



Newsletter 1 2021-22

Friday 20th August 2021

Dear Parents and JIS community

Welcome back and a big welcome to our new JIS families!

A very warm welcome to all of you for this our new school year, 2021-22. We have had an excellent start to the year, with the school looking great and everyone happy and keen, following a summer holiday. We hope everyone has been busy getting to know their new teacher and settling in and making new friends. For our new families and the existing JIS community, please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions as the first few weeks' progress. We will do our best to keep you informed but should there be things you are unsure of please let us know.

School email: esinfo@jis.edu.hk or my email s-walton@jis.edu.hk or office: 28343531



We welcomed the Reception Class in small groups (A and B) for just a morning session this week and next week we will see how they settle for a full day. They have all been very brave and settled well into their new school. They all joined in with the action very comfortably with Ms. Chen and Ms. Janice. Well done to all of them and to the rest of our new students for getting involved in school as soon as possible.

Around school this week!

The school building is looking really good, ready for the year ahead. During the break we have had a full upgrade of our a/c system and painted classrooms to look fresh and inviting for the year ahead.



JIS Staff 2021 – 22:

We are delighted to welcome all the teaching staff back to JIS for another great year and thank them for their efforts in getting the school ready to start the new school year. Classrooms are well prepared and the school environment looks clean and fresh. We had some excellent whole staff development meetings on Monday and Tuesday, to discuss interesting plans for the school and the new year ahead:

We are delighted to say that our new school staff are settling in well and are keen to get involved with the JIS community:

Reception- Ms. Lilian Chen (Teacher) and Ms. Janice Tam (Education Assistant)

P1 – Ms. Annette De Thier (Teacher) and Mr. Ronald Lau (Education Assistant)

P2 – Ms. Fiona Merrill (Teacher) and Ms. Jo H. Cristobal (Education Assistant)

P3 – Ms. Laura Fisher (Teacher) and Ms. Ada Cheung (Education Assistant)

P4 – Ms. Anouchka Chatelier (Teacher) and Ms. Charmaine Mok (Education Assistant)

P5 – Mr. Nicholas Cheung (Teacher) and Ms. Charmaine Mok (Education Assistant)

P6 – Mr. David Rixon (Teacher) and Ms. En-Hsing Liu (Education Assistant)

Mandarin – Ms. Judith Tseng (Teacher) and Ms. Karen He (Language Assistant)

Japanese – Ms. Sora Satonaka (Teacher) and Ms. Kiyomi Ichinose (Language Assistant)

Student Support Coordinator – Ms. Jenny Procter,

Student learning support – Ms. Vikki Rixon, Ms. Ashima Sharma (part time counselor)

Music: Ms. Jill Tse

P.E. and Swimming – Jason Chan / Stephanie Tsui and swimming coaching team

Deputy Principal and PYP coordinator – Ms. Cath Wan
Library Assistant / Resources management– Mr. Floyd Samarakkody
I.T Management / support – Mr. Lee Man Wa
Office staff – Ms Sachiyo Miyajima (Office Manager) Mrs. Kim Murch (Office Assistant)

New staff joining us:

Mr. Ronald Lau – P1

Ronald Lau has joined the P1 class this year as an Education Assistant with a view to changing career and getting involved in education. Ronald was educated within the Hong Kong international schooling system and has previously worked in a variety of careers. He has enjoyed working as a tutor in his spare time and has decided that education could be a future option for his skills and interests. Welcome to Ronald.

Mr. Floyd Samarakkody – Library and Resources Manager

Floyd Samarakkody actually joined the school last term as he replaced Anna Lamont in our school library but this year he has extended his time in school to support our Resources management and procurement, a job previously done by Christine Lau before her departure to U.K. this summer.

Information update and start of year routines:

As ever, there is a lot of information for the first newsletter of the school year, but please read it through in detail, especially if you are new to the school, and remember we are always here to help.

Newsletters – 2021-22

The school office will continue to keep the JIS community informed of news and events at regular intervals during the school year. Our school newsletter will be sent out on Friday each week. The newsletter will be emailed to all families using your preferred email account. We will also post the newsletters on the school website, should you need a copy or wish to download an extra one. We will also be sending some of our shorter or more urgent messages to you through our school app (Toddle). Class teachers will also be updating parents on their classroom activities and news through email contact and through our Toddle app (see below).

