



## Newsletter 20 2021-22

Friday 28th January 2022

Dear Parents and JIS community

### Week 4, term 2 at JIS:

**We wish all our JIS families a safe and relaxing Chinese New Year holiday next week:**



We live in unusual times but we try to make the best of all possibilities and hope that the Year of the Tiger will bring us positive news and renewed opportunities. We hope the students can take a break from their screens, families can have time together and we all have time to focus on relaxing and recharging, ready for the next phase of term 2.

**Happy New Year everyone!**



### Online classes will continue on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February – new schedules will be posted by JIS staff.

As the HK Govt has now extended the restrictions on face to face classes, we shall return to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February online. The classes will continue online until at least 21<sup>st</sup> February, awaiting a review from the HK Govt and EDB.

All JIS staff have prepared for this scenario and will share full details of their classes with families before the start of next half term. In order to continue the smooth operation of our current home learning programme, all codes and schedules will remain the same. In the afternoons, we are aware that some families are wanting to have more time away from screens and to be outside away from school activities, so our afternoon 2:30 p.m. slots will become 'drop in clinics' on some days to allow flexibility in turning up and also to help target those who need some extra support or intervention. Teachers will share this with the students from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February.

The students (and parents) have done a superb job so far in making sure they are on time and present for lessons – thank you so much for the support. We will evaluate aspects of our afternoons to introduce some visiting speakers and presentations, to broaden the experiences for the students. Full details of these will follow as they are booked.

The superstar sticker was given to ALL JIS students in assembly today.



### HK EDB announcements of face to face classes, vaccinations and all day schooling.

Please refer to an email sent out to all JIS families on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January if you are not aware of the status of all day schooling for JIS students, once a return to school is announced. As JIS has a current agreement and set of guidelines with EDB, we shall be allowed to resume all day classes without students needing to be vaccinated. Vaccination rate of 70% will refer to staff and visitors to the school campus only. Currently the JIS staff are at a 100% vaccination rate.

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

We're resilient, we're adaptable, we're still learning!

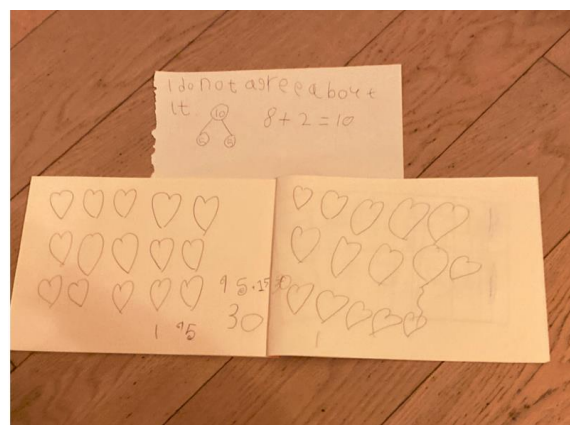


When we first received the announcement of going back to online learning, I'm sure many of you joined me in a massive groan - we would all much rather have the children in school. However, having visited many classes over the last few weeks, I have been bowled over by the resilience and adaptability of all our students and teachers. The situation might be less than ideal, but students are learning with that special JIS enthusiasm and commitment that is part of who we are! Here are a few snapshots across the year groups.

In Reception, students have been exceptionally creative, completing their Unit How We Express Ourselves, with a performance, created from their own ideas. I have been really impressed by how Reception students are able to articulate well-structured and highly imaginative stories.



P1s have been working hard on their language and maths skills. Even though they are not at school, P1 are still expected to engage in critical thinking and explain their reasoning!

