

School Newsletter

January 2017



Welcome back to Term 2! We began the new term by celebrating Care for All Things week, and learning the importance of respecting and loving our environment, school, other people, and animals. It's been a full and active month, culminating in our festive Lunar New Year celebrations!

School Director's message

Dear parents and children,

Happy New Year!

2017 looks set to be a great year for growth and progress. It didn't go unnoticed when the children all returned from their winter break full of enthusiasm and passion for learning. All of the important foundations and hard work accomplished during Term 1 are certainly paying off, and the students are increasingly eager to delve in, question, challenge, and learn new things each day. This is very rewarding to see and no doubt will yield wonderful results throughout the year.

The New Year often begins with a list of resolutions and focus on what is truly important in our lives, and we shouldn't have been surprised that our Care for All Things 'day' quickly developed into a week-long list of events in school. When we asked the children what things were important to them, it became clear that family and friends, teachers and school, animals and the environment were all top of their lists! What fun they had when they relooked at simple, everyday things such as old cardboard boxes and discovered that by working together they could create an interactive maze that everyone could play in and enjoy. They also learnt about the importance of saving resources and energy by turning off the lights at school when not necessary. Enquiry-based exercises such as these are valuable opportunities for young children to increase their understanding of the world and develop their critical thinking skills. As the week progressed they discovered the feel-good benefits of keeping their classroom organised, assisting and leading younger students during social activities such as snacktime, assembly and home time, donating items to less fortunate children overseas, and taking care of animals.

Shortly after our Care for All Things celebration, we kept the festive spirit going with the arrival of the Year of the Rooster! Chinese New Year decorations were made and displayed in preparation for the first Parents' Assembly of 2017 and our Chinese New Year party in school. Students were introduced to the story of The Great Race and learnt about the order of the 12 animals of the Chinese zodiac. We were delighted to see so many of you support the children as they reenacted the story,



presented a lion dance, and sang festive songs. It means so much to the children that you are there, cheering them along and encouraging their efforts.

Watch out for further opportunities to participate in school: in our special February assembly when you can join your child's class in the art studio and make a creative Valentine-themed artwork, and during our Spring-themed Family Art Jam at the beginning of March.

Wishing you all a healthy, happy, and prosperous Year of the Rooster!

Kind regards,
Ms Deirdre

Co-curricular programme

Congratulations to our co-curricular English Foundation Skills and Expressive Communication students, who sat their LCM examinations in December and achieved 100% Distinction and Merit grades! Co-curricular classes are available in the afternoons on Monday to Friday and all day Saturday. Courses are delivered in English or Mandarin and include visual arts, performing arts, science, maths, phonics, reading, environmental studies, sports, and more. Upcoming courses include the chance to participate in the LCM Speech Festival in March and perform in *The Wizard of Oz* at the HK Academy for Performing Arts in June! If you are interested in your child joining the co-curricular programme, please contact our administration staff who will be happy to advise and assist.

Re-enrolment for 2017-2018

Thank you for confirming your child's place for the 2017-2018 academic year. Places are filling extremely fast as the school grows, so if you have overlooked sending back your reply slip please do so immediately, in order to secure your child's place. We thank you for entrusting your children's care and education to us and look forward to guiding their learning during the next academic year.

Lateness reminder

Unfortunately after repeated calls for punctuality, we are still experiencing an unacceptable level of regular lateness from a small percentage of students. Arriving late for school sets a poor example, interrupts the flow of class activities for teachers and students, and has a detrimental effect on your child's learning. Please note that the number of days late will be recorded on your child's June Report. Thank you for your attention and cooperation with this.

Health reminder

Please keep your children at home if they are at all unwell or showing any signs of illness or tiredness. If you believe that they require a mask, please do not send them to school. Every school day is a busy one, requiring students to give of their best and be dynamic, alert, and able to concentrate on every task put to them.

Playgroup reminder

Playgroup classes for 6 months – 2 years are fun, full of learning, and a wonderful way for young children to become accustomed to the school environment and routine. Any child enrolled in Playgroup for a period of three months is automatically eligible to join our Preschool Pre-Nursery class without the need to pass an entrance interview.



Playgroup

Dear Playgroup Junior and Playgroup parents,

This month's theme was *New Year Celebrations* and we've been developing our numeracy skills through countdown games and activities. We've had lots of fun focusing on the numbers 1 to 10, as we counted seashells, buttons, beads, oranges, balls, bean bags, and numbered mats. What a wonderful way to help the children develop a sense of logic and observation.

