



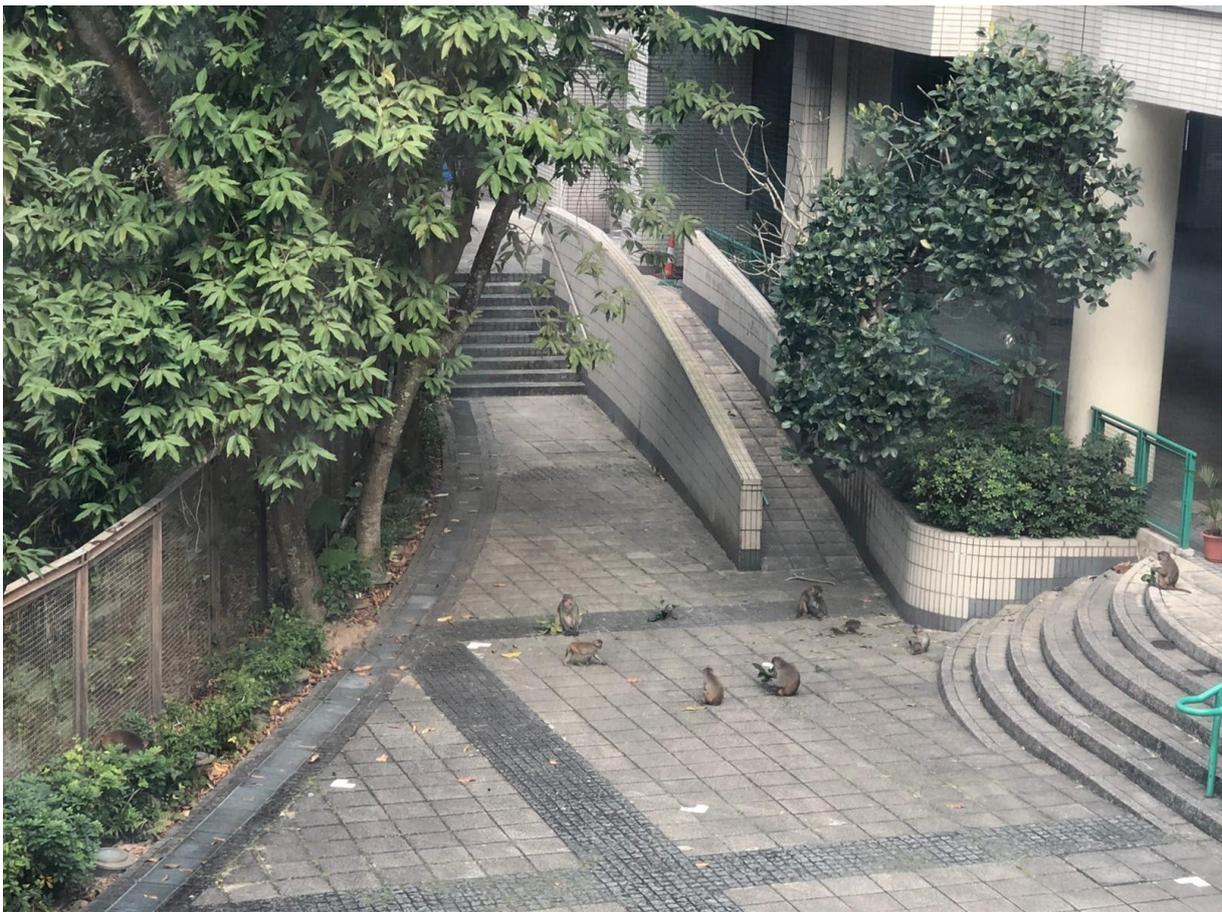
Newsletter 19 2020-21

Friday 22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and JIS community

Re - wilding JIS!

So the students came back and wanted to run wild around the playground, scream, chase and let out their energy and then the 'other' monkeys came after they had left. A very cute group of around 12, with 3 babies, came and sat and ate all the new leaves off our Jackfruit tree. They had a great time but were not in full uniform and did not hand in their homework, so we asked them to move on!



Days in school: This week Rec, P4, 5, 6 came in for the morning



It has been great to have the students back on campus again this week and to welcome the P4, 5, and 6 students. It is very energizing to be around them as they rush to see their friends and play, run etc. around. In the classrooms they connect quickly with each other and although we are still managing classrooms with perspex screening and covid guidelines, it is a real bonus to engage with them in person.