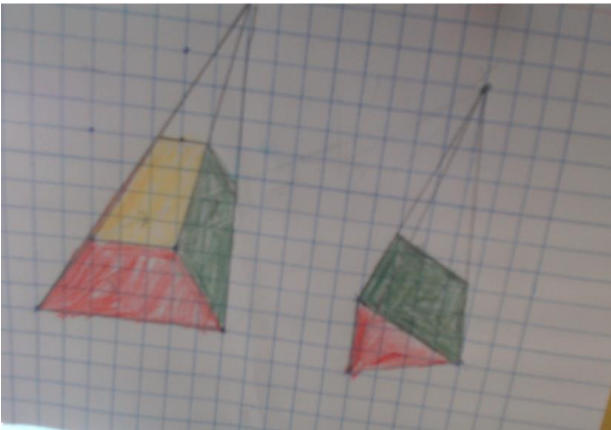
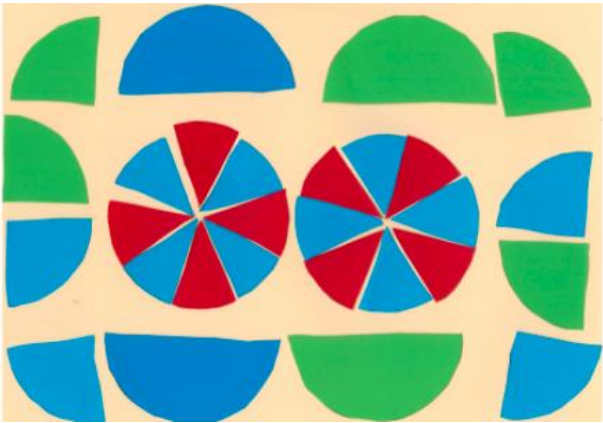




P2s have concluded their unit “How We Organise Ourselves’, thinking carefully about how systems work and transferring their understandings to different contexts:

See Think Wonder		
SEE What do you see?	THINK What do you think is going on?	WONDER What does it make you wonder?
		
<p>I see a system of books. I see books on a shelf. I see a desk. I see pens, pictures and a chair. I think that this is nice because it has loads of systems. I wonder if there is candy in the boxes.</p>	<p>I see snacks on a shelf. The snacks are ordered in colours. The jars are filled with yummy food. I think that the food is yummy. I think this is a good system. I wonder if it's yummy.</p>	<p>I see a system of toys. I see toys on shelves. I think the system is good because you know where the toys are. I wonder if the toys are nice to play with.</p>

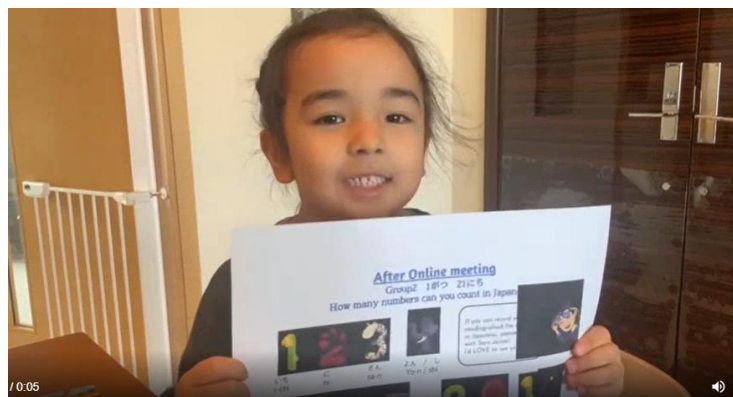
P3’s and P4’s have continued with their unit, How We Express Ourselves. Students have developed their technical art skills such as perspective and shading. They have also been very active developing their mathematical skills in creative ways. P3’s have been engaged in outdoor maths challenges and P4’s have been connecting their understanding of fractions to visual art and music!



