

NEWSLETTER

What's happening | Coming Soon | Messages and Reminders

Halloween Dress Up

Monday 31st October is Halloween. We will be joining in the fun by asking children to come to school dressed up (preferably in a 'spooky' Halloween theme). We will provide pumpkins for them to carve into Jack-o-Lanterns, will enjoy Halloween themed arts and crafts and a special in-school 'trick-or-treat'! Thanks to our Class Parents who are arranging parents to come to school and decorate classrooms in advance!

School Bags

Families who bought new school bags this year will find that these have been replaced in the past two days with newly updated and better quality bags.

Dates

- 27/10:** Settling In Reports Due
- 28/10:** Non-student Day (Staff Professional Development)
- 31/10:** Halloween Celebration
- 4/11:** Parent-Teacher Meetings



Parent Communication Edition

In line with our approach to engage and involve parents in as many ways as possible into the life of the school and the development of our students, this week's Newsletter is strongly focused on parent communication and feedback.

Firstly, please note that all parents will be receiving their first official school report next week, on Thursday 27th October. These 'Settling In Reports' aim to provide feedback on your child's progress over these first few weeks of the school year, including how they have transitioned to their new class, how they are following routines and class agreements and how they are getting on with peers. Parents will have the chance to discuss the reports in more detail at our upcoming Parent-Teacher Interview day on Friday 4th November.

The latter half of this Newsletter is dedicated to giving feedback to questions raised by parents and collated by Class Parents. Many points were addressed in our Coffee Morning last week and outstanding frequently asked questions are responded to in this Newsletter.



Feedback to Parent Questions

Q: Can ‘forever privileges’ be offered to founding families to provide fixed tuition fee prices?

A: This suggestion has been shared with the Board who are discussing what possible benefits they may be able to offer our founding families who joined the school in 2015, and 2016. More feedback to follow.

Q: What are the learning goals and focuses for the different grade levels in the school?

A: Parents may access the Programme Expectations (password available from class teachers) on the school website under Pre School or Prep School drop-down menus. The Programme of Inquiry overview is attached in today’s parent email from the Principal and parents will also receive an Inquiry Letter in the first few weeks of each Quarter outlining learning and inquiry focuses to follow.

Q: Can emails come home in both languages each day?

A: We are sure you agree that teachers main role is to care for and educate your children. Teachers communicate regularly via email and Class Blogs, as well as writing formal reports and preparing for parent-teacher meetings. In fact, we aim to streamline the regular email communication as currently teachers are spending too much time writing emails each day. If translations need to be included for all communication, this removes both teachers from their key role of teaching. As such, please now expect to receive 2-3 simple emails each week from teachers about your child’s progress in either English or Chinese. As requested in the Parent Handbook, please use online translation tools to check English messages as needed. Thanks for your support for our busy teachers.

Q: Can ASA providers set up a WeChat account to offer feedback to parents about the classes?

A: This is a great suggestion. We are communicating with our ASA providers to get their agreement to do this. We will be sure to share QR codes with parents once we have agreement from ASA teachers.

Q: If a child has a minor injury or discomfort, can teachers inform parents during the day?

A: In a busy classroom there are a multitude of minor issues each day, all of which are dealt with professionally and smoothly by our teachers. If parents were to be informed for each of these, teachers would be unnecessarily removed from the classroom to deal with emails and phone calls. For any larger incidents that go to the school doctor, a note will be sent to parents. For any bump to the head or spine (however small) parents will be informed and given the option to take the child for a check- up if they wish.

Q: Can beds be used in classrooms and not just mattresses?

A: We chose to use comfortable mattresses for K1 and K2 children during sleep time as beds would take up a large amount of space in class and be bulky to move around. Teachers lay out the mats on the clean floor, with the clean covers on top, and children put out their own bedding, building their independence. Ventilation and AC are used as appropriate to keep the room a good temperature depending on the season. Our top-class air purifiers are used regularly across classrooms and, along with regular cleaning routines, we ensure a hygienic environment.

Q: Can teachers offer grade-specific information sessions?

A: Yes. Please see note (left) about our first grade-level meeting.

Q: Can there be better signage in the underground carpark?

A: We are working on this with the Mall and will keep you updated.

Q: Can there be wider variety of meals included in the menu?

A: We constantly strive to enhance and enrich our meal offerings to students. Just last week Principal Anna shared a multitude of new Western recipes with the Catering Team. Our monthly menus are diverse and seasonal but we are always keen to hear new ideas. Please email specific suggestions for dishes to mindyhuang@bmh.education to be shared with our chefs. Thanks!

Parent Coffee Morning

In response to parent feedback and requests, we will be offering Coffee Mornings over the year run by teachers for their specific grade level. We begin with G1 next week:

Dates: Thursday 27th October

Time: 8:45-9:45am

Focus: Literacy Routines

Location: G1 Classroom

The session is for **G1 parents only** and will focus on current literacy and writing focuses in class, which are all about Poetry, as well as upcoming genre focuses; Pinyin and Chinese learning; Guided Reading routines and ways to help at home.