



Primary Parents News letter

30th October 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to this week's newsletter, the first one in what is looking to be a busy and exciting half term.

This week

The children returned on Monday refreshed from their break and ready to start the new half term.

On Tuesday, Year 4 had an exciting time learning about business at Kidzania as a great start to their Young Entrepreneurs IPC topic, and Year 5 set off to Khao Yai for the start of their residential journey. The tweets have shown they have had a great time, and will be returning to school today rather tired and ready for the Loy Krathong and Halloween weekend.

Yesterday the Early Years children had a fantastic time trying a range of healthy foods in their Rainbow Food Festival. They all tried a variety of healthy fruits and vegetables, several children going back for second, third or even fourth helpings. The children and staff looked great in their rainbow outfits.

Today we have celebrated Loy Krathong in school. The children and staff looked amazing in their Thai national costumes, and they have been treated to wonderful performances explaining the meaning of Loy Krathong. In Early Years the children were able to float the krathongs they brought from home, and in Primary classes the children have made krathongs that they can take home and float tomorrow on Loy Krathong day. It has been a terrific day rounding off a very busy week, well done to our Thai department for organising such a special day.

Also throughout the week many of the children have been involved in their IPC Entry Points for their new topics. I am looking forward to seeing their learning develop as the weeks go by.

Next Week

It is a more regular learning week, although we are hosting a workshop on Wednesday morning looking at Phase 1 phonics. Although aimed at Early Years parents, please let the school office know if you are interested to attend, even if your child is in another year group.

On Thursday we are having a 'Fantasia Festival.' This is a dress up theme day. More details below.

Fantasia Festival theme day

On Thursday 5 November we will be having another theme day. After a strange and unusual past few months with the global Covid Pandemic we want to host a full school event that will bring the full school community together in a positive joyful way. Coming out of the darkness and into the light.

We will put a new take on our usual Halloween celebrations by hosting a "Fantasia Festival". Children will still be able to wear their Halloween costumes if they wish, but we also want the children to take the opportunity to show off their personalities in colourful costumes to show how everyone is unique but we all shine brightly together. This also brings together other festivals taking place around this time - Diwali, Loy Krathong, Fireworks night. The event will have a carnival/ festival theme with colourful, vibrant costumes, performances, music and art.

Unfortunately, as things currently stand we will not be able to invite parents to participate with us in this event.

Phonics Workshops

Ms Sophie will be leading 2 workshops aimed at Early Years parents on the 4 and 18 November. The focus will be to demonstrate what Phase 1 and Phase 2 phonics are, and how you can support your children learning these. The Workshops are designed for Early Years parents, but are open to any parents who feel they may find knowing more about how children's phonics develop useful. Please contact the office if you would like to attend so that we can gauge numbers.

Illnesses

The current Covid situation has shown that the St. Stephen's community does carry a high degree of social responsibility when it comes to considering other people during times of illness.

As you will undoubtedly recall that before Covid 19 came along we had a number of infectious diseases that regularly appear at this time of year, eg RSV, influenza A and B, norovirus etc.

Our current preventative measures like mask wearing and regular handwashing do help reduce the risk of transmission, however there is inevitably still a risk of catching these illnesses, so please do remember that if your child has a raised temperature, fever or other symptoms, do not bring them into school until all symptoms have passed for at least 24 hours, or longer if medically advised. Please do always seek medical attention if symptoms are severe or last more than a few hours, and do forward copies of medical certificates to the office as soon as you can.

Air Quality

We are approaching the time of year when historically the air quality in and around Bangkok, and indeed Thailand and the SE Asia area declines as a result of an increase in PM2.5 levels. Parents that have been with us for a while will be aware that we do have an Air Quality Policy which shows the action taken by the school as the Air Quality Index changes. We do have a fixed meter and a portable meter on site to enable us to measure the air quality throughout the day. The St. Stephen's fixed meter can be found on the AQI website (<https://www.iqair.com/thailand/bangkok/st-stephen-s-international-school>). Please note there is a time delay on the meter readings registering on the site.

There are a number of articles being published about suitable masks to reduce personal risk during periods of poor air quality, and their impact on mask wearing as a preventative measure regarding the spread of Covid 19. It seems that it is generally accepted that an N95 mask without a one-way air valve will provide N95 protection to the wearer and still maintain the preventative properties of the facemasks currently being worn for Covid19. The standard cloth or disposable facemasks will not necessarily provide the same level of protection against PM2.5 for the wearer as an N95 mask. N95 masks with a one-way air valve will not provide the community protection for Covid19.

Photographs and Filming

I would just like to remind parents that photographs and videos should not be taken on or around the school site without the permission of the School Principal or his delegated authority. This is to comply with our Child Protection Policy and Acceptable Use Policy. There are events in school where permission is granted, but please avoid taking images at other times.

Upcoming events

Some important dates for your diary include:

Wednesday 4 November	Early Years Phase 1 Phonics Workshop
Thursday 5 November	Dress up theme day
Monday 16 November	Odd Socks day (Start of Anti Bullying Awareness week)
Wednesday 18 November	Early Years Phase2 Phonics Workshop
Thursday 26 November	Year 6 Thai trip
Thursday 26 November	Years 1 & 2 Sports Day
Thursday December 3	Year 3 Thai trip

Friday 4 December	Early Years Christmas Crafts morning
Wednesday December 9	Years 1&2 Production
Thursday 10 December	Open House
Friday 11 December	School closed for Holiday
Monday 14 December	Open House
Wednesday 16 December	Years 3&4 Concert
Thursday 17 December	Last day of term
Friday 18 December	School closed for Christmas Holidays.

As always I wish you a happy and restful weekend, and look forward to seeing the children and yourselves on Monday.

Should you have any queries about your child's experiences here at St. Stephen's then please do feel free to contact me.

Kindest regards

Mr. Rob Bendall
Head of Primary
robert.b@sis.edu