

School Newsletter

April 2017



Our families clearly had fun creating the spring bonnets for the Easter parade recently. Thank you for supporting the children, and bringing such joy and colour to school!

School Director's message

Dear parents and children,

Welcome to Term 3, our final term of this academic year. Around school, new topics of study are underway and students are on track to meet their various targets for the year. May themes will include *Alphabet and Number Magic* for Playgroup, *Out and About* for Pre-Nursery, *Transportation* for K1, *People and the Past* for K2, and *Tropical Rainforests* for K3. It's wonderful that the children are so excited by and deeply immersed in their various topics of study, as they grasp new knowledge and develop skills each day. Our aim is to have every child shine and excel at Mills, through the rich and varied opportunities provided for them to explore and discover.

Early in May we will celebrate **Book Week**, with a special focus on Dr Seuss and his wonderful rhyming stories. We have lots of fun and educational activities planned, including special readings from both adult and child authors, library visits for K1 – K3 students, a book swap, poster competition, favourite book character costume parade, surprise visits from Gus the dog, and some of our parents and children will also be helping to make decorations for school. It's a fun-filled line-up and, as always at Mills, there'll be lots of learning happening too. We still have opportunities for parents and caregivers to visit school during the week and participate in some of the events, so do let us know if you are interested in joining!

Another exciting event on our annual calendar is **Sports Day**, which will be held on Saturday, 20 May. Once again, Nord Anglia International School in Lam Tin have offered us their wonderful sports hall and it's sure to be a lively morning for all. Sports Day is a compulsory PE event and students' families are invited to attend. We've got solo and group activities planned for the children, and plenty of opportunities for adults to join in too. We know that physical exercise improves motor coordination, self-esteem, and positive thinking, so let's work together to encourage a healthy outlook and show our kids that exercising is good for the mind as well as the body.

Congratulations to our K2 and K3 students who have been successful in their applications for both international and local primary schools. We are proud of your achievements. Keep working hard and enjoy learning!

Kind regards,
Ms Deirdre



Summer uniform

As the weather is getting hotter, we officially changed to summer uniform on **Monday, 24 April**. Please note that patterned socks are not permitted with summer uniform, and all students should wear plain white ankle socks to school.

Changes to school uniform from August 2017

Please note, that from August 2017, all students will be required to wear **plain black outdoor/sports shoes** to and from school, and **plain white indoor/sports shoes** whilst at school. A uniform instills a sense of pride, discipline, and community, and students are expected to adhere to the uniform requirements set.

Playdate Party: Saturday, 6 May

Our recent Playdate Party was well attended, and due to popular demand we have another date scheduled for Saturday, 6 May. We do love welcoming lots of new children and parents to our wonderful school! If you have friends with children aged 0 – 2 years, let them know about this fun event and ask them to register at www.millsinternational.edu.hk

Kindergarten Festivals

Mills International Preschool featured at the SCMP Kindergartens Festival on Saturday, 29 April at the JW Marriott Hotel, Pacific Place, and will feature again on Saturday, 27 May at the Cordis Hotel, Langham Place. We are pleased at our ongoing growth and development which bring increased opportunities for diversity and learning to our school community, and thank you for your ongoing support.

Festive and Summer Workshops

We had a busy and fun time during our recent Spring Workshops. Don't miss out on the fun during summer too, with Summer Workshops scheduled from 3 July to 11 August at Mills. You can still get 15% off by enrolling before the end of May. Visit our website or ask our administration staff for more information about our summer programme.

Extended Learning Programme (ELP) – preparing for K1-K3

Our popular Extended Learning Programme (ELP) is scheduled each morning from 15 – 22 August and is a fantastic way for your child to get a head start before the new academic year begins. ELP is designed to build upon existing skills to develop a solid foundation in all areas of the English and Mandarin curriculum for students entering K1, K2, or K3. The programme covers areas including phonics, reading, writing, and speaking, and also helps prepare students for the challenges of primary school interviews. It was a very popular and successful programme in 2016, so don't delay in enrolling your child for August 2017, and help prevent summer learning loss. The morning school bus service will run from 15 – 22 August, to assist in your child's travel to school. Visit our website or ask our administration staff for more information about ELP.



