

Welcome back!



## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2024 | VOL 1

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**5TH SEPTEMBER 2024**

PRIMARY SCHOOL SEMINAR  
(FOR LK/UK FAMILIES)

**18TH SEPTEMBER 2024**

THE DAY FOLLOWING  
MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL  
(PUBLIC HOLIDAY)

**1ST OCTOBER 2024**

NATIONAL DAY  
(PUBLIC HOLIDAY)

**7TH-11TH OCTOBER 2024**

CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL  
(PUBLIC HOLIDAY)  
AND  
MID-TERM BREAK  
(SCHOOL HOLIDAY)

**16TH OCTOBER 2024**

SEASONAL FLU VACCINATION  
(FIRST DOSE)

### HEAD OF SCHOOL MESSAGE

by Ms Kitty Ho

Welcome back to the 2024/2025 academic year. We hope that you all had a wonderful and rejuvenating summer. It is hard to believe that the Summer break has flown by already.

Since the commencement of our school's first term in August, we have been delighted to see our students enthusiastically settling into their classrooms. It brings us immense joy to witness children making new friends and engaging in fun and meaningful learning experiences. This month marks the start of their unit learning and we look forward to seeing all of our children thrive and grow thereby achieving their full potential during their time at PIPS.

The year of 2024 holds particular importance, as it marks the 35th anniversary of PIPS. Over the past three and a half decades, we have been honoured to provide a warm and enriching environment for countless families. Reaching this tremendous milestone would not have been possible without the continued support of all of our students' families over the years. On behalf of our school board, management and teaching teams, we would like to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to each and every one of you.

We will shortly be kicking off a year-long celebration with special events and activities along the way. Stay tuned for more information as we look forward to what will surely be an amazing year.



## Transition by Ms Indira

We are delighted to welcome our students back and facilitate a smooth transition into the new school year. From our Under 2s class to Upper Kindergarten, the children are becoming familiar with their daily routines and forming positive connections with their teachers and peers.

In the Under 2s class, our youngest learners are discovering what it means to go to school through engaging sensory activities. Guided by our exceptional Under 2s teachers, they will explore various themes that provide insights into the world around them, with the support of their caregivers. Pre-nursery children are gradually gaining the confidence to attend school independently, with our experienced teachers providing essential guidance as they navigate a range of emotions during this sensitive period. It's heartwarming to see the smiles on their faces as they leave school after a day filled with fun learning!

The Nursery, Lower, and Upper Kindergarten classes have kicked off their unit-based learning. As an inquiry-driven school, we encourage our children to explore concepts and ideas, making meaningful connections to their own experiences. By providing them with choice and voice, we aim to foster a sense of ownership in our children's learning. We deliver this through our authentic learning environment where children feel safe and welcomed. Children have the freedom to explore the multiple learning areas on offer throughout the day.

Our learning approach incorporates a variety of engaging methods, including:

- Storytelling
- Circle & Reflection time
- Role-play
- Music
- Construction play
- Art & sensory activities
- STEAM projects
- Physical Education

We begin the year with the Transdisciplinary Theme of Who We Are, focusing on nurturing meaningful relationships and understanding the consequences of their actions - a great starting point for the year. We eagerly anticipate a year filled with exciting learning experiences and personal growth as our students and teachers embark on this wonderful journey together!



## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

### **School Hours**

The main door opens at 8:25am for the morning session and 12:25pm in the afternoon. Please do not send your children to school too early. Dismissal time will be 11:30am for the morning session, 3:30pm for the afternoon session. Please try to encourage your child to be on time when coming to school. Punctuality is an important lesson for children to learn, and also conveys to your child that school is important.

### **Typhoon and Rainstorm Arrangement**

The weather in Hong Kong can be quite unpredictable! In case of bad weather conditions such as typhoons and rainstorm warnings in force, please refer to our weather policy in the Parent's Handbook and check for announcements from the Education Bureau or the Hong Kong Observatory.

### **Student Card**

To ensure the security and safety of your child, parents or guardians must present the student card before picking up their child from school. In the absence of this, the parent or guardian will be required to show his or her ID card and sign a collection form at the office.

### **Car Park**

For those who drive your child to school, please park your car in the car park next to the supermarket and bring your child to the classroom. Please do not park your car next to the front entrance as the lay-by is reserved for school buses. Please remember to bring your parking ticket and we can stamp it for reimbursement. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

### **Clothing**

We recommend that children wear their PIPS uniform except on special occasions. Our uniform allows your child to feel a part of the school while also expressing their personality and preferences through choice of colour. Accidents can happen so please keep a spare set of clothes in your child's school bag. Shoes should be comfortable and safe, with an elastic or velcro strap to help your child to develop their independence. Please mark all clothing, bags, hats and shoes with your child's name to avoid any mix-ups.



## IMPORTANT REMINDERS

### **Safety & Hygiene**

Kindly record your child's temperature on the temperature booklet. Children are also required to take temperature upon arrival at school in the Reception area. Please do not send your child to school if they are ill. If your child develops any symptoms at school, parents will be notified and the child may need to be collected early. Please keep 2 face masks in your child's school bag to protect the children from minor symptoms.

### **Personal Information**

Please let our teachers know about any changes in your routine at home as these can dramatically affect children's behaviour and wellbeing. By letting us know, we will be able to help your child to deal with situations such as a new sibling, a short or lengthy absence of a parent, moving to a new home, the illness or death of a family member, friend or pet, etc. This information will be considered privileged and will remain strictly confidential.

Please notify our school office if you have a change of address, phone number, email address, new helper, or authorised pick-up person. It is important for us to have current information to best serve your child. We also need to be advised of changes to the ones you listed as emergency contacts on your admission form.

