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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,

I would like to say a big thank you to all of you for helping to make the first half of this term so much fun! The school has been full of excitement and energy, with many new children joining us, and others progressing to new classes. I am pleased to say that everyone has settled into their new class really well; the children are adjusting quickly to their new routines and making lots of friends along the way.

During the last two months we have had lots going on. The Mid-Autumn Festival was enjoyed by all classes and our children showed their artistic skills by making some truly beautiful lanterns which were displayed for all to see. We also held our Private School Tour for prospective families to learn more about our school and curriculum. At the end of October we celebrated Character Day which allowed the children to dress up and share their favourite books and stories with their friends.

I hope you are enjoying the ease of using Seesaw for communication with teachers and for keeping informed of your child's progress and learning at school. Please remember to check on a regular basis for the daily school life photos and updates from our teachers and admin team.

We will be holding our first Parent-Teacher Conference in November. Details will be sent to you shortly. We are looking forward to some wonderful festive fun over the next few weeks, with Diwali coming soon and Christmas not far away!



IMPORTANT DATES:

5th November 2021

Professional Development Day
(No Classes)

11th November 2021

Seasonal Flu Vaccination
(first dose)

15th November 2021

PYP Parent Workshop

25th November 2021

Parent-Teacher Conference
(No Class for PN, N, LK/UK)

26th November 2021

PN-UK Family Outing -
Cancelled
Normal School Day

17th December 2021

Winter Festivities

20th Dec 2021 -

3rd Jan 2022

Winter Break &
Professional Development Day

Inquiry-Based Learning at PIPS

Ms. Indira Gurung

As a PYP World School at PIPS, we implement an inquiry and play-based approach to teaching and learning from Pre-Nursery onwards. Children are immersed in an environment where they are active participants in their learning and are encouraged to ask questions and follow their wonderings.

So, what is Inquiry?

'Inquiry, as the leading pedagogical approach of the Primary Years Programme (PYP), recognizes students as being actively involved in their own learning and as taking responsibility for that learning.' IBO, Learning and Teaching, 2018

We believe that children learn by doing, and teachers are facilitators in children's learning. Teachers facilitate children by providing them with an engaging environment; our classrooms are well-thought-out and planned with their interests, abilities, and needs. We inquire about concepts and ideas that interest children and are meaningful to their lives throughout the year. Within one Unit of Inquiry, learning outcomes are identified to cover these six learning areas; Language, Math, Science, Personal, Social & Physical Education (PSPE), The Arts and Social Studies. Teachers create age-appropriate learning engagements that are unit-related and interactive.



Our first Unit for each level is coming to an end soon, and we have had a blast with all the learning going on! The LK/UK/P started the school year by inquiring into Diversity, where teachers introduced and facilitated children's understanding of the concept of Diversity through various learning engagements. We have developed our research and communication skills throughout the Unit as we shared our findings and experiences.



At the Nursery level, we inquired into Self-identity and Relationships. We compared our likes & dislikes and physical appearances with our peers and teachers and learned to develop and maintain positive relationships with our school community. For this Unit, we focused on our social and self-management skills as we learned to interact with people by playing together and work as a team.



In Pre-Nursery, we started the year with a transition period where the children settle in with their peers and teachers. At the same time, we inquired into our Five Senses which is a great unit to start the year, as children are curious about their classroom and new classmates. Our focus skills for this Unit were self-management skills as we learnt to manage our feelings and adapt to school life, and research skills as we use our five senses to explore our surroundings.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

School Uniforms

Winter uniforms are now available for purchase. Please contact our school office if you would like to arrange a time for uniform fitting.

As the weather in Hong Kong is quite unpredictable, parents can make their own decision regarding when to let their child wear their winter uniform as the weather gets cooler. Please be reminded that all items of clothing must be clearly labelled with the student's name and class.

Diwali at PIPS

We will be having a Diwali celebration at school from **Tuesday, 2nd November to Wednesday 3rd November**. Students who would like to celebrate Diwali are invited to wear their special costumes to school to show their friends as part of this special festival.

Parent-Teacher Conference for PN - LK/UK

You are invited to come and meet with your child's teachers on **Thursday 25th November** to discuss your child's progress. Each meeting will last for 15 minutes and the meeting is for parents only. There will be no school for children from PN to LKP classes on that day. Please note that Under 2s classes will be running as usual.

Christmas Concert and Parties

Our Under 2s Christmas parties are scheduled on **17th & 18th December**. The Parties for Pre-Nursery and Kindergarten classes are scheduled on **Friday, 18th December**. Unfortunately, with the social distancing measures in place due to COVID- 19, we may not be able to invite parents to join the concert at school. Stay tuned for more details to be sent home shortly.