

*Thursday, 24th August 2018*

***Re: Head of Primary Welcome Letter 2018***

## **Welcome back to the start of the new academic year 2018-2019**

On behalf of Ms. Arwenun Klipbua (Executive School Director), Dr. Asanee Ratanamalai (School Director) and Dr. Bruce Robinson (Headmaster), it is my honour and privilege to welcome back returning pupils and their families, and to extend the warmest of greetings to those pupils and their families who have joined the RBIS family this week.

As Head newly appointed to RBIS I am excited by the challenge of building on the examination success recorded by our secondary colleagues and their students this summer; to our wonderful returning staff we are pleased to welcome a number of new inspiring class teachers to our team at RBIS Primary, to support us on our journey to becoming outstanding in every way:

Mr. Dean Livermore – Year 3

Mr. Rupert Haywood-Pope – Year 4

Mr. Kevin Memmott- Year 5

These new class teachers are joined by a number of professional colleagues providing valuable learning assistance in the classrooms, additional support for English as an Additional Language (EAL) needs, and for individual learning needs. As a teaching team we are learning together, collaborating and planning for new improved programs for the coming year.

As the new Head of Primary I join the school not only as a member of staff, but also as a member of the parents' community. I am supported here in Bangkok by my wife Tania and my daughter Sofia who is studying for her GCSE examinations as part of our RBIS Secondary School. I bring more than 30 years of classroom experience to RBIS, including 16 years as a Headmaster and Executive Head in the UK and overseas settings. The thoughts and sentiments that follow are therefore written not only as a professional school leader but also as a fellow parent.

As a quality provider of international education in the Bangkok environment, RBIS clearly recognises the unique talents and experiences that each individual brings to our school community; our key focus is ensuring that the young children in our care are safe, healthy and provided with the essential balance of academic learning and personal development that will ensure success both now and as they take their place in the exciting world of their future. It is our duty to ensure for all in the community both challenge and support, allowing each of us to achieve our full potential in an environment where children are able to both enjoy learning and to fully participate in the extensive opportunities that an RBIS education offers.

Education and your child's success is about us working in partnership to ensure that your child reaches their true potential wherever their talent lies. Therefore, as the new academic year begins, may I take this opportunity to ask that you support us with the following, as these things really do make a difference:

- Ensure that your child comes to school appropriately dressed and equipped to work and with the right attitude to learning (At this early stage of the year I note that a number of children in the school are attending in footwear that fails to comply with the standards laid out in the school dress code – whilst understanding that every child's feet grow at a surprisingly fast rate - I must request that families ensure that black leather shoes are provided.)
- Ensure that your child attends at all times. At all of the schools I have worked in I have been struck by the strength of the connection between pupils' attendance and their attainment in learning. Pupils with 100% attendance are almost always among the highest achievers; pupils with attendance below 97% often find it difficult to keep up. Clearly children are sometimes too ill to come to school and we must work on the best advice of family doctors and the medical staff of the school; however those who are in school at every opportunity usually outperform those who miss vital learning
- Thirdly, there is no substitute for hard work. Pupils who routinely complete their independent homework assignments always do well, so please support and encourage this.

In a young person's' education nothing is more important than the duty of partnership and mutual respect that is shared by parents and teachers. Parents and Staff should be very aware of the role model that their attitudes, behaviour and words provide for young, and very observant, children.

To support positive partnership, you will find me at the entrance to the Primary School each morning to greet pupils and parents as they arrive at school. Please use this opportunity to make contact raising any concerns or worries and, as importantly, to share the things that are going well.

Whilst enjoying the privilege of teaching Year 6 in the mornings, I have ensured that I am available each afternoon to work with individual parents in the shared journey of education and schooling. Whilst understanding the high level of respect that the teaching profession retains in Bangkok, we can only work proactively and effectively together if we share our knowledge of the children for whom we care.

The school software systems are being updated to accommodate the new families and staff at RBIS and it is a focus for development in the school that we use the most up-to-date communication technologies to support the education of our children. I will keep parents informed of what to look out for in distance communication, but nothing replaces the benefits of face-to-face and immediate conversation. For those parents who would feel the benefit of translation services from Thai to English (and more rarely English to Thai) I will ensure that appropriate staff are available from the school's academic team. I would ask that parents use these academic services to work on educational issues directly. The school's administrative team have their own distinct duties and will have to refer educational issues to academic staff for successful resolution. I am sure that parents will be able to respect this request and will learn that a speedy and appropriate response is available from a direct route to the teaching team and Head of School.

As a very experienced school leadership team we understand the vitally important reassurance that is provided by meetings with the school teaching team.

Next week we have important Parents' Information Meetings which I would urge you to attend, as they will help you to support your child with their learning. The meetings provide an opportunity to meet with the school's senior leadership including Dr. Bruce Robinson the overall Headmaster at RBIS, and myself as Head of Primary. Following a meeting with the SLT parents are warmly invited to meet their own child's class teacher.

**The Parent Information Meetings for the Primary School are:**

**Tuesday 28th August                      Years 1, 2 and 3**

**Wednesday 29th August                Years 4, 5 and 6**

In respecting the commitment of parents giving their valuable time to attend these meetings, we will start promptly at 2.15 p.m. We ask that parents leave appropriate time negotiate city traffic, to park and enter the primary school campus. Following a meeting.



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Finally, I would like to thank you in advance for working with RBIS Bangkok to ensure the best education for your child. We look forward to a happy and successful year, where we continue to celebrate and be proud of all of our pupils.

Yours faithfully,

Tim Cooper

**Head of Primary**

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