



NEWSLETTER

September 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome to October.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and praise for the efforts made during online learning from students, parents and staff.

So proud of everyone in our SIS@SS school community for the positive effort made with learning in this challenging and difficult time.

HCMC appears to be opening up slowly. I will continue to keep you all informed when the school has further directives from the HCMC authorities.

A huge thank you to staff, students and parents who participated online with the Mid-Autumn festival celebrations. I really enjoyed the festival interactive power point shared with all students and families and the home made lanterns. They were so creative and colorful. Congratulations everyone.

I would like to remind parents of the continuing and upcoming school events:

- Please check each morning the school morning announcements. These are proving very popular and informative.
- Follow the recommendations and guidelines for online learning.
- A reminder that teachers teach online daily from 8.30am to 4.15pm.
Please avoid contacting teachers during lessons. Staff are off duty at 5.00pm each day.
Your understanding and cooperation would be greatly appreciated.
- Any concerns or assistance needed then please contact your child's class teacher.
- Class newsletters go home every Friday afternoon.

Please take care,

Stay safe, healthy and positive!

Yours in learning,

Mark Priddis – Principal

Dear Parents,

As online learning continues we are aware of the challenges that you and your child may face. It can be difficult for students to remain focused throughout the day, and the lack of social interaction can also be troubling. Please know that teachers are working diligently to provide a positive, engaging, supportive environment.

Some things that you can do to help include:

Before the school day

- School uniforms should be worn. However, in the event this is not possible please make sure your child is wearing school appropriate clothing.
- Arrange a comfortable working space, such as a desk or kitchen table. Students should not be in bed or laying on a sofa. A proper environment is important to support learning.

During the school day

- It is recommended that, every 20 minutes or so, students take a 20-second break to stand, stretch, and focus their eyes on something 20 meters away ("20-20-20 Rule"). For example, walk to the window, look at a tree across the street whilst trying to touch the ceiling by standing on tiptoe and extending fingertips, then return to the lesson.

End of the school day

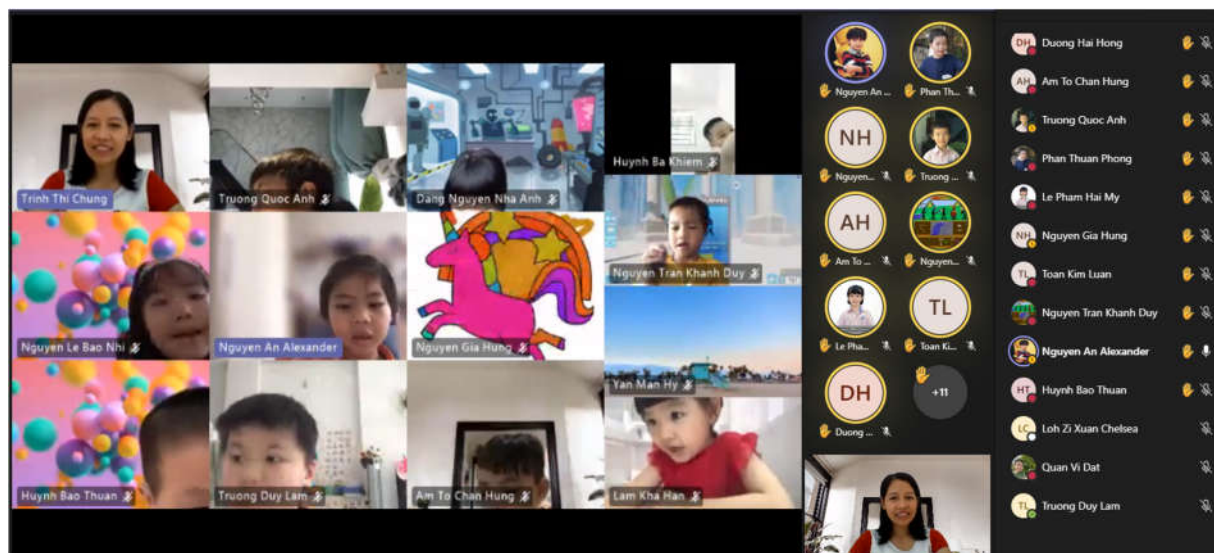
- Taking a few minutes to just sit quietly can be very helpful. This may include listening to gentle music or nature sounds. However, children should not immediately begin any school-related tasks, but rather give their minds and bodies a break.
- Some light physical activity is recommended, as is time away from screens (phone, computer, television). Reading, writing, or drawing, as well as having a chat about the school day, can be quite beneficial.

And don't forget to look after yourself too, getting physical activity and social interaction when feasible.

If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact your child's teacher or the school office.

Respectfully,

Robert Madden - Deputy Principal (Pedagogy Coach).



Year 1 Integrated Students concentrating on the lessons

Dear Parents,

The month of September has seen us move closer to an eventual return to in-classroom teaching. In the meantime, we continue to strive towards excellence in the online classrooms, as each teacher and each student places their maximum effort into creating informative valuable and at times fun online lessons. It is also valuable to receive continual input from students on the online learning process. Here are two quotes from our A Level class on how they find online teaching thus far:

Because of the epidemic situation, schools must adopt online teaching, which ensures the safety of all people and saves the time spent on transportation. However, facing the computer screen for a long time is a heavy burden on the eyes, and when there is a problem with the network connection or students do not pay attention, the efficiency of online classes will be low. Online learning is a good opportunity to check people's self-discipline.