There is no news as yet from the HK Govt or HK EDB about any changes to the current 1/6th of current school population allowed in school for a morning session. There is hope that as schools are still not a recognized source of infection and all schools do seem to be following guidelines to keep children safe, that we may be able to get a positive review and allow more students back on campus soon. Fingers crossed.

When in school we remind the students of their ‘covid’ responsibilities for social distancing and handwashing, sanitizing etc. as much as possible, in order to keep the students fit, safe and healthy. ***Please remember to check your child’s temperature before they return to school and sign their form for us to check upon arrival.*** All classrooms are equipped with Perspex screening to try to further keep the students safe.

This schedule is in compliance with the HK EDB guidelines - 1/6th of students at school per day.

The morning session will be from 8:15a.m. – 12:15p.m.

Mon 25th Reception	Tues 26th P1	Wed 27th P2	Thurs 28th P3	Fri 29th Online
Mon 1 st Feb Reception	Tues 2nd P4	Wed 3rd P5	Thurs 4th P6	Fri 5th Online
Monday 8 th Reception	Tuesday 9 th P1	Wed 10 th Online	CNY holiday	

Please note: Japanese Section are allowing one year group only to attend school on these days. Parents who are driving to school to collect their child at 12:15pm please be aware of buses for JS students, when you arrive. International Section school buses will be using the carpark at the back of the school. ***Parents collecting their children by car or public transport can collect them at the back of the school, near to the school buses, rather than from the busy front entrance.***

Online lessons / activities

In assembly this morning Mr. Walton reminded all students about the etiquette and behavior for our Google Meetings. Students need to ready and focused as much as possible. We appreciate the difficulties of constant supervision for some families but please carefully discuss with your child(ren):

Students should please:

- Be washed, dressed and ready to start – not in sleep wear or pyjamas
- Be sitting at a desk or table – not lounging on a bed!
- Not be eating during meetings – eat breakfast or snacks before meetings start
- Have resources or equipment ready
- Chose a screen background and keep it for the day, not change it during lessons, it is distracting for them and others in the meeting
- Put their camera on so that interaction can happen between them and the teacher or group
- Mute and unmute microphones as requested
- Be on time for their sessions as some timetables are tightly fixed

Parents please be aware of the screens that are being used during online and offline work sessions. Children are experts at flipping screens when an adult is around to disguise the fact that they are looking at the wrong thing or not engaging in what is expected of them!

School reports

Over the next few days as students come in to school they will be bringing with them their half year school reports. These reports are an overview of language and maths as well as general attitude and approaches to learning. They are different from the more specific unit of inquiry reports. Staff have worked hard to bring together their assessments and judgement of the school year so far, which has to include in school and online learning. The reports will be hand delivered to home, not mailed.

When the students are in school, staff will discuss with them the process and significance of the report and in particular the future learning targets for them to focus on.

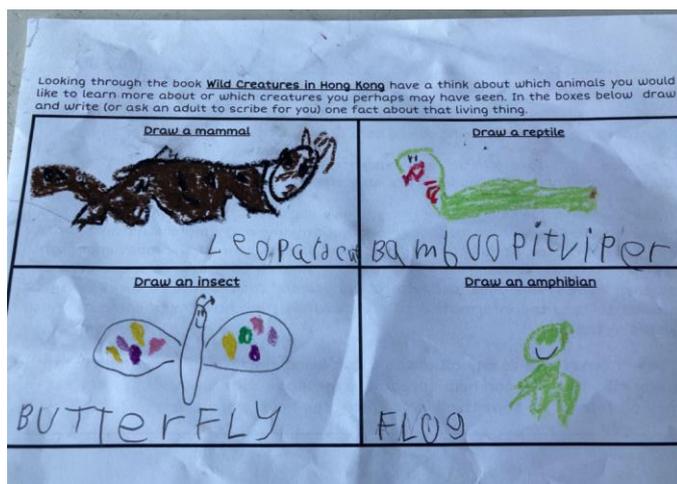
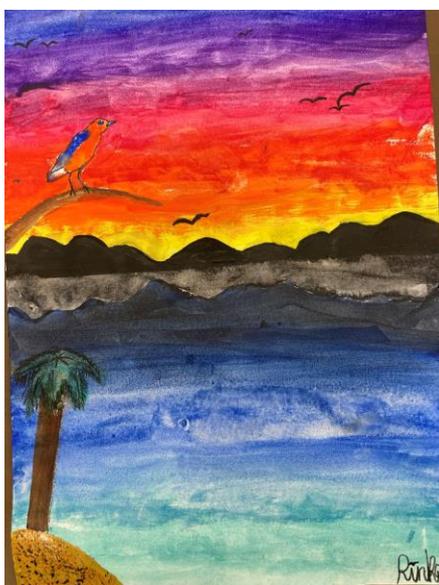
Friday Assembly and Challenge – Friday 22nd January 2021

