



## JIS Newsletter 31

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Students, Parents and JIS community

So we finally made it – back to school after many weeks away to finish off the school year in a semblance of normality, well almost, as our Reception Class students are not able to join us, at the moment. We will continue to include them in school life whenever we can in the coming weeks.

Parents of students in P1, 2, 3 and 4 please note that there is an additional letter for you today – to confirm all the arrangements for drop off and pick up at school and equipment that will be needed for the school day on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May.

The HK EDB accepted our ‘School Resumption Plan’ and classes for P5 and P6 started on Wednesday this week in half day cycles. Our decision to get all students to school each day has meant the half group split but so far this has proved to be effective and very safe.



It is all very strange to classrooms disrupted so much and red taped sinks and toilet blocks but the students were amazingly adaptable and have started to suggest things we can do to make such things as play time more interesting and effective. By having smaller numbers for the first few days it has also allowed us to analyze and re-plan, before the arrival of P1 – P4 on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May. The rules we are having to comply with are strict but we have a whole series of systems and adjustments to our daily school life that will allow us to keep working with the students and keep us happy and safe. We will do our best and are confident that it is in compliance with HK CHP (Centre for Health Protection) and Education Bureau.



Simple and practical steps: We have made sure any equipment used in and around school, for example in the playground is easily cleaned and we have put away larger equipment that would not be easy for us to service correctly. Regular sanitizing of equipment can be done after each use.

The hardest part for all of us is to remain socially distanced from our friends – but the P5 and P6 students have been very mature when reminded and have a strong understanding of how things need to be for the time being. Working with the P1 – 4 students may be a bit harder but they have some excellent role models to follow in our P5 and P6 students.

**\*We received a visit from HK EDB staff this morning at 8 a.m. to check our systems and routines for opening up the school. They were very satisfied with our attention to detail and all arrangements.\***

### **Around school:**

### **JIS Quarantine form – before students start school**

Please be reminded that all students have to have a completed Health and Travel Declaration form **BEFORE** they are allowed to come to school. This is an EDB / CHP requirement for all students in Hong Kong before they start school again. Click below to access the form:

<https://forms.gle/KJYAT85GpA36vEXV7>

Please also ensure that your child has their **temperature taken before returning to school every day** and that the recording sheet has been signed by an adult from home. This form has to be brought to school every day for checking by school staff

### **JIS School fees for 2020-2021 – no increase for next year**

I am happy to announce that there will be **no fee increase** for JIS students next year. I appreciate the frustration that the delay in this news has caused in some sections of the school community but it is not a decision that I am allowed to make personally and it has required a special vote by the HKJS Ltd Board of Directors to amend a previous decision regarding school fees made in January 2020. As mentioned in a previous newsletter we have undertaken some school recruitment in Dec 2019 and Jan 2020 that is aimed at further strengthening the school staffing, but we shall find ways to absorb these costs within existing budget parameters, to support our school community as best we can. Both the school fees and the Capital Levy will remain the same for next academic year. (Fees \$11,162 x 10 months, Cap Levy \$15, 200 one off payment)

### **School places for August 2020 – letter and form next week**

We shall be writing to all our current JIS families next week to ask for a commitment to a school place for next school year. In view of the current economic situation this will not involve a one month fee deposit but we hope parents will support us in planning ahead for places as accurately as possible, by responding honestly to our request. We have done some interviewing for places in the last few weeks for students that we know are leaving and are very hopeful of having a healthy number of students to start the new school year. We would like to know responses by the end of May 2020.

### **Extra-curricular activities for students – not this coming week**

SIS Ltd. (Stephanie Tsui) is still awaiting confirmation of some of the new guidelines before the start of extra-curricular activities. There are a few inconsistencies (especially swimming) that need to be checked out before we know that we can comply fully with current EDB and CHP regulations and safely operate the pool and some other sporting activities. Stephanie Tsui will update us all next week as to what the plans will be.

### **Sunflower competition / growing fun**

The sunflower challenge is still going well on a variety of balconies, window sills and in gardens around HK! As shown on JIS Class Dojo – the ones planted on our 3<sup>rd</sup> floor garden are doing well and flowers have emerged! For the seeds grown at home, once the sunflowers get big you may need to put it/them in a larger pot – or if you would like to - send them to school for planting in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor garden.





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

### **Creativity, Commitment and Resilience at JIS**

As we prepare to welcome the rest of the school back to JIS on Monday, our P5s and P6s have been showing us just how creative, committed and resilient they are –qualities of true learners.

A true learner is able to transfer habits of mind and understandings to new, and sometimes challenging contexts. Rather than simply regurgitating information, they are flexible thinkers and are creative in their problem solving approach.

So what did this look like on P5 and P6's first few days back at school? The students had a lot of new routines to get used to, in line with safe distancing and rigorous hygiene protocols. In learning these, all students showed respect for the new routines, commitment to learning them and kindness as they gently reminded and helped each other.



On the playground, equipment is now limited and many physical games have to be put on hold. So the children adapted. Solo ball games, whilst chatting to a friend from a safe distance were popular, so were skipping games and running organized, well-spaced races. In the afternoon, some children brought down a 1.5 meter, soft stick made of newspaper to play a game they created 'stick tag'. This has now evolved into 'pool noodle tag', which the students delight in.



Whilst waiting in a suitably spaced line, children played games such as “I went to market” and “My turn your turn” to have fun whilst staying in their space. Our school looks very different now and whilst we are all looking forward to the time when our children can hug each other, play piggy back and tackling games, our children are resilient. They are figuring out ways to play and have fun within the new safety restrictions. As we settle into our adapted school life, I am confident that new games will be invented, new ways of ‘safe collaboration’ will be created and when this pandemic is over, we will have a bigger bank of communication, play and learning strategies for us to use.



As always, if you have any questions about learning at JIS, feel free to contact me at [cwan@es.jis.edu.hk](mailto:cwan@es.jis.edu.hk)

Take care and stay healthy. We look forward to seeing more of the students next Monday.

Simon Walton and all the JIS staff.

Some of the students are totally relaxed about coming back to school today!



HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND EVERYONE!