

NEWSLETTER 23/08/24

Dear Families,

We hope you have had a great start to the new school year. As you can imagine, it has been very busy in school but we are all thrilled to see the enthusiasm and engagement of our students across all classes. They have settled back into school life with great excitement, relishing the opportunity to reconnect with their friends and teachers.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Year 1 students. They have made a remarkable start, and we are impressed by how calmly and confidently they have adapted to our school environment.

We have a number of important dates to note in Term 1 and we look forward to seeing you all at our Meet the Team event from 4:45pm to 6:00 pm on 28 August. We will begin with an opportunity for you to meet our dedicated leadership and specialist teachers at 4:45pm in The Centre. Following this, you will have the chance to visit your child's classroom session, which will begin at 5:20 pm.

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation, which is instrumental in helping us to create a nurturing and inspiring learning environment for your children. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Wishing you a wonderful year ahead!

Best wishes

Christopher Coyle

Principal

DATES & EVENTS

An overview of the key dates and school events can be found in the calendar on the ESF App. You can also find the school calendar on the homepage of our school website at [\[Web Link\]](#). Please make a note of the following events that will take place early in Term 1:

KEY DATES Term 1 - 2024/2025

- **26 August** - ECA sign-up closes
- **28 August** - Meet the Team Evening
- **03 September** - Parent Workshop (with Classroom Walkthrough): Introducing the Primary Years Programme
- **06 September** - Y1-Y6 Coffee Morning & PTA AGM
- **10 September** - Parent Volunteer Workshop
- **10 September** - Term 1 ECAs start
- **16 September** - Mid Autumn Festival Celebration
- **18 September** - PUBLIC HOLIDAY (Mid-Autumn Festival)
- **20 September** - Year 3 Camp
- **30 September** - CPD Day - school closed
- **01 October** - Public Holiday - no school
- **03 October** - Parent Workshop - Y1 to Y6 English Language Workshop
- **07 October to 11 October** - Half-Term Break
- **15 October** - Parent Workshop - Chinese Programme Y1 to Y6

- **22 & 24 October** - Student Conferences
- **08 November** - Parent Workshop - Early Years
- **12 November** - Year 3 & 4 Athletics Meet, Causeway Bay Sports ground
- **28 November** - Term 1 ECAs End
- **29 November** - Glenealy School Winter Fair
- **03 December** - Year 5 & 6 Athletics Meet, Causeway Bay Sports ground
- **12 December** - Year 6 Panto am performance for parents
- **13 December** - End of Term - Noon dismissal

LOWER PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENTS

We are thrilled to announce that Rakoon Design was awarded the tender to develop our lower playground at the end of the last school year. Throughout the summer holidays, ESF staff and Rakoon Design collaborated to create detailed drawings of the equipment and space. Production has now commenced in Germany, with the main play structure being crafted from Robinia wood sourced from Denmark. In the coming months, classes will have the exciting opportunity to work with Rakoon designers, refining spaces that truly reflect their needs and preferences. Our brand-new playground is set to be fully installed by early 2025. Many thanks to all members of the school community who have worked very diligently over the past 12 months to make our new playground plan a reality.



YEAR 6 TO YEAR 7 TRANSITION (August 2025)

A reminder that all Year 6 students transition to our associated secondary school, ESF Island School, in August 2025. Year 6 parents should look out for an email from the school which includes a link to the Year 7 Transfer form. If you have any questions about the transition to secondary school, please do not hesitate to contact gloria.so@glenealy.edu.hk

VISIT FROM POET, MARK GRIST

We are thrilled to be able to welcome British poet Mark Grist to school on Friday 6 September to perform for us some of his poetry and also to work with the students. We have been able to structure the day to allow for every student in the school to work with Mark. This is a hugely exciting time for us to be hosting Mark, he has just completed a highly successful run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe with his new [Big Box Bonanza show](#). As if that's not enough, he has also just launched his new children's book [Bears Don't Get Scared](#) to complement his book [Rhinos Don't Cry](#)

MEDICAL AUTHORISATION FORMS

There are occasions where students require taking prescribed medication during school hours. Our school nurse is happy to assist with this to ensure a smooth transition for students back into school as soon as possible after an illness.

In the instance where medication needs to be administered at school we do require a [medical authorisation form](#). We also ask that any information about the need for the administration of medicine is sent to the nurse@glenealy.edu.hk email and that you also inform your class teacher. Medical authorisation forms and medicine should be delivered to the school nurse by an adult before the start of the school day. The school nurse is usually at the school gate before the start of school and it would be helpful if parents could introduce their child to the nurse when handing over the medication. We also ask that the medication is clearly labelled with the child's full name and dosage.

We do have a Student Health and Welfare document on the school induction section of our VLE, it is also [linked here for your convenience](#). If you have any questions that are medical related please send these to the nurse@glenealy.edu.hk email.

INSTRUMENTAL LESSONS

We have a number of professional instrumental music teachers who visit the school each week. If you are interested in signing your child up for lessons please see the attached [Instrumental Lesson Information](#), you can access the enrolment form through this document or the Performing Arts Page of the VLE.

PTA - NEWS FROM THE COMMUNITY HUB

Y1 - Y6 Coffee Morning & PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Please join us for coffee, meet the Glenealy School Team & PTA, connect with other families from Year 1 to Year 6 and join us as we reflect on the past year and look to this school year and beyond.

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of ESF Glenealy School's Parent Teacher Association will be held on:

Friday 6 September 2024
8.45am - 9.45am
1/F, ESF Glenealy School, 7 Hornsey Road

The AGM is an important event, so please come along and join us as we reflect on the challenges and accomplishments of the past year, and look to this school year and beyond.

Breakfast & refreshments will be available. [Click here](#) to register your attendance.

If you have any topics you would like to submit, please don't hesitate to email pta@glenealy.net by 1 September in order for it to be addressed during the Any Other Business section of the meeting. Thank you for your understanding.

Volunteers needed

Throughout the year the PTA organise a number of fundraising and social activities and events that are an important part of our school community. We rely on the support of our dedicated parent and family volunteers to make it a success.

If you are able to volunteer your time, please complete the [form here](#) to be added to a dedicated volunteer group. This will allow us to reach out to you when help is needed for future PTA activities and events.

This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved and make a positive impact on our school. Thank you in advance for your commitment to our school community.

Parent Lending Library

We have a small variety of books on parenting strategies, positive discipline, building self-esteem, effective communication, sibling rivalry and other topics of interest. The collection is housed in the Community Hub and is available to be borrowed by Glenealy parents and caregivers.

For a full list of titles currently available to be borrowed please email Geeta Sham at geeta.sham@glenealy.edu.hk. Or simply come in and browse the shelves at morning drop off or afternoon pick up times.

Thirsty Thursdays

Thirsty Thursdays are back! Take a break after drop off and help yourself to a morning beverage courtesy of the PTA every Thursday morning outside the Community Hub.