

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER, 2022 | VOL 2

HEAD OF SCHOOL MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

In the blink of an eye, we are fast approaching November! The past two months have been busy as the children have all returned to school and settled into their classroom to start their units of inquiry with their teachers and classmates.

Towards the end of October, we organised our first Open House to invite families and friends who are interested in learning more about what we offer at PIPS. We had a great turnout and everyone enjoyed a sunny Saturday filled with Autumn-themed activities. A special thanks to our teaching team who put tremendous effort to make the day such a success.

As it's the peak season of both flu and COVID, please be reminded to perform the daily RAT and check your child's temperature before coming to school. If your child is unwell, we advise to keep them at home and consult a doctor to minimise the risk of infecting others, as well as ensuring your child will have a speedy recovery.

I hope you are enjoying the ease of Seesaw for communicating with school and keeping informed of your child's progress and learning at school. Please be reminded to check on a regular basis for the photos of school life as well as updates from our teachers.



IMPORTANT DATES:

4TH NOVEMBER 2022
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
(NO CLASSES)

24TH NOVEMBER 2022
PN-UK FAMILY OUTING - POSTPONED
NORMAL SCHOOL DAY

25TH NOVEMBER 2022
PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE
(NO CLASS FOR PN, N, LK/UK)

16TH DECEMBER 2022
WINTER FESTIVITIES

**19TH DECEMBER 2022 -
2ND JANUARY 2023**
WINTER BREAK

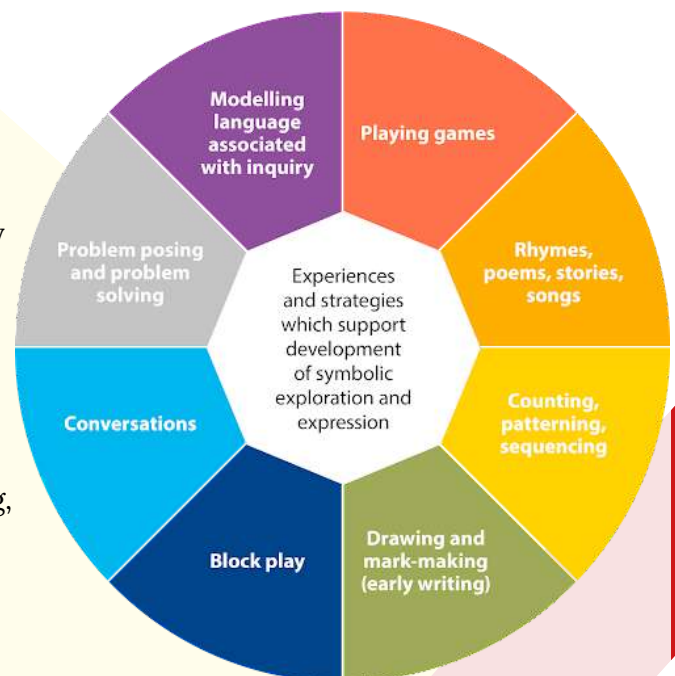
Supporting Symbolic Exploration and Expression at PIPS by Ms Indira

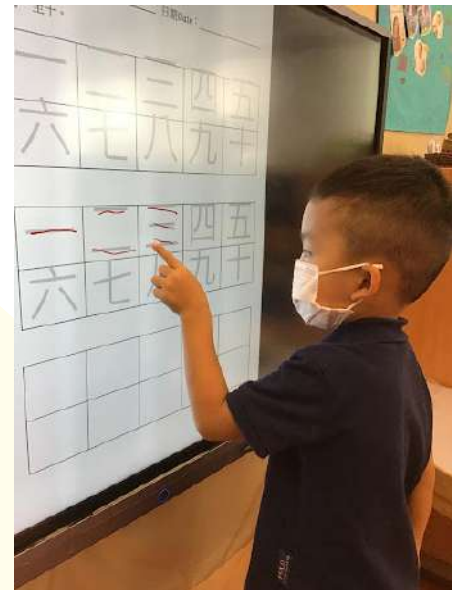
Symbolic exploration and expression are present in all our PIPS classrooms, from art experiences, play provocations, to reading and writing. It is how we explore various ways to communicate our ideas, thoughts and feelings. At PIPS, we believe that symbolic exploration and expression are the basis for the development of literacy and numeracy skills. Enabling children to express themselves more effectively and more eloquently as they progress through their early years. Our play-based inquiry approach explores authentic reading and writing, and makes it meaningful and purposeful for our early learners.

