



BANGKOK PREP

Bangkok International Preparatory & Secondary School

Est. 2003

Parent Forum Questions and Feedback

The New Timetables and Classing

Q. As it is clear that it has to be online can we start early?

We have adjusted the school calendar and that has also meant that we have adjusted the holiday periods. We will still deliver the full school year, and you are very welcome to access the existing learning materials on firefly in the meantime before term commences on Thursday 9th September 2021.

Q. Will there be an introduction class for new students/parents before 9th of September?

Q. Hi! My daughter will be joining year 2 as a new student. Do you have an approach for welcoming new children into the class via online learning?

On Wednesday 8th September there is a new parent orientation session at 9am. Our admissions team will share details with you as soon as they are ready.

There will also be a Welcome parent session and an introduction to Online Learning session with your class teachers and year leaders on Thursday 9th September to give you further details. More details will be shared with you from Key Stage Leaders closer to the time.

Our teachers are experienced at welcoming new children both online and on campus and your children are in good hands. You can expect your child to have a buddy, and the class teacher to arrange a 1:1 Zoom/phone call home with your family after the initial weeks to ensure you are settling in well.

Q. Last time, the specialist subjects such as Thai language were taught in a very big group (whole year). Can it be divided in the smaller classes, the same way as on-site learning?

Yes, specialist lessons will be taught in classes rather than Year Groups, just like it is on site.

Q. Till when can we have access to the online class materials from last year?

We are happy to continue to let parents and children access last years' learning resources until the Firefly pages are updated for this academic year (Tuesday 7th September 4pm)

Q. Having 2 kids in Year 2 and Year 3 I am a little confused about live lessons now. How can I manage 2 kids at the same time whether they are ok or not? If there are no seesaw activities?

The teachers will be online to support all lessons and will be there to answer questions and help the children complete their work. We hope that the new model will mean that parents do not need to support their children as much as they previously felt they needed to.

Q. So does this mean we don't need to be registering the kids everyday as it's going to be done live?

Yes, registration will be live on Zoom every morning. You will not have to register your child separately anymore. However, if your child is not able to attend school due to illness etc, please still email the class teacher and our primary office to let them know.

Q. Will Thematic be supported with teacher/TA? Or will children have to be supervised by parents?

A staff member will be available online during Thematic sessions.

Q. Will there still be pre recorded videos for core subjects?

Q. Will live sessions be recorded to view later?

Q. What if we cannot join at that particular time. What should we do?

Q. If we miss lessons, is there a video clip we can follow after?

We will be conducting lessons live rather than prerecorded. As children will appear on the recordings of sessions, we will not be able to distribute these as recordings. Like on campus, should your child miss a session, teachers will do their best to help your children catch up on missed work when they return to online class. Slides and resources for the live lessons will also be available on firefly.

Q. Will the non-core subject have an assignment on seesaw like last term (ie Swimming Library etc.)?

This will be different for different tasks and there will no doubt be some Seesaw tasks as it is such an effective educational platform. However, as mentioned above, the specialist teacher will be available live on Zoom throughout the specialist timetabled period.

Q. Good afternoon, will students' daily work still be on Seesaw, and will they be submitting their work on Seesaw?

As mentioned above, this will depend on the task. We will be using exercise books and live learning and feedback during Zoom sessions a lot more, but will also utilise Seesaw where appropriate.

Q. What is the feedback process for students? Will there be other forums for the students to get specific builds from teachers?

Feedback will reflect a variety of methods like in school. Live and verbal during Zoom, written in response to google apps used (slideshows/docs), sometimes Seesaw when a photo of written work is submitted. The teachers will plan feedback as best suited for children, just like they would in class on campus. The feedback will be more personal to your child, as live teacher-pupil interaction allows for this.

Q. Is there any way of communicating between children via something other than personnel SMS or calls? I heard other schools provide such a communicating channel.

Q. How children contact their class teachers if they are having problems.

A member of staff will be available live on Zoom at all timetabled class time. Children can simply raise their hands and they will get help and support in the lesson, or they will be able to communicate with their peers live in the Zoom classroom.

For those unable to attend the live Zoom, children (or parents) can continue to use school email to communicate.

Q. For subjects where material procurement is necessary, is it possible to get a list of what these are so there is enough time to prepare?

Teachers will try to ensure that there is enough notice and we will try to use the pickup delivery service to help as you access resources.

Q. How do you plan to ensure that students stay focused and pay attention throughout the Zoom sessions? What do you expect from parents concerning this matter?

We will do all that we can to keep the lessons engaging for the children. If your child is having difficulties staying focused, please let your teacher know and they will support you as much as they can. Although the Zoom session is timetables for 50 minutes, this does not mean the child will be expected to be listening and looking at the screen for 50 minutes. Like in school, the 50 minutes will have a variety of activities such as input, time to complete the work, movement breaks etc.