This week in assembly we have continued with the theme of raising awareness of the Hong Kong environment and creatures that live within it. We have asked all classes to complete the activities set up by Fiona Merrill, our school outdoor education lead teacher. The students can use their copy of:

‘Wild Creatures in Hong Kong (vol 1) – by Robert Ferguson as we explore the wonders of Hong Kong reptiles – in particular snakes.

There are a range of creative activities for the students to have a go at which can be found in either a Class Dojo link (Rec – P2) or through Google Classroom in the Friday Challenges of Friday Fun sections (P3 – P6). These can be done today or over the weekend / next few days when students have time.

Last week’s gallery: a big thank you to all the students who sent something in or uploaded their work. This is just a few.



Reception Class interviews – this week, Monday 18th – Wednesday 20th at JIS

Reception class interviews went well this week and we hosted a range of students in small groups at school. We have offered some students a place in the school to join us in August and have some spaces to review over the coming months. If there are new applications for students born in 2017 we can consider them too.

We fully appreciated that these children had not been able to attend kindergarten for many months and many have been in a home environment only. This was built in to our planning and consideration of the students that we met as we noted their language skills and their readiness for school in general.



JIS Parents / community presentation from our school counsellor Ms, Ashima Sharma, Thursday 4th February – 7pm

On Thursday 4th February Ashima Sharma will be presenting to our school community to offer advice and support for families during these times of being at home, working online learning and suggesting some mental health welfare strategies. Ashima's presentation will focus on recognising when our young people need help and what we can do as parents and as a school to support them. It should be an interesting session of around 30 mins with some Q&A at the end. Ashima has been working with us to support all members of our community. She is a qualified Educational Psychologist and counsellor and is working at JIS and ICHK, our partner secondary school. Any questions or concerns regarding specific children can be followed up afterward with our Student Support Coordinator Jenny Procter.

Full details for login in to the meeting will be shared next week. Mark the date and time in your calendar. Any questions or inquiries should be directed to Jenny Procter, Student Support Coordinator



International College Hong Kong

ICHK Presentations to share:

Presentation 1: Head of School Toby Newton – Introduction to Secondary School Talk, Tuesday 19th January (P5, P6 parents and other interested JIS families). Follow up message from ICHK this week.

“Thank you to everyone who attended the parent information session about learning at ICHK this week. Head of School Toby Newton ran the online event, providing fresh insights into our secondary school's curriculum, approaches to learning and some of the context that has informed thinking during the pandemic. Parents were able to hear that, organised into an epistemic apprenticeship, the school's programme is designed to support students in experiencing themselves as strong, confident, impassioned learners. Toby also spoke about the strong community ethos, the values that underpin ICHK, and the means by which the school promotes both character and strong academic achievement.

We are pleased to share the presentation [here](#), for parents who were unable to attend”

Presentation 2: Mentioned last week but worth an hour of your time if you can:

‘Are Screens Eating Childhood?’ – this is a topic close to many of our hearts at this time!

“ICHK Secondary's Director of Technology and Assessment Ross Parker led the talk on how to support children living and learning in the digital age.

The presentation considered some of the many ways that our lives are changing, and included advice on computer usage, social media, along with approaches to digital technology, and the current state of communication technology.

It is an invaluable talk for all parents, and we are pleased to share a recording for those who could not attend.”

You can watch the presentation at <https://bit.ly/3IHn44F>

ICHK Newsletter for this week: [here](#)

Last note: Some positive news I shared in assembly this week – to lift our mood for the weekend.

2020 was difficult and sad but not all bad news!

In 2020 – 48 animal species were saved from extinction

In 2020 the African elephant population in Kenya doubled

In 202 scientists discovered 20 brand new species of animal and plant

In 202 whales were spotted swimming in the Atlantic Ocean for the first time in 100 years



Thanks to Fiona Merrill for sharing the information with all the students and JIS community.

Keep happy, healthy and safe! We look forward to seeing the students again next week.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Simon Walton
Principal