

23 August 2022

Welcome to the New School Year!

Dear Parents,

It has been a joy to see the many familiar faces of returning children last Thursday, and to welcome in our youngest children and new families this week! We trust that you have all had a wonderful summer, whether here in Hong Kong, or overseas for the long-awaited family reunion! Like many of our families, the vast majority of our faculty also have family abroad, and we are pleased that most of them were able to spend a long summer at home with loved ones. We are now all back in Hong Kong, and ready for a fabulous new year!



Updated Calendar and Upcoming Events

We are so excited that we will see our whole community at the **PTA Meet & Greets**, scheduled at respective campuses from this Friday through next week! Please find the date for your campus in this updated [calendar](#), which also includes some changes to our dates for the Montessori in the Home Seminar and Library Volunteer Orientation (highlighted in yellow). We will send details for these events soon.

IMS 20th Birthday Celebration on Friday 2nd September

Friday 2nd September 2022 marks the **20th anniversary of IMS' first school day in 2002**, and we are planning to celebrate with our children in school! This will replace the PTA's original plans to bring all parents together for a cocktail evening (due to continued social distancing), but we are looking forward to a great day ahead!

To begin with, please join the entire staff in **having your child wear the 20th Anniversary T-shirt** on the day. If you have not had a chance to buy a T-shirt, there is **still very limited supply**, so please do so now (at the discounted price of \$90, on a first-come-first served basis) and have your child join in the spirit of the day! You can make your purchase by filling in this [order form](#) by 5pm **this Friday**, or visiting our [website](#) which includes all the other 20th Anniversary mementoes at a discount of 25% as well.



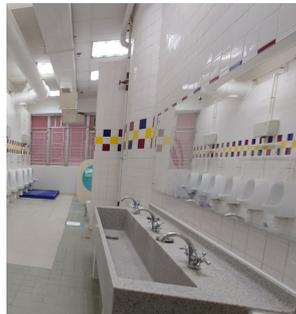
On the day there will be **photo opportunities for parents and children** upon morning arrival outside each campus, and **activities in the classes** to share IMS' history and milestone events. Our aim is to make our IMS story a part of the children's cycle time during the day, whilst normal classes still continue, and to create special learning opportunities from our special day!



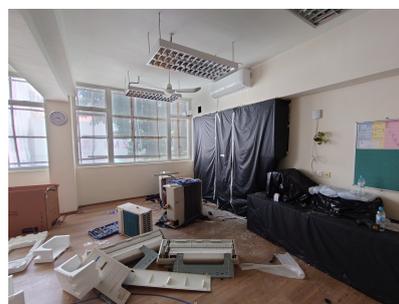
Our 20th Birthday on 2nd September will also conclude our year-long anniversary celebrations, and mark the close of our 20th Anniversary Fund. We are deeply grateful to our community for your generous support for our fund, raising \$2.624 million to date! If you have not had the chance to support our fund and would like to bring us closer to our target of \$3mm, please donate [here](#) before 2nd September! Thank you!

Summer Works at IMS Campuses

We have been busy over the summer giving a **facelift to the South Horizons Campus**, replacing the foam surface in the play area and the carpeting throughout the campus, and also upgrading washroom fixtures for a fresh and new look!



The **Stanley Campus** has also received an **upgrade of our A/C system to improve Energy Efficiency**, sponsored by a grant programme from the HK government. We are so happy to be reducing our carbon footprint!



In addition, all our colleagues at every campus were very busy preparing for the children's arrival. For a peek into everything that has been going on, and more footage of the renovations, check out this short [Back to School Preparations](#) Video!

Daily RAT Reminder

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to closely follow all the health precautions that we set out in our [Health and Safety Protocols](#). The health of our children is safeguarded by the knowledge that everyone has tested RAT negative every morning before coming to school, and we ask that everyone continue to be **diligent with daily RATs**. We have today notified our Stanley community that we have 7 covid cases in the Upper Elementary Euphrates class, causing a temporary closure of the class for 7 days, and 2 isolated single cases in other Elementary classes. While we have prepared contingency plans for children's learning should any part of the school be closed due to Covid, we all certainly want to maintain continuity for face-to-face classes, and therefore please continue to be vigilant and help us keep our community safe!

Typhoon Protocol Reminder

Finally, as we are expecting a potential typhoon hit later this week, we would like to remind you of our protocol for School Closure during typhoons. Below is an excerpt from our [Weather Warnings: School Closure notice](#) which was provided to you as part of the Parent Handbook. Please pay close attention to any announcements made by the EDB and the HK Observatory these few mornings. Thank you.

Typhoon Signal No.	If Signal is Hoisted before Programme Begins	If Signal is Hoisted while Programme is in Session
1	All students attend school.	All students will remain at school and be dismissed at the normal time.
3	All students in the Foundation Groups and Kindergarten/Casa dei Bambini programme (including Full Day Casa dei Bambini programme) should remain at home - there will be no classes that day. All Elementary students attend school.	Foundation Groups: Caregivers to bring children home immediately. All children will remain at school and be dismissed at the normal time.
8, 9, 10	All schools are closed and all students should remain at home.	Foundation Groups: Caregivers to bring children home immediately. Parents must arrange for collection of their children as soon as possible. Bus service is not available at such times.

As we reflect on our past twenty years, we are so grateful to have been able to build a community where we can support a truly authentic Montessori experience for so many children. We have seen the long-term benefits of a Montessori education - including that [Montessori children become happy adults](#) - and look forward to a happy, peaceful and productive year ahead.

Thank you for being an important part of making the IMS community such a special one.

Warmest regards,

Karin Ann and Anne Sawyer
School Founders