Ready to Learn – preparing for Pre-Nursery

Children preparing to enter PN in August will also benefit from our specialist Ready to Learn programme, which runs from 3 to 21 July, 11.15am – 12.45pm, Monday to Friday. Ready to Learn is the perfect start to fun and formal schooling. Classes are designed to help the children feel at ease and settle in to the school environment and daily routines, and are a great opportunity to gain independence, confidence, and social skills through play and exploration. Lessons include singing, storytelling, unstructured free play, movement, and arts and crafts. Visit our website or ask our administration staff for more information about Ready to Learn.



Playgroup

Dear Playgroup Junior and Playgroup parents,

What an exciting month it has been building up to Easter. Over the past weeks, we have been exploring the magic of numbers and the alphabet through songs, art projects, and lots of games. The children have been so enthusiastic for the holiday season, getting fully involved in Easter egg hunts, playing in the themed sensory boxes, and singing along to some of their favourite Playgroup tunes. We have encountered many wonderful moments in Playgroup this month, with some children taking the initiative and reminding their classmates of the routines, as well as not only introducing themselves, but being able to greet me and their peers by name.



I am looking forward to watching the great progress continue to blossom in May as we explore the theme of *Shapes and Colours*.



Hugs and kisses,
Ms Kate

Pre-Nursery (PN)

Dear parents and children,

Term 2 has quickly passed by with children completing their last theme *Look What I Can Do*. Our friends have been busy practising practical life skills, such as putting on their shoes and cardigans, and hanging up schoolbags in their cubbies. We are very proud of our PN students who have steadily developed these important skills and are becoming increasingly independent each day!



To celebrate the arrival of spring, the children have learnt some songs about Easter bunnies. They discovered that bunnies have got floppy ears and a fluffy tail unlike us, but that they do some things that we can do as well. We spent our music and movement sessions pretending to be bunnies, and the children had a lot of fun hopping, jumping, running, walking, and skipping in their bunny headbands.



A big *Thank you!* to all the parents who got involved in making Easter bonnets, preparing special snacks for the children, and supporting us in the Wonder Room at the Easter Parade. We were happy to see so many of you there, and our Easter party wouldn't have been so full of joy without your contribution. We hope you all had a happy and fun Easter break, and it's lovely to see the children back in class again for Term 3.



Our new theme is *Out and About*, and we will be exploring different places that the children visit when going out with their family and friends.

Lots of Love,
Ms Emma, Ms Michelle, Ms Rhawnie, Ms Sylvia



KI

Dear parents and children,

We have had another busy month, full of fun activities. We appreciate all the time and effort you put into making the children's Easter bonnets recently – they were stunning and truly impressive! The children were very proud wearing them on parade and did a great job presenting them to everyone in the Wonder Room. We hope you enjoyed the parade as much as the children did!



The students have now completed their *Super Seasons* and *Easter* topics, and they loved participating in all of the theme-related activities. Apart from planting and playing with sand, we also introduced snow dough to the children and they were thrilled to build a snowman with their friends. There was a lot of imaginative conversation happening during these activities. The children are more outspoken and increasingly eager to express themselves and share their ideas in class. Sometimes we have to remind them to take turns!



Learning phonics can be fun! *U-u-u-umbrella!* Whilst practising the *u* sound they collaborated and helped each other open and close the umbrella. The most amusing part was when we let the children hold the umbrella and then asked a friend to spray water on them – they enjoyed this activity a lot! They giggled and sang the song *Rain, Rain Go Away* with joy. The children always look forward to learning new phonics sounds, and they are more self-motivated when approaching new tasks. Book Week is approaching! We are looking forward to seeing the children dressing up as book characters and we have lots of fun activities planned for them during this special week of events.



Hugs,
Ms Jean, Ms Wanna, Ms Kate

K2

Dear K2 parents and children,

Our first theme for Term 3 is *People and the Past*. This theme will focus on the Stone Age for the first three weeks and during this time we will be comparing the Stone Age to present times. For the last two weeks the topic will be *My Family History*, and the children will take a closer look at where they come from. They will do research on their family emblem, their surname, and where their family originated from. The K2 students have started writing sentences, and they are doing a good job remembering the three important rules of sentence-making:

1. Sentences always start with a capital letter.
2. Remember the spacing between words.
3. Always end your sentence with a full stop.

K2 and K3 students will also be focusing on the Graduation concert during Term 3. Please encourage your child to practise their songs at home as well.

The K2 children will be having outdoor PE more often now that the weather has improved, and we would like to ask parents to place a sun cap inside their schoolbags. Sun hats can also be purchased from our administration staff. You may also provide sunscreen for your child.

