



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL, PENANG

No. 10 Nunn Road, 10350 Penang, West Malaysia.

Tel: +604 226 3589 / 228 0752 Fax: +604 226 4340

Email: Principal - principal@scips.org.my School - scipsoffice@scips.org.my

Ctlm/Sept2011/1st Circular

7th Sept 2011

Dear Parents,

Well, we couldn't have wished for a better start to the new 2011/2012 Academic Year. What a difference it makes being able to return to our new 3 storey teaching block. What has also made quite a difference is the complete new set of furniture in all our Early Years classes (Nursery and Reception). This has really brightened up their classrooms and the children are certainly enjoying their new colourful furniture. (As well as the teachers)

In addition to this we have had the delivery of 40+ boxes full of new resources from the UK. We have also re-surfaced the multi-purpose court as well as the small play area behind the Support rooms. It is therefore such a positive start to our new academic year.

ENROLMENT

We have 113 new children starting at the beginning of this first term compared to 100 this time last year. The demand for places certainly brings its pressure as 21 of our 24 classes are **FULL** for the start of this academic year. We only have room in Year 6 and this is also limited to 2 children per class. We open with 576 children compared to 554 in September 2010.

My biggest concern is for new families arriving in Penang in the future, as there is uncertainty as to whether or not we will have places available. Although this is indeed a very positive position to be in, it also creates pressure as well as disappointment. The last thing we want to do is turn away new parents and children, yet it looks as if we may have no choice!

STAFFING

I would like to thank all our staff for the thorough preparation and planning prior to the children starting back. I have visited every class and it is an absolute pleasure to walk into each classroom to be welcomed by happy, enthusiastic and motivated children in a teaching and learning environment that is so bright and colourful.

We welcome 8 new teachers and I have been extremely impressed with not only their commitment and professionalism, but also with how quickly they have settled into Penang.

We welcome:

Ms Charlotte Ruddy	(Y6CR)	Mrs Lianne Lamb	(Y2LD)
Mr Matthew Watson	(Y4MW)	Ms Sarah Green	(Y4SG)
Ms Elaine Lim	(RE)	Mr Tim Lamb	(Head of P.E)
Ms Sue Houghton	(Deputy Principal)	Ms Sam Rix	(Y3SR)

Information on the new teachers will be included in either the Infants or Juniors circulars.

EVENTS/DATES FOR TERM 1

It will be yet another busy term, full of activities. We have three year groups out on their annual residential trips this term – Year 6, Year 4 and Year 5. Year 6 will be having their Concert at the end of this term. We will also have our Early Years Carols/Xmas Evening. There will be IPC entry and exit points as well as numerous Sporting events for the children to enjoy and participate in.

We will have a Curriculum Evening for parents to attend to learn more about what is happening at School. We will also have parent-teacher interviews – initially for new parents after their child(ren)'s first four weeks at school (week commencing **3rd October**) with whole school interviews on the **23rd and 24th November**.

website: www.scips.org.my

Registered Co: **THE ST. CHRISTOPHER'S SCHOOL ASSOCIATION** (5296-T)



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Several teachers will be attending Professional Development opportunities during the course of the term. I attach a list of events for this term although these may be subject to change.

MALAYSIA DAY

Friday the 16th September is a public holiday to celebrate Malaysia Day. On **Thursday, the 15th September**, we would like to encourage the children to come to School wearing a Malaysian costume or appropriate clothes that celebrates Malaysia Day.

THE GLOBAL CHILDREN'S CHALLENGE

The Global Children's Challenge is an exciting health initiative designed to increase physical activity amongst children. This will only be introduced to Year 4 to Year 6 classes – each child will receive a pedometer to record their daily activity over 50 days. Each class will record their distances on a website and see how far they travel on the amazing 'virtual' journey around the world. They will explore different cultures, history and geography, all whilst increasing their physical activity and Improving their health.

PARENT-TEACHER COMMITTEE (PTC)

The PTC is looking forward to not only supporting the School during the course of this new School year, but also in planning events that will promote enjoyment and bring our School community together.

We want to confirm class parents by the end of September and plan to bring them together to discuss how they can support our class teachers.

