

# FEBRUARY AND MARCH NEWSLETTER



## Our New Playground Safety Mat



### A WONDERFUL START TO THE YEAR...

Dear Parents,

Welcome to 2017! We have had a great start to the year. Our children have gradually settled back into the school routine after the long Christmas break.

Our school outdoor playground surface had been renewed during the Christmas break and is now a seamless safety mat with sea creature patterns. Our children and teachers were excited to see the change.

We are now planning for our school year book. The LKG and UKG classes are designing the cover and we are collecting all

the lovely photos throughout this year to put in it. We will also have our class and individual photos taken in March. It will be a memorable book to see everyone and the events at PIPS during this academic year.

The Chinese New Year is approaching and we wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous year of the Rooster!

Kung Hei Fat Choy!

Yours sincerely,  
*Mary Scarborough*  
Principal

# More News.....

## Confirmation Letter for 2017-2018

Thank you for returning the survey forms. You should receive a confirmation letter to guarantee a place for your child in February if your child is returning to our school. Please contact the school office should you have any questions about admissions for the next school year.

## Mark down all the important events...

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

The 2nd Parent-Teacher Conferences for Pre-Nursery and Kindergarten levels will take place on Friday, 24th February 2017. You will have a chance to meet the class teachers to discuss your child's progress at school and receive your child's portfolio. Please enjoy some time reading your child's portfolio and return it to the class teachers by 10th March 2017.

**Please note that Playgroup will have normal classes on this day.**

### CNY Flower Market

This year, we will celebrate The Chinese New Year festival by organising an "Open House Flower Market" for our existing students on **Thursday, 26th January 2017**. Our school will be open from 9:00am to 12:00pm. **There**

**will be no regular morning and afternoon classes on the day.** Parents and children can join us at any time during the opening hours and participate in a variety of fun-filled activities. Parents and children are most welcome to dress in their traditional Chinese costumes on this special day too. Please refer to the notice for further details.

## Holidays

### CNY Holiday

Chinese New Year holiday is from 27th January 2017 to 5th February 2017. Our school will resume on Monday, 6th February 2017.

Kung Hei Fat Choy!



## Photo Taking Days

The photo taking days for our school will be from 13th to 17th March 2017. Your child will have both individual and class photos taken. Parents will receive sample individual photos and the class photo will be posted on the reception boards for you to view. It is **OPTIONAL** for parents to order the photos. The photos will be also used for our school yearbook.

A reminder will be sent out to you after the Chinese New Year holiday.





## Knowledge What do we want our children to know?

Play is at the heart of inquiry learning in the PYP. The children spend time engaging in different activities learning new skills and coming to new understandings. But what should children be learning? What is important for children at our school to know about?

At PIPS we ensure that our units are authentic, meaning they are relevant to children of a young age and something they already have some knowledge about. We provide hands on learning opportunities so that the children learn by doing. This enables them to fully engage in the classroom.

Although learning at PIPS follows the interests of the children, the teachers plan each unit thoroughly ensuring that each of the traditional subject areas (maths, language, social studies, the arts, personal, social and physical development and science) is embedded into daily play activities so that children are developing and mastering basic skills such as counting, sorting, colour recognition, letter and sound knowledge, social skills, writing and well beyond. This ensures that our approach is balanced and children are having constant exposure to new skills and experiences. We carefully select the units that make up our Programme of Inquiry and review them each year to ensure they are significant, relevant, challenging and engaging for our students.