



Volume 1
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THE OFFICIAL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER OF PIPS KOWLOON

HEAD OF SCHOOL MESSAGE

A LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL,
MS. KITTY HO

Dear Parents,

A warm welcome to all our students, old and new, for the start of the 2021/2022 academic year! The summer has flown by, but I hope you all managed to indulge yourselves with some much earned rest and relaxation!

It was a lot of fun in July as the children and staff enjoyed summer school with a host of exciting topics which captivated imaginations and kept the children entertained with an array of fun-filled activities.

During our teachers training week, the teachers and the staff at both campuses have been busy preparing for the start of the academic year. We held a professional development seminar to learn and share ideas about setting inspiring and meaningful learning environments for young learners. Everyone is inspired to implement their new ideas. We truly believe that the school environment can provoke curiosity and intellectual engagement.

This year, I am proud to announce that Ms Indira, who previously worked as our PYP Coordinator at our HK campus, will be taking up the role of Curriculum Manager for both campuses. Her focus will be further developing and enhancing our IB inquiry-based curriculum. Our teaching team will be working hand-in-hand together to help our children to grow further by providing meaningful and age-appropriate learning experiences. Our Chinese Coordinators will also be laying a strong Chinese foundation by strengthening our Chinese curriculum. All this, in return, will prepare our students for a smoother transition to primary school.

Since this is the first newsletter of the academic year, you may notice it's a little bulkier than usual, with a few more reminders. That is because we have a lot of useful (and important!) information to share with you. So sit back, relax and grab yourself a cup of coffee! Happy reading!



IMPORTANT DATES:

22nd September 2021

The Day Following
Mid-Autumn Festival
(Public Holiday)

1st October 2021

National Day
(Public Holiday)

11th - 15th October 2021

Mid-Term Break

Transitioning

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 itself in time but there are some tactics you can use to make the experience easier.

Starting by establishing 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 their 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 can sense if you are anxious or 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 they return to school. This will reassure your child that you will always be there at the end of the day.

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 that with your patience, support and cooperation, your child will settle smoothly and happily into school.



Curriculum Manager Message

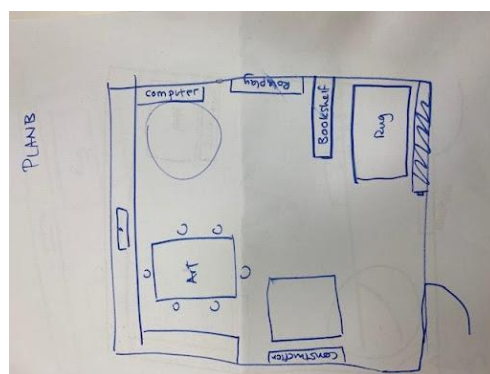
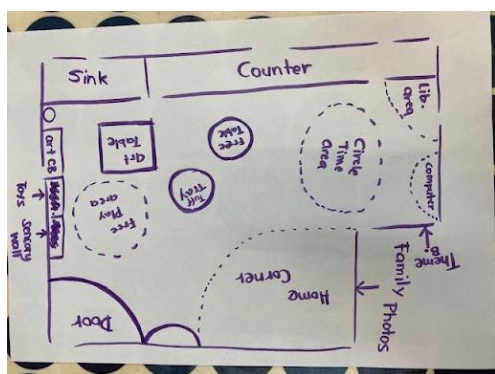
Ms. Indira Gurung

Welcome back to school for children returning to PIPS, and a warm welcome to everyone joining our PIPS family! We hope you all had a good summer and are ready for school. We are delighted to start the year on-site with regular classes. Let's hope for a healthy and fun year for our little ones... and grown-ups as well!

Our PIPS teachers from the HK and KLN campuses started the year with some professional development where teachers inquired, explored and shared good practices, and learned new ideas and strategies to enhance our teaching and learning. It was a busy two days with lots of collaboration and sharing of ideas.



On the first day, we reflected on our own practices, and with our hopes, expectations and goals in place, we dived straight into the learning environment. Every year, our teachers spend considerable time thinking and planning for classroom setup, and creating different learning areas where children can play and explore. But why do teachers do this? Why not just put tables, chairs, rugs and toys for children to play with?



It is because early childhood educators identify that the classroom is an integral part of learning. A well-planned learning environment not only looks inviting and aesthetically pleasing, but can also spark children's interest, which will lead to inquiry, further developing their understanding of how things work and enhancing their conceptual thinking. It also provides children with a sense of ownership and belonging to a community of learners.



'A learning environment is the context in which learning happens. Learning occurs in environments that promote collaboration and a shared sense of purpose and belonging.' (PYP, The Learning Community, The Learning Environment, creating learning environment).



As an IB World School, we strive to create a learning environment where children can reach their full potential, instilled with the attributes of the IB Learner Profile and passion for learning.

