



Newsletter 19 2021-22

Friday 21st January 2022

Dear Parents and JIS community

Week 3, term 2 at JIS:

A big, big thank you to all the JIS community who have connected with the school this week. A great effort by students, staff, parents and the community!

We aim to keep going next week to make sure the students are engaged as much as possible in learning experiences that they enjoy and that fulfill our curriculum. The students have been logging on and finding their sessions and have been really positive about connecting with school and each other. We fully appreciate that this is not easy – so thank you to everyone for making the best of things so far.

We know that running an online learning programme is not going to suit everyone. We have some families who want many hours per day, and some that want a little bit, but not too much. We try to offer a happy medium, whilst keeping school going and maintaining a purposeful curriculum. If you need some advice; please try to get your children to join in the sessions that are presented by teachers and then allow your own judgement on the afternoon or follow on activities. We constantly review our provision and will follow up next week with staff and the community about how things are going.

If your child needs to go outside and have a run around in the afternoons or when they are not online – please take them. Keeping the balance is as important as getting started in the first place.

We are online next week and will finish at the end of the morning on Friday 28th January. We will aim a final farewell and best wishes for the Lunar New Year, spring festival at 12:40 p.m. as a kind of assembly.



Online classes will continue on Monday 24th January – new schedules will be posted by JIS staff.

Please refer to the messages from JIS staff, to get your information about the week ahead.

The school day will start at 8:15 a.m. each morning. The online class lessons will finish around 12:50 p.m. After lunch the students will be able to have a rest or continue with some creative activities. Class teachers will meet with their class at 2:30 p.m. each day to close the school day. On a Wednesday afternoon there will be an assembly with Mr. Walton and next week a farewell at Friday lunchtime to join, if you wish.

Tech support for parents– if you are experiencing difficulties with access or computers borrowed from school – please contact our newly set up email. We can exchange a machine or advise on support:

ithelpdesk@es.jis.edu.hk (I.T. Help Desk for JIS community)

We hope everything will continue to go smoothly but of course nothing is guaranteed. We all hope that we can be back at school face to face on Monday 7th February, but we shall have to wait and see.

Welcome to Joseph Dandan

We are delighted to welcome our new I.T. manager this week. Joseph Dandan has joined us to replace Mr Wa (left HK for Canada, last term) to support the students and staff in accessing all aspects of computing



Thanks Reception class – great to have you involved with us all.

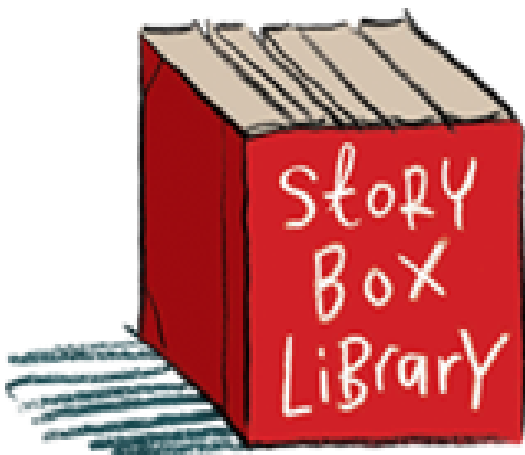
Keeping your children reading and linked to our library staff

JIS Library: Online Listening and Reading - an update from Mr. Floyd

We at JIS Library want to instill good reading habits and make it easy for students to read for entertainment, relaxation and learning. Even while the libraries are closed, students can borrow books at any time.

JIS Library is subscribed to two online digital libraries, Story Box and Sora. Please see read on for more information:

What is Story Box Library?



We'd like you to think of Story Box Library as an online "reading room". It's a place where the wonderful world of Children's Literature is on permanent exhibit and children can connect, engage and be inspired when they watch a range of celebrated stories read aloud by wonderfully engaging storytellers.

Story Box Library provides a vibrant, interactive experience via a diverse range of everyday storytellers, actors, comedians, sports people, musicians, artists, authors and children with varying accents and from different cultures, each sharing past and present book titles. The result is meaningful, entertaining readings that focus on both teller and tale.

Is Story Box Library suitable for children of all ages?

Story Box stories have been selected with children of primary school age. Stories are categorised by age categories. Perfect for Reception up to P3, though there are books available here right up to P6 age. Please use the filters available to curate a suitable collection.

How to log in?

Go to: <https://storyboxlibrary.com.au/login>

Email/Username: JISLibrary

Password: JISLibrary

Should you have any issues with logging on, please send me an email at fsamarakkody@es.jis.edu.hk

What is Sora?

Sora is an app that provides access to digital library resources by Overdrive via your laptop, phone or tablet. JIS Library belongs to the Hong Kong Schools Consortium that shares a great collection of e-books and audio books.

Students can borrow three books at a time and put another three books on hold. You can also use Sora to connect to any other digital library that is run by Overdrive and that you are a member of e.g. Hong Kong Public Library.

Sora is suitable for students from P3 to P6, although there are books within the collection which may be suitable for younger ages too.

How to log in?

Go to <https://soraapp.com/welcome> or download Sora from the App Store.

Click on “My School is a Hong Kong Schools”

Select Japanese International School (English Section)

Sign in with school email.

Students should be familiar with Sora.

Should you have any issues with logging on, please send me (Floyd Samarakkody) an email at fsamarakkody@es.jis.edu.hk



Student Support services – next two weeks during online learning

Unfortunately during the upcoming period of online learning visiting specialists including Abi Chan, Speech and Language Therapist and Cheryl Liu, Occupational Therapist both from SPOT Children's Therapy Centre and our own school counsellor Ashima Sharma will not be able to see students face to face in school. Please contact Abi and Cheryl directly to arrange to see them in their Kowloon Bay clinic if this works for your family. Ashima is happy to see students at her own private clinic or online, again please contact her directly. Additionally, Ashima will have weekly 'drop in' sessions for our older students on Google Meets.

Please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

Jenny Procter

jprocter@es.jis.edu.hk

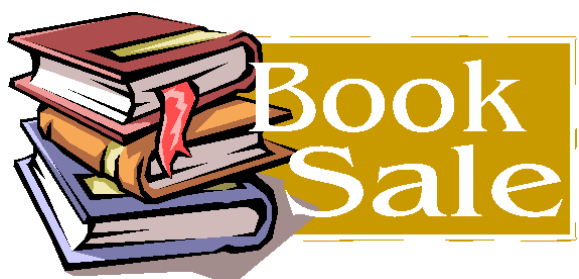
Contacts:

abi.chan@spot.com.hk

cheryl.liu@spot.com.hk

asharma@es.jis.edu.hk

ESSPA Book Sale now postponed– sort and recycle your books for other JIS students



Obviously the ESSPA book sale will have to be postponed for a few weeks.

Thank you to everyone who has dropped off some books at the main school entrance. We can store them safely for a few weeks. By all means drop off books if you have done some sorting – but if you get a wet, boring afternoon in the CNY holidays, maybe do some sorting!

Reception class interviews for August 2022 change of date: repeat message

We hope to host our annual interview sessions for our new Reception class on Monday February 14th – Wednesday 16th 2022, if schools are open and visitors are allowed. Families wishing to apply for interview can still contact the school to see if spaces are available. Contact Ms. Sachiyo Miyajima on 2834 3531 for details.

I wish everyone a great weekend. It has been a pleasure to have some fun and busy chats with the children online – for the first time in a very long time, we get to see their faces too - without masks on. Fabulous!

Stay healthy and take care everyone.

Simon Walton
Principal