'Learning through play offers young students opportunities to engage with language and mathematical concepts, knowledge and skills that arise naturally from their worlds. Building upon learners' play, educators can show learners the different ways of representing meaning.' IBO, Early Learners, August, 2022

Our teachers plan and deliver learning engagements with intentional emphasis on symbolic exploration and expression with authentic opportunities to make meaning, for example, with everyday experiences such as:

- Self-registration, where children select their name badges or select their name and put it in a slot provided. The older children have opportunities to trace or write their names
- Visiting our school library, where children can choose books to read and return them to the correct boxes by matching the number or letter
- Counting the number of classmates present with the teachers
- Creating posters, signs and art related to unit
- Finding books or images to pursue an inquiry that arises through play
- Providing opportunities for independent mark-making, writing and creating art
- Opportunities for reading in each classroom with an inviting reading area
- Engaging learners in discussions about their play
- Reading stories, singing songs and rhymes in Chinese and English
- Older children have regular guided reading time in Chinese and English
- Regular 'Show and Tell' opportunities where children develop their ability and confidence to present in front of a group





Our phonics program is based on Letters and Sounds, Phases 1 to 3, a phonics program created by the Department of Education and Skills, UK. As for our Chinese character recognition and writing, we have developed a school-based program tailored to the children at PIPS.

If you would like to know more about our literacy program, join our upcoming parent workshop on 'Literacy at PIPS'. Stay tuned for more information!

PIPS Open House 2022



Thank you to those who attended our Open Day at PIPS Kowloon. It was lovely meeting all the prospective families! How wonderful to see all the children having fun exploring the school and playing with our teachers. Hope to see you all again soon!



IMPORTANT REMINDERS/ SCHOOL EVENTS

School Uniform

Winter uniforms are now available for purchase at the school office. Please contact our School Office if you would like to arrange a time for uniform fitting. Each order will take approximately a week to process.

As the weather in Hong Kong is quite unpredictable, parents can make their own decision regarding when to let their child put on the winter uniform when the weather is getting cooler. Please be reminded that all items of students clothing should be clearly labelled with their name and class.

Family Outing - postponed

Due to the current COVID restrictions mandated by the government, we have had to take the difficult decision to postpone our family outing (originally planned for 24th November) for the time being. All classes will be running as per normal on that day. Our fingers are crossed that the situation will continue to improve.

Parent & Teacher Conference for PN to KG class

You are invited to come and meet with your child's teacher on **Friday 25th November** to discuss your child's progress. Each meeting will last for 10 minutes and the meeting is for parents only. There will be no school for children from PN to KG classes on that day. If you are unable to attend, we can arrange a Zoom meeting instead. Please note that Under 2's classes will continue as normal.

Parent Workshop on Literacy

We will be holding the first parent workshop on **9th December (Friday)**. Our Curriculum Manager, Ms. Indira and our PYPC, Mr. Josh will be speaking about our literacy programme at PIPS. Please join us to learn more about what we do at PIPS to help your child lay strong foundations for a lifetime of literacy. More information will be sent to you in due course.

Winter Festivities

Our Under 2's Christmas parties are scheduled for **15th & 16th December**. The Parties for Pre-Nursery and Kindergarten classes are scheduled for **16th December (Friday)**. Unfortunately, with the social distancing measures in place due to COVID-19, we may not be able to invite parents to join for performances at school. Stay tuned for more details to be sent home closer to the time.