

Singapore, 24 April 2020

Parents Information SSiS #7

Dear Parents,

These are challenging times for all of us. It is impressive to see how we support each other and master the situation together. Thank you very much for your encouragement and the many positive feedbacks during the last two weeks.

Many thanks also for your patient and benevolent support of your children. In this way you have – especially in this extraordinary situation – laid a nourishing foundation for the learning process of your children.

We all hope that we will be able to continue the lessons in the school from 1 June onwards to finish the last three weeks of this school year together. We will keep you up to date.

To start with a short notice from Mrs Sibylle Gisi, Committee President:

*Dear SWISS School Family,
Dear Parents,*

On behalf of the committee, I would like to reach out to you! These Covid-times are really tough on everyone, our students, our parents, our teachers and our staff. We need stamina, endurance, patience, extra understanding for each other and a lot of love to overcome this strenuous situation! I wish us all a silver lining soon.

As a small, family-oriented school, it is important to help each other. We go on paying all salaries to our staff members, to be fully ready when we are allowed to reopen again. All staff members deliver excellent work right now and are going the extra mile for our Swiss School Community within this new home-based-learning approach.

We do receive government contributions for all Singaporean EC-teachers for the months of April & May. We will fully pass them on to our EC parents (see details below). However, for our Primary section we do not get anything, because we don't have Singaporean teachers employed. We appreciate your help and understanding in this matter.

We, as a part of the community would like to offer our help if any parents find themselves out of work due to this Covid-19 situation and therefore find it difficult to settle the school fees. If you need help, please reach out to us, we are here for you!

*Wishing you a peaceful weekend ahead,
Yours Truly,
Sibylle Gisi*

Information regarding the current Covid-19 situation & home-based learning

- **Home-based learning (HBL)**

In general, we work and organize our offer according to the guidelines of educationsuisse for all Swiss Schools abroad. Of course, this is far from business as usual, especially in the lower grades and our EC department.

The individual needs of our families spread very wide, unfortunately it's not possible to fulfil every individual wish. Our teaching staff are all doing their best and put the resources there, where we expect the biggest impact. In contrast to the local preschools, which are completely closed, it is important for us to maintain a constant basic contact also in our EC department. With the extension of the circuit breaker, we will continue to constantly review and adapt our offer, to the best of our abilities.

We received a lot of positive and constructive feedback from parents that shows us that we are on the right track regarding our HBL-approach. If you have further comments or feedback, please use the survey which will be sent out this afternoon.

- **School Fee refund for EC section**

Under the Singapore Government Solidarity Budget – the third booster amid the COVID-19 situation – the Government will enhance the Jobs Support Scheme by raising the wage subsidy for all firms to 75 per cent of gross monthly wages, for the first S\$4,600 of wages paid in April and May 2020, for each local employee.

With that matrix, we will receive approximately \$48,000 for the local EC teachers. We would like to pass on this credit to the EC parents. The accounts department will contact you and send you the credit note in the first week of May 2020. You may wish to offset the amount with next school year invoice or request for a payment to your bank account.

The distribution of refund for April and May:

Playgroup I + Playgroup II	\$772
Little Tots (5 days)	\$734
Little Tots (3 days)	\$550
Little Tots (2 days)	\$366

- **ECA and Mittagstisch**

The ECA will be cancelled until 1 June 2020. We still maintain the hope that the ECA might take place after the end of the Circuit Breaker. In any case, we will inform you by end of May about the possibilities of the ECA taking place. Thereafter, we shall send you the credit notes for the cancellation. For Mittagstisch, the refund procedure will be similar to ECA; we will send you the credit note by the end of May.

- **School Bus**

The school bus service is cancelled until 1 June 2020 and will continue from 2 June 2020. For the bus services that were cancelled during the Circuit Breaker period, D'Best Bus will refund 10% of the bus fares of semester 2 to the parents. Therefore, D'Best Bus will send you the credit note by end of May 2020. Parents may offset credit note with next school year invoice or request for cash payment.

D'Best Bus is very grateful to some supportive parents who had indicated that they would like to opt out for the refund. Please contact D'Best Bus directly by email dbest.bts@gmail.com or contact Samantha Teo directly at 90039234; if you wish to do so.

- **SSiS Holiday Plan**

At the moment we receive various requests concerning our holiday plan. Some parents wish that the holidays are brought forward analogous to the local schools, others are leaving earlier or don't want a change of the holiday plan at all. We understand the different individual needs well, but it is not possible for us to meet all demands. Besides these different needs, there are many organisational, legal and logistical aspects that led us to the decision to stick to our current holiday plan. To name a few examples: unavailability of teaching staff in July due to expiring contracts, unavailability of students, urgent renovation (roof Block A) and maintenance works.

