



# ST CHRISTOPHER'S INTERNATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Principal's eNews

Term 1 Issue 3 | 9th October 2021

Dear Parents,

It is great to be able to have the Early Years children back in school, but I am sure, like myself, many parents are frustrated that older children remain at home and learning online.

Last Friday, I attended an AIMS (Association of International Malaysian Schools) meeting to coordinate a response to the MOE regarding the National Recovery Plan and its lack of flexibility concerning International Schools. I then attended a MOE meeting on the same day about the reopening of schools when states move to Phase 3 of the NRP.

In the AIMS meeting, all Principals agreed that the current MOE SOPs and timelines for school opening in Phase 3 do not work. The SOPs are written for the Malaysian schools return but constrain the operations of International schools. Also, nothing has been said about the return of Primary aged children, which is concerning.

To summarise, AIMS have submitted a letter detailing the issues. They have asked for a meeting with the decision-makers in the MOE requesting that international schools be given the autonomy to make their own decisions so that children in fee-paying private and international schools can return safely and as soon as possible. The chairman of AIMS is following up on this matter and I am awaiting a response.

With interstate travel due to resume, hopefully, Penang moving to Phase 3, other business sectors opening up, and a positive response to the AIMS letter, we will be able to bring or at least have a date when all the students can come back into the school.

### Prefects

We were pleased to appoint our prefects earlier on in the term and six children from Year 6 have taken on the responsibility with real enthusiasm! They have begun their duties by writing or making videos for the Daily News (posted on Google Classroom) each day and also making some 'secret reader' videos to introduce themselves to the Early Years and Infants children whilst telling stories. On Thursday they had a lunch meeting with Mr. Lamb and myself to agree on some exciting activities that they might support during the second half of term - watch this space.

### Staff Professional Development

This is an essential element of our programme for the teachers and assistants at SCIPS and it continues to take place during the time online. It is incredible to think that two years ago, we hosted the FOBISIA Teaching Community Conference in person here at SCIPS. Friday 1st October saw the first FOBISIA event we have been able to host since then. This time we were delighted to welcome 28 teachers from across FOBISIA schools join an e-conference entitled Primary Maths - A Recovery Curriculum. Our Maths Leader Mr Reeves gave the introduction Key Note workshop that set the tone for 17 other mini-workshops where teachers shared ideas ranging from The Power of Subitising to Maths Mindsets; all designed to support children in learning online or as they transition back into the classroom. We look forward to being able to 'send' our teachers on a number of these events in the near future as well as hosting another conference for the Early Years Teachers and Assistants later in November.

### Key Dates

#### 29th October - Virtual Halloween

Prepare your costumes as we will be celebrating Halloween online this year. School will run an online haunted house for all ages of children to explore. More information to come.

#### 3rd November - Deepavali celebrations



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Children may dress in their festival clothing this day, either online or in school, as children participate in activities to celebrate Deepavali.

### **8th November - Times Table Rockstars Day**

On this day, Juniors children will have a chance to dress up and begin their week-long inter-school multiplication 'battle' with Shrewsbury School, Bangkok. More information to follow.

Enjoy your weekend,  
Martin Towse