We welcomed in 2017 by making art projects ranging from New Year banners to party hats, and special mandarin trees and decorative drums to celebrate Chinese New Year!

Aside from the topic-based knowledge they gain during circle, movement, and art sessions, the children are also learning how to share with friends during snacktime and free play. How sweet it is to see them exhibiting kind gestures at such an early age!

It's great to see so many of the Playgroup children progressing into Pre-Nursery recently. I miss them, but it is reassuring to see them settle smoothly into their new "big" class so quickly. I wish them all the best and will continue to look out for them in school.

Well done, everyone! Enjoy your holiday!

Warm wishes,
Ms Michelle



Pre-Nursery (PN)

Dear parents and children,

What an exciting first month back at school! We've been lucky to have so many new friends join our class, and we've been busy getting to know everyone. It's been a very eventful month full of celebrations. We came back after a wonderful Christmas break and had lots of fun celebrating Chinese New Year at the Parents' Assembly.

Our theme has been *Up in the Sky* and we have loved learning about aeroplanes, helicopters, birds, and all the wonderful things we can see if we look up. In art, we have been creative making aeroplanes, hot air balloons, stars, and many more interesting and colourful things. We all love our time in the art room where we can get messy and create beautiful artwork to show our families.

We enjoyed Care for All Things week. Some of the older students came into our classes to read to us and help us during snacktime. We really like spending time with the older children; they show us how to wash hands and how to sit nicely. Cleaning our classrooms with our teachers was hard work but lots of fun. Everyone helped out and we learnt how to work together successfully.



Mystery Reader started this term in PN, so if you would like to come to school and read a book of your choice, please let us know. It is a lovely experience to be able to share a story with your child's class! Thank you to all the Mystery Readers we have had so far. Everyone has enjoyed all the different storybooks.

We are looking forward to our next theme *Animal Stories*, which will start after the Chinese New Year break. Wishing everyone a lovely holiday with your families, and health and happiness in the New Year!

Hugs and kisses,
Ms Emma, Ms Sylvia, and Ms Rhawnie



KI

Dear parents and children,

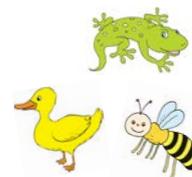
The children have been growing both physically and cognitively since the Christmas holiday. They have become a lot more talkative, imaginative, and interactive in class, and have begun to invent their own games and stories.

Care for All Things week was a great opportunity for the children to explore the world and learn how to take care of our planet, our school, our family and friends. They loved listening to the stories and discussed what we can do in our daily lives to save the earth, including the 3Rs (recycle, reduce, and reuse). They investigated different materials whilst playing sorting games and learning to categorise items for recycling. This is a great way to develop critical thinking skills.

We started off our new term with the theme *Night and Day*. The children enjoyed sharing their daily routines and discussing the things we do during daytime and nighttime. They've also learnt to differentiate between nocturnal and diurnal animals. Sensory play is one of the children's favourite activities, and they were excited to use the torch to find stars, the moon, and the sun in the sensory box, and using their hands to feel the texture of the materials.

The month ended with our Chinese New Year celebrations, and the children used a variety of art materials and techniques, including bottle printing and marble painting to make beautiful cherry blossom trees and lanterns. Keep up the great work, KI!

Love,
Ms Jean, Ms Michelle, and Ms Wanna



K2

Dear parents and children,

Welcome back, everyone! We were glad to see that the children came back from their holidays refreshed and full of energy.

The first topic for Term 2 was *I Live in Hong Kong* and the children have been focusing on where they live within Hong Kong. We enlarged an MTR map and spoke about the new stations that have recently been added to the map. We spoke about the distance everyone has to travel to get to Mills, and which transportation everyone takes. We were lucky that the sun shone during our walk to the waterfront boat harbour, and the students had great fun spotting and counting the different types of transportation they encountered along the route.

We also discussed different landmarks and the traditional food we eat in Hong Kong. The children created *siu mai* and watched a video of how *siu mai* is prepared and cooked. They also enjoyed using mixed media of paint, crayon, and cotton to create wonderful artworks of Hong Kong landmarks. Their collages will be sent home after the Chinese New Year holiday.