Student and family data:

Please make sure that when you complete the **student data for school that the school has an up to date ‘preferred’ email contact address.** If you change email accounts or any other contact information, please be sure to contact Ms Kim Murch in the school office on 2834 3531 or kmurch@esjis.edu.hk . For emergency contacts we will use phone calls and messaging apps.

Privacy - In accordance with the HK Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance, all data kept at JIS is for the use by the school for maintaining the operation and systems of the school only. This information is not shared with any other parties. Any parent not wishing to receive school newsletters or information, should contact the school office. Please ask for a copy of our Privacy Policy Statement and Personal Information Collection statement should you need more details.

School website – www.jis.edu.hk

The school website is designed to keep you informed as to what is going on as well as a celebration of many of the things that happen in school. It is also an information resource for prospective families or educationalists.

Our school website has an updated Google calendar. We also post on the ‘Calendar’ page an A4 PDF version of a JIS calendar which may be useful to print off and attach to the family noticeboard. It is updated when necessary and is numbered to allow you to see if it is the most up to date copy. (Draft 7 is the latest version)





Toddle; smartphone / device application

This year we continue to further develop our use of communication tools by introducing the **Toddle** app. This will replace our previous ClassDojo app as we hope it will further integrate communication and learning by offering functions not previously available to us. To get Toddle fully up and running will take some time but we hope to start using it more widely from 30th August. JIS staff have started to explore the functionalities of Toddle and we are suggesting new options to their software engineers, to personalize it for JIS.

Please load up the app in preparation by following the guidance sent out from school this week. We hope it will be really useful for all of us within the school community.

Term 1 school fees; thank you

Many thanks for arranging the direct debit for school fee payments. Any questions regarding this can be sent through to Kim Murch (kmurch@es.jis.edu.hk)

ESSPA – coffee morning and Welcome Back Party BBQ – not yet!

Usually at this time of year we like to arrange some social events to get to know our new families and also to celebrate the beginning of the school year but sadly for the moment we are not able to arrange these due to EDB/CHP guidelines on gatherings in schools. We hope to be able to arrange some events, once the current pandemic restrictions change.



As this year is our 25th year of JIS – we shall have to arrange a big school party in June if nothing can happen in the next few months. 25 years is well worth celebrating!

As a school we really need to create our parent support group ESSPA (English Section Staff Parents Association) as it has shut down due to the online / offline schooling last few years. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with Mr. Walton – s-walton@jis.edu.hk

Meet the Teacher Night – Tuesday 7th September, 6:00pm – online meeting

You will get a chance to meet your child's class teacher on '**Meet the Teacher**' evening on **Tuesday 7th September at 6:00pm**. This event is usually in your child's classroom but this year it will have to once again be online. Teachers will be able to talk more about the schedule for their class and how learning is integrated across the spectrum of our PYP (Primary Years Programme) curriculum. There will be a chance for parents to send in some questions for the presentation, to ensure that everyone is fully understanding the start of the school year. More information on this evening and the links for the meeting, will follow shortly.

Updates from our Student Support Department: Jenny Procter (jprocter@es.jis.edu.hk)

Speech and Language Therapist- Abi Can will return next Thursday 26th August, parents of existing students have been contacted. Anyone with concerns please contact Jenny Procter.

Occupational Therapist- will resume on Monday 30th. Sadly Emily Nguyen will be leaving but we are looking forward to welcoming Cheryl Liu. Parents of existing students, as well as those who have been waiting, have been contacted. Anyone with concerns please contact Jenny Procter.

Friday 3rd September in the afternoon, time tbc, Abi and Cheryl will do an online presentation to new (and any existing parents who wish to join) explaining their services. After the presentation we shall arrange some screening opportunities to anyone who is interested.

Counsellor- Ms Ashima will return next Friday, 27th August, initially she will be working with classes supporting our smooth transition into the new year, before resuming individual counselling sessions where appropriate. Anyone with concerns please contact Jenny Procter.

Fidget toys and school – please do not send your child to school with a 'fidget toy' unless this has been arranged and planned with JIS staff. For most students these are toys and are a distraction, not a useful aid in school. If you have any questions, please let us know. Thank you

Uniform

The school uniform shop will be open at JIS on a Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. if you need to buy clothing. Please label your child's JIS clothing clearly and make them aware of where the name is written. School shoes should be main colour, black and should be worn with daily school uniform. Sports uniform and sports shoes may be worn on P.E. days, not as general school uniform.