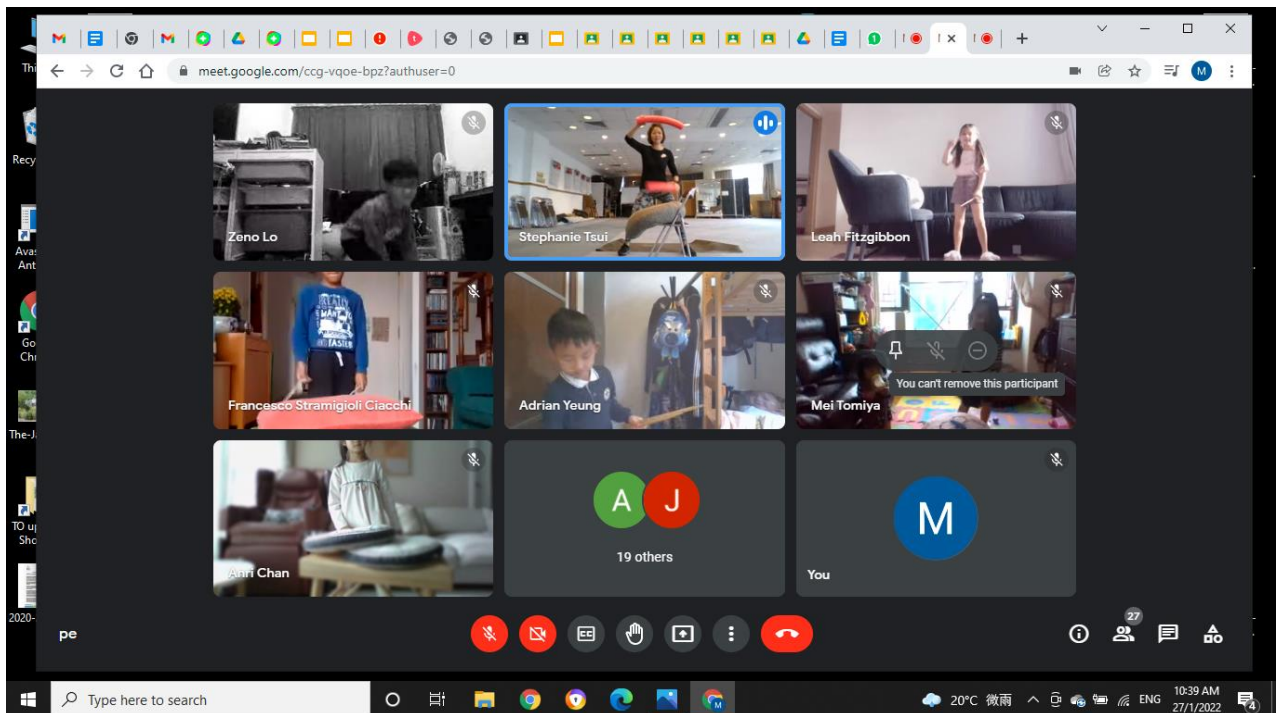
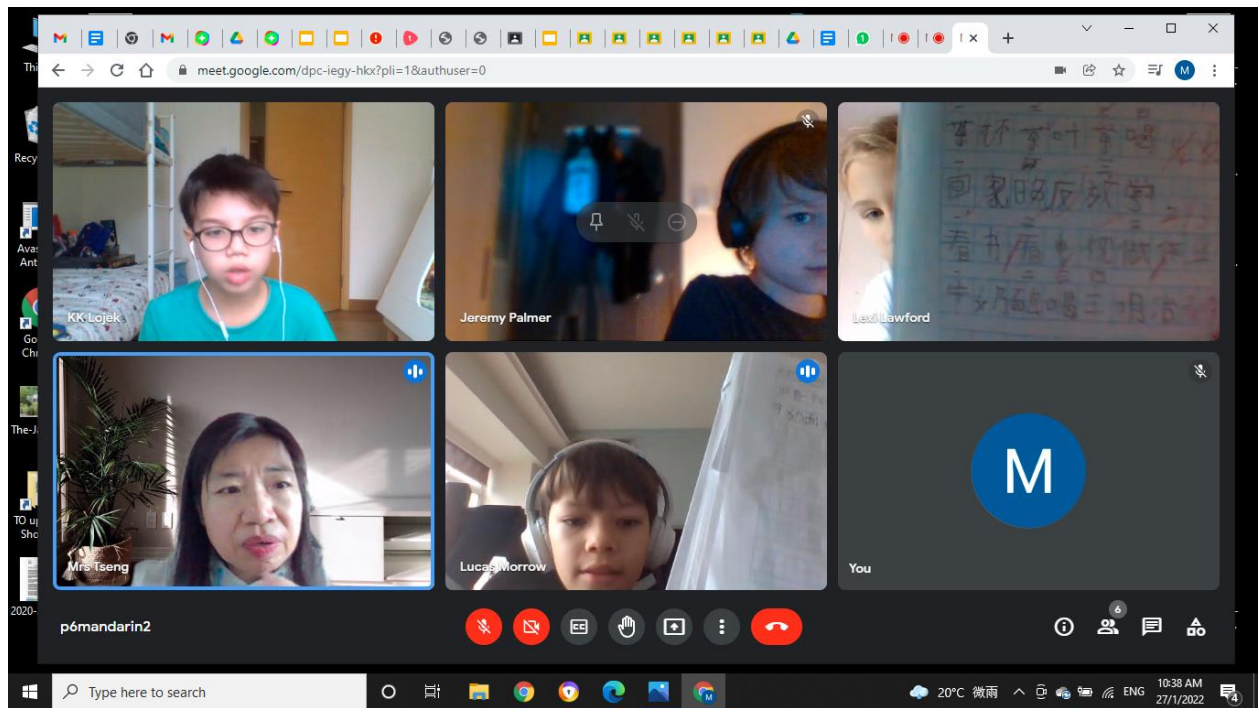
P5 and P6 have continued their How the World Works unit of inquiry, exploring architecture through online virtual tours, applying scientific understandings through creating their own structures and inquiring into environmental impact.



