



JIS Newsletter 32

Friday 29th May 2020

Dear Students, Parents and JIS community

Week 1 of school resumption for P1 – P6 has passed by safely and happily. It has been great to welcome back the students and they have clearly enjoyed being back at school and hanging out with their friends. The human side of schools has been really tested over the last few months and it is really reassuring to know that we all now know the fact that ‘people need people!’

We will continue to monitor and adapt the systems we have implemented and following the arrival of Japanese Section students on June 8th we will further assess how we use the school building safely for the benefit of all.

FAQ: ‘Mr Walton why do some schools have different day structures? Why does JIS have half days only?’

I have had a few emails asking how and why the set up for the ‘school resumption plan’ was organized so I am happy to explain. All schools were asked to submit a plan to HK EDB which showed that they can safely and comfortably accommodate the students back in school, using the people, furniture, spaces (inside and outside), hygiene facilities and



routines that they have. All schools were asked to avoid lunch breaks or extended eating times when masks could be removed - particularly those with a canteen (we do not have a canteen). The list of guidelines from EDB and CHP was long and obviously included such factors as social distancing - 1.5m apart as much as possible and strict mask wearing, handwashing and modification of school toilet areas etc. All schools applications were apparently treated individually so the decisions about who got what has become a little inconsistent. At the time of our submission of our ‘school resumption plan’ we were told no lunches at all, so we considered half days as our best option.

As JIS (Int’l Section) does not have old style individual desk furniture to spread 1.5m apart we have adapted our existing furniture (designed for collaboration not separation!) to safely accommodate the students. This meant allowing half of the students into each class at one time – not ideal, but thoroughly safe and a better option than squashing students in and not complying with some of the EDB/CHP guidelines. The schedule is working well so far and teachers have positively commented on the smaller numbers being very beneficial to offer more attention and support to each student in class. This is especially useful after the extended time away from school.

So we are comfortable with what we have for now – we hope it will not be extended for too long and if social distancing regulations do change we may review aspects of what we are doing.

Traffic – school buses, car drop off and pick up at school

Bus: Routines have been very smooth so far. Traffic has been generally quite light around the city and the students have been early to school and home on schedule. In the mornings the students so far have gone straight to their classrooms, upon arrival.

Cars / drop off: Thank you very much to all the car users who have supported our idea of a quick flow drop off, by staying in the car. This has worked well and we are able to get the students in the building quickly and smoothly using our hygiene routines within the main entrance lobby area. (All students sanitize their hands and then face our thermal camera to check their temperature). The students have been very accepting of this and learned very quickly.



Afternoon pick up is getting smoother as students, staff and parents/helpers get used to where to collect their children from. A quick reminder:

At the end of school at 3:15 p.m.:

- P4, 5, 6 students exit out of the main front doors
- P1, 2, 3 student exit from the rear car park gate.
- Students in P4-6 that have a younger sibling will exit out of the rear gate with their brother/sister

Around school:

JIS Talent Show 2020 – (click the link to view)

Many thanks and congratulations to all those students who got involved in our ‘video’ talent show this year. There is a fabulous variety of performers once again. Ms Charmaine Mok – our P4/5 E.A. has very kindly edited the clips together to form a show for you to enjoy. It brings a smile to a rainy Friday ... and beyond! Enjoy the video from here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q8eTST4lCHIjip1lkmPX5uDfwlo3PQmP/view?usp=sharing>

Temperature forms each morning:

Please remember to check your child’s temperature before they set off for school and record / sign the form. This is an HK EDB requirement for all students in Hong Kong at present. The form needs to come to school each day to be signed by a JIS staff member.

P.E. lessons:

A few parents have asked the JIS P.E. Department or myself to comment on the use of masks for P.E. lessons. Stephanie Tsui and Jason Chan plan very carefully and sensitively to all aspects of P.E. and have given me some useful information to share with the JIS community:-

'In order to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19 during JIS PE lessons, we are implementing the following arrangements based on the Education Bureau's (EDB) Physical Activity Conducting Guidelines:

- Students should keep a physical distance of at least 1m apart from each other if wearing a mask or at least 1.5m apart from each other if not wearing masks.*
- Masks should be worn as far as possible if the exercise is not too vigorous. Masks may be removed if students prefer and will be stored in individual envelopes/bags during the lesson. Students will put on their masks before returning to main classroom areas*
- Sanitizing hand rub will be offered to students to sanitize their hands before and after PE lessons.*
- All PE equipment used will be disinfected at the end of each PE lesson.*
- Teachers will make use of all the space in open areas so as to maintain appropriate physical distance between each student while on the pitch and in the air-conditioned gymnasium.*
- Special pedagogical strategies and planning of appropriate activities will be undertaken for students to engage in sports activities in a 'non-contact' manner.*
- 'Moderate- or vigorous-intensity physical activities may lead to an increase in heart rate and breathing'¹. Wearing masks during physical activity may cause difficulty in breathing and increase the chance of a lack of oxygen and dizziness. Therefore, students should not wear masks when taking part in moderate- or vigorous-intensity physical activities. JIS P.E. activities currently planned are fully aware of the students wearing masks.*

We have modified activities to be held during PE lessons to best protect the students' well-being to keep them physically and mentally healthy. We will also pay close attention to our students' physical responses during lesson.