### **Seesaw Platform**

Every week your child's class teachers will share observations, images/clips of your child's progress in the class on the online platform, Seesaw. This is our primary means of communication with parents.

Seesaw is a widely used, user-friendly online learning platform which helps teachers to record, track and celebrate children's progress on their learning journey. Important reminders about the class and school will also be shared on the platform. You can also leave notes to our teachers and they will respond to your message during their preparation time. **For any urgent messages, i.e., late pick-up, please call the school directly instead.**

Our teachers have already sent messages inviting parents to the platform. Should you have difficulty getting connected, please let us know.

Once set up, you will be able to access these pictures at any time and be able to download them or forward them to relatives. We kindly request that you are sensitive about group pictures and do not upload these to any social media sites. Thank you.

## #PIPS NEWS

### Extra Curricular Activities

Our school offers a wide range of extracurricular activities on weekdays and Saturdays. Applications for classes starting at the beginning of September are now open. Please collect a leaflet from our front office. All applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, so make sure to apply **HERE** as soon as possible to guarantee your place!



Sign up today!



**EXTRA-CURRICULAR  
ACTIVITIES**  
2024 - 2025 Term 1

Contact us with any queries and reserve your place today!

PIPS Hong Kong,  
Tower 18, Parkview,  
88 Tai Tam Reservoir Road

pipsinfo@pips.edu.hk  
(852) 2812 6023





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Open Day**

We will be hosting our Open House for prospective families on Saturday, 21st September. If you have any friends who would like to know more about the PIPS family, please let them know about the event.

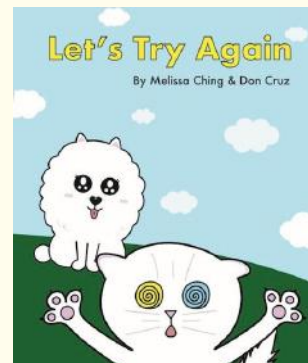
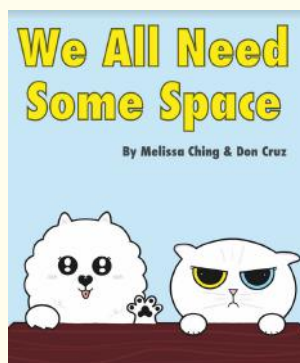
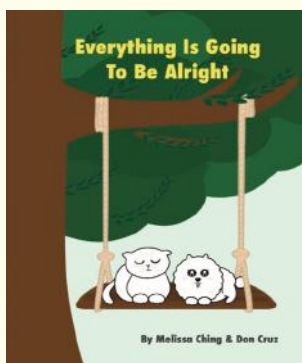
### **Character Day - Thursday, 31st October**

This year's Character Day will be held on Thursday 31st October 2024 (or Wednesday 30th October for our U2's class). All students and teachers can dress up as their favourite character on this special day to play trick or treat.

### **Children's Book - "Let's Try Again"**

Our PYP Coordinator at the Kowloon campus, Mr Don Cruz, has now released a third storybook co-created with his wife. The book continues the adventures of Cotton and Maui, who are based on their own pet cat and dog. 'Let's Try Again' showcases Cotton's appreciation for independent play, while Maui discovers the happiness of working together and the fun-filled memories formed through shared setbacks. The books are available for purchase at:

<https://cottonandmaui.com/>



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Primary School Seminar (For LK/UK families only)**

We are delighted to welcome the Principal of Shrewsbury International School Hong Kong, Mr Ben Keeling, to conduct an information session for PIPS families.

During the session, Mr Keeling will be addressing common misconceptions and the uniquely diverse school sector in Hong Kong, as well as discussing the strengths, advantages and general differences associated with school selection.

**Date: Thursday 5th September 2024**

**Time: 9:00 - 10:00am**

**Venue: PIPS Kowloon, Podium Level, Kowloon Station**

A promotional poster for a Primary School Seminar. The main image shows a group of young children in white t-shirts and blue shorts, some holding small green plants, standing on a stage. Behind them, a large screen displays 'Congratulations!' with a graduation cap icon, 'PIPS Class of 2023', and the PIPS logo. To the right of the main image, there is a smaller PIPS logo, the Shrewsbury International School Hong Kong crest and name, and a portrait of Ben Keeling, Principal of Shrewsbury Hong Kong. At the bottom, the event details are listed: 'Thursday, 5th September 2024' and 'PIPS Kowloon, Podium Level, Kowloon Station'. The text 'Primary School Seminar' is written in a large, white, cursive font, and 'for parents considering the benefits of an international education' is written in a smaller, yellow, sans-serif font below it.

*Congratulations!*  
PIPS  
Class of  
2023



&



SHREWSBURY  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL  
HONG KONG



*Ben Keeling, Principal  
of Shrewsbury  
Hong Kong*

**Thursday,  
5th September  
2024**

PIPS Kowloon,  
Podium Level,  
Kowloon Station

**Primary School  
Seminar**

**for parents considering the benefits of  
an international education**

## **PARTNERSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

We are excited to share with you that we will continue our partnership with **Shrewsbury International School** and strengthen our bond with the below international primary schools, providing PIPS graduates a seamless transition into the primary programme.

- **German Swiss International School - German International Stream (the Peak)**
- **Hong Kong Academy (Sai Kung)**
- **Australian International School (Kowloon Tong)**
- **YMCA Christian Academy (Sheung Wan)**

For the LK/UK families, if you are interested in learning more about these primary schools, please do not hesitate to contact your PYPC and we are happy to introduce you to the respective Admissions Team for further information.

