



KOREAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
55 Lei King Road, Sai Wan Ho, Hong Kong.
Tel: (852) 2569-5500 Fax: (852) 2886-2545
E-mail (International Section): kisints@kis.edu.hk
Web Site: <http://www.kis.edu.hk>

Dear Parents and Students,

It has been a fantastic first few weeks back at school for students and staff at KIS. I hope that your children are feeling settled into the start of a new and exciting year here, which will offer them many opportunities to take on a range of challenges and develop themselves in a variety of ways.

From my personal point of view, I have been delighted to experience the engagement of students and staff, as well as parents, over these opening weeks. By actively engaging with all of our stakeholders and the wider community, there will be many opportunities to build upon the successes of previous years. I am looking forward to getting to know many more of our students and parents over the coming weeks and months.

Secondary Parents evening; the first of these opportunities happened last week when we had the presentations to parents. It was very successful.

Primary Parents evening; there will be a presentation for all Primary parents from Y1-Y6 and Springboard Primary. The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) team and I decided to postpone our Meet the Parent Night from the **19th Sep to the 3rd Oct 2019 (Thursday)** at 5:00pm in the Gym.

ECA; we are underway at last and they will start this week. Registration for some activities are still open. Unfortunately, Margret Sin left KIS over the summer. Our new Receptionist and ECA coordinator is Melissa Fung.

Hand Foot and Mouth Disease

Crisis Management Team (CMT) has been providing update and monitoring the situation closely. Last week the total number of cases for the Hand Foot Mouth Disease was 8. We put the following measures in place to contain the spread of the disease.

- Closure and cleaning of the swimming pool for one week. All swimming lessons in the International and Korean Section will be cancelled (16th to 20th September 2019).
- Common equipment (eg. Chromebooks) will be wiped down after each lesson.
- All common areas will be disinfected more frequently; hand sanitizers will be placed for students and staff in the classroom and at the gate.
- The canteen will be wiped down with a bleach free eco disinfectant.

We also like to take this opportunity to remind all parents not to send their children to school if they have a fever (37.5C and above) and to report to the class teacher or nurse (nurse@kis.edu.hk) if their children have contracted any contagious diseases.

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Thank you in advance, for your understanding and working together with us to protect the health and safety of your children and our staff. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

To keep you informed the following actions have been taken:

- We have decided to introduce a “lockdown procedure”. We will set up a system of protocols and drill practices which will take place over the next few weeks.
- We are actively consulting other schools and organisations about suitable protocols.
- We will be sharing with teachers and the children that when they hear the chimes they move quietly and quickly to the closest classroom so that we can be sure all children are inside and accounted for. The drills will be undertaken in a positive way just as our fire evacuation drills are. This is a normal part of being safe at school so that we know what to do in case of an emergency. Please listen to your child if they want to speak about the drill and also feel free to contact me should you have any questions.
- We have instituted a process to ensure student safety at the front gate should we have any protests. This process will formalise our responses and will give us a systematic way of responding and accounting for all staff and children.
- As you now know, it is essential that the school has your correct phone number for any SMS that we may need to send and that you are attentive to school emails to ensure you are fully informed. Learning is going on as normal! While we are taking precautions, it is essential for student wellbeing that learning, fun, games, play and relationships continue as normal and that school remains a safe place they enjoy coming to. If your child is exhibiting any concerns, please let your child’s teacher know. I’m sure we are all hopeful that we can return to a more stable and peaceful Hong Kong in the near future.

We have enclosed some tips for Parents to help children during the current situation in Hong Kong. The following suggestions may be helpful:

- Make your child feel safe. All children, from toddlers to teens, will benefit from your touch—extra cuddling, hugs or just a reassuring pat on the back. It gives them a feeling of security, which is so important in the aftermath of a frightening or disturbing event.
- Act calm. Children look to adults for reassurance after traumatic events have occurred. Do not discuss your anxieties with your children, or when they are around, and be aware of the tone of your voice, as children quickly pick up on anxiety.
- Maintain routines as much as possible. Amidst chaos and change, routines reassure children that life will be okay again. Try to have regular mealtimes and bedtimes.
- Help children enjoy themselves. Encourage kids to do activities and play with others. The distraction is good for them, and gives them a sense of normalcy.

