



Newsletter 22 2021-22

Friday 18th February 2022

Dear Parents and JIS community

Week 7, term 2 at JIS:

We hope everyone is managing to stay healthy and safe. Difficult times but we aim to make the best of it.

School update: Lifting the gloom by focusing on the positive things going on and the diversity of work from the JIS students going on around us!

With a week of gloomy news around the city and some cold and damp weather, it is a good opportunity to get positive and consider some of the great things going on around us. A big thank you to all the students who continue to turn up to their online classes and try to make the best of it. There is still some excellent commitment to what is being offered as many of the students continue to finish off activities, once they are off screen and turn in some excellent work. We are working hard to connect with the students who are struggling to hand in work or not finish it – to find out why and to offer support where we can. Let's hope we can keep going next week.



The JIS community survey – thanks for feedback:

We know that planning an online experience to suit all families and students is impossible, so we have always aimed for a positive balance. Your feedback helps us move forwards, so we have had a few staff conversations already about ways to adapt the programme whilst also building on what is going well.

Many thanks to those parents who filled out our community questionnaire survey during the week. It is very useful for us to find out how people are generally managing the current period of online learning and also where you feel we can support more or keep developing the bits that are working well so far. In the comments sections, many people gave us some direct ways to help, as well as sharing their appreciation of the work that is going on so far and the ways staff are genuinely trying to motivate and interact with the students. Of course we all see things from our own perspectives and sometimes these may or may not be universal.

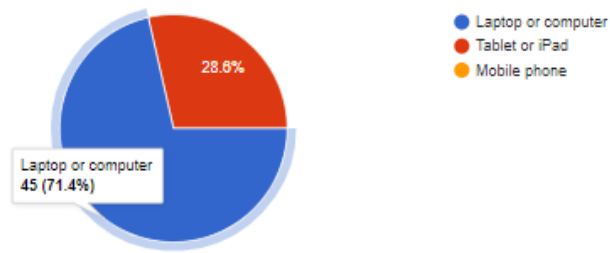
We do fully appreciate that some families are struggling with home environments as a place for school work, WFH location for adults and a social environment for families – all at the same time! It is not easy, but it is the current situation we find ourselves in so we will continue to try to find the best ways forward.

We are responding to many direct calls for help, so please let us know – if it is technology related, information or clarity related, or just emotional support you may need or you feel that your child needs.

The responses to the survey questions show the following data:

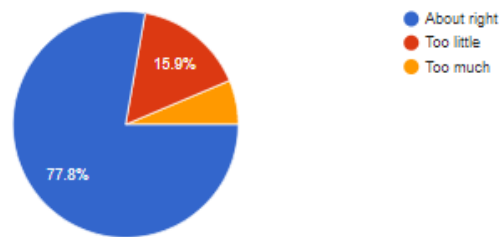
What device does your child mainly use for their online schoolwork?

63 responses



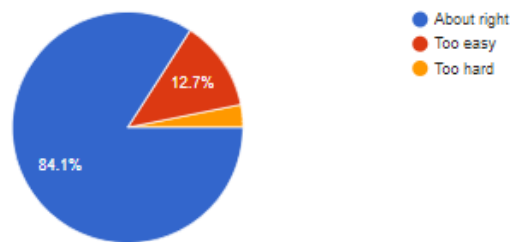
Do you think the amount of work your child is being given is:

63 responses



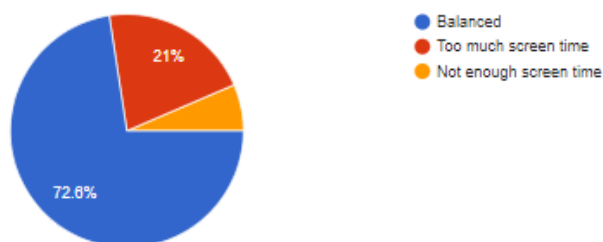
The work my child has been given is:

