



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

13th January 2012

Happy New Year Everyone.

A warm welcome to all our new families – we have 34 new children starting this second term and from what I have seen of them this week, they all seem to have settled in well.

Welcome back to our existing pupils, all of whom also seem to be very happy being back at School (as I am sure their parents are as well!)

ENROLMENT

We open the second term with a higher enrolment than we expected. Nearly all our year groups are **FULL**. We have 2 places available in Year 1, one place in Year 2 with 5 places in Year 5 and 9 places in Year 6. Our Numbers for the start of this term are 571 compared to 575 in September 2011 and 570 in January 2011. We therefore remain consistently near our capacity.

Although we are delighted that we remain a popular choice for parents with primary aged children, we are concerned that some parents are unable to secure places for their children. Our new Nursery classes for September 2012 are already FULL, yet we have over 8 months before we open with these classes. Parents arriving between now and September with a 3+ aged child will therefore be disappointed in having to be placed on a waiting list.

Attached is a proforma for you to complete if you are aware of when you will be withdrawing your child. Please complete and return to the office.

STAFFING

We are now aware of teachers whom will be leaving us at the end of this academic year. They are:

Ms Rachael Caine	(Y2RC)	Mr Jamie Harding	(Y6JH)
Mr Neil Bowker	(Y3NB)	Mr Matthew Watson	(Y4MW)
Mrs Charlene Bowker	(Y5CB)	Ms Sally Argent	(Y5SA)
Ms Eileen Soon	(SEN)	Ms Kerry Wilkinson	(Y2KW)

They have all given a wonderful commitment and service to the School and I would like to wish each one of them continued success wherever they may find themselves in the new School year.

The following teachers have extended their contract for a further one year.

Ms Julia Martinez	(Head of Infants)	Ms Kathryn Bruinsma	(Y6KB)
Mrs Kate Msaka	(Reception K)		

I am delighted about having the above provide further continuity to our teaching team as the experience they have gives greater stability for the School.



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We have already appointed three new teachers for September 2012. They are :

1. Jack Martin (Key Stage 2 – Year 3 to Year 6)

2. Jessica Egginton (Key Stage 1 – Year 1 to Year 2)

Both Jack and Jessica teach at Dulwich International College in Beijing and this summer they will be getting married. So 2012 will certainly be an exciting year for both of them.

3. Hannah Billing (Key Stage 2 – Year 3 to Year 6)

Hannah is currently teaching at Calster Junior School in Norfolk, England. This will be her first teaching post overseas. Hannah will be spending a week in Penang from the 11th to 18th February.

We have three other appointments to make. We have a further three applicants visiting the School on the 2nd and 3rd February and I will also be visiting 5 teachers in the UK in their Schools from the 8th to the 15th February. We therefore have a good selection of teaching applicants to choose from for our remaining recruitment needs.

EVENTS AND DATES FOR TERM 2

This is the shortest term of the Academic Year yet we have so many activities planned. Attached is a list of all the events organised over the course of this second term.

The key events will be :

YEAR 3 RESIDENTIAL – JEREJAK ISLAND

This will be in the week of the 12th March and a parents meeting will be organised soon to provide parents of our Year 3 children with further information. All Year 3 children are expected to participate in this residential visit.

FOBISSEA MATHS CHALLENGE

From the 1st to 4th March, four of our Year 6 children will represent SCIPS at the FOBISSEA Maths Challenge hosted by the British School in Manila. They will be accompanied by Ms Houghton our Deputy Principal.

FOBISSEA PRIMARY PERFORMING ARTS CONCERT

From the 22nd to 26th March, 20 of our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will depart for the British School in Jakarta where they will participate in music, choral, drama and dance activities. They will be accompanied by Ms Caine and Ms Luby.

TARGET SETTING – YEAR 2 AND YEAR 6

As Year 2 and Year 6 pupils will be having their end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 tests in Term 3, the teachers will be meeting with their parents to discuss predictions and targets for them in preparation for these tests. More information to follow.



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CREATIVE WEEK

The teachers will be organising activities over the week commencing the 30th January that will allow the children to develop and demonstrate their creative skills in all aspects of their learning. Ms Caine will circulate information on what will be arranged during the course of the week.

SPORTS

Mr Lamb has busily prepared a full schedule of sporting activities this term in addition to the weekday P.E and Swimming (Y3 and 4) lessons. Apart from our regular matches / fixtures with other Schools in Penang, there will also be competitions organised with ELC (Away) and Tenby School (Home), Kuala Lumpur.

Mr Lamb has already met with the parents of the FOBISSEA squad regarding our participation in the FOBISSEA Games which is being hosted by the British School in Beijing. Towards the end this term, our Key Stage 2 children will have their Sports Day at USM. (subject to availability)

CHINESE NEW YEAR

On Friday, the 20th January we will be celebrating Chinese New Year. Children and Staff are encouraged to wear Chinese New Year clothes (otherwise children will wear their school uniform). The PTC and the School have arranged for a Dragon and Lion Dance display which will start at 9.45 a.m. Parents are welcomed to attend.

There will also be an opportunity for the children to prepare and taste Yee Sang which is a traditional dish celebrated during Chinese New Year.