Please feel free to write in the Communication Book if you have any questions or concerns.

Ms Franziska and Ms Jasmine



K3

Dear K3 parents and children,

We had a wonderful Term 2, and I look forward to guiding and supporting the children's learning during Term 3 also.

During the final couple of weeks of Term 2, they had great fun exploring the theme of *Spring* in art class and produced expressive fabric paintings and Easter bags. The class also had fun making their Easter bunny artwork.

The class produced some really creative bonnets for the Easter parade, and the K3s set a good example to the younger students during the morning activities and throughout the parade. Well done, everyone! I've been thrilled throughout Term 2 by the increasing number of times other teachers have remarked on seeing K3 students assist, guide, and generally look out for the younger students around school. A caring and thoughtful nature is encouraged and very highly valued at Mills, and I'm delighted to see these qualities being developed in our oldest students.

The children are doing well in the academic aspects of school too. In English, they have almost finished the tasks in their *My Phonics Workbook*. They have worked hard to get this far. While working in their *My Literacy Book*, they have started exploring popular nursery rhymes and rhythm in text. This will be studied further during our upcoming Book Week, when we explore rhyming text by Dr Seuss. The students are also working hard on their spelling and have shown improvements during their weekly spelling tests.



In Maths, the children have moved on to simple multiplication and division. This is a tricky concept to master, so we will continue to work on this during Term 3. They have started learning about 3-D shapes and are becoming familiar with the names of the different forms. The class enjoyed finding different 3-D shapes in the class. We have continued to learn how to tell the time, and are now focusing on the time it takes to do different events, eg *Does it take 2 seconds, 2 minutes, or 2 hours to brush your teeth?*



I look forward to teaching the next topic of *Tropical Rainforests*, which the children are very excited about. During this theme we will complete tasksheets related to survival, different habitats, plant types, and different rainforest animals and their features.



Kind regards,
Ms Tracy

Mandarin

Playgroup Junior and Playgroup

Eggs and rabbits are symbols of Easter, representing the birth of new life. The Playgroup children learned about rabbits and eggs through games such as *Rabbits Looking for Carrots* and *Chickens Looking for Eggs*. They also had lots of fun role playing as a group of small rabbits jumping together to the rhythm during rabbit games. Look how much fun they had!



Sze Laoshi (Ms Yan)

Pre-Nursery

April's theme was *Spring* and the children learned the meaning of spring through stories such as *Rabbits Moving Carrots* and *Chicks Looking for Eggs*. From these activities, the children learned about different symbols associated with the season. In the *Chicks Looking for Eggs* activity, the children had to match different colours of chicks and eggs. This was an exciting and fun learning experience through which they were exposed to and familiarised with new vocabulary. You all did a great job!



Sze Laoshi (Ms Yan)

K1

During April, K1 students learned about the four seasons of spring, summer, autumn, and winter. Through matching games, they enhanced their understanding of Chinese characters and strengthened their knowledge of some Chinese vocabulary, such as the number *five*, the antonyms *long* and *short*, and they also began to explore the theme of *Easter* in Chinese. During PE, they learned about some Easter symbols such as eggs and rabbits whilst participating in teamwork activities. In music and movement sessions, the children learned the song *Small Snowflake*, explored different kinds of rhythm, and were able to recognise the different musical patterns and clap to the beats.



Joice Laoshi (Ms Joice)



K2

Spring is a season of rebirth, and in the theme of *Spring and Easter* K2 students learned all about spring weather, scenery, and festivals. They learned how to use sentences to talk about spring, such as *Spring weather is warm*, *In springtime flowers bloom*, *The Ching Ming Festival is a spring festival*, and *Easter is a spring festival*. In addition, we also studied the Tang poems *Chunxiao* and *Ching Ming*, so that the children could experience the ancient poems of Chinese culture.

Fan Laoshi (Miss Selina)



K3

For K3 children, it's important for them to have a system of study that helps reinforce the knowledge they have learned and be confident enough to master it. During this term, the children explored *Easter and Spring* through fun and interesting game activities. In the *Rabbit and Eggs* activities, the children not only had to master the ability to balance, but also had to carry the eggs whilst reading aloud the words they'd learned. This activity increased their interest in learning, but also helped train their balancing skills, concentration, and focus. Well done, everyone!

Sze Laoshi (Miss Yan)