New School Principles

At the beginning of this school year the students, teachers, parents, committee and management worked on new school principles (Leitbild) for our school. These were approved by the committee in late January.

We would like to share the result with you. You find an [English](#), [French](#) and [German](#) version on our website.

Since February, the committee, management and teachers have been meeting and thinking about how to integrate these new guidelines into everyday life. We would also like to involve the parents. Due to the current situation, we have had to move this point to a later date. We will come back to you at the next suitable opportunity.

Thanks to all who helped and participated!

School Garden

During portfolio lessons the classes P4 / 5C and P5 / 6A have set themselves the goal of building a school garden. The students deal with various types of gardens, possible cultivation methods and plants, look for ideal locations on the school grounds and deal with the possible production of compost.

In regard to compost, with the support of the Parents' Forum, especially of Lu Becker, the students have already started building compost bins. **The aim is that, in the future, green waste from the school grounds, but also green waste from all members of the SSiS community, can be collected and recycled.** The goal is that our waste from Znüni and Mittagstisch, but also waste from home, can be composted at school and reused as humus-rich soil in the school garden.

We invite one representative of the National Parks of Singapore to secure the best support for our project.

Sign up for Full Day Offer (FDO) 2020/2021

- For LT/PGI students:
You will be able to choose whether you would like to continue with the current programme or switch to the full day programme (3 or 5 days a week).
[Flyer](#) / [Sign up form](#) / [fees](#)
- For PGII/KG German/KG French:
We will run two separate Full Day Offers, one for the French and another for the German Stream. Our Full Day Offers, which run from 1.45 until 3.20pm, are taught in German/French and run in addition to the regular lessons. In combination with our Extra Curricular Activities, students have the possibility to stay at school for all five weekdays from 8.30am until 3.20pm.
[Flyer](#) / [Sign up form](#) / [fees](#)

Project Week



"Art and Movement" - that was the watchword for this year's project week for Kindergarten and classes 1 & 2. Aligned with the school's annual theme of "One Heartbeat" we asked the children to reflect on how, we in Singapore, have a very privileged life and in what simple way we could help underprivileged children.

Through creative workshops the children created works of art with the aim of selling them to the parents to raise money. The money raised will be donated to "Child's Dream" to allow the building of a small playground at a school in Cambodia (www.childsdream.org).

The children build some beautiful mobiles, decorated knives, created cards and painted canvasses.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the parents who generously donated towards to the playground project.

Congratulations! Your purchases raised \$ 4,031.

Thank you all very much for your contributions and we will keep you updated on the playground project.

Please [listen to the words of gratitude](#) from Marc Jenni, Co-founder Child's Dream.

Reminder: Withdrawal deadline for next school year (first semester school year 2020/21)

If your child/children is/are leaving the Swiss School at the end of this school year, please make sure you have completed the withdrawal process by sending to us an email/letter to notify us of the withdrawal. The withdrawal deadline for students leaving at the end of second semester 2019/20 is **30 April 2020**. Failure to give adequate notice will result in a payment of 50% of the school fees for the following semester to be due.

Allocation of the new classes

The class allocation of our students through the management and the class teachers takes place at the end of May, according to the following priorities:

- Student number per class
- Gender
- Level of ability
- Students with special needs
- Students with German/French support
- Students who need special attention
- Social aspects

We will inform all parents on Friday 29 May 2020 about the newly allocated classes.

Class Teacher Allocation Next School Year

Class	Teacher	Class	Teacher
LTA	Beatrice Wah / Mei Ching Lim	P1/2A	Susanne Kammler
LTB	Jean Chu / Janus Lim	P1/2B	Stefanie Müller
PGA	Jo Ko / Josephine Ong	P1/2C	Livia Wermelinger
PGB	Jocelyn Chiam / Eunice Heng	P1/2F	Solenne Berthod Borcard
PGC	Betty Ng / Yui Mian Woo	P3/4A	Sandra Brechbühl
KGA	Charlotte Clancy	P3/4B	Michael Scholbe
KGB	Daniela Richert	P3/4C	Philipp Werfeli
KGF	Samuel Bonjour	P3/4F	Carole Chatelain
		P5/6A	Debora Fehr

Upcoming events until the end of May (see also: [Semester Overview](#))

All school events till summer break are revoked due to measures taken against Covid-19.

1 May 2020	Labour Day, Public Holiday
7 May 2020	Vesak Day, Public Holiday
25 May 2020	Public Holiday in lieu of Hari Raya Puasa
29 May 2020	Information Class Allocation
2 June 2020	Planned opening of the SSiS after CB

Upcoming publications

29 April 2020	Gruezi #3, online distribution
29 May 2020	Parents Information #8

Have a great weekend.



Yours Sincerely,
Markus Pallmann
Principal