Q. Will EAL and Learning Support Programs shift to live sessions as well? Will these timetables be provided at the same time with others?

EAL and Learning Support sessions will be live sessions. EAL timetables will be provided. Learning support will be contacting relevant families separately with details on timings.

Q. When will the class schedule for online learning be sent?

Q. Will the timetable be sent out before 9 Sep?

These will go live on Firefly on Wednesday 8th September and will be introduced in your sessions with your Year Group (Thursday 9th September) so that they can talk you through it and answer your questions.

Q. Will all resources be on line or will there be some school work that parents need to pick up from the school?

Q. Are there any printed materials that we'll be getting from the school/class?

Q. Can school provide additional tools for art or anything the children should be making?

We will be offering packages for supplementary resources. These will be available by delivery and onsite collection. They will include exercise books and stationary and other learning resources.

Yes, there will be packs sent out or available for delivery.

Q. Will the reading books as routine be sent home as weekly basis as well. Reading books given for a week would be good rather than leaving it the kids to read through epic books.

We will do our best to ensure that the children have access to high quality texts. We will have the facility to make deliveries and provide pick up and will use this to get learning materials to our Bangkok Prep families. Once term starts, Year leaders will decide how this will work best for the children in their year group.

If families have any reading books at home from last academic year, please can we ask for you to return them as soon as possible to help us be able to provide this service. We are unfortunately still awaiting a significant amount of books to be returned.

Q. Can we continue borrowing books from library after school starts?

Yes, absolutely.

Q. Do you have delivery for supplementary resources outside Bangkok?

Please let us know where you are and we will do our best to get the resources to you. This will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Q. How about some textbooks to follow so we can help them at home later?

In Primary we do not use textbooks and prefer to allow our teachers to use their creativity to develop engaging and effective lessons which are more appropriate for our children. Slideshows and resources will however be on Firefly so that as parents you can see what the children are accessing and support at home if you would like to. Once our Firefly pages are launched, there will also be a section explaining which skills children cover this academic year, and some useful websites should you like to learn more.

Q. In case that the children are weak in a certain subject, will it be possible that the teacher can provide a special hour to do a personal tutorial? (Giving that we still have online learning).

We will be following the full timetable. However, children will be supported just as they would be on campus. This will include smaller group work in break out rooms, personalised feedback and differentiated learning.

Once teachers have completed initial assessments and got to know their new class, interventions will be implemented just like they would be on campus to support children who need it. Class teachers will be in touch about these in later weeks once the term has started.

Q. For phonics will the students be divided into separate groups?

Initially, like on campus, phonics will be taught in EYFS and Key Stage 1 at whole class level and through English lessons. In Key Stage 2 it will be taught as needed based on teacher's assessment.

In following weeks, once teachers know their class and have assessed phonics levels it is likely in KS1 that there will be streamed phonics sessions, and supplementary phonics/interventions in Y3.

Q. If work is being done in the children's books how will this be marked and corrected by teachers?

The teachers will be able to look at work instantly due to the lesson being live on Zoom. There will also be opportunities to submit some work on Seesaw, when this is needed.

Q. Will we know the class before 9 Sep?

Class lists will be released on Firefly on Wednesday 8th September.

Events

Q. Do you have any community events planned for the school year such as International Day etc?

Yes, the calendar has all key events already planned out. However, the way they run will need to be adapted based on what model we are running in school at that time based on restrictions

We will make an effort to either host these events in person, or create an online version. Some examples of this last term such as House Day and our Quadrathlon.

Devices and Technology

Q. Will the school provide a device for online learning or do we need to provide one? In the latter case, is there specific software required? Is there technical support available?

Q. Regarding live sessions, there will be technical problems. Can you provide additional time to support these technical problems?

We can provide devices to families that need them on a case by case basis.

The software we use is browser based. Our teachers have lots of experience with the technologies we use. However, we do have access to specialised ICT technicians who will be happy to help you out.

Q. Is an ipad sufficient for the device or do you recommend each child using a computer?

An iPad will work. However, if you would prefer access to a Chromebook or similar device, we will make one available. Please contact the relevant staff member for your child.

Q. In the hybrid system, if the students will be using technology in the classrooms to augment their learning experience, will they be able to choose which technology they use rather than having to use school loan units?

During Hybrid learning, those children on campus will have access to their teacher live and will therefore not need a device (unless in a computing lesson in which case a school device will be used). Those at home during hybrid learning can choose their appropriate device.

No, unfortunately we do not permit personal devices on campus. We have enough devices available for the children to use.

Opening Timeline

Q. What are you hearing from the government in terms of the likelihood that there can be in person learning this school year?

Q. Is there any indication on if/when the government will allow hybrid learning or when they will make a decision on it?

Unfortunately there are no published goalposts. We are in very close contact with all of the governmental agencies. Decisions and conditions are subject to change at very short notice. I would speculate that is linked to case numbers and vaccinations. There is currently a trial happening in boarding schools which will factor into future decisions from the authorities. We are optimistic, but as you can imagine, safety is the most important factor. We have prepared for all scenarios and remain hopeful of positive news soon.