Timetables – planning your week

Your child's class teacher has sent home a copy of their specialist timetable. This timetable allows you to know when your child has got specific lessons that may require swimming kit or P.E. clothing and their Music folders or other equipment for Mandarin or Japanese lessons. Please be aware that students are only allowed to wear P.E. kit on the days of their P.E. lessons (except Reception on swimming day). Correct school uniform is expected on all other days.

Weather warnings in Hong Kong – summer season – update

The weather at this time of year in Hong Kong is an important factor of being safe at school. If you have not yet done so, please familiarize yourselves with the procedures for bad weather in times of typhoons or heavy rainfall by reading the section on the school website. If you are unsure of what this means, please contact the school.

Please note: If the school is closed due to bad weather a notice will appear on the school website – front page and a text SMS message will be sent to all families, as soon as possible after the HK Education Department confirmation of closure, which is usually around 6 a.m. We shall also integrate the Toddle communication App into this. Please check the school website and local TV/radio broadcasts or your preferred weather 'app', on your device/phone if bad weather is expected in the form of heavy rain or a typhoon moving towards Hong Kong. At no time do we expect any students or families to travel to school if they regard their local situation as being dangerous.

Security and school – I.D. cards and car park permits



JIS is a very safe environment for children to learn in but we have to make sure we have appropriate security measures to maintain this. All new families to JIS will receive an I.D. card and lanyard holder from the school. All families will be sent their new (2021-22) cards for pedestrian I.D. Car park passes can be collected from the school office or ordered for students to bring home. These cards are issued to all JIS families for each new school year. A Google form has been emailed to all families from the school office (Kim Murch) to prepare these cards.

Our security staff is very familiar with many of our parents, families and their domestic helpers but we feel it is important to make sure this is enhanced by **asking all members of the JIS community to identify themselves**. All members of our school community are expected to identify themselves whilst on school premises. We have increased our security and monitoring of persons in the school building in compliance with current EDB/CHP guidelines for schools. Parents and visitors are requested to not enter the school building, or to make an appointment booking if they need to contact school staff.

Our security staff: Mr. Lun and Mr. Tsang will continue to monitor car park entrances and exits and support in all parking arrangements. Please wear your I.D. tag to visit the school or when collecting or dropping off your child(ren). Car park I.D. cards should be displayed clearly in the front windscreen area of your car. Should your family need extra cards these are available from the school office.

Car parking and drop off at JIS – important information for all motorists

In order to help new parents in Reception and new families to JIS I will quickly explain car parking arrangements for the school as it does sometimes cause a bit of confusion because of our two schools, one building arrangements. Basically we have to share the car park areas with the Japanese Section of our school, so we have to keep to a system. (Note: Japanese Section students are not in school until Wednesday 1st September 2021 this year).



International Section school buses use the rear car park behind the building, cars do not enter this area.

Morning - When dropping off your child at school please try to arrive **around 8am or later** to access the front car park. Around 7:45 a.m. the Japanese Section school buses need access to the main car park, so please keep the traffic flowing and drop off quickly or park sensibly.

Afternoon – When picking up your child – please arrive before 2:45 p.m. When parking your car in the main school car park (front) please remove your car before 3pm as this area has to be clear for Japanese Section buses to enter after we have left (from 1st September). If your car is in a designated car park space this is fine but if you stay beyond 3 p.m. be aware that your car will not be able to get out until Japanese Section buses leave around 3:40pm – so plan your exit time carefully! Please follow the guidance of Mr. Lun our school security staff member (or his colleague, Mr Tsang). Thank you for your support.

To enhance school safety and security the rear car park barrier will be closed at 3:00 pm every day, after buses leave. All persons are asked to leave the school through the main entrance area after 3:00 pm, so that we can carefully monitor who is in the building and account for them.

Hats and being ‘sun smart’



Hats and hot sunny weather are also an important issue for us to consider. At JIS we are very lucky to have plenty of shade available for the children to play in on very hot days. However to be safe and teach positive sun smart habits ALL students must wear a hat when they are outdoors for playground and P.E. We do sell a hat in the JIS school uniform shop (\$85) or students can bring a hat of their own choice. Thank you for your support in teaching excellent ‘sun-smart’ habits.

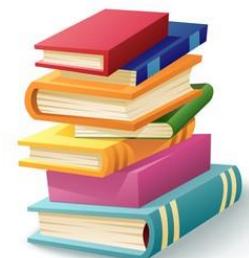
Backpacks

As we start the school year please check that your child’s backpack is an appropriate size that can hold equipment and reading folders – but that it is not too big. At JIS, students do not need to bring in large amounts of books to school – we provide the things they need, so please do not overload the bags. Please also make sure that the bag can be carried – and not just on wheels, as the students need to carry their bags up and down the stairs to get into school or to access their school bus. All items, including the bag need to be labelled with a name very carefully.