CLASS PARENT (See attached list of Class Parent)

I hope to organise a meeting early this term with the class parents to discuss our Emergency Communication System (ECS). Apart from the need to update each class list, we will seek their assistance in confirming parents' telephone numbers and email addresses. Once these are confirmed, we will test the ECS as well as send future circulars and letters electronically through emails. Mrs. Horrocks will inform class parents when we will meet. Please support us through your attendance.

DROP OFF / PICK UP

Can we seek your support in making sure the children don't arrive in School too early and are picked up promptly at the end of the School day?

The School provides supervision from 7.45 a.m. as well as up to 15 minutes after the end of the School day. (which varies depending on the year group)

We very much appreciate your support with this.



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HEALTHY FRIDAY

On Friday 20th January onwards the children have the chance to buy fruit juices during the lunch break. Different fruit drinks will be giving out at the canteen for 2 Ringgit per cup. We hope the children will enjoy this time for cool, fresh and sugarless drinks. The healthy Fridays will resume for some weeks.

FROM THE PTC

We would like to welcome the new families who have joined us at SCIPS this term! We'd like to extend a special invitation to the new parents to come to a coffee morning so that we can meet you. We will have the coffee morning on Friday, Jan. 20th at 8:30 in the parents' room. We will be selling second hand uniforms at that time, as well. Please be aware that our girls' tops are extremely limited at this time.

We are excited about our **Chinese New Year Celebration** also happening next **Friday, Jan. 20th!**

Students may come to school that day dressed in traditional Chinese costume, or their uniform. We will have a dragon and lion dance that will come and perform for the children in the morning and parents are invited to attend. The performance will begin at approximately 9:45. Please come to the school between 9:30 and 9:45 if you would like to see this traditional dance! The children will also have the opportunity to participate in other Chinese New Year traditions on that day!

It has been a very positive start to this second term and I am looking forward to seeing your children participate and enjoy all the learning experience that we plan and present to them over the course of the coming three months.

I also look forward to your continued support to our School as we are very proud of the partnership that we enjoy with our parents.

Yours sincerely,

John Jones
Principal

Encl: Term 2 Dates
Withdrawal Proforma
Student Pass Circular
Parent Helper Proforma
Class Parent List



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Term 2 DATES

Mon 9 th Jan	Term 2 commences for the children
Mon 16 th Jan	After School Activities start (Y2 to Y6)
Fri 20 th Jan	Chinese New Year Celebration – Dragon / Lion Dance at 9.45 a.m.
Mon 23 rd -24 th Jan	School closed – CNY holiday
Fri 27 th Jan]	Y5/Y6 Football (SCIPS vs. ELC, Sg. Buloh)
Sat 28 th Jan]	Athletics Meet at ELC, Sg Buloh (Y5/Y6)
Mon 30 th Jan	Creative Week
Wed 1 st Feb	Y1JD Sharing Assembly
Mon 6 th Feb – Wed 8 th Feb	Half Term Break (Prophet Mohd + Thaipusam)
Wed 8 th Feb to Wed 15 th Feb	Mr Jones in U.K recruiting new teachers
Fri 10 th Feb	Y5SA Sharing Assembly
Thurs 16 th Feb	Y2 Parents Meeting re Target setting
Fri 17 th Feb	Last day to give notice of withdrawal
Fri 17 th Feb	Y4CW Sharing Assembly
Mon 20 th Feb	Y2/Y6 Target setting week
Wed 22 nd Feb	Key Stage 1 Bahasa assembly
Mon 27 th Feb	School AGM
Tues 28 th Feb	Y6 Parents Meeting re Target setting
Thur 1 st Mar to Sun 4 th Mar	FOBISSEA Maths Challenge in Manila
Wed 7 th Mar	Y2 Concert at Wawasan
Mon 12 th Mar	Y3 Classes go to Jerejak
Wed 14 th Mar	RJ Sharing Assembly
Wed 14 th & Thurs 15 th Mar	Parent Teacher Interviews (except Year 3)
Fri 16 th Mar	Y4SG Sharing Assembly
Thurs 15 th to Sat 17 th Mar	FOBISSEA Headteachers Meeting
Tues 20 th Mar	EY Sports Day at SCIPS
Wed 21 st Mar	Y1HW Sharing Assembly
Wed 21 st Mar	KS2 Sports Day at USM (Y3-Y6)
Wed 21 st & Thurs 22 nd Mar	Y3 Parent Teacher Interviews
Thurs 22 nd – Mon 26 th Mar	FOBISSEA Primary Performing Arts Carnival in Jakarta
Fri 23 rd Mar	KS2 Bahasa Assembly (Y5/Y6)
Fri 23 rd Mar	After School Activities finish
Fri 23 rd Mar]	Swimming (SCIPS vs. Tenby, KL) Y4-Y6
Sat 24 th Mar]	Football (SCIPS vs. Tenby, KL) Y4-Y6
Mon 26 th Mar	Year 3 & 4 Swimming Gala at PSC (Y3-Y4)
Fri 30 th Mar	Last day of Term 2
Mon 16 th Apr	Classroom Preparation for the teachers
Tues 17 th Apr	Term 3 Commences for the children

*** Dates / Events may be subject to change**

website: www.scips.org.my

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