

SJIIM Weekly Update

6th November 2020



International Primary Curriculum in the Elementary School

St. Joseph's Institution International Malaysia, as well as over 1,000 schools in over 90 countries worldwide, uses the International Primary Curriculum as a framework to deliver Science and Humanities learning goals. Themes in IPC also support learning across art, music and computing. The IPC was written to align with the UK National Curriculum learning goals, which makes it a great resource for schools teaching the UK National Curriculum in an international context. When choosing units of study, curriculum leaders use the IPC route planner to map coverage and ensure all learning goals are covered.

In addition to resources for mapping learning goal coverage, the IPC provides a variety of interesting units of study that allow for cross curricular links, showing how information and subjects are connected. These units are supported by carefully designed lesson outlines and resources. Each unit follows a similar progression that begins with stimulating student interest and identifying what the students already know as a starting point for adding value. Students develop the skills of explaining, researching, recording and presenting through the course of each topic. This unit structure allows students to be active participants in their learning. By conducting research and experiments, students are building collaborative, critical thinking and problem solving skills. The International Primary Curriculum seeks to develop students' knowledge, skills and understanding.

Another benefit of the IPC is the focus on international mindedness and intercultural learning. Throughout units of study, students will relate what they are learning to their home country, host country and to their heritage. While learning about new cultures, students consolidate knowledge of cultures that they are more familiar with, allowing for comparisons, building connections and embedding a deeper understanding.

In an effort to further enrich our student's learning in the areas of Science and Humanities at St. Joseph's, we also incorporate Collins Snap Science curriculum and we host an annual STEAM week and an International Fortnight.

Examples of Units of Study and Learning Goal Coverage

Footprints From the Past Y2

In Geography

- What the Earth looked like millions of years ago
- Where to look for Dinosaur bones

In History

- Different time periods when dinosaurs lived
- How to make a timeline
- Fossil hunters from around the world
- Different ideas to explain why the dinosaurs died out

In Science

- What a fossil is and how a fossil is formed
- Different types of rocks
- How to make a dinosaur fossil
- How to find out what dinosaurs looked like and what they ate
- Sort and classify dinosaurs
- Other plants and animals that lived at the same time as dinosaurs

What a Wonderful World Y6

In Geography

- Different regions and environments around the world
- How to use different types of maps to find out information
- The forces and processes that shape our planet
- Extreme weather events and how they affect people and localities
- The possible cause of climate change and its effects on our planet
- How man made changes can alter/change our local environment

In Science

- How to classify different types of rocks
- Test the effects of weathering on different types of rocks
- The movement of the Earth, Sun and Moon and how this affects us
- Different types of clouds and how they are formed
- How we can set up a weather station and record data

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Catholic Corner

November: Month of the Holy Souls

November 2nd - All Souls' Day

During the month of November we remember our beloved who we have lost. This year, may we come together as a community to also pray for those who have lost their lives as a direct result of the pandemic.

The Eternal Rest Prayer is a beautiful prayer of our Catholic faith. Throughout this month, we invite our families to light a candle and pray together. We pray for those who have passed away and call on God's love and mercy to grant them rest and eternal happiness with Him in Heaven.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

May they rest in peace. Amen.



Lasallian Formation for Staff

The Monday just gone saw our school community enriched by a LaSallian formation session led by our school's spiritual director, Brother Michael Broughton. One hundred guests including teachers, board members and our administrative team were graced by Brother Michael's presence over Zoom, as he led us through a session on the importance of faith within ourselves and one another, and how that faith can sustain us through the challenging times in which we currently reside. This was the first in a series of sessions that Brother Michael has kindly offered us, with the next one occurring after the winter holiday. If any parents would like to view the session, please communicate with Mr Bayfield (abayfield@sjj-international.edu.my).



**The Founder and the
Lasallian Core Values**

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Cancellation of INSET day - Friday 13th November

Next Friday, **13th November**, was scheduled to be a staff INSET day. While there is much valuable work for teachers to do, at this challenging time we feel it will be best for students to have that as an additional school day. Whether students are learning on-site or virtually, Friday 13th November will now be a **school day** for students.