Students in Mandarin and Japanese have been very busy - creating blogs, practicing their reading and writing skills and much, much more! Students are still practicing their music skills and keeping very fit in their PE lessons. I am a big fan of the 'drum fit' sessions!







Many students have chosen to take part in the optional screen free afternoons. Mr. Walton and I have been delighted to see how creative all the students are! These activities are often open ended and can be used at any time. If you need some ideas for the CNY holidays, look back on Toddle (Rec / P1) or in Google classroom (P2 – P6)

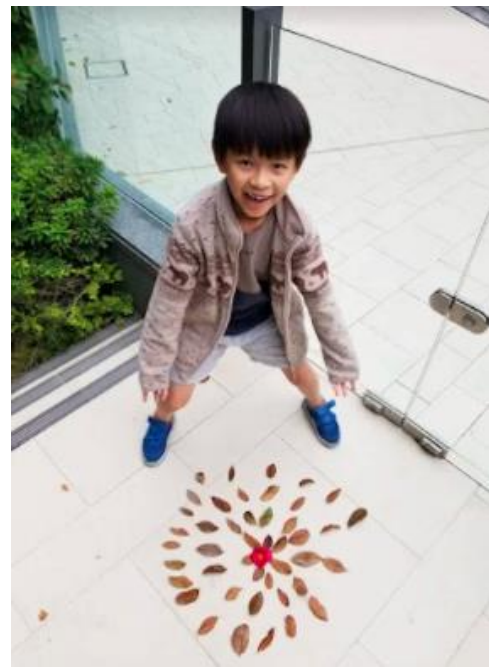
## Awesome Screen Free Afternoons

All these activities are optional...you may have your own screen-free activities which you can enjoy too - that's fine! Any activities that you do, please post here, or send to Mr. Walton or Ms. Wan. You can do the activities more than once if you like. Have fun!

This week's theme: Creative and Kind in the Kitchen











We all really hope to see you in school as soon as we can. Until then, a huge thanks for all your support in helping us help your children.

Have a wonderful Chinese New Year!

Cath Wan.



