



# ST CHRISTOPHER'S INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Principal's eNews

Term 3 Issue 3 | 19th June 2021

Dear Parents

Although the extension of the MCO is understandable as Malaysia tries to control the number of COVID cases, it is disappointing to know that the children will not be able to return for the final weeks of the school year. This news is unfortunate for everyone and not the end we would want. I know that the teachers are all proud of the tremendous work the children have been doing and the resilience and adaptability they display whilst learning online.

The teachers have completed the Term 3 reports, and these will be sent out shortly. I know that they are also looking forward to the Parent Conferences next week, where they will be informing you of how your child has progressed this year. It also gives everyone the chance to acknowledge and celebrate the children's successes.

As we will not be returning to face to face teaching, the Board of Governors has agreed that teachers who wanted to return home may leave before the end of term. This decision has been extremely well received by the teaching staff, who for many will not have seen their families for over 18 months. Those teachers leaving will continue to teach online, and respond to children in the Google Classroom, ensuring that there is no impact on the children's learning.

### Leaving Staff

At the end of the academic year, as well as students, a number of staff will also be leaving the school. We say farewell to Luke Mcrae, Andrea O'Keefe, Lauren Bailey, Dean Isherwood, Jennifer Finnigan, Hazel Smith, Isabella Charkiris, Millie Harries, Hannah Philips, Tom Leighton and Ms Doreen Kang.

We thank them for their fantastic care and support for the children and their hard work and dedication in ensuring that the school is a positive and caring learning environment. We wish them all success in their next challenge and adventures.

### Class Allocation

As mentioned in my last newsletter, due to the lack of mobility and opportunities for the children to connect with others in their year group, all year groups will be mixed up at the end of this year. The teachers are finalising the classlists, and parents will receive the class allocations on Tuesday 29th June.

### Important Information for 2021/2022 Academic Year

The information below includes some positive developments that will be implemented in the next school year.

### School Fees

I am pleased to announce that for the fifth year running, St Christopher's will not be increasing school fees for next year. This decision made by the Board of Governors acknowledges the continued financial pressures faced by many of our parents.

### Academic Calendar

There has been a slight change to the Academic Calendar for next year. The start of the school year has been delayed and will now commence on Wednesday, 1st September.

The two reasons for the change are first to enable parents and staff the opportunity to return to their home countries to reconnect with their families. Second, it is hoped that by delaying the start of Term 1, Malaysia will have sufficient



# ST CHRISTOPHER'S INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

time to further recover from the pandemic, and the children will be able to return to Face to Face learning on the school campus.

The change will not affect the number of school days in the year, as days have been made up by minor adjustments to other holidays previously scheduled. This ensures there are still 180 school days. [Academic Calendar 2021/2022](#)

## Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

The challenges of remote learning and SOP's in school have allowed us to rethink how MFL is taught at SCIPS. From the next academic year, we will increase the time children learn MFL and introduce a different system whereby children will have access to Mandarin throughout the school. Also, the choice to study one language full-time will be brought forward to children when they enter Year 3. They will then continue to learn that language throughout their time in Juniors.

Year 3 - 6 children will choose between studying German, Mandarin or Bahasa Malaysia. If Malaysian students decide to learn German or Mandarin, they will need to take two compulsory after school lessons in Bahasa Malaysia to meet the national curriculum requirements.

## Timings of the School Days

Throughout this year, a staggered pick-up system was implemented and received positive feedback from many parents. The new timings of the school day are outlined below, and you will see that we have implemented this pick-up system.

In addition, many parents will remember before the pandemic that children would go home early on Wednesday afternoons. This will change for Term 1, and Wednesday will now run as per the rest of the week.

|               |                                       |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| Drop Off      | 0730                                  |
| School Starts | 0800                                  |
| School Ends   | EY 1430   Y1 - Y2 1445   Y3 - Y6 1455 |

## Nursery

Another development will be that our youngest students will be able to stay at school for the whole day. Rather than going home at lunchtime, those children who are ready and able to remain in school will enjoy learning opportunities in the afternoon and go home at 1430.

I would like to finish my newsletter with a huge heartfelt thank you to everyone who has been in contact with me and offered their sympathies and support. I returned to the UK to provide the very much needed help and support for my family and will be returning to Penang in the coming weeks.

Enjoy your weekend and stay safe.  
Martin Towse