



## **SCHOOL NEWSLETTER**

**JANUARY, 2026 | VOL 3**

### **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**5TH JANUARY**  
RETURN TO SCHOOL

**5TH FEBRUARY**  
LKUK THEATRE TRIP

**13TH FEBRUARY**  
LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVITIES

**16TH-23RD FEBRUARY**  
LUNAR NEW YEAR HOLIDAYS  
(NO SCHOOL OR ECA)

### **A MESSAGE FROM MS KITTY HO OUR SCHOOL SUPERVISOR**

Welcome back and Happy New Year to all our PIPS families! We hope you enjoyed a restful holiday and a wonderful start to 2026. It has been heartening to see our children return to school with happy faces, ready to learn and reconnect with their classmates. As we begin the new term, our students are settling smoothly into routines and exploring their new units of inquiry. Their curiosity and eagerness to learn remind us why these early years are such an important time for growth. Across classrooms, we see children asking questions, sharing ideas, and working together, which is what IB is all about! With Lunar New Year approaching, our campuses are coming alive with the colours and traditions of the season. The children are learning about customs, stories, and values that connect families across generations. We look forward to celebrating together and sharing in the joy of this festive time together.

We also have several learning opportunities and family events planned for the coming months, from outings to special classroom activities, so keep an eye out for more information!

Wishing all our families good health, happiness, and success in the Year of the Horse!

## **SCREEN TIME BALANCE FOR YOUNG LEARNERS**

### **by Don Cruz (PYP Coordinator - Kowloon Campus)**

As technology continues to shape our daily lives, screen time has become an integral part of childhood. However, it is essential for parents and educators to ensure that this exposure is balanced and purposeful. At PIPS, we recognise the potential of screen time as a tool for learning, creativity, and connection, while also advocating for mindful consumption.

Screen time encompasses any interaction with electronic devices, including smartphones, tablets, computers, and televisions. In today's digital age, it plays a significant role in how people engage with information and connect with others. While screen time can provide access to valuable educational content, promote creativity, and foster social connections through various platforms, it also presents potential drawbacks. Excessive use can lead to issues such as reduced physical activity, overstimulation, and potential adverse effects on the eyes. Additionally, it can diminish face-to-face interactions, limiting opportunities for developing essential social skills and emotional intelligence. Recognising these complexities is crucial as we strive to promote a balanced approach to screen time, ensuring it enhances rather than detracts from children's overall well-being and development.

### **The Importance of Balance**

**Set Limits:** Studies recommend that children aged 2 to 5 have no more than one hour of high-quality programming each day. Establishing clear family rules or routines around screen time can help maintain a healthy balance.

**Encourage Active Engagement:** Choose interactive apps or educational games that promote active participation rather than passive consumption. Apps that involve problem-solving, creativity, or collaboration can enhance cognitive development.

**Be a Co-Viewer:** Whenever possible, watch or play alongside your child. This not only encourages discussion about content but also offers opportunities to reinforce learning and critical thinking skills.

**Create Tech-Free Times:** Designate specific areas or times with the day for device-free activities such as mealtimes, outdoor play, or excursions. Promote direct social interaction, engage in more conversation, and encourage imaginative play.

**Modelling Screen Time Behaviour:** Modelling balanced and healthy screen time habits is crucial. Children often mirror the behaviours of adults, and how parents use screens can significantly influence their perspective, attitudes and practices.

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### Purposeful Screen Time Activities

Discover a range of options to make screen time both fun and enriching. From educational apps that help develop early literacy, maths, and science skills, to virtual tours of museums that spark curiosity about art and culture, the choices are rich and varied. Let's turn screen time into a positive experience that supports your child's growth and imagination. Below are some recommended ideas and resources:



**Osmo for iPad:** Discover an award-winning educational application designed for iPads that transforms passive screen time into interactive, hands-on learning. Osmo promotes creativity, problem-solving, and social interaction, making it a fantastic choice for young learners. Engage with apps and tools that encourage collaboration through multiplayer features and enhance education across various subjects in enjoyable and imaginative ways.

**Virtual Tours:** Introduce your child to the realm of art and culture by engaging them in virtual tours of museums and historical sites. Many primary school websites now offer immersive virtual experiences of their schools, providing an excellent opportunity to gradually familiarise them with potential institutions they may attend in the future.





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**Creative Projects:** Use technology to inspire creativity. Apps that allow for drawing, building, or creating videos can be both fun and educational. Have you ever heard older children express the desire to become a YouTuber? Consider creating an engaging channel that is privately accessible to family and friends. This can provide a wonderful platform for creativity and self-expression in a safe environment.

**Online AI Applications:** Children can enjoy merging their handcrafted creations and drawings with AI, enhancing the scope of their imaginative abilities. Utilise online AI applications to animate or manipulate your child's drawings or created characters. This innovative approach enriches their creative experiences and introduces them to the exciting potential of technology.



While screens can serve as valuable educational tools, it is essential to balance between their use and other activities that promote physical health and social skills. Engaging with screens can be a purposeful and enriching experience when integrated thoughtfully into part of their routines. By creating an environment where screen time is both purposeful and engaging, we empower our children to navigate the digital world with confidence and positivity. Cultivating a mindful approach to technology in our homes ensures that our children thrive both on and off the screen.

I hope you find this information helpful. Come and find me if you have any questions!

Don Cruz



## PIPS Xmas Heroes Winter Camp 2025

This year, we hosted our Winter camps at our PIPS LOHAS and at PIPS Kowloon campuses. Our Winter camps were a resounding success. Everybody had an unforgettable time and we've got the photos to prove it!



There's more on the next page!



PIPS Xmas Heroes Winter Camp 2025 (cont.)



Thank you for joining us!

(Don't worry if you missed out, there's an Easter camp, coming soon...)



## **IMPORTANT EVENTS & REMINDERS**

### **Winter Uniform**

Winter school uniform remains available for purchase at the school office. If you would like to make an order, please contact our school reception to schedule a uniform fitting. Each order will take about a week to process.

### **Term 2 Extra Curricular Activities**

Our school offers a wide range of extra curricular activities on weekdays and Saturdays. Applications for classes starting after Chinese New Year (Term 2) are now open. Please collect a leaflet from our school 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.

### **Flu Season**

During the flu season, please take good care and stay at home if your child is showing any symptoms. Symptoms include: Fever, head and body aches, coughing and a stuffy or runny nose.



## TERM 2 ECAs STARTING SOON...

### **Term 2 Extra Curricular Activities**

Our term 2 ECAs are starting this February and we wouldn't want you to miss out! Not long ago, we sent a brochure home in your child's school bag to let you know about all of the wonderful classes that we have lined up.

Get in touch with our school office to sign up!

