



# August & September Newsletter



Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a wonderful summer break and are ready for the new school year.

We are very proud to announce that PIPS KLN is now an IB World School. Our school received the full authorisation in June 2016. Once again, thank you to everyone within the PIPS community who has supported us throughout this process.

Our school has appointed Ms. Alison Ku to be the Chinese Coordinator this year. Ms. Alison is a very experienced teacher and very keen on using the IB Curriculum. Ms. Alison has been working in our school for 9 years as a Putonghua teacher. She will work closely with our PYP coordinator, Ms. Katie Langford, to support the development of the IB curriculum in Chinese.

We are very excited to see many familiar faces returning to our school and new children joining us. We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new teachers, Ms. Laura Venezia in UKG/LKG Sea Lions class, Ms. Jasmine Sou in Pre-Nursery Jellyfish class, Ms. Carmen Cheng in Pre-Nursery Penguins class and Ms. Amanda Chen in Nursery Dolphins class.

If you would like to know more about all our staff, please feel free to take a look at what they have written to introduce themselves on the staff notice board located next to the school car park exit.

Our children are now settling into school and we would like to thank you for all your patience and cooperation during the transition period, especially to the Pre-Nursery and new families joining our school. We believe your children will settle very well and enjoy their school life very soon.

Our teachers will share their class news through weekly emails with you and I will share with you more about school developments and events through forthcoming notices and bi-monthly newsletters. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

We look forward to creating a productive and happy year ahead for our little ones!

Yours sincerely,  
Mary Scarborough  
Principal

# Starting School .....



Starting school is one of the most important events in life!! Within the first few weeks, most children will experience some separation anxiety. The degree to which they show their feelings varies, depending upon their personality and previous experiences with separation. Some children approach a new setting enthusiastically while some become upset, cry or cling to their parent when it is time for them to leave. Please try to be particularly patient with them during this time. Separation anxiety usually resolves in time but you can make the experience easier by:

Following a “goodbye” routine. When you need to leave always tell your child you are leaving, give them a kiss and hug and let them know you will be back, then go. Long goodbyes will create more traumas for your child.

Some parents may also experience some sort of separation anxiety themselves, such as feeling guilty about sending the child to school, and feeling upset when the child cries. Please stay calm and positive. Your energy or the way you feel inside will be passed on to your child - they will sense if you are anxious, feel guilty or upset when

you leave. Learn to control your own feelings; your child’s sense of security depends on how you behave. Help your child feel familiar in their new surroundings by talking to them about their experiences. Get excited when you pick them up, make a fuss about coming back and once you leave with them for the day talk about what they can expect the next day when you return them to school. This will reassure your child that you will return, so important since you represent their security!

Accept that you will feel anxious and decide to deal with this anxiety on an emotional level. Whenever you feel anxious about leaving your child or having them leave you, first acknowledge how you feel, then release the feeling or let it go. Once you can acknowledge how you feel and let it go, you will find that your own anxiety will diminish and this will only have a positive effect on what your child is going through.

We are sure with all your patience, support and cooperation, you child will transit smoothly and happily into school life.

# Reminders

## The Partnership between Home and School

We work with our parents as vital partners in educating our children and we value your participation in our school activities. You will find many opportunities for you, as parents, to be involved in the life of the school. For example, no matter how busy you are, we suggest that, on special events such as Parent-Teacher Conference, Family Outing, Christmas Concert or Year End Celebration, you come along to school. Another way you can become involved in school is to volunteer your help on a regular basis, such as to be the class mum or dad. It is important for your child to witness strong positive links between school and home. Your partnership helps us to ensure that we remain a unique community school with a family atmosphere.

## School Hours

The main door will be opened at **8:40am** for the morning session and **12:55pm** in the afternoon. Please do not send your children to school too early. We would like to remind parents and helpers who collect their children after school to wait outside the school main door. The door will not open until 11:45am for the morning session and 4:00pm for the afternoon session. Please try to encourage your child to be on time when coming to school. Punctuality is an important lesson for us to learn for life! A punctual start also conveys to the child that school is important and is valued by you.

## Student Card

To ensure the security and safety of your child, parents or guardians must present the student card before picking a child up 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 from the office.

## Typhoon and Rainstorm Arrangement

The weather in Hong Kong is quite unpredictable. In case of bad weather conditions such as typhoons and rainstorm warnings in force, please listen to the announcements from the Education Bureau or the weather Observatory of Hong Kong.

## Car Park

There are more parents who drive their child to school. Please kindly note that the car park is only for PIPS parents to drop off and pick up their child/children. To avoid traffic jams, we would like to ask for your cooperation to leave the car park as soon as you drop off or pick up

your child/children. Thank you for your understanding.

## Stroller Safety

We have noticed quite a number of strollers being parked outside the school. Please ensure that you do not leave any valuable items in them, as the school does not take responsibility for the safety of the strollers or the items stored in them. Should anyone bring a stroller to school please ensure that they are parked in an orderly manner so as not to block any entrance or exit of the school.

As informed by the management of Elements, scooters and tricycles are not allowed to be parked outside the school. We advise parents to leave the scooter or tricycle at home. Scooters may not be parked or left inside school.

## Extra Curricular Activities

Our school offers a wide range of extra curricular activities on weekdays or Saturday. 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. We suggest that you apply as soon as possible while spaces are still available.

## **Special Events**

**15<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

Meet the Teacher Day

**16<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

First Term Begins

**17<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016**

PN Transition Period

**26<sup>th</sup> August 2016**

August Birthday Party

**5<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

UKG/ LKG Parent Workshop – Get Into A Top School from 9:00 to 10:00am.

**30<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

September Birthday Party

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## **Public Holiday**

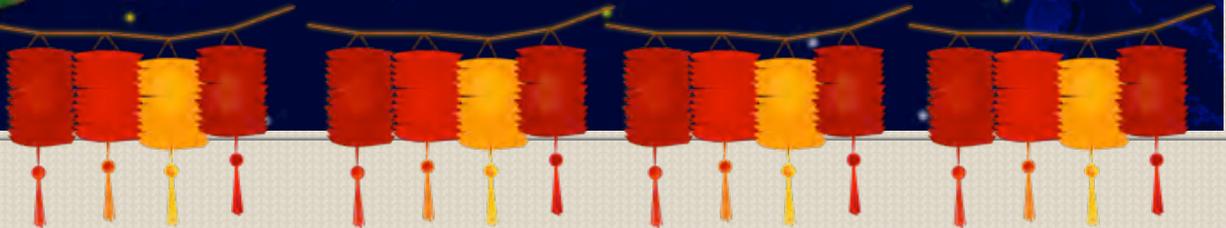
**16<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

The Day following Mid-Autumn Festival

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# Mid Autumn Festival

Happy  
*Mid-Autumn*  
Festival



Mid Autumn Festival, which is also called Lantern Festival, is one of the important festivals in Hong Kong. To celebrate this special festival, we would like to invite you and your child to design and make a lantern by using any recycled materials. Please send the lantern in by Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016 to your child's class teacher. Your lantern will be displayed in your child's classroom or around our school. Our teachers will organise a tour with the children to look at all the fabulous creations.

The lantern will be returned to your child on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016 so that your child can play with it on the Mid Autumn Festival day.

We look forward to seeing all the wonderful creations! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