The PTC members are :

President	: Jennifer Horrocks	Child	: Craig Horrocks (Y2KW)
Vice-President	: Annie Lee	Child(ren)	: Layla Lee (Y2KW) / Nancy Lee (Y1JD)
Vice-President	: Bechay Galang	Child (ren)	: Julia Galang (Y5SA / Keoni (Y1CD)/ Victoria (Y6KB)
Secretary	: Nina Hornfeldt	Child	: Filippa (Y1JD)
Treasurer	: Litza Cooper	Child (ren)	: Mali Cooper (Y3AB) /Indira Cooper (Y5SA)

General Committee

Members	: Sarah Treble	Child (ren)	: Caitlyn Treble (Y5SA) / Emily Treble (Y6JH)
	: Christina Kvarnstrom	Child	: Emilia (Y5KL)

ECO SCHOOL

This year we will focus on promoting a greater awareness of our environment. (Reduce, Re-use and Re-cycle)
St. Christopher's is registered as an ECO School and one of our targets this year will be to reduce the use of paper, particularly in circulating information to parents. We plan to send all newsletters, circulars and information electronically via emails.

It is therefore important to have your correct email addresses. Please support us by completing the attached form indication both mum as well as dad's email addresses clearly. Once we have this, future information will be sent by email. Hard copies will only be given to any child whose parents don't have an email address, which we hope will be very few (if any). Occasionally there may be a need for paper circulars based on the response we may need, but not often! Please support us with this.

UNIFORM

We love seeing the children looking so smart in their school uniform. Please be aware of expectations especially with footwear (black / brown shoes to be worn with uniform and **not** sports trainers) and headwear (no multi colours scarves please –school batik colour is ok) along with any warm jumpers or sweaters (we now have the blue SCIPS sweater if your child is cold). For swimming, children need to wear the school swimming suits and caps (available in the office)

The PTC is currently looking into suitable caps / hats as well as sports shorts (possibly change from white to a darker colour).

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PARENT HELPERS

If you would like to offer your time helping in school, please complete the attached proforma. Teachers are also looking for class parents so do please talk to your child's class teacher if you would like to help in this respect.

TRAFFIC / CONGESTION

This first week has been a challenge and I would like to thank the parents for your co-operation. The mornings seem fine. From next week, parents will not be allowed to park before the entrance in the morning as this does create delays as well as present safety issues.

Collection is more difficult and if parents walk in to collect their children, you will be asked to stand and wait in the Inside lane of the entrance driveway (nearer to the School) so we can use the outside lane for cars (with less danger to children or parents). Younger siblings should be collected from their older brother or sister's class teacher.

Once your child is assembled, please collect them promptly and leave so we can speed up the departure process. Please do not enter into lengthy conversation with either the teacher or other parents and cause delays by blocking up the driveway. Please **DO NOT PARK** at the front and back entrance of the Thai Consulate. Your support with this will be very much appreciated.

CAR STICKERS

To gain access into the School compound, you do need to purchase and display a SCIPS car sticker. Please see Christina / Eliza in the office. The cost is RM2/-.

WITHDRAWAL

Please be informed that when a child will be leaving the School at the end of the School term (Wednesday, 14th December), **prior notice in writing must be handed** to the School office **before Friday 21st October 2011**. Parents are reminded that the depreciated deposit will not be refunded if a child withdraws from the school at a short notice, failure to give the required 6 weeks prior notice, shall result in forfeiture of the depreciated deposit.

I have enjoyed welcoming the children back to School and I am also gradually getting to know our new students, whom all look so happy. Please call in to say 'Hi Mr Jones' and always be aware that my door is open for any feedback you may have.

Yours sincerely,

John Gwyn Jones
Principal

Encl : Parent Helper Proforma/Student Pass Circular
Withdrawal Circular/Academic Term Dates
Email Address Proforma



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EMAIL ADDRESSES

In future, most correspondence between School and home will be communicated **electronically by email**. We hope that most of our parents, if not all, have email addresses.

It is important that we have your correct email addresses, so please complete the proforma and return this to your class teacher. It is important that **every parent** support us by **returning this proforma**.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

NAME OF CHILD(REN) [IN BLOCK CAPITALS]	CLASS
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

FATHER'S NAME : _____ (PLEASE FILL IN CAPITAL LETTER)

(*FATHER'S EMAIL ADDRESS : _____

MOTHER'S NAME : _____ (PLEASE FILL IN CAPITAL LETTER)

(*MOTHER'S EMAIL ADDRSS : _____

(* Please ensure the email address is stated clearly with appropriate spacing and symbols. (as appropriate)

Signed : _____ (Parent/Guardian)

Date : _____