

NEWSLETTER

What's happening | Coming Soon | Messages and Reminders

MHIS WeChat

Please ensure you are a MHIS WeChat member. Posts are sent out regularly and we will also be using WeChat to communicate urgent messages to parents such as school closure due to weather warnings. Please scan the code below:



End of Day Play

Until our ASAs begin later this month, parents and children are welcome to stay and play on campus until 4pm, at which time we respectfully ask that the campus is cleared. Thank you for remaining vigilant when staying outside to play with your child.



Welcome - and welcome back!

What a smooth start to the year we have enjoyed. A former colleague of mine used to draw a comparison between the start of a school year and the take-off of an aeroplane; so much energy and force is required to achieve 'lift off' and the first part of the journey can be both exhilarating and bumpy, but you quickly reach above the clouds and can enjoy the ride and the wonderful view!

Our children have impressed us greatly - both returning students, who have been wonderful buddies and role models to our new arrivals, who in turn have been open-minded and positive about their new teachers and classes. Thanks to all those parents who are helping support the students and the school by following our routines and procedures, as it makes the teachers' main focus - the children - more constructive and effective when parental support is firmly behind them.

Thanks for your support, your encouragement and your feedback so far!





Parent Coffee Morning

As we did last year, we will host Coffee Morning Information Sessions for parents every two weeks at the school. This year we aim to focus on a combination of 'Who we are', 'What we do', and 'Where we're going'; meaning that some sessions will be focused on our school values and vision, others on curriculum and pedagogy, and others will be updates on school development, for example.

The first Coffee Morning Information Session will take place next Thursday morning:

Time: 8:45-10:00am

Focus: What to expect in the first few weeks of school - curriculum, routines, communication.

Location: Atrium

Please look for the invitation in your child's bag today and return next week if you are keen to attend.

Health Checks

Thanks to parent suggestions, we now have both temperature and hand and throat checks each morning at the school gate.

Library

Students will begin Library visits over the next few weeks so please work with them at home on understanding how to care for books appropriately.

Teacher Development with No.1 Worldwide

We are proud to announce that we had some world-class professional development for our teachers prior to the start of the school year. The Institute of Education, part of University College London, sent two academics to MHIS to deliver a tailor made training session to all our teachers over the course of three days. The session focused on inquiry-centred thinking and language, play-based learning and literacy and high quality planning. Having such prestigious organisations deliver professional development to our staff will not only benefit our students greatly by enhanced practice in the classrooms, but was and will be a major factor in attracting the best possible teachers to our school.

Summer Works Update

Over the summer the Business and Operations team at MHIS were busy with a multitude of tasks, including:

- Enhancing the outside space to include better drainage systems, safe surfaces under the climbing equipment, quality-tested and attractive running and cycling surfaces
- Renovating all classrooms including those on the third floor for our K3, G1 and PE rooms
- Installing the latest Promethean interactive whiteboards in the classrooms, along with iMacs, iPads and MacBooks in each class
- Relocating the Admissions office
- Enhancing the kitchen with additional new equipment
- Procurement of toys, resources and equipment for all new classes

In addition, extensive discussions have taken place with our new UK Partnership school, including a visit to the school by the Principal and several Board-level online conferences.

The Grade 1 curriculum was a key focus, with careful alignment between our K3 and Grade 1 expectations, integration of Chinese and Western approaches with a guiding hand from the UK curriculum, along with best practice from Canada and the IB programmes.

We hope students and parents will benefit from the different initiatives and actions that have been undertaken this summer.



2015-16 Yearbooks

We are pleased to inform parents that the 2015-16 MHIS Yearbooks will be ready for collection by the end of next week. They look fantastic and we are delighted with the result. We hope you will be too!

Class Parents

From the end of next week, teachers may begin to approach parents about taking on the role of Class Parent. This is a voluntary role for one parent in the class to help the Class Teachers and act as an additional communication channel and support system between parents and teachers. While the teachers ultimately select their Class Parent, if you are interested in being considered for this role, please do let your teachers know. We will be confirming the Class Parent individuals in a couple of weeks time.

Safe Hands

Please be mindful of the length of your child's finger nails as these should be cut or filed regularly to ensure they cannot accidentally scratch another child when moving and playing in class or outside. Thanks!

Dates

- 15/9: National Public Holiday
- 26/9: ASAs begin
- 3-7/10: Mid-Autumn Holiday

Birthdays

Please note that our Birthday Policy at MHIS is that we celebrate all students' birthdays that occur when school is in session, with a focus on the child feeling special and acknowledging their birthday, while still allowing our class learning to be our key focus. As such, we sing Happy Birthday to each child in English and Chinese, offer them a special Birthday Hat or badge, and some classes may encourage children to make cards for them in our writing areas of the classroom as appropriate. If parents wish to bring in a cake to support the celebration, we request that you speak to your child's class teachers to decide upon an appropriate 15 minute slot during the day when you could come to class. We ask that only cupcakes or fruit portions are brought, rather than a large cake, as cupcakes are easy to distribute without causing much mess, stickiness and time spent cutting and serving. Thank you for helping us support our students' birthdays while still valuing in-class learning time.

Parent Communication

Apologies that it has taken us a few days to set up our communication systems between home and school, due to some technical hitches. Email is our first form of communication and we require parents to provide us with non-QQ email addresses - thanks to all of you who have done so. Teachers will be sending regular email updates to you so please do check these and reply as needed. WeChat is a secondary form of communication and is used by teachers to send last minute messages and updates. In line with our values of Mutual Respect and Happiness, we ask all members of the community to be respectful in their communication and remember that we all need a work-life balance in order to be well-rested and great at our jobs. Emails will be responded to within 24 hours in the working week.