CCA Programme Postponement

As you are aware, the CCA programme is unable to run whilst we are not in school. Recently, we received updated government instruction to suspend all extra curriculum and co-curricular activities until 31st December 2020. We will be adhering to government instructions and postponing all CCA activities at SJIIM until the start of Term 2, irrespective of whether we go back into school or not. There has been a lot of work put into creating the CCA programme this term, from a variety of students, teaching and admin staff, and this will not go to waste as we look forward to beginning our CCAs in term 2, or as soon as government directives allow.

In Elementary School, the selections already made on Schools Buddy will remain in our system and the student choices will be kept for when our programme can go ahead.

In the High School, the students have now been sent their allocations for their CCA this term, and this will carry forward into Term 2. If your son/daughter did not receive their allocation and wants to be involved in the CCA programme, please have them contact Mr O'Connor (joconnor@sjj-international.edu.my) via email. With regards to CCAs such as World Scholars Cup (WSC), Model United Nations (MUN) and Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) that have a longer time commitment, we are following guidance from their individual coordinators and will contact students involved in due time, if necessary.

Elementary Weekly Update



School Next Week

As we have yet to be updated by the government regarding an extension of the CMCO and school closure, or schools reopening, once the current CMCO ends on Monday 9th November, we are preparing for both eventualities. Class teachers will share with you (as they have been doing each week during Virtual School) your child's timetable for next week's online learning by 4.00pm this Friday **6th November**. If the CMCO is not extended and schools are allowed to reopen we will revert to our normal timetable. Thank you for your patience and support.

Deepavali Dress Up Day

We will be celebrating Deepavali next week through assemblies, some fun activities in lessons and culminating with a Deepavali dress up day on Friday. Please note that originally the dress up day was scheduled for Thursday because Friday was an INSET day, however now that it is a school day, we will dress up on Friday.

International Fortnight

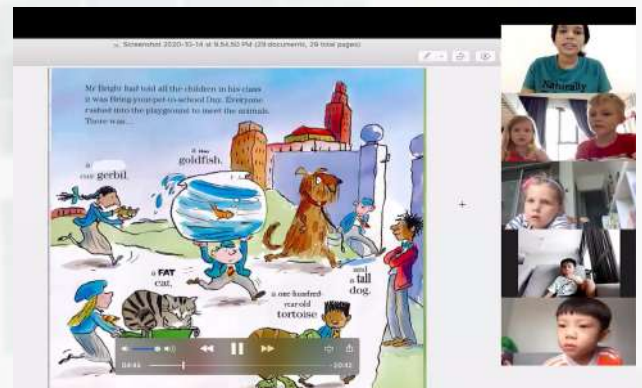
International Fortnight begins the week of **16th November**. Students will discuss countries of their "home, host, heritage" as well explore a country from across the globe as a year group. Whether virtual or physical, we are looking forward to an exciting, interesting and informative 2 weeks. There are two parts to this event that require parent support.

Parent Presentations- our IPC subject leaders are creating a bank of parent created videos/slide presentations that share about our parents' home countries. The short presentations can be about anything interesting, exciting or unique about your culture. This will be a great way to involve parents and celebrate the cultural diversity of our school. Please email parent presentations to: cmccusker@sj-international.edu.my or lbayfield@sj-international.edu.my

Student Dress up- although the date of this dress up day will vary based on whether we are physical or virtual, children will dress up representing the country they are studying or their home country's traditional dress. The dress up day will be Friday **20th November** if lessons are virtual and Friday **27th November** if lessons are physical.

Storytime with Ms Prema

A popular feature of this term's virtual school offering has been weekly 'Storytime with Ms Prema' sessions. Ms Prema is our extremely talented school librarian, who has tremendous knowledge of children's literature. She has really enjoyed seeing the children and sharing her love of books with them. She says the children have been highly enthusiastic, always wanting more stories!



Elementary School Update



Parent 'Coffee Morning' for November

We would like to keep meeting with our parents, and trying to provide opportunities for you to come together as a parent community, even whilst we are under MCO. The ES leadership team would like to invite you to a parent 'coffee morning', where we focus on digital citizenship and helping teach our children about media balance. There will be a short presentation on this by Mr Woodhams, as well as an opportunity for small group discussion and reflection.