63 responses

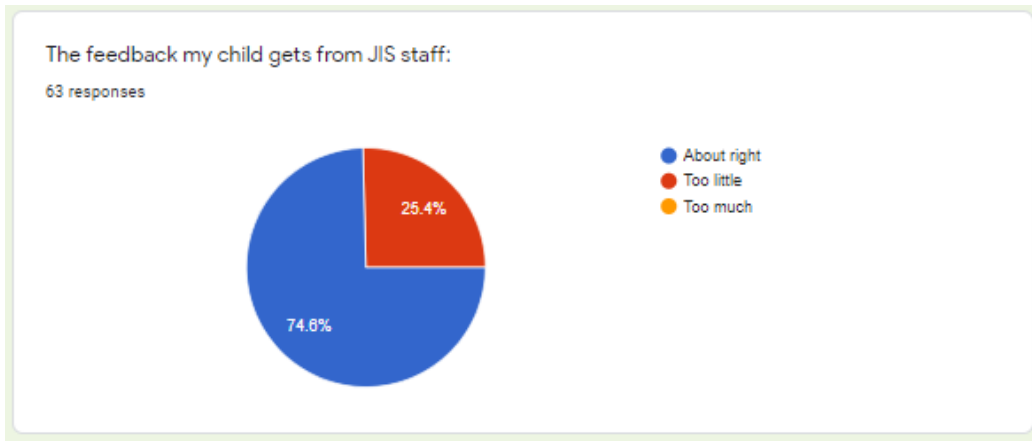


The work achieves a balance of on screen and off screen activities:

62 responses

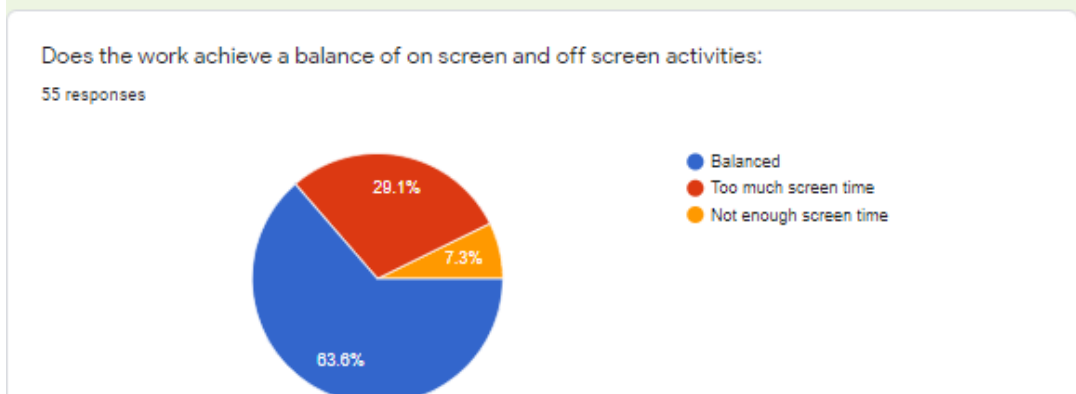
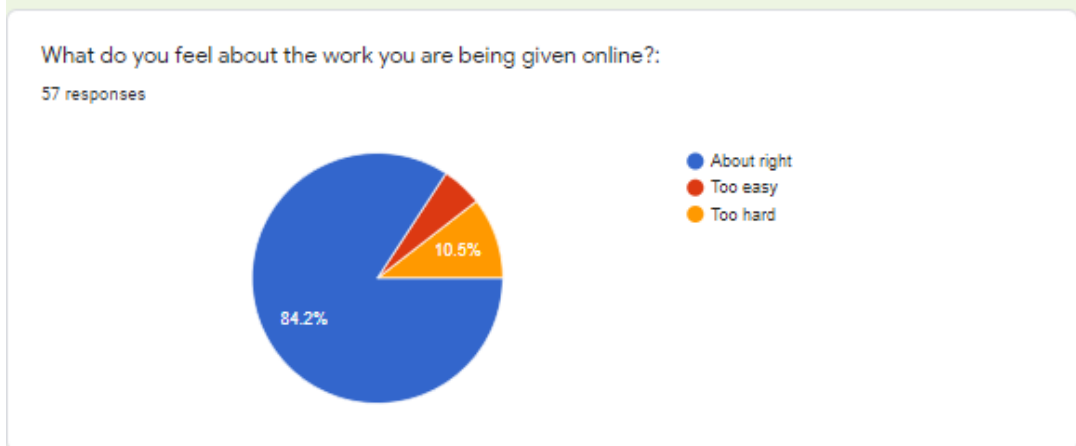
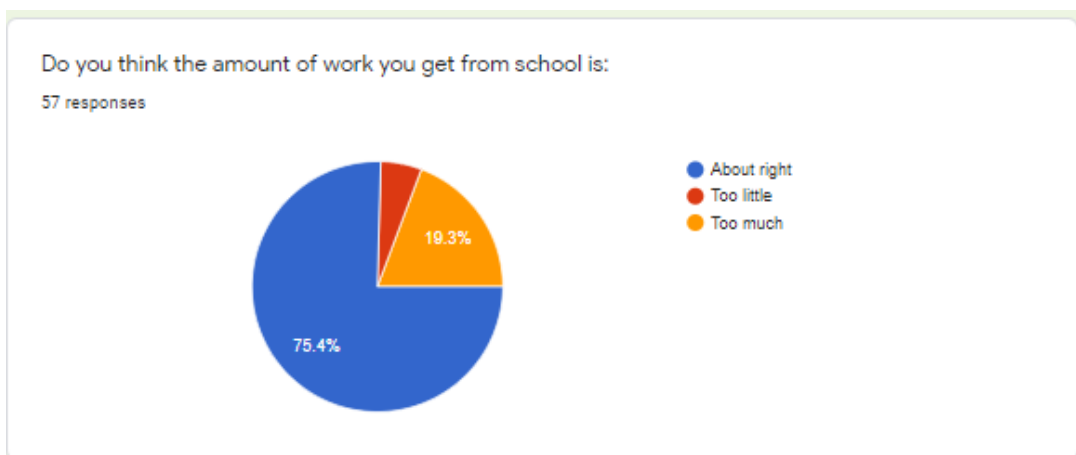


