



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER, 2024 | VOL 1

IMPORTANT DATES:

5TH SEPTEMBER 2024

PRIMARY SCHOOL SEMINAR
(FOR LK/UK FAMILIES)

18TH SEPTEMBER 2024

THE DAY FOLLOWING
MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL
(PUBLIC HOLIDAY)

1ST OCTOBER 2024

NATIONAL DAY
(PUBLIC HOLIDAY)

7TH-11TH OCTOBER 2024

CHUNG YEUNG FESTIVAL
(PUBLIC HOLIDAY)
AND
MID-TERM BREAK
(SCHOOL HOLIDAY)

17TH OCTOBER 2024

SEASONAL FLU VACCINATION
(FIRST DOSE)

HEAD OF SCHOOL MESSAGE

by Ms Kitty Ho

Welcome back to the 2024/2025 academic year. We hope that you all had a wonderful and rejuvenating summer. It is hard to believe that the Summer break has flown by already.

Since the commencement of our school's first term in August, we have been delighted to see our students enthusiastically settling into their classrooms. It brings us immense joy to witness children making new friends and engaging in fun and meaningful learning experiences. This month marks the start of their unit learning and we look forward to seeing all of our children thrive and grow thereby achieving their full potential during their time at PIPS.

The year of 2024 holds particular importance, as it marks the 35th anniversary of PIPS. Over the past three and a half decades, we have been honoured to provide a warm and enriching environment for countless families. Reaching this tremendous milestone would not have been possible without the continued support of all of our students' families over the years. On behalf of our school board, management and teaching teams, we would like to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to each and every one of you.

We will shortly be kicking off a year-long celebration with special events and activities along the way. Stay tuned for more information as we look forward to what will surely be an amazing year.



Transition by Ms Indira

We are delighted to welcome our students back and facilitate a smooth transition into the new school year. From our Under 2s class to Upper Kindergarten, the children are becoming familiar with their daily routines and forming positive connections with their teachers and peers.

In the Under 2s class, our youngest learners are discovering what it means to go to school through engaging sensory activities. Guided by our exceptional Under 2s teachers, they will explore various themes that provide insights into the world around them, with the support of their caregivers. Pre-nursery children are gradually gaining the confidence to attend school independently, with our experienced teachers providing essential guidance as they navigate a range of emotions during this sensitive period. It's heartwarming to see the smiles on their faces as they leave school after a day filled with fun learning!

The Nursery, Lower, and Upper Kindergarten classes have kicked off their unit-based learning. As an inquiry-driven school, we encourage our children to explore concepts and ideas, making meaningful connections to their own experiences. By providing them with choice and voice, we aim to foster a sense of ownership in our children's learning. We deliver this through our authentic learning environment where children feel safe and welcomed. Children have the freedom to explore the multiple learning areas on offer throughout the day.

Our learning approach incorporates a variety of engaging methods, including:

- Storytelling
- Circle & Reflection time
- Role-play
- Music
- Construction play
- Art & sensory activities
- STEAM projects
- Physical Education

We begin the year with the Transdisciplinary Theme of Who We Are, focusing on nurturing meaningful relationships and understanding the consequences of their actions - a great starting point for the year. We eagerly anticipate a year filled with exciting learning experiences and personal growth as our students and teachers embark on this wonderful journey together!



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

School Hours

The main door opens at 8:40am for the morning session and 12:55pm in the afternoon. Please do not send your children to school too early. Dismissal time will be 11:45am for the morning session, 3:30pm for the full-day 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 children to learn, and also conveys to your child that school is important.

New Drop Off Arrangement

This year, students from the Nursery and LKUK levels will be dropped off at the front door of the school. From there, they will proceed to their classrooms by themselves.

We believe that this new arrangement will have a positive impact on our students' learning journey and development. By allowing them to enter the school and go to their classrooms independently, we aim to build their confidence and encourage them to develop stronger self-management skills under the supervision of their class teachers. This change will also help to alleviate traffic and congestion in the school corridors, creating a safer environment for all our students.

It is important to note that the pick up arrangements will remain unchanged. Parents and caregivers are welcome to enter our campus to pick up your child in front of the classroom and talk to the teachers. Thank you for your understanding.

Typhoon and Rainstorm Arrangement

The weather in Hong Kong can be quite unpredictable! In case of bad weather conditions such as typhoons and rainstorm warnings in force, please refer to our weather policy in the Parent's Handbook and check for announcements from the Education Bureau or the Hong Kong Observatory.

Clothing

We recommend that children wear their PIPS uniform except on special occasions. Our uniform allows your child to feel a part of the school while also expressing their personality and preferences through choice of colour. Accidents can happen so please keep a spare set of clothes in your child's school bag. Shoes should be comfortable and safe, with an elastic or velcro strap to help your child to develop their independence. Please mark all clothing, bags, hats and shoes with your child's name to avoid any mix-ups.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Safety & Hygiene

Kindly record your child's temperature on the temperature booklet. Children are also required to take temperature upon arrival at school in the Reception area. Please do not send your child to school if they are ill. If your child develops any symptoms at school, parents will be notified and the child may need to be collected early. Please keep 2 face masks in your child's school bag to protect the children from minor symptoms.