The session will be held on Wednesday **18th November at 12:30**. If we are still in Virtual School, we hope that this lunchtime session will be a convenient time for parents who may be supporting young learners at home. The zoom code will follow in next week's update.

Virtual School Work Space

What does your child's work space look like in virtual learning? The answer to this question can take little effort to support but can have large impacts on student success. Designate a regular work space with a basket for books, work, materials and writing implements. Students may lose significant time during lessons looking for items, when being ready for a lesson sets the tone for good habits and increases learning time. Involve your child in organising and maintaining their work space. These are excellent executive functioning skills, and beginning to develop these now will serve your child well in later life.

EAL and Virtual School

It has been a great asset to continue the teaching and learning of our EAL sessions through virtual lessons. The children are showing maturity and perseverance online by sharing their ideas willingly and completing their tasks successfully. There is a focus on speaking and the children are given an opportunity to explore their English and IPC topics in greater depth too. Our students are still gaining so much from our new Seesaw platform, where we enjoy listening to the students' recordings. Children are engaging with excitement in this style of lesson delivery and it is great for them to keep getting lots of English speaking practise. Thanks to all of the parents for their support and assistance during online learning.

Year 1 Foxes

Year 6 Biomes

Can polar bears survive in the Sahara desert?

You have 2 minutes to write down as many facts as you can about life in the desert (Use the Biomes google doc). We will share answers to complete the 'DESERT Fact file' on page 6.

2 min



IDEAS
Climate
Location
Flora and fauna
Animals
People

Biomes: DESERTS



Foxes

1. **STORY:** Read the story aloud with Mum or Dad. Use the images to help you.

Foxes
A fox is an animal. Foxes are covered in soft fur. Their fur is an orange-brown colour with white patches on their stomach and face.



A fox is a mammal, which means it grows inside its mummy's tummy and drinks her milk when it is young. A baby fox is called a cub.



The fox has a thin snout, which means its nose is long and narrow.



Foxes have a very bushy and fluffy tail.

Foxes belong to the dog family. They eat meat but can also eat plants too.



Foxes are very smart and clever.

High School Update



School next week

As of yet, we have not received any confirmation as to whether schools will be closed next week. If we are open, we will welcome our students back with our SOPs in place as before the CMCO. If not, we will, of course, continue our Virtual School programme.

Weekly maths competition

The maths department are pleased to announce that the school has entered into a weekly mathematics competition competing against schools from all over the world. The competition page can be found at puzzleoftheweek.com and there will be a new puzzle each week. Students, staff and parents are encouraged to represent the school by entering the competition and hopefully one week soon SJIIM will top the weekly leaderboard. Please email Mr Lawrence at jlawrence@sj-international.edu.my if you have any questions regarding signing up and entering.

HS Year 12 Parents Session on Cialfo (University Guidance Platform) and Predicted Grades

Mr Hollis, University and Careers Counsellor, would like to invite parents of Year 12 students to attend a virtual meeting on predicted grades for university applications and to introduce parents to the university guidance programme. Part of the session will also cover how parents can access Cialfo, which is the university guidance platform used in school to support university applications. The session will take place on Wednesday 18th **November 2020 at 4-5pm**. If you would like to attend the session please email Bee Ling in the HS office and she will share the zoom code. Her email address is beelingpeh@sj-international.edu.my

Celebrating Deepavali

On Friday 13th **November**, in line with the Elementary School, the High School will be celebrating Deepavali. If we are in school, students may come in traditional dress to celebrate Deepavali. If we are still not in school, students are encouraged to wear traditional dress or brightly coloured clothes for their online lessons. We will then follow this up with activities in Lasallian Education and tutor time the following week.

So You Think You Can Debate

Sandra Ong from Year 11 has organised an online debate competition to take place on the **5th, 6th and 12th December**. The style of debate will be British Parliamentary. Whilst this is not a school event, we applaud Sandra for organising this. It will feature organisers and competitors from Malaysia, Singapore, USA, UK and Korea. The programme looks really exciting and we are sure that SJIIM will be well represented.