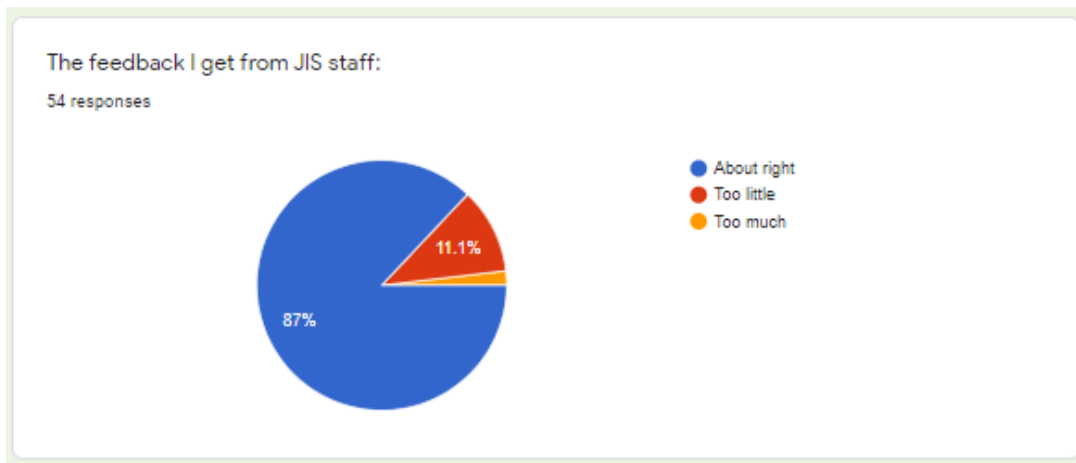
Screen time is a very personal and prominent issue with different opinions for different families. This is why we actively encourage students to move away from their screens at regular intervals and have made some activities optional in the afternoons. Yet we still need to directly engage with the students to teach specific things as well – it is a balance that we aspire to achieve.



The students also did a survey as an activity (P2 – P6) and Mr. Walton will follow up with some of the younger students in chat sessions in one of their meetings next week:

This is how the students responded to the same questions – an interesting comparison.





The students gave some very insightful comments about needing online classes for social interactions and the fact that they miss their friends a lot – we are very aware of this and will look to build in some more social activities where possible (especially as we now have the ‘two household only rule’ in HK). There is also the balance between online and offline – we want the children to get away from screens, but we also need them to engage in direct teaching and learning. It is a tricky balance! Lots of the students were very complimentary about their online programme and enjoy it. Some want more, some want less but we do notice that many students are not always so keen to complete activities as offline tasks as they are when in a group with classmates and teachers.

