



## Newsletter 25 2020-21

Friday 12th March 2021

Dear Parents and JIS community

### Update on student days in school for next few weeks:

As mentioned in the school newsletter last week, on Wednesday morning I was able to attend a meeting with some of our senior school board members to discuss a variety of topics one of which was the guidelines from Hong Kong Education Bureau about school attendance for students and the current status of the pandemic in Hong Kong.

There is considerable concern that the 3 Japanese schools should not act too quickly as the pandemic is not yet fully under control in Hong Kong. Several HK schools (yesterday 8-10 schools) have had to close in recent days due to close contact outbreaks and there is again a growing number of local COVID cases every day. Japanese Section students will finish for their Spring break holiday this week, so the school board's view is that it is an ideal time to wait and see for a few more weeks, before further decisions are made. So far we have a proven success in keeping the children safe with clear established routines and timetables.

Testing of teachers only in schools to allow students to return daily for the morning session has proven to be a very divisive idea since its suggestion by the HK EDB / HK Govt. Many people feel it is a personal choice to be tested or not as it has important issues related to child care and quarantine procedure concerns for parents, in particular parents of young children. The board members all agreed that the choice for a test or a vaccination should not be mandated by them at this time. We will therefore continue with our present arrangements for the 3 schools for the time being. Many of the teachers have been delighted that vaccinations have been offered to them as a priority group and have made appointments for next week – this may in the near future support schools in working with increased numbers of students.

Setting up a new system of student attendance with HK EDB approval takes around 10 days, so we will bear this in mind. We are aware of what some other schools have done, but have been asked to monitor the city wide situation for now. JIS International Section is part of a dual campus school and as such has to support all the staff of both schools who work in our building. In matters of COVID guidelines or procedures we have to be considered as one school building by HK authorities. We also need to have 100% compliance to satisfy the current criteria. As the International Section of JIS we have time to consider options on adapting our current planning slightly to support the students more. The school leadership team is reviewing changes to the school day, and numbers of students attending, whilst trying to maintain our current routines and keeping our student's well-being as our primary goal. We have been given special arrangements for bringing in our current levels of students each day, so we shall approach our local HK EDB officers again regarding further adaptations to this, whilst still being able to work closely with our colleagues in the Japanese Section. We shall follow up this update with further news in the coming days.

I fully appreciate the variety of opinion in our school community about current arrangements for students attending and we will continue to explore ways of getting as many students into school as possible, whilst respecting those around us and keeping people safe. Our current system works well and is fair to all students, we shall try to adapt it to create increased access. We also hope that HK EDB and others will review current requirements on schools in the near future so that we can potentially get back to normal in the weeks ahead.

As always, many thanks for your support and understanding.

Simon Walton

## Book Week results 2021

Update from Anna Lamont in the library

JIS in total read a total of **926 books**, well exceeding our aim of 800 books. Well done JIS!



The final race was very tight with the winning teams only one book apart...

- In first place we have Reception, P1 and P2 with 319 books! Well done!
- In second place we have P5 and P6 with 318 books.
- Finally, P3 and P4 read 289 books.

However, we were also judging participation and for this category, P3 and P4 were straight out winners with 16 and 15 students respectively, all contributing to the total. Well done P3 and P4. P2 also had a high rate of participation with 13 students. As such, those who participated in these classes will receive a book voucher as their prize.

A few special mentions are as follows:

Taka (P4) - 40 books! Well done Taka.

Kaley (P1)- 37 books

Ian - 37 books

Lizzie - 35 books

Madeleine - 30 books

Malachi - 28 books

Micha - 27 books

Aloysius - 26 books

And considering chapter books take longer to read, the following students also deserve a special mention:

Rio - 18 books

Laila - 14 books

Haruna - 12 books

But a big well done to all those students (and parents!) who participated.

### Donated books and book swap books.

Thanks to everyone who has got involved with the book swap and donations – we shall be arranging the sorting of books for local donations to the schools we have connected with.

Many thanks to Anna Lamont who has been busy on behalf of all the children in arranging and sorting our Book Week activities.

### Re – Schedule – next week will be week 2 of the cycle, March 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Week of cycle
<b>15th</b> Rec /P2, P4, P6	<b>16th</b> P1, P3, P5	<b>17th</b> Rec /P2, P4, P6	<b>18th</b> P1, P3, P5	<b>19th</b> P1, P3, P5	<b>2</b>
<b>22nd</b> Rec /P2, P4, P6	<b>23rd</b> P1, P3, P5	<b>24th</b> Rec /P2, P4, P6	<b>25th</b> P1, P3, P5	<b>26th</b> Rec /P2, P4, P6	<b>1</b> 3 way conference

Inc. 3 Way interviews	Inc. 3 Way interviews	Inc. 3 Way interviews	Inc. 3 Way interviews		week
School Easter holidays					

### School day time changes:

Next week we shall be planning any adaptation for the schedule after the Easter holidays. We have to work within the boundaries set for us by HK authorities but we hope we can develop some flexibility to create increased options. We will make sure all planning is clear before we break for the holidays and is communicated to all the school community.