For information about the competition or how to register your team, please contact Sandra Ong at 23song@sj-international.edu.my

IGCSE Music Recital - 10th November

The IGCSE Music Recital scheduled for the 10th November has been postponed. The students that were involved have been informed. The next recital is now scheduled for January 2021.

High School Update



Student Led Conferences - 2nd November to 11th December

The SLCs with subject teachers have begun this week, and will continue next week during lessons. The initial SLC discussions with subject teachers will help to guide students' reflections on their learning so far this term in these subjects, and prepare them for the discussions with their form tutors starting on Monday, 16th November. Before those discussions with form tutors, students should have completed the written reflections on the second to last page in the booklet titled "Reflections with My Form Tutor". These SLC discussions with form tutors will help students to consolidate their reflections on their learning across their subjects, and help to prepare students to talk with their parents about their realisations from these reflections at home with parents, starting in the week of 7th December.

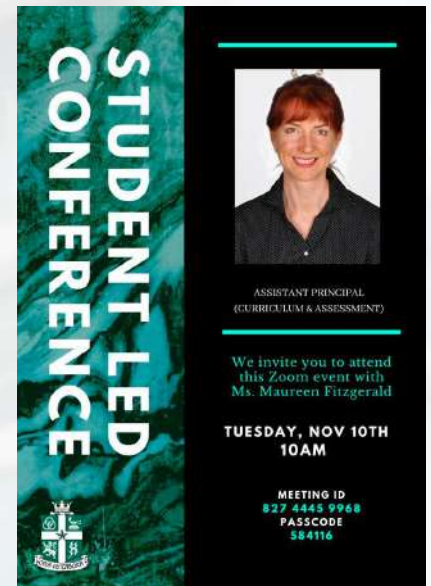
Students are using the document linked below for their year group as a soft copy to reflect on their approaches to learning this term so far, and then are using these written reflections as the basis for their SLCs with teachers, form tutors and parents in a three step process. There is an explanation of this process and the timeline on the first page of the documents.

[Ys 7-9 SLC booklet](#)

[Ys 10-11 SLC booklet](#)

[Ys 12-13 SLC booklet](#)

All parents are invited to attend an information session on Zoom on Tuesday, 10th November at 10am about the Student Led Conference process, and how parents can support students at home with this in the final SLC discussions at home. Details of this session can be found below.



Extra-curricular Music groups

As we look towards the Christmas Period, we will be working towards a virtual concert. We would like to invite any instrumentalists and vocalists who would like to be involved to join Google Classrooms for these groups. The details are as follows:

HS Choir

Students will be given resources to practice 2/3 songs which will either be recorded virtual or in school. Students will be able to practice with backing tracks and scores.

There will be a short meeting on Monday **9th November at 1.10-1.30 pm.**

Google Classroom code: **vfymlaw**

Orchestra

Students will be given resources to practice 1/2 songs which will either be recorded virtual or in school. Students will be able to practice with backing tracks and scores. Open to all students but you should be able to play your instrument at Grade 3 level, or equivalent (for any questions regarding this please speak to your Music teacher). Scores will be provided in a variety of instruments from the String, Woodwind and Brass families.

There will be a short meeting on Tuesday **10th November at 1.10-1.30 pm.**

Google Classroom code: **snq32kj** (For students in ES who do not use Google Classroom, please contact Mr Stacey for resources)

The opportunity to work with others on this will help the students with their musical skills, particularly in regards to communication and collaboration, but also develops the skills of resilience, confidence and much more. This is also a great opportunity to do something outside of the norm during the CMCO. We hope that you see the value in involvement, and encourage involvement in these extra-curricular groups and events.

Useful Links



[ES Student Absence Form](#)
[HS Student Absence Form](#)



[HS Parent Calendar 2020/21](#)
[ES Parent calendar 2020/21](#)



[Whole School Teaching Staff Email 2020/21](#)



[October Menu](#)
[Term 1 2020 meal charges](#)



[Catholic Corner](#)



[PSG - Welcome Note](#)



[Music Website](#)



[Sports Website](#)



[Epurple \(Top up credit\)](#)
[Tapestry \(For ES\)](#)
[Parent portal \(For ES\)](#)



[University & Careers Counsellor \(TBA\)](#)



[CCA \(Schoolsbuddy\)](#)