During Care for All Things week, the children helped to tidy their resources and clean their classroom. They also learnt the importance of recycling and helped to make a large maze from old cardboard boxes. Everyone enjoyed playing in the maze as much as making it! What a fun and memorable way to appreciate everyday items that would normally be discarded, and discover that things like boxes and paper can be reused to create new and interesting objects.

In Literacy we will continue with the sounds *j – oa – ie – ee – or*. The children are much more independent during academic studies compared to Term 1 and can now complete their work by themselves. Well done, K2!

Our next theme will be *Children Around the World*. For this theme, the children will study four different countries: South Africa, Australia, India, and England. We will look at the different types of food, culture, and languages experienced by children in these countries.

Wishing you a wonderful Chinese New Year holiday.
Ms Franziska and Ms Jasmine



K3

Dear K3 parents and children,

I hope you all had a wonderful break over December and are looking forward to the year ahead.

In English the children have been working very hard and are doing well in their weekly spelling tasks and aural comprehension tests. This term we will be starting to use the *My Literacy Workbook*. I trust that the students will enjoy this, as it will help to improve their reading and writing skills. They have made significant improvements in English since the beginning of the school year, and I look forward to seeing this continue throughout Term 2.



In Maths, the children have been learning about number bonds, ordering, money denominations, and the value of money. They will be starting *time* very shortly. During Maths activities they are becoming accustomed to using concrete items when doing addition and subtraction. Please assist and encourage your child to become familiar with money and time during everyday activities at home.

In Geography, they have been learning about locating places on the world map, as well as learning about the oceans and continents. In History, they have focused on our current theme *Journey Back in Time* and learnt about important historical events such as the dinosaur era and the Stone Age. They also touched upon the Egyptian era, and found it interesting to learn how the Egyptians used hieroglyphics and what some of their symbols meant. During our excursion to the Hong Kong History Museum, they were able to see how Stone Age people lived and how they had to catch fish using spears and bows and arrows. We had fun back in class role playing with Stone Age-themed props and reenacted different parts of a typical day during the Stone Age.

January has been a busy month and it ended with the students exploring topics related to Chinese New Year. What fun they had remembering the sequence of events in *The Great Race* story and participating in our special Chinese New Year themed Parents' Assembly.

I am very proud of how the K3 students are now assisting Pre-Nursery classes during snacktime and helping them walk back to their classes after assembly every Monday. Keep it up, K3!

Wishing you all a lovely and festive Chinese New Year!

Kind regards,
Ms Tracy



Mandarin Activities

Playgroup Junior and Playgroup

In the theme of *Interesting Numbers*, the children learnt the numbers 1 to 5 during different activities. They sang the song *One Two Three* together with some rhythmical games. As the Lunar New Year is approaching, children also learned some common items in the New Year, such as *red packets*, *red couplets*, and so on. We wish you all a Happy New Year!

Sze Laoshi (Ms Yan)

Pre-Nursery

The PN children learned some words related to objects in the sky including *stars*, *moon*, *sun*, *rainbow*, and *cloud*. They also sang the song *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star together*. As the Lunar New Year is approaching, children learned about the New Year's customs and the song *Kung Hei Kung Hei*.

Sze Laoshi (Ms Yan)



K1

In the theme of *Day and Night* and *Lunar New Year*, K1 children learned about day, night, sun, moon, stars, and the New Year through various games and classroom activities. Through these fun games, children practised and consolidated the words related to day and night, and for the Lunar New Year, they learned to write some blessing sentences. During singing sessions, they learned the songs *Sun and Moon* and *Kung Hei Kung Hei*.

Sze Laoshi and Joice Laoshi (Ms Cici and Ms Joice)



K2

In the theme of *Lunar New Year*, K2 children learned the meaning of the New Year by listening to the story of *The Year Beast*. They also learned the zodiac animals through the *Chinese Zodiac Story*. Through the story of *New Year's Voice*, they got to experience the atmosphere of the Lunar New Year and understand its traditions and customs.

Lunar New Year is a traditional Chinese festival. In order to deepen children's understanding of the festival, we also taught the children about the meaning of New Year's Eve and the family reunion through role play activities. We wish all of you a fantastic time celebrating the Lunar New Year!

Fan Laoshi (Miss Selina)



K3

K3 children learned the origin and customs of Lunar New Year in this month's theme. Through stories and activities, they learned the names of the Chinese zodiac animals, and created and wrote their own lucky couplets. They also learned how to perform the dragon and lion dance for the New Year.

Sze Laoshi (Miss Yan)