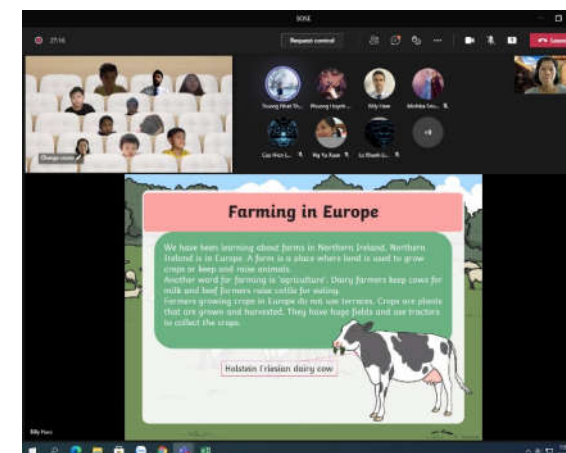
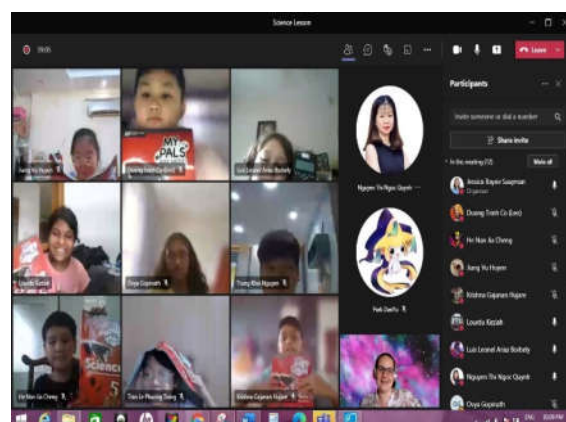
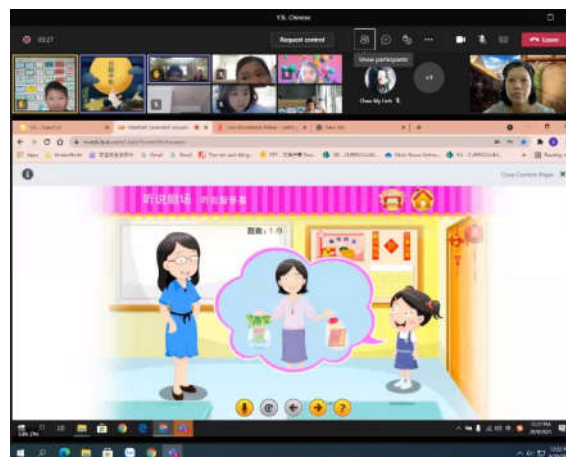
- Xu Yi Heng, A Level

Online school has been especially hard on me. On the one hand, I get to sleep some more, which definitely helps with productivity. However, on the other hand, I don't get to play basketball during break times, I don't get to talk with my friends and peers and I don't get the opportunity to ask my teachers questions face-to-face. Hopefully, things will get better soon and we'll all be back to school before long for the disadvantages of online learning, in my opinion, far outweighs its benefits.

- Phan Nhuan Minh

Whilst academically online lessons are effectively continuing the academic process, many of our students are missing their friends and the spots they play. We are looking at ways to include ECAs online that allow students more time to interact with their friends. Mr Robert Madden has provided some good suggestions for aiding students in their learning from home.

Donovan Neethling – Deputy Principal



Dear Parents and Students,

The school year 2021-2022 is a very special school year for all schools in Vietnam in general and Ho Chi Minh City in particular. A school year with many emotions for all teachers and students.

This year, Ho Chi Minh City welcomed students back to school with the information that teachers and students must teach and study online until the end of Semester. This has made all teachers and students frustrated and worried. After the summer vacation, everyone was looking forward to going back to their school to see their beloved colleagues and friends, and share happy and sad memories together. However, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic caused pain everywhere and lasted until today. Because of the strict Directive 16 ("Whoever is, stays where he is") most social activities must be temporarily suspended so that everyone can fight the pandemic.

However, teachers and students are still lucky to meet each other on MS Teams, and every day teachers still conduct online lessons through Teams. While at first both teachers and students were a bit confused and unhappy, to ensure the health and safety of the whole society teachers and students have to overcome.

In order to go back to school to study directly in the near future, everyone must follow to "5k" and get the right dose of vaccine as prescribed.

We are looking forward to one day going back to school to teach and learn directly so that the teacher-student relationship is closer and closer!

Mdm. Phung Thi Tuyet Minh
Senior Head of Vietnamese Studies



Students making lanterns for Mid-Autumn Festival

Dear Parents,

We started the AY2021-22 online, a very unusual way for KIK. Fast approaching the end of the Term 1, we can say that online learning is definitely full of challenges but after the initial difficulties it seems that most of our kindergarteners adjusted to it well by now.

We are very grateful to all the parents who provide our teachers the extra support encouraging and helping our youngest students along their learning journey. We could not be successful without you.

We have been having lots of fun discovering fairy tales and stories during our literacy lessons working on phonics – sounding out and blending letters. You can help by spending some time with your children reading together. Move your fingers across the page as you read, model reading with expression using different tones to make these times a memorable experience and to encourage your child's love of books. Ask them to make predictions what will happen next and how the characters feel. Don't hesitate to speak to the form teachers for more tips on reading at home.

Barbara Borbely - Head of Studies (Kindergarten)



KIK Students drawing during the Art lessons



Dear Parents,

We are so happy to have all of our wonderful students back for the new school year! We realize that online learning can be a challenge so our teachers are working to make their lessons as interactive as possible, while also including “brain breaks” in lessons to give students a few minutes to refresh their minds and eyes after so much screen time.

All primary students have now been assigned their RAZ Kids and MCEdu Hub accounts which are designed to support development of literacy and academic skills online. If your child is having trouble accessing their accounts, please contact their form teacher for assistance.

Thank you all so much for your continued support and as we move forward with another great year of learning together!

Lindsay Stanford - Head of Studies (Year 1-5)

Students activities during online lessons

