



Principal's eNews

Term 1 Issue 7 | 2nd December 2022

Dear Parents,

At the beginning of the term, I wrote about the focus being to **RESET** the school, **RECONNECT** the community and **REVIVE** the wonderful learning opportunities and events. I feel this has definitely started, and I would like to thank every parent, child and member of staff for playing their part in making this happen.

And so, the end of the term is fast approaching, and life at SCIPS will continue to be a blur of awesome activities and learning experiences for everyone right up to the last day.

Amazing Play, Everyday, for Every Child

I wrote an email yesterday about the exciting Play programme we will be implementing next term and wanted to thank all the parents who have already volunteered to be involved. This is brilliant, and we will look to include as many as possible. If you missed my email, I have summarised it below.

I am looking forward to Term 2, as the school will begin a programme to improve opportunities for physical activity, socialisation, cooperation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment through improved play. We will be working with a specialist UK-based company, OPAL, to help us develop our approach to play throughout the school.

The Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Programme is award-winning and is the result of over 20 years of testing and development in over 800 schools and has been used worldwide. Their programme is based on the idea that, as well as learning through good teaching, children also learn when they play. As 20% of their time in school is playtime, we want to ensure that this amount of time (equivalent to 1.4 years of primary school) is as good as possible.

We are carrying out this programme because childhood has changed, and many children no longer get their play needs to be met out of school. There are many proven benefits for schools that carry out the OPAL Primary Programme. They usually include: more enjoyment of school, less teaching time lost to disputes between children, fewer accidents and improved behaviour.

Its success comes from a series of interrelated actions undertaken with specialist support from an OPAL mentor. This embeds play into the school's policies and practices and establishes clear guiding principles and strategies for initiating lasting changes at playtimes.

Last Day of Term

On the last day of term, we will welcome Santa to the school, and the children will spend time with their Buddy Class. Once Santa has arrived at 8.45 am, he will remain in the school entrance foyer, and the children will come down to greet him. Parents are welcome to participate in this event and take photographs in the foyer. Here is the schedule for the classes.

0915 - NSG/3KP 0925 - NSU/3AK 0935 - NEL/3GR 0945 - RLD/4CW 0955 - RJG/4CR 1005 - RPH/4NT



ST CHRISTOPHER'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

1045 - 1SK/5RAc 1055 - 1JM/5RAI 1105 - 1CK/5CH 1115 - 2BM/7RG 1125 - 2JD/6HM 1135 - 2RR/6OD

Parents are also welcome to go to the classes at 11.45 am when the children are holding a party. If parents would like to have a family or sibling picture with Santa, you are welcome to collect your children at 11.45 am and take them to the entrance.

Please note that it will be a non-uniform day, and we ask that the children wear red, green and/or white clothing.

At the end of the day, younger siblings will be collected by their older siblings as they come down to leave.

1230 - EY Pick Up

1240 - Y1 & 2 Pick Up

1250 - Y3 & 4 Pick Up

1300 - Y5/6/7 Pick up

2023/24 Academic Term Dates and Calendar

Next year's term dates and calendar are on our website [St. Christopher's International School | Academic Year Dates](#)

TERM 1 Monday 21st August 2023 to Friday 15th December 2023

TERM 2 Tuesday 9th January 2024 to Friday 29th March 2024

TERM 3 Tuesday 16th April 2024 to Wednesday 3rd July 2024

Key Dates

To help you know when key events happen at school, we have created [Key Dates T1 2022/23](#), which state when important events will occur during the term. You can also visit the website for our [Parent Calendar](#).

Key Dates Coming Up;

7th December	Early Years Carol Concert	9.00 am / 5.30 pm
9th December	T1 ASA Finish / Y4 - Y7 Swimming Finish	
12th December	Y6 + Y7 Swim Gala	8.30 am
13th December	Y4 & Y5 Swim Gala	8.30 am
16th December	Santa's Visit & Christmas Activities / Term 1 Ends	8.30 am / 12.30 pm

Federation of British International School In Asia (FOBISIA)

We are proud to be members of FOBISIA, and as can be seen, they offer so much to member schools and their students. [THE FOBISIAN: November 2022, Issue 40, Term 1](#).

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend,

Martin Towse

