



## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2023 | VOL 1

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**7TH SEPTEMBER 2023**

PRIMARY SCHOOL SEMINAR  
(FOR LK/UK FAMILIES)

**2ND OCTOBER 2023**

THE DAY FOLLOWING  
NATIONAL DAY  
(PUBLIC HOLIDAY)

**16TH OCTOBER 2023**

SEASONAL FLU VACCINATION  
(FIRST DOSE)

**23TH-27TH OCTOBER 2023**

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

### HEAD OF SCHOOL MESSAGE

by Ms Kitty Ho

A warm welcome to all our students, old and new, for the start of the 2023/2024 academic year! The summer has flown by! I hope you all managed to indulge yourselves with some much earned rest and relaxation!

Since school commenced in August the children have been seamlessly settling into their classrooms. It brings us immense joy to see the children coming to school with enthusiasm, making new friends, and engaging in fun and meaningful learning experiences. This month marks the beginning of their unit learning, and we look forward to seeing all of our children thrive, grow, and achieve their full potential at PIPS.

Since this is the first newsletter of the academic year, you may notice it's a little bulkier than usual and contains a few more important reminders which we would like to share with you. So, sit back, relax and grab yourself a cup of coffee!

Happy reading!



## **Transition by Ms Indira**

Welcome back to a new school year! After the summer break, teachers, children and parents are ready for the new school year!

Beginning a new school year is a significant change for all, and it can be difficult, whether your child is returning or new to the school. It's a time when we meet new people, adjust to new routines and classrooms. As we all get to know each other, relationships are formed between the school, families, teachers, and students. Establishing better understanding and communication will create a nurturing environment for our children to develop and flourish.

Our school's first few weeks of a new school year are crucial for students and their families. Our teachers have organised some helpful activities to make the transition easier for children and parents. These activities will allow children to get to know each other and the school better and help everyone adjust to the new routines and classrooms. These activities will make this time of change and adaptation smoother for everyone involved.

Our teachers had sent out welcome emails and introductory videos to all students at the beginning of the year, and we held a Meet The Teachers' Day event where families could visit classrooms and meet their teachers. The event was quite eventful, with teachers busy talking to the children and their families. It was the perfect opportunity for parents and caregivers to get to know their children's teachers and see how their children's classrooms. The feedback we received from families was overwhelmingly positive, which made us all feel proud of our teachers and their efforts to connect with the students and their families.

For our Pre-Nursery level, we planned a transition period for the children, during which we gradually extended school hours. This is because, for most Pre-Nursery children, it is their first experience of attending school without the presence of their parents or caregiver. We aim to help them feel more comfortable and confident in their new environment by easing them into longer school days.

Regarding our older children, their teachers have organised various in-class activities to help them get to know their classmates and people in the school community better. Some class activities include going on a school tour with their teachers and classmates and playing ice-breaker games.

We are off to a great start. Let's make it a successful year through collaboration and participation as much as possible.



## **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.**

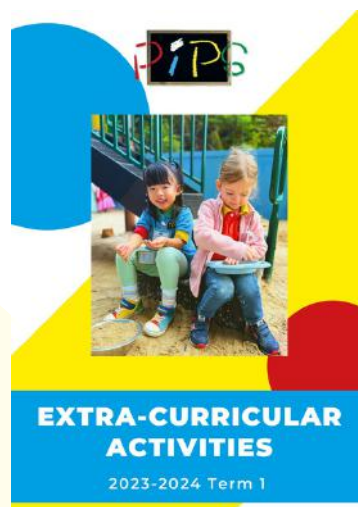
Our teachers have already sent messages inviting parents to the platform. Should you have difficulty getting connected, please let us know.

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!



### Minisport

The Minisport programme is based on research from top universities and athletics associations. They use a comprehensive approach that teaches a wide range of fundamental ball and gross motor skills, aiming to enhance children's physical and mental development with fun and engaging games.

This year, PIPS will be providing weekly Minisport sessions for Pre-nursery, Nursery and Lower & Upper Kindergarten students within our weekly timetable.

In addition, Minisport are offering the following exclusive discount codes to PIPS students. Take a look **HERE!**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Open Day**

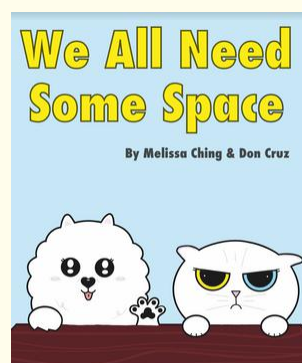
We will be hosting our Open Day in October for both campuses. If you have any friends who would like to know more about the PIPS family, please let them know about the event.

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

This year's Character Day will be held on Tuesday 31st October 2023 (or Monday 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 - "Everything Is Going To Be Alright"**

Our PYP Coordinator at the Kowloon campus, Mr Don Cruz, has now released a second 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. In this adorable story, the characters reflect on the time Cotton moved into a new environment with Maui. Once again, the story aids children to focus on social awareness through relatable situations similar to school or home. The books are available for purchase at the Kowloon campus or find out more from their website <https://cottonandmaui.com/>



## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

With so many international school options available to parents, we have invited Mr. Ben Keeling, highly respected educationalist to help parents navigate the Primary school sector.

During his presentation he shall discuss differences in curriculum, provide parents invaluable tips and tricks when choosing a school and address questions at the end.

**Title: Choosing the right-fit Primary School**

**Date: Thursday 7th September 2023**

**Time: 09:00 - 10:00am**

**Location: PIPS Kowloon**

A promotional poster for a Primary School Seminar. The main image shows a group of children and adults on a stage, with a large screen behind them displaying 'Congratulations! PIPS Class of 2023'. The text on the poster includes the event title 'Primary School Seminar', the question 'Which primary school is the right fit for your child?', the date and time 'Thursday 7th September 2023 09:00-10:00', and the location 'PIPS Kowloon, Podium Level, Kowloon Station'. It also features the PIPS logo, the Shrewsbury International School logo, and a photo of Ben Keeling, Principal of Shrewsbury Hong Kong.

*Congratulations!*  
PIPS  
Class of  
2023

**Primary School Seminar**  
*Which primary school is the right fit for your child?*

PIPS  
&  
SHREWSBURY  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL  
HONG KONG

*Ben Keeling, Principal  
of Shrewsbury  
Hong Kong*

**Thursday 7th  
September  
2023  
09:00-10:00**

PIPS Kowloon,  
Podium Level,  
Kowloon Station

**Scan the QR code to sign up today!**



**SCAN ME**

## **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.