News from the Library – Ms. Wan and Mr. Floyd

The students were very excited to have their first visit of the year to the library today. Mr. Floyd has been very busy processing new books; we now have over 15,000 books in our library and we're very proud of our enthusiastic readers at JIS. Library guidelines information has been handed out today, please read it through carefully with your child and complete the form attached. The form will then need to be returned to school.



1) Children are issued with a library card, attached to their library bag which is provided by the school. Children need to bring their library card and bag every time they wish to borrow books. Library bags and cards are to be returned at the end of the school year in June, so please look after them.

2) All children may borrow 3 books at a time.

3) Books are checked out for 2 weeks. Children will have the opportunity to change their books every week if they wish. **However, if a book is not due back and is still being read, it does not have to be returned until finished.**

4) An email acknowledgment will be sent of which books have been borrowed and when to return them.

5) Please be reminded that JIS also has a **parent library**. We have a selection of books on parenting and, of course, you may borrow books to share with your child. Contact Cath Wan for details.

6) We really appreciate volunteers in the library – but we are currently unable to have volunteers in school. We shall let the school community know when this changes and hope to welcome some of you.

Music Lessons at school – extra-curricular lessons for students

Information regarding after school music lessons for this term is attached to this email. We have tried to make sure that there is a good balance for all ages to ensure everyone can have some fun and enjoyment through music. Please take a look, complete the form and send in the reply slip and cheque to Miss Jill (payable to Japanese International School) as soon as possible, if you wish to take part.



Extracurricular activities at JIS

Information for all SIS (Sports International Services) extra-curricular activities will be sent out by email from SIS Ltd early next week – please check your child's school bag for information so that they can apply for the activities of interest to them.

Other extra-curricular activities and clubs (eg. ballet) is attached to this message for you to plan your child's week! Please read the contact and payment information carefully as some of the activities are not arranged through school, so we cannot accept payment in our school office.

Mobile devices and students:



We would like to remind all students and families that if mobile phones are really needed for safety on the journey to and from school they must be switched off during the school day. It is not appropriate for students to be trying to arrange play dates themselves or to be playing games during school hours or for parents to be messaging their children during the school day. Mobile devices are an important part of our modern world but we need to teach the students the correct use of when to access them. If your child does carry a device to school – please make sure they are aware of our expectations, otherwise the phones will be taken away during school hours. Students needing to contact their parents during the school day should contact the school office, so that staff are fully aware of when messages are being shared.

Lunch orders at JIS: new option

Several families were obviously disappointed that the catering company we have used for several years 'the New Luncher' has had to close down. One of the catering options that has been used by school staff OKA's catering, has now also said that they can arrange delivery of lunches (Bento box styles or rice/noodle dishes). Parents would need to contact the company and pay them directly through their website or call them on 2785 1305.

Currently the website is only available in Japanese / Chinese but English is spoken on the phone if you call the restaurant. They will try to arrange some translation into English soon:

<http://www.okashk.com/ch/menu.html>

T: 27851305

ICHK Newsletter for this week

Each week we share the newsletter from ICHK – (International College Hong Kong) to keep our community informed of the news from our partner secondary school. We hope our JIS graduates who started at ICHK this week have had a great time this week!

To access this week's newsletter click: [here](#)

Finally.....

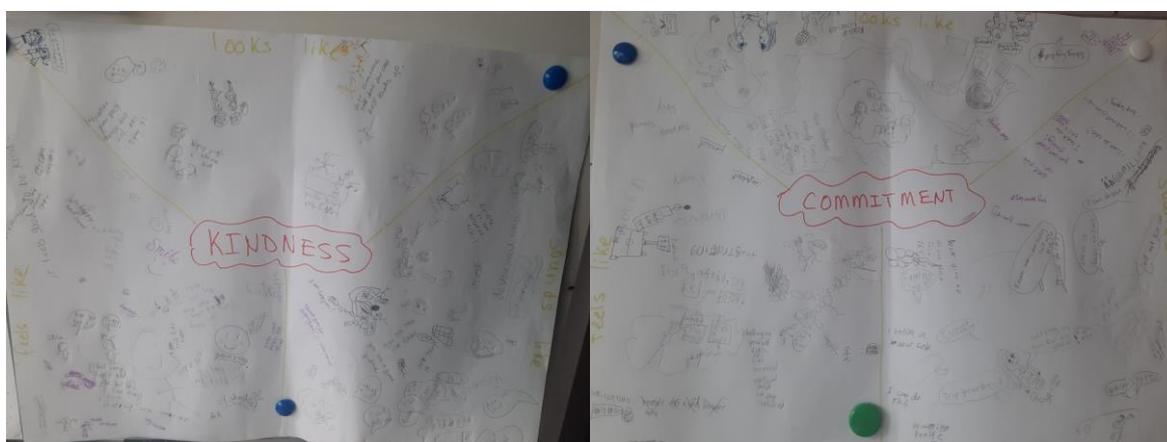
Learning at JIS – from Cath Wan, Deputy Principal/ PYP Coordinator