Student Card

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

Personal Information

Please let our teachers know about any changes in your routine at home as these can dramatically affect children's behaviour and wellbeing. By letting us know, we will be able to help your child to deal with situations such as a new sibling, a short or lengthy absence of a parent, moving to a new home, the illness or death of a family member, friend or pet, etc. This information will be 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 authorised pick-up person. It is important for us to have current information to best serve your child. We also need to be advised of changes to the ones you listed as emergency contacts on your admission form.

Seesaw Platform

Every week your child's class teachers will share observations, images/clips of your child's progress in the class on the online platform, Seesaw. This is our primary means of communication with parents.

Seesaw is a widely used, user-friendly online learning platform which helps teachers to record, track and celebrate children's progress on their learning journey. Important reminders about the class and school will also be shared on the platform. You can also leave notes to our teachers and they will respond to your message during their preparation time. **For any urgent messages, i.e., late pick-up, please call the school directly instead.**

Our teachers have already sent messages inviting parents to the platform. Should you have difficulty getting connected, please let us know.

Once set up, you will be able to access these pictures at any time and be able to download them or forward them to relatives. We kindly request that you are sensitive about group pictures and do not upload these to any social media sites. Thank you.

#PIPS NEWS

Extra Curricular Activities

Our school offers a wide range of extracurricular activities on weekdays and Saturdays. 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, so make sure to apply by scanning the QR code as soon as possible to guarantee your place!



PIPS

Sign up today!



**EXTRA-CURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES**

2024 - 2025 Term 1

Contact us with any queries and reserve your place today!

PIPS Kowloon
Podium Level,
Kowloon Station,
1 Austin Road West

pipsinfo-kl@pips.edu.hk
(852) 2812 6801



UPCOMING EVENTS

Open House

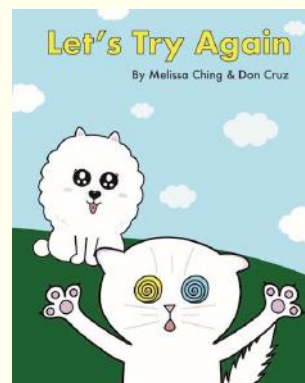
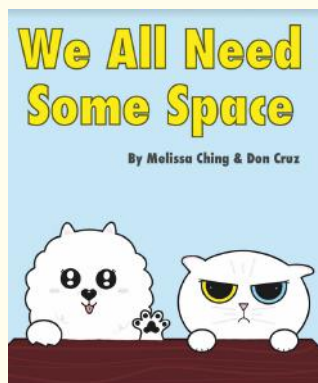
We will be hosting our Open House for prospective families on Saturday, 21st September. If you have any friends who would like to know more about the PIPS family, please let them know about the event.

Character Day - Thursday, 31st October

This year's Character Day will be held on Thursday 31st October 2024 (or Wednesday 30th October for our U2's class). All students and teachers can dress up as their favourite character on this special day to play trick or treat.

Children's Book - "Let's Try Again"

Our PYP Coordinator at the Kowloon campus, Mr Don Cruz, has now released a third storybook co-created with his wife. The book continues the adventures of Cotton and Maui, who are based on their own pet cat and dog. 'Let's Try Again' showcases Cotton's appreciation for independent play, while Maui discovers the happiness of working together and the fun-filled memories formed through shared setbacks. The books are available for purchase at the Kowloon campus or find out more from their website <https://cottonandmaui.com/>



UPCOMING EVENTS

Primary School Seminar (For LK/UK families only)

We are delighted to welcome the Principal of Shrewsbury International School Hong Kong, Mr Ben Keeling, to conduct an information session for PIPS families.

During the session, Mr Keeling will be addressing common misconceptions and the uniquely diverse school sector in Hong Kong, as well as discussing the strengths, advantages and general differences associated with school selection.

Date: Thursday 5th September 2024

Time: 9:00 - 10:00am

Venue: PIPS Kowloon, Podium Level, Kowloon Station

The poster for the Primary School Seminar features a large group of children and adults on a stage, clapping. The background is dark blue with the text 'Congratulations!' in a cursive font, a graduation cap icon, and 'PIPS Class of 2023' in a stylized font. The PIPS logo is also present. On the right side, there is a portrait of Ben Keeling, Principal of Shrewsbury International School Hong Kong, with his name and title below it. The event details are listed at the bottom right: 'Thursday, 5th September 2024' and 'PIPS Kowloon, Podium Level, Kowloon Station'. The main title 'Primary School Seminar' is written in a large, white, cursive font, with the subtitle 'for parents considering the benefits of an international education' in a smaller, yellow, sans-serif font below it.

Congratulations!

PIPS
Class of
2023

PIPS

**SHREWSBURY
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL**
HONG KONG

**Ben Keeling, Principal
of Shrewsbury
Hong Kong**

**Thursday,
5th September
2024**

**PIPS Kowloon,
Podium Level,
Kowloon Station**

**Primary School
Seminar**

**for parents considering the benefits of
an international education**

PARTNERSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

We are excited to share with you that we will continue our partnership with **Shrewsbury International School** and strengthen our bond with the below international primary schools, providing PIPS graduates a seamless transition into the primary programme.

- **German Swiss International School - German International Stream (the Peak)**
- **Hong Kong Academy (Sai Kung)**
- **Australian International School (Kowloon Tong)**
- **YMCA Christian Academy (Sheung Wan)**

For the LK/UK families, if you are interested in learning more about these primary schools, please do not hesitate to contact your PYPC and we are happy to introduce you to the respective Admissions Teams for further information.