Thanks again to everyone for the input and please note that we shall continue to use the information in the weeks ahead.

JIS resources delivery and collection:



Many thanks to everyone who connected with a bus or made a trip into school to collect the resources for the students and their online learning programme. We will try to keep the students motivated at home with some new activities and resources as the time develops.



If you have not yet collected your child’s resources, please check with the school office on 28343531 about collecting next week. Some of the resources will be needed by the students in group or individual activities in the coming days, so please collect.

Library Books – collection and delivery from JIS – 4 books each fortnight

In previous online learning sessions we have been able to arrange for library books to be ordered and prepared for students. Some of you will be familiar with the order form and the procedures; for new families you will see below a link to an order form that can be completed for library books. Students can order 4 books and we shall be offering bus delivery or collection from school every 2 weeks. The dates and schedule is in the chart below. Please be aware of the dates for the form as finding and organizing potentially 4 books for over 150 children is a huge task. Thanks to Mr. Floyd and Cath Wan for coordinating this for us.



The form for delivery is here: <https://forms.gle/suycvRKYkvQPxCcN7>

Dates for library books to be aware of: Forms completed by Monday 21st February for week 1.

Order form out:	Request form needs to be filled in by	Books will be available for collection/ school bus drop off
Friday 18th February	Monday 21st February	Thursday 3rd March
Friday 4th March	Monday, 7th March	Thursday 17th March

If you have any questions, please contact our librarian Floyd Samarakkody on: fsamarakkody@es.jis.edu.hk

Voices for the Planet 2022 – competition to get involved in if you would like:



In assembly this week Mr, Walton introduced a new competition for any student to get involved with – especially our HK wildlife fans.

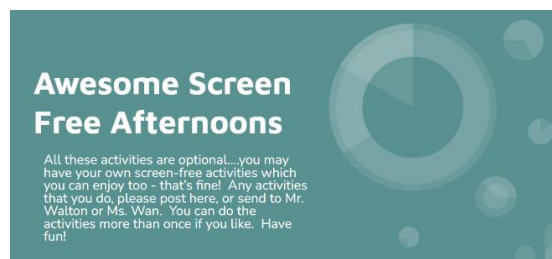
There are several ways to get involved with the competition: wildlife art poster, wildlife story, music video, photography and singing a song.

Here is a link to the competition website:

<https://www.lumivoce.org/voices-for-the-planet-2022>

Awesome Afternoons: activities available to all

Many students have chosen to take part in the optional screen free afternoons. Ms. Wan has 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 afternoons or weekends, look back on Toddle (Rec / P1) or in Google classroom (P2 – P6) and let your kids get inspired.



Student Support services – emotional support and strategies for students

As we shall now be online for an extended 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

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 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.pl>

Random Acts of Kindness week – this week at JIS

This week it was world ‘Random Acts of Kindness Day’ on Thursday 17th February. We followed this up with messages and activities about kindness all week. We hope it showed at home with some nice acts or deeds being done by the children. Let me know if you had a positive experience!



Mother Tongue Week: Monday 21st February – story tellers, thanks to our volunteers, so far.

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. There will be a range of different options for students in Wednesday assembly next week. Thanks to the parents who have contacted us so far – we would love to hear from some more people. 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

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

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

School Uniform Shop update:

RE: Retail Shop Operation Hours in February 2022

With high number of Covid-19 infections, the operation hour of Lai Chi Kok retail shop has been changed as below:

Opening time: 10:00-17:00 (Mon to Fri)

Shop is closed on **Saturday** & Sun and Public Holiday

In order to lessen the possibility of Covid-19 infections, we suggest parent purchase the uniform through the online shop and then your order will be delivered within 3-5 working days.

www.jis.ufsonline.com.hk

Online 3 Way Conferences with JIS students, Parents and Staff – online this year:

Advance date warning – on Tuesday 8th and Thursday 10th March we shall be hosting our 3 Way Conferences meetings online. All JIS staff will be meeting with parents on these days and appointment request forms will be sent out very soon. Students will be given some creativity / awesome afternoon tasks to do on these days to allow staff to be free to attend meetings.

Wishing everyone a very safe and healthy weekend

Simon Walton
Principal