'The International Baccalaureate® (IB) learner profile describes a broad range of human capacities and responsibilities that go beyond academic success. They imply a commitment to help all members of the school community learn to respect themselves, others and the world around them.' (IBPYP, The Learner Profile)

Therefore, we looked into the IB Learner Profile and how teachers can nurture and identify these attributes in our learning environment on our second day. We discussed what these attributes would look like in different year levels.



The two days consisted of in-depth discussions, practical methods, and strategies that teachers can adopt to develop their teaching and learning further. To promote and enhance the learner profile attributes, teachers have to embrace them and model them for children. Our PIPS teachers were the epitome of the IB Learner Profile on both days. We are ready to start the new academic year with enthusiasm and optimism.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

School Hours

For our preschoolers, the main door will be opened at 8:45am for the morning session and 1:00pm in the afternoon. Please do not send your children to school too early. Dismissal time will be as follows -

Pre-Nursery: **11:40am**/4:00pm

Nursery: **11:45am**/4:00pm/whole-day 3:30pm

LK/UK: **11:50am**/4:00pm/whole-day 3:30pm

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.

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.

Typhoon and Rainstorm Arrangement

The weather in Hong Kong is quite unpredictable. In case of bad weather conditions such as typhoons and heavy rain, please follow announcements from the Education Bureau or the weather Observatory of Hong Kong. You may also refer to our weather policy in the Student Temperature Record booklet.

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.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

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.

Clothing

Children should wear the PIPS school uniform every day unless the teacher specifies otherwise for events or celebrations. Please ensure that shoes are appropriate for running, jumping and other activities that we do regularly in our play-based environment. Shoes with velcro straps or elastic openings will help your child to become more independent and develop strong self-management skills. Bear in mind that accidents happen from time to time so please place a spare set of clothes (including underwear) in your child's school bag. All clothing and other personal items should be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Safety & Hygiene

Please take your child's temperature and write it into the Student Temperature Record booklet each day. Children are also required to pass a temperature check and wash hands upon arrival at the school reception area. Do not send your child to school if they are unwell. If a child develops symptoms of sickness while at school, parents will be notified and the child must be collected as soon as possible. All children are required to wear a face mask according to guidance from the Education Bureau of Hong Kong. Please keep two spare masks in your child's school bag in case they need to be changed during the day. Under 2's are also required to wear a face shield. PIPS-branded hats with shields are available for \$80 each. Take a look at the school reception if you are interested.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Updated Information

Please let our teachers know about any changes in your routine at home as these can dramatically affect children. This knowledge can guide us in helping your child to deal with such situations as a new sibling, a short or lengthy absence of a parent, moving to a new home, illness or death of a family member, friend or pet, etc. This information is 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 authorized pick-up person. It is important for us to have current information to best serve your child. We also need to be advised of any changes to emergency contacts listed on your registration form.

Seesaw Platform

Every week your child's teachers will share observations, photos and other media to help you to follow your child's progress in the class. They will do this using the online platform Seesaw. Seesaw will be the primary medium of communication between teachers and parents.

Seesaw is a widely used and user-friendly online learning platform which helps teachers to record, track and celebrate children's progress during their learning journey. Important reminders about the class and school will also be shared via the Seesaw platform. Parents can use it to leave notes to teachers who will respond during their preparation time. For urgent messages such as late pick-up please contact the school office directly.

Our teachers have sent invitations allowing you to access your child's class via the Seesaw Family app. If you have any difficulties signing up, please let us know. Once set up, you will be able to view your child's Seesaw media. While you are able to download pictures and videos to share with relatives, please respect the privacy of others by not posting group photos from Seesaw onto social media.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Pre-Registered Open House - 18th September

We will be hosting our Open House on 18th September for both campuses. If you have friends who would like to know more about PIPS, please tell them about the events. Thank you.

Under 2's Outing - 21st - 22nd October

We will be planning our Playgroup Outing and Playgroup families are invited to join this outing to Gold Coast Beach. This is an opportunity for playgroup parents to meet each other and encourage further sensory play in the sand and the sea. The Tuesday and Thursday Under 2's Outing will be scheduled on Thursday, 21st October 2021 and the Monday, Wednesday and Friday Under 2's Outing will be held on Friday, 22nd October 2021. With the pandemic still affecting us all, we will inform you if this event will be proceeding or not in due course. But at this time, please mark this date on your calendar as we look forward to enjoying some fresh air outside the classroom.

LK/UK Primary Chat - 14th September

We are delighted to inform you that this year we have invited Top Schools to conduct a webinar for PIPS LK/UK parents regarding Primary School selection and the application procedure for applying for International Primary School places in the coming year. The webinar will be held on Wednesday, 14th September at 4pm and details will be emailed to you shortly.

Character Day - 29th October

This year's Character Day will be held on Friday, 29th October 2021. All students and teachers can dress up as their favourite character on this special day to play trick or treat.