Starting the Year with Kindness, Commitment and Respect

It was wonderful to welcome our students back to school on Wednesday. Even after a disrupted year and a long summer break, our core values; kindness, commitment and respect have been noticeable everywhere - particularly in the way students have helped each other settle in: offering to help children who are new to the school; taking responsibility for caring for our playground and showing enthusiasm in their learning.



Across the school, classes have been busy preparing 'essential agreements' - exploring and identifying specific attitudes and actions that demonstrate kindness, commitment, respect to others, respect to oneself and respect to the environment. This is one way in which we ensure that our core values are more than 'buzz words'; instead they are intentionally explored and developed in our curriculum.



As an IB school, the 'Learner Profile' is central to our curriculum. It is no surprise therefore that there are explicit links between the Learner Profile and our school core values. This diagram shows the result of an inquiry into how the Learner Profile is embedded in our core values.



Reflective

We thoughtfully consider the world and our own ideas and experience. We work to understand our strengths and weaknesses in order to support our learning and professional development.

Balanced

We understand the importance of balancing different aspects of our lives - intellectual, physical and emotional - to achieve well - being for ourselves and others. We recognise our interdependence with other people and with the world in which we live.

Risk-takers

We approach uncertainty with forethought and determination; we work independently and cooperatively to explore new ideas and innovative strategies. We are resourceful and resilient in the face of challenges and change.

Caring

We show empathy, compassion and respect. We have a commitment to service and we act to make a positive difference in the lives of others and in the world around us.

Open-minded

We critically appreciate our own cultures and personal histories, as well as the values and traditions of others. We seek and evaluate a range of points of view and we are willing to grow from the experience.

Commitment to our ongoing learning. **Respect and kindness** to ourselves, the environment and the world.

Commitment to our learning.

Respect and kindness (for ourselves as well as others)
Respect for our environment and how we use it.

Respect and kindness in the decisions we make, the action we take.

Commitment: resilience and determination

Commitment to our language development - an appreciation of other languages and cultural norms of communication.
Respect and kindness in our listening and responses.

Respect and kindness.
Commitment to making a positive difference.

Respect and kindness to others.
A strong **commitment** to upholding our developing beliefs and values.

Respect and kindness.
Commitment to seeing other points of view.

Inquirers

We nurture our curiosity, developing the skills for inquiry. We know how to learn independently and with others. We learn with enthusiasm and sustain our love of learning throughout life.

Knowledgeable

We develop and use conceptual understanding, exploring knowledge across a range of disciplines. We engage with issues and ideas that have local and global significance.

Thinkers

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

Communicators

We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups.

Principled

We act with integrity and honesty, with a strong sense of fairness and justice, and with respect for the dignity and rights of people everywhere. We take responsibility for our actions and their consequences.

If you'd like to access this document for clearer reading, please access it here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XvNE8sj4Fugyrzk49Jf12zjIw8H14qGm/view?usp=sharing>

More information on the learner profile can be found here:

<https://www.ibo.org/contentassets/fd82f70643ef4086b7d3f292cc214962/learner-profile-en.pdf>

We look forward to a year of joy and learning, driven by our core values. If you have any questions about learning at JIS, feel free to contact me at cwan@es.jis.edu.hk

Mr. Walton: I look forward to seeing everyone around school and getting to know many of you over the coming weeks. In the meantime, should you need any support I can be reached on:

s-walton@jis.edu.hk or by phone JIS office: 2834 3531.

Wishing everyone a very pleasant weekend – enjoy the sunshine if you can, looks like a scorcher!

Simon Walton
Principal