The Hybrid Model

Q. What if the Hybrid model comes into effect but we are not ready to send our child back to school yet, what are our options?

You may take part in the online half of the hybrid system, accessing the learning from home live, whilst the other children receive the lesson face to face on campus.

Q. For the hybrid model, will it be the 'take-turns' basis to let groups of students to school and others learn from home?

Q. Will the full strength of the class be attending Maths and English at the same time?

Q. If alternating, can it be taken into account that siblings attend on the same day

Yes, it will either be split with 50% of each class or alternating year groups to reduce the number of children on campus at one time. We will receive final details on numbers from the governmental agencies and will use these guidelines to maximise the opportunities for the children to be on campus safely.

In the 50% model, we will do our best to match primary siblings to be on campus on the same day as each other. We have done this in the past when we were able to return on campus at 50% capacity. Should we be asked to run alternating year groups on campus, please understand that this will be much more difficult to coordinate and siblings may have different days. We would like to remind you that should your child not be able to attend the campus, they will have access to the classroom through Zoom.

Q. For Hybrid, are the children allowed to have lunch together or play when break time

Hybrid lunch time will be based on a 'bubble system', with separate areas of the cafeteria and playground. This will also depend on the government guidelines given to us, but as a school we would want our children to be allowed to have lunch together and play together!

Q. Should children be overseas when full access to campus is restored will there be any online elements available to tide the children over as they return to Thailand?

We will do the best to support all families and support will be discussed on a case by case basis. Slideshows and resources will continue to be shared on Firefly, and a hybrid model may be provided for those still not able to access the campus where possible.

Q. In the hybrid model, will the children on campus be stuck on computers?

In hybrid learning, children on campus will be interacting with the teacher live in the classroom, so will not use technology. Those not able to be on campus will access the live classroom from their device at home.

COVID Implications

Q. Regarding a child testing positive at school - has the government stated yet if the family of the rest of the class have to isolate too? i.e. Would my whole family have to isolate if one of my children is sent home due to a positive case in their class? In the UK siblings did not have to isolate as well but I'm not sure what the Thai government will advise.

The government is currently running a trial 'sandbox' in boarding schools. This will inform their procedures prior to giving permission to other schools to open. We will follow government recommendations to the letter.

Q. Hello, it seems that the Delta variant is affecting kids as well. Should school open, will there be an online option for families wishing to stay at home ?

Please see the information on the Hybrid model above.

Q. Will parents/guardians/nannies be allowed on campus?

That depends upon the age of the child and whether they have a vital appointment. Our aim is to minimise the number of children each child comes into contact with. It will also depend on government guidelines, as soon as we can safely have adults on campus we will.

Q Can you please discuss the possible tests for children to able to attend classes as was mentioned in the survey last week? Will this be compulsory?

There is a plan proposed by the governmental agencies in regards to testing families and staff regularly. This will be compulsory, although we are waiting on confirmation on how often these will need to be and which form of test.

Q. Will it be possible to receive updates on guidance for Covid from the school? Personally I find it difficult to get reliable, up to date info as it seems a bit scattered over various outlets/departments.

Unfortunately, with information often being contradictory, we cannot offer an update service. However, we ensure that any updates from us are confirmed by the relevant governmental agencies. Please check your school email regularly even through the holidays and refer to the Weekly Blog every Friday once term begins.

Q. When will most of the teachers be fully vaccinated?

Nearly all of our teachers are already vaccinated and we will be making sure that they are fully vaccinated before they begin teaching face to face.

Q. Thank you for the vaccination. Can the parents have the 2nd dose earlier than planned now (5th Oct)?

Unfortunately, this is not possible for the time being. However, HR are monitoring every opportunity. They will be in contact with you shortly.

Q. For those in different time zones, who will take care of them? What will they do? (Wondering the burden of teachers.)

We will do the best to support all families and support will be discussed on a case by case basis. Wherever children are in the world, they will have access to the slideshows and resources on Firefly and teachers will be able to mark submitted work and communicate via email.

Q. Hello, How are teachers being equipped to teach with an online set up better ?

We have had inset for new staff, we will have induction for returning staff and we have regular staff meetings for training and sharing best practice. The leadership team has been in communication with schools who have followed the hybrid model last year (they were not in Bangkok) to ensure our teachers are upskilled as necessary. Teachers will also have access to our campus, the support of the tech team and access to school devices and resources.

And finally

Q. How do I give feedback and what if I don't get a response

Please use the weekly feedback forms. We do our best to respond to any questions we receive. Please let our Assistant Head of Primary (abialek@bkkprep.ac.th) know if you feel you have not had a response to your question from the feedback form and she will follow up.