

18th August 2022

Dear Parents

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you and your child to St. Christopher's for the 2022/23 Academic year. It is really exciting and such a joy for all the staff to begin the new term in school, and we all look forward to welcoming everyone on Monday 22nd August.

Our focus this year will be to **RESET** the school after the two years of disruption, **RECONNECT** the community through clear communication and rebuilding relationships, and **REVIVE** the school through the wonderful learning opportunities and events being put back into the calendar. We will also reestablish the essential routines and structures that may have been lost or forgotten to ensure the children feel safe, secure and stable. I am confident the children will settle quickly into their new classes and enjoy creating those positive relationships with teachers and other children.

I am pleased to welcome six new teachers who have been in school for a few weeks and are enthusiastic to meet the children and become part of the SCIPS family. You can learn all about the new staff and read their profiles along with the rest of the team on the school website. [Click here](#)

<b>Ryan Ganose</b>	Year 6/7 English	<b>Hu Yang</b>	Mandarin
<b>Tunde Baranyi</b>	German	<b>Ashleigh Kilgour</b>	Year 3
<b>Daniel Guerrard</b>	Music	<b>Deborah Martin</b>	Mandarin/Cover

### Change of School Name

With the expansion into Year 7 and 8, the school can no longer use Primary in its official name. Hence, it will revert to its original title, **St. Christopher's International School**. However, the acronym SCIPS has become so linked to the school that it will remain, as the P can stand for both Primary and Prep.

### COVID Update

The school will open this term with the same MOE/MOH SOPs as we finished Term 3 in July. This allows for near-normal operations and ensures the health and wellbeing of all.

It is expected that masks be worn when in the classroom, except for children in the Early Years, and they are optional when outside. There are no longer temperature checks, restrictions on the direction of movement or rules on distancing.

Hand sanitising/washing/hygiene will continue, and we will now hold integrated activities such as assemblies and playtimes where children from different year groups will mix. Along with this we will continue to operate the same staggered dismissal procedures as this has helped ease traffic flow at the end of the day.

Please be assured we continue to monitor the systems in place to ensure that the health and well-being of the children remain our priority.

The school has updated our [COVID Response Guide](#). The purpose of this guide is to support decision-making and eliminate any uncertainty about what action the school requires and what members of the school community will take when faced with the varied and different situations related to COVID-19. It also is designed to answer frequently asked questions.

## School improvements

Over the summer break, extensive work has been carried out, and these improvements will have a positive impact on the children's learning as well as improve the look and feel of the school.

So when you next walk around the school, you will notice the following;

- **Nursery Outdoor Learning Space** - The area in front of the Nursery Classrooms has had a major upgrade to make it a purpose-built outdoor learning space for our youngest children. This area will be called 'Ms Edith's Garden' in memory of our much-loved Nursery teacher, who passed away last October.
- **Year One and Two Outdoor Learning Space** - Improvements to the outdoor learning space behind the Year One and Two Classrooms include easier access via sliding double doors, resurfacing the area, and installing an overhead cover.
- **New School Shop and Larger Parent Waiting Area** - The school shop has moved next to the cafe, and the covered parent waiting area has been expanded.
- **Year 7 and 8 Classrooms and Science Lab** - The Prep classrooms and Science Lab have been completed, and a new outdoor learning/socialising breakout space has been created for the older students.
- **Kampung Playground** - The playground has been fully refurbished and is ready to have the children back playing again.
- **All Weather Surface** - The back of the school has been transformed into one expansive space with the removal of the tennis court, stone path and four square area removal. This whole space has been covered with artificial grass enabling the children to use it throughout the year.

## Home / School Agreement

It is common in international schools to have a home/school agreement. This is a set of statements explaining the school's aims and values and the commitment made by both parties when a child is enrolled.

The reasons for the Home/School Agreement are;

1. It underpins the school's ethos and stated beliefs
2. It is a clear starting point for new and current parents and the school staff
3. It provides a starting point for exploring difficulties.

I hope you can see that this is a positive step in reconnecting the parents and the school and enables the rebuilding of strong relationships. This will be sent out to you shortly.

## Parent Handbook and School Policies

The Parent Handbook and School Policies are intended to provide an overview of the key procedures and practices St. Christopher's adhered to and hopefully answer your most immediate questions. These

are on the school website and can be accessed using this [link](#). If you are unsure of any aspect of the school, please contact us so we can support you.

### Parent Contact Information

As we start the new academic year, can I remind you that if you have made any changes to your contact details over the summer, please inform the school. This is vital so that we can contact you should the need arise.

### Parent Questionnaire 2022

Thank you to all the parents who have completed the Parent Questionnaire. The responses were excellent and will support the decision-making as we RESET, RECONNECT and REVIVE the school. I will summarise the feedback, present it to the Board of Governors, and send it through to all parents later in the first term.

### School Website, School App and Social Media

You can find lots of helpful information on our website. [www.scips.org.my](http://www.scips.org.my) and we have a school app - **SKOOLBAG**. This is our main line of communication through which we send out all important notices and specific information for the different year groups.

In addition, we post the numerous events we run in school on our Facebook page. [Click Here](#)

### Annual Academic and School Events Calendar 2022/23

The term dates, public holidays, and when the school is closed are available on the website. [Click Here](#)

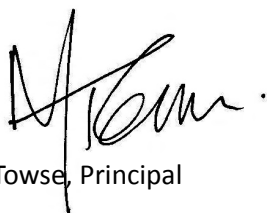
The Events Calendar has been RESET, meaning I have scheduled all the fantastic learning opportunities that were in the calendar pre-pandemic. These include Residentials, Trips, Sporting Events, Assemblies, Concerts, and the incredible Entry and Exit points. In addition, I will work with the Parent Committee to add community events, including the return of the Food and Fun Fair. You can find these events on the website. [Click Here](#)

### Welcome Parents Information Evening

On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August, you are welcome to come and meet your child's new class teacher. All year groups will run two identical sessions, one starting at 5.30 pm and another at 6.00 pm. This will allow parents with children in different year groups to attend more than one presentation. In their presentation, teachers will introduce themselves and explain the curriculum for the coming year and key events your child will be involved in. Please also use this time to ask any questions that you may not be sure about.

See you all on Monday!!!

Regards



Martin Towse, Principal