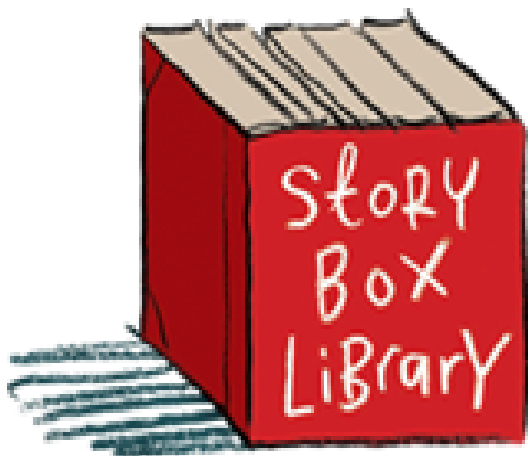
## Keeping your children reading and linked to our library staff – repeat reminder

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:fsamarakkody@es.jis.edu.hk)



### **School reports: Half Year updates on student progress:**

All students attending JIS from August until January will be receiving their half year school reports next week. The final documents are being edited and prepared for sending out as soon as possible. The reports will be sent out through our Toddle system, as recent Unit of Inquiry reports have been shared.

The sudden demands of a new period of online learning meant staff priorities were shifted for a week or so but thanks to their hard work and dedication we should be able to send out the reports to everyone, very soon. My thanks go to all the staff for working late into the evenings and at weekends to hit this new deadline.

Students who have just joined JIS this term will receive a Unit of Inquiry report in due course but not a half year full school report.

### **Student Support services – emotional support and strategies**

As we shall still be online after CNY at least for a short time, our Student Support department strongly encourages families of students who were receiving support from Abi Chan, Speech and Language Therapist or Cheryl Liu, Occupational Therapist to get in touch with SPOT Therapy Centre and try to arrange for students to continue their support. School is happy to accommodate students missing classes in order that they can attend visits to these vital specialists.

[cheryl.liu@spot.com.hk](mailto:cheryl.liu@spot.com.hk)

[abi.chan@spot.com.hk](mailto:abi.chan@spot.com.hk)

Ms Ashima Sharma continues to be available to support any student or family who feel this would benefit them. [asharma@es.jis.edu.hk](mailto:asharma@es.jis.edu.hk) Ms Ashima will be available to meet P5 and P6 students on a weekly basis and others as and when appropriate.

Slideshow link:

Attached below is a link to some useful slides to support wellbeing for our younger students. They have some useful ideas on ways to support a range of emotional challenges:

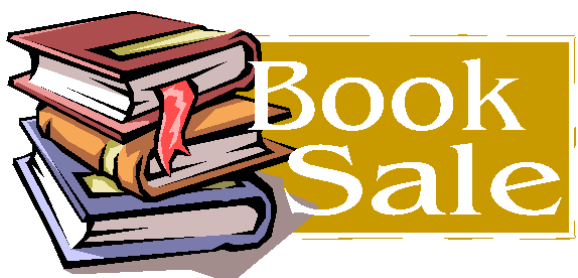
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1uxhmkv7pRybWi1iE-nzSFxxtREPH7ZxG/edit#slide=id.p1>

### **Mother Tongue Week Monday 21st February – story tellers needed**

As part of our celebrations of our many languages at JIS we are seeking parent volunteers to read aloud to students on Wednesday 23rd February 2022 in their mother tongue. Whether we are back in face to face school or still online this will be an online arrangement. Please contact Jenny Procter to find out more or volunteer. It would be wonderful to have a range of languages.

[jprocter@es.jis.edu.hk](mailto:jprocter@es.jis.edu.hk)

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



Obviously the ESSPA book sale has been 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 already – but if you get a wet, boring afternoon in the CNY holidays, maybe do some sorting!

**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. Joseph our I.T manager will be glad to help:

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

Stay healthy and take care everyone.

Simon Walton

Principal