¹ According to World Health Organization (WHO), moderate-intensity physical activity requires a moderate amount of effort and noticeably accelerates the heart rate; vigorous-intensity physical activity requires a large amount of effort and causes rapid breathing and a substantial increase in heart rate.

Stephanie Tsui. May 29th 2020

School places for August 2020 – Form to complete by Monday 1st June please

We have sent out a simple Google form to all families this week asking for a response regarding places for next school year. Please complete the very simple form to let us know if your child is returning to JIS for next academic year (2020-2021). We need a response by June 1st, so that we can complete any interviews for spare places during the month of June.

JIS School fees for 2020-2021 – no increase for next year (repeat message)

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)

ESSPA – JIS Parents and Staff Association – thank you

Obviously with no students at school ESSPA has not been able to arrange any of their functions and lunches but the current committee has let us know that they do have funds to use to support the school for this year. One of the areas we have been developing recently has been the playground and ESSPA has kindly agreed to fund 2 large ball cages to allow better access to P.E. equipment. Thank you to all the JIS community who has supported ESSPA this year in their fundraising for the school.



Extra-curricular activities for students – coming soon.

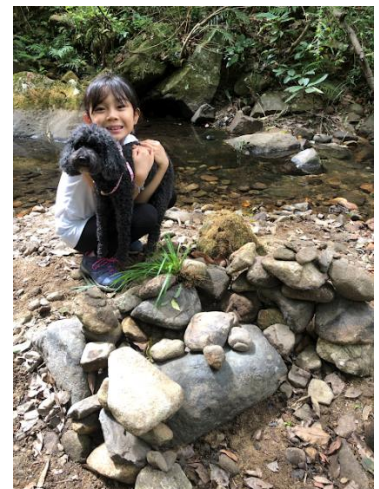
SIS Ltd. (Stephanie Tsui) will be contacting all families next week regarding some options on safe extra-curricular activities. All students will be able to apply but we understand that as these activities will have to take place after the afternoon session then it may be problematic for some students to have an option to take part.



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

Reporting at JIS for June

Here is an adapted copy of the letter which I sent out on Tuesday, regarding how we have adapted our June reports to reflect on student learning since January and the rationale behind it. The invitation to collaborate on your child's report is not compulsory, but we do encourage you to participate in helping us to form a full picture of your child to inform their future learning opportunities.



Dear Parents,

As our school year comes to a close, we are starting to prepare end-of-year reports for each child. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting emphasis on home learning, our report format will change this year to reflect this.

The purpose of a report is to give a picture of your child as a learner. Because of the change in learning environment over the last few months, your child will most likely have learned things at home and these also become an important part of their personal learning profile. Maybe they have learned to help out with chores at home; maybe you have witnessed them show resilience and develop strategies to cope with challenging times; maybe they have shown enjoyment in a particular hobby - the list goes on.

With this in mind, we encourage you to create some statements for your child's report. You can do this by adding your comments to these forms (please choose the appropriate form according to your child's class. We recommend no more than 250 words.

Class	Link
Reception	https://forms.gle/CyejEgw6GJ7nMACU7
Primary 1	https://forms.gle/zYrF8XKJQAFAue4ZA
Primary 2	https://forms.gle/KY18ugFRWJqDzki59
Primary 3	https://forms.gle/DjPtahSz4PfrvLX9
Primary 4	https://forms.gle/cVmw3Ww4WzRNSQpX6
Primary 5	https://forms.gle/1X5u2o2H2g8qNPDQ9
Primary 6	https://forms.gle/hKJcRUQ4Jd2vaLLe6

Once we have collected your statement, we will add it to your child's report to fully reflect the last few months of learning.

Guidance on how to write your comment

When filling in the form, please comment on the following:

- Has your child learned anything new at home that you would like to share?
- What did your child find most challenging? What strategies did they use to overcome this challenge?
- What are you most proud about what your child has achieved? Please explain why.
- What learner profile attributes/ core values has your child demonstrated (refer to explanation of learner profile attached below). How did they demonstrate them?

This is a 'strengths based' report. Identifying what students can do, what positive habits of mind they can draw upon and where their interests lie help us to plan for their learning experiences. With this in mind, please make sure your comments are positive and based on what your child can do, their interests and confident attitudes that they have shown.

If your home language is Mandarin, Cantonese or Japanese and you prefer to write your comment in this language, this is fine. We will add your comment in your home language and provide translation.

As compiling reports is a time consuming process, we would like to ask you to add your comments **before Friday 5th June** to allow them to become part of your child's official report.

Many thanks for your support.

Best Regards,

Cath Wan

Deputy Principal/ PYP Coordinator

Learner Profile and Core Values

JIS Core Values <i>Kindness, Commitment, Respect</i>	
<u>Learner Profile</u>	
Inquirers We nurture our curiosity, developing the skills for inquiry. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.	Open-minded We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view and we are willing to grow from the experience.
Knowledgeable We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.	Caring We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.
Thinkers We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.	Risk-takers We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.
Communicators We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.	Balanced We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives - intellectual, physical and emotional - to achieve well-being for ourselves and others. We recognise our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

Principled We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.	Reflective We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and professional development.
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Wishing everyone a really enjoyable weekend, hopefully the rain stops a bit.

Enjoy the Talent Show video with family, it takes around 30 minutes – I'm sure it's better than Netflix!

Take care and stay healthy

Simon Walton and all the JIS staff.