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- Share information about what happened. It's always best to learn the details of a traumatic event from a safe, trusted adult. Be brief and honest, and allow children to ask questions. Don't presume kids are worrying about the same things as adults.
- Pick good times to talk. Look for natural openings to have a discussion.
- Prevent or limit exposure to news coverage. This is especially critical with toddlers and school-age children, as seeing disturbing events recounted on TV or in the newspaper or listening to them on the radio can make them seem to be ongoing. Children who believe bad events are temporary can more quickly recover from them.
- Understand that children cope in different ways. Some might want to spend extra time with friends and relatives; some might want to spend more time alone. Let your child know it is normal to experience anger, guilt and sadness, and to express things in different ways—for example, a person may feel sad but not cry.
- Listen well. It is important to understand how your child views the situation, and what is confusing or troubling to him or her. Do not lecture—just be understanding. Let kids know it is OK to tell you how they are feeling at any time.
- Provide opportunities for physical exercise. Exercise is valuable in developing natural chemicals in the brain to help us cope with feelings such as shock or worry.
- Communicate any concerns with school. If you have any worries or concerns about your child's emotional behaviour please let the school know. There will be things the school can do to help further.
- Look after yourself. A time of stress can mean less energy and more potential for illness for you, as well as others. So please take care of yourself. Feelings of uncertainty or anxiety about the future may be caused when hearing the news about events in Hong Kong and other places. Our children may be affected by such news and it is important that parents are aware of ways they can help their children manage, should this happen. Parents can help provide opportunities where feelings can be discussed within a safe context, as well as maintaining a sense of normality, routine and calm. Supporting children will enable them to process and manage their feelings and build resilience.

If you have any concerns about your child, please do get in touch with a member of the school management team who will be able to talk to you and advise you further.

Musical Recruitment Mission

It's the beginning of the school year and I'm on a musical recruitment mission again. Many of our talented musicians from last year have moved on to secondary school, which means there are lots of free spaces in our School Orchestra which need to be filled. KIS Orchestra is open to children who are in years 3, 4, 5 and 6 and play any of the following instruments at instrumental grade 2 or above (no beginners, sorry!).

Woodwind section (flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, bassoon),

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String section (violin, viola, cello, bass, harp),
Brass section (trumpet, trombone, horn, euphonium, tuba) and
Percussion instruments.
All piano/keyboard spots have been filled already.

Our orchestra usually performs during assemblies and school concerts in order to showcase what they have been practicing. Previous year's highlights have included our performances in March 1st assembly/Graduations, as well as performances at Christmas assembly and year-end concert.

Children thoroughly enjoy taking part, as it is not only an opportunity for them to learn how to play their instrument in a group and to perform, but also to get to know and socialise with children outside their respective classes.

Mr. Shum will be running an orchestra taster session from 14:25-15:00 on September 18th in the Orchestra rehearsal room 303 for any new and existing members of the orchestra. If your child plays any of the above-mentioned instruments, do encourage them to bring their instrument, come along on September 18th and have a go. Regular rehearsals will then take place every Wednesday at 14:25-15:00 in room 303.

Assemblies

Thanks to the Mid-Autumn Festival Team; the Mid-Autumn/Chuseok Secondary Assembly was held internally, on the 12th of September and the Mid-Autumn/Chuseok Primary Assembly was opened for parents. Both were great celebrations covering both Korean and Chinese cultural events. The Primary students, were encouraged to dress in traditional Korean/Chinese/heritage costume/attire and brought along their lanterns to join in the festive fun. Thank you!

Diwali Celebrations

Details about our Diwali Celebration Assembly will be out soon.

Student Elections

There was great excitement in the gym last week as the candidates faced off against each other. For Head Prefect. It was not like the Presidential debates in the US, this was working hard to persuade a tough crowd that you were the best. Voting was on Friday morning and here are the results.

Head Prefects:

Omega and Jisoo will be our new Head Prefects.
Congratulations to Head Prefects: Omega (Y12) and Jisoo (Y13)!

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Prefects:

Congratulations to the following candidates elected to be school Prefects

Y11: Raphael, Ray, Vanya, Aden, Rachel, Gabriel and Luna

Y12: Grace, Damian, Aimee, Ryan Chan and Ryan Chiu

Y13: Fabia and Radia

Thank you Form Tutors/Advisors and Ms. Chan for your support!

Next up House Captain Elections!

- Mr. Jeroen De Pauw

School Rules Update

We are putting our sets of school rules up on the website and will print out copies to send home for you all to read. They have been regularly updated by the Student Council and Staff Advisory Body, and the latest most current versions will be sent home, but in the meantime you can access a copy in the parents' portal.

Office Update

Ms. Margaret Sin/Ms. Sally Jeon/Ms. Noelle Fung all left KIS in the summer.

Ms. Melissa Fung has replaced Ms. Margaret Sin

Mr. Hyung Suk Nam has replaced Ms. Sally Jeon.

We have a new addition to the team who will be in charge of student services (Admissions/ECA/Management System) he is Mr. Hyuk Young Park.

With kind regards,

C. Chadwick

Principal