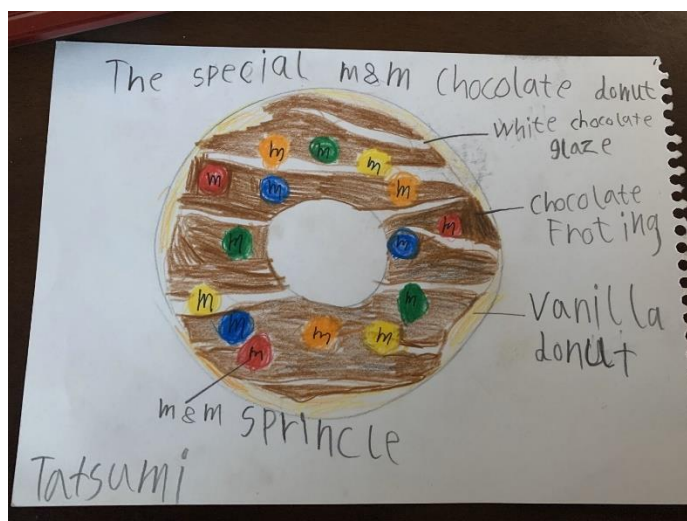
Get out in nature if you can.

If not:

- An indoor “Easter Egg” hunt ( or candy hunt, or coin hunt)
- Board games/ card games
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Snuggle up with a book
- Put on a favourite upbeat song and literally ‘dance like no-one is watching’ – the sillier the better if you’re with your children. (Just like the JIS “Happy” video!)
- If you haven’t already, use the Friday Challenge ideas (no need to post them) –just for fun!
- “Indoor camping” – create a ‘tent’ with sheets etc. (or an actual tent) in your apartment or outside if you can. (I did this with my own children when they were in primary school – my living room was a big mess as they invited teddies and really got imaginative. My living room was a mess, but I had a nearly 2 days of relative peace and quiet!)
- “Crabby Clean up” Tidy while walking like a crab. Carry items on your belly across the room to put them away. Do the same hopping like a frog; walking on all fours like a cat etc. etc.



- Play limbo using a broom.
- Between the knees: Gather rounded objects of varying size. Starting with the largest, try walking around your house with the item between your knees.
- Play “elastics”. Here is a video on how to play: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=znkZx5CSTFs>



### Lists for non-screen activities:

<https://medium.com/pobble/simple-and-fun-non-screen-activities-that-children-can-do-at-home-115543cb3b9c>

<https://www.greenqueen.com.hk/18-screen-free-indoor-activities-to-do-during-the-coronavirus-pandemic/>

<https://savedyouaspot.com/2020/03/12/20-screen-free-things-to-do-with-your-kids-indoors-when-school-is-closed/>

<https://whatmomslove.com/kids/active-indoor-games-activities-for-kids-to-burn-energy/>

We are human, however, and there will be times when you do want to just put your child in front of a screen.

Here are a few ideas:

Yoga for kids:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X655B4ISakg>

There are also lots of family work out/ movement videos on You Tube

There are plenty of free author stories on line at the moment. Here are a few:

Todd Parr [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrVYw0RG-Lip6D7jhWdE\\_zQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrVYw0RG-Lip6D7jhWdE_zQ)

Grace Lin [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q29QV\\_T4de4&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q29QV_T4de4&feature=youtu.be)

Jerry Pallotta <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NbodYtWCcd8&feature=youtu.be>

Mo Willems <http://pigeonpresents.com/>

Dan Gutman <https://dangutman.com/>

A variety of authors: <https://kidlit.tv/>

Wishing you all a wonderful Easter break!

Finally, before we close. We would like to wish farewell to some of our students who are leaving school to travel to new schools in other countries and a few students who may be making plans in other ways in Hong Kong. We wish you all the very best of luck and hope you can settle into your new school as soon as possible. Remember your happy days at JIS, work hard and show them all your true talents! Thank you for being a part of JIS with us.



Stay safe and healthy, happy holidays to everyone.

Simon Walton

Principal

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