### 3 Way conferences Students, Parents, Teachers - March 2021 – (22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> March)

You should have received a letter about 3-Way conferences last week. 3- Way conferences will be held during your child's normal time in school, throughout the week 22nd - 25th March, with parents joining in the conference for ten minutes via Google Meet at an allotted time.

As the conferences are only ten minutes from the comfort of your own home or office, our usual booking system will not apply. Each family will be sent a time slot and a link on Monday. Please try your best to attend at your allotted time. If special circumstances prevent you from attending at your scheduled time, please contact your class teacher.

***Each day will be a normal school session for the year groups involved – students will come to school and then sit with class teachers to log on to meet with their parents.*** The class teacher will be released from class to allow time to spend time with parents and students together. The meetings will be for 10 minutes each and by using the school time we can fit in around 13 appointments on each morning, therefore over 2 days each whole class can be managed. Specialist classes will be managed slightly differently, but allow for appointments for some families.

Other JIS staff will be teaching the classes involved in the meetings, so the day will continue as normal.

### JIS Book donations to Philippines – delivered!



This week I received a lovely email from Cong Contreras – our previous JIS school librarian with a set of photos to say a big thank you from the villagers of a small mountain village in the Philippines. Over the last few years Cong and JIS have been supporting some local charities in communities devastated by the typhoons and severe storms. The books we have sent arrived to help enhance the library and reading options for the village children. You may also notice some of the children in the photo wearing JIS school

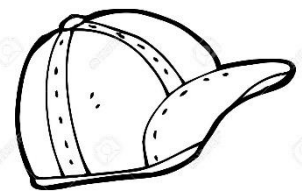


PE shirts – part of a previous delivery of unwanted school uniforms from our school. Many thanks to Cong for the work she started in supporting those in need.



### **No Hat No Play – Everyday! Put a hat in your bag, please.**

As the weather is getting warmer and the sun is getting more intense we shall be asking all students to wear a hat outdoors at all times. We are not trying to be difficult at all but we need to showcase positive sun-smart skills for all the children. Please make sure your child has a hat in their school bag – a school one or one of their own choice (with a name on it!).



### **Covid procedures – please stay vigilant on temp checking**

Please check your child's temperature before they leave the house each morning and record the result on the sheet.

### **JIS Staff Professional Development Day – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March**

Last Saturday we had the opportunity to meet as staff and present a mixture of research and information set up by different groups of teachers during this school year. Our meetings schedule has been somewhat decimated by the pandemic but we have stuck to our targets and managed to undertake some interesting work in reviewing our arts and maths curriculum as well as creating some really interesting planning

documents related to our Outdoor Education programme and our strategies for teaching and learning across all areas of the curriculum.

## **Employment Opportunities at JIS:**

### **School Library Assistant – approx. 3 days per week, term time only, starting mid-April 2021**

JIS is looking to employ a library assistant in our school library from April 2021. Anna Lamont has done a fantastic job for the last year but is moving back to Australia from May 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. If you are interested in getting involved in school life and have energy to share with the students – this could be for you!

The school library assistant is a creative role in managing the library for borrowing and sorting books, inspiring the next generation in a love of reading and liaising with classes for their units of inquiry and research. The role is closely linked to the work of our school curriculum and PYP coordinator who supports and manages the library for our school community. The role is ideal for a parent who wishes to have part time employment and needs to be available to support their family during the school holidays – this role is a term time only position. Hours are flexible but a Friday full day is needed for students to check in and out books for loans. Our library is a very popular space for our students, with a positive working environment and a great view over Tolo Harbour.

A role description is available here: [library assistant](#)

The role is suited to someone who enjoys working with young children, may / may not have experience of working in a school community and has an interest in children's literature or reading. Anna Lamont will be available in April to offer full onsite training and support. The role is based on a commitment of 17.5 hours per week and is paid at \$180 per hour – with an average salary of around \$12,500 for a 4 week month.

Applicants interested in the position are welcome to contact the school at any time for information and should send in a C.V. and short introductory letter to [s-walton@jis.edu.hk](mailto:s-walton@jis.edu.hk) by March 26<sup>th</sup> 2021. We would aim to host some informal interviews in the week of 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021. We look forward to hearing from you.

### **Full time Education Assistant role for August 2021**

Next term we shall also be recruiting for a full time Education Assistant to support the students learning. This role will be full time starting in August 2021 and would suit someone interested in making a commitment to working in a school environment to support a range of student learning activities alongside a class teacher. Full details will be shared in term 3 but if any interested persons would like more information they may contact the school principal on [s-walton@jis.edu.hk](mailto:s-walton@jis.edu.hk) for more details. We aim to do some informal interviews at JIS in April 2021.

Have a really great weekend everyone. We hope the weather improves a bit.

Simon Walton  
Principal