

NEWSLETTER 07/02/25

Dear Families,

I hope you all enjoyed a joyful Chinese New Year holiday.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who joined us for our annual Chinese New Year celebration just before the holiday. It was a vibrant and colourful way to welcome the Year of the Snake! The morning was filled with joy as we celebrated together, watching our students shine through song, dance, and storytelling.

We are immensely proud of our students who performed at the ESF Chinese New Year Gala at West Island School. The Year 4 and Year 6 students truly stole the show with their exceptional singing and dynamic rap performances! A special thank you to Ms. Chan and Mr. Zhou for their inspiration and dedication in preparing the children for this event.

Our dynamic rappers and several choir members also had the honour of performing for an audience of nearly 3,000 at the HK Exhibition & Conference Centre during the opening of the ESF All-Staff Conference last Monday. This conference was a milestone for ESF, marking the first time all staff members gathered for a shared event. The day included reflections on our progress, inspiration for the future, and a celebration of the wonderful work our colleagues undertake every day. A short video featuring Ray Ng, one of our caretakers, showcased his dedication to supporting children in our Long Distance Running ECA. You can watch the video on our social media or view it by clicking [HERE >](#)

Earlier this week, Year 6 students and parents participated in a PYP Exhibition Workshop. This was a valuable experience exploring the purpose of the exhibition and gave everyone the opportunity to discuss roles, responsibilities and expectations. We are grateful to all those who attended and are looking forward to the Year 6 Exhibition on the 25 & 26 March.

We appreciate your continued support and wish all our children, families, and friends a Year of the Snake filled with happiness, prosperity, and good fortune!

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 2:

KEY DATES Term 2 - 2024/2025

- **14 February** - House Happiness Day
- **14 February** - PTA Parent Workshop - Instilling a Growth Mindset
- **14 February** - Y2 Bake Sale Fundraiser
- **15 February** - 9AM IS Cross Country Race
- **18 February** - Y3 & Y4 Dance Show to Parents
- **18 February** - MMR/HepB/HPV Immunisations

- **19-21 February** - Y2 Camp Week
- **20 February** - Y5Y6 Tag Rugby @ Peak
- **26 February** - Y5Y6 Rugby Matches @Stanley Ho
- **26-28 February** - Year 1 Camp Week
- **27 February** - Y4-Y6 LDR Race @ Stanley Ho
- **3-7 March** - Book Week
- **4 March** - 3PM LDR Race v Kennedy @ Happy Valley
- **5 March** - Y5Y6 LDR Race v FIS @ Happy Valley
- **7 March** - Book Day Parade
- **11 March** - Hearing Screening
- **15 March** - Y4-Y6 LDR Race @ Discovery College
- **20 March** - School Musical - 6pm
- **26 March** - Y6 PYP Exhibition
- **27 March** - Tag Rugby @ Happy Valley
- **28 March** - Term 2 ECA's end
- **28 March** - Y3 Bake Sale Fundraiser
- **2 April** - Term 2 Reports go live
- **3 April** - End of Term - Half day
- **4-21 April** - Easter Holiday
- **22 April** - Start of Term 3

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2025/2026

Please find a copy of the School Calendar for 2025/2026 at the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1aNKtK0vOwJTkzPPsAH6jldhF9eIkndlu/view?usp=sharing>

MORNING ROUTINE

We are excited that our new playground is now fully open, bringing countless smiles as children explore the fantastic new equipment!

To coincide with the opening, children will now have the opportunity to enjoy the playground before classes start, rotating access by year group. Keep an eye out for the sign in the playground indicating which year group can play each morning.

HOUSE HAPPINESS DAY

On Friday 14th February Glenealy School will celebrate House Happiness Day. This will be a day for students to celebrate their houses and things that make them happy.

Students are encouraged to wear their house colour on this day. This can be just their P.E top or head-to-toe in their house colour. Additionally, we would like students to bring in a healthy snack in their house colour to enjoy at break time.

We look forward to celebrating House Happiness Day!

BOOK WEEK

International World Book Day is on Thursday 6th March and our book week will run from Monday 3rd March - Friday 7th March. We are pleased to be able to provide a number of experiences for the students to participate in if they wish, including our very popular “*Dress as Your Favourite Book Character*” parade on the morning of Friday 7th March.

We also have arranged visits from four authors who will talk with the children about their books and their writing process. Special thanks to the PTA for funding the author visits, author visits include:

- Liz Million - workshops in all year groups
- Eric Huang - with Year 1 and 2
- Namita Moolani Mehra - with Year 3 and 4
- Deborah Abela - with Year 5 and 6

We have listed some of the activities below which families may wish to start to think about and add to over the coming weeks:

Catch Me Reading:

Take a photo of your child reading in an unusual place and upload your picture to the [Padlet here](#). There will be prizes for originality! Please note this competition will close on Sunday 2nd March and prizes will be distributed during book week.

Mother Tongue Padlet:

Listen to our collection of [Mother Tongue Stories](#) - can record yourself reading a story in your mother tongue and add it to our Padlet? You may also wish to purchase a book in another language and donate it to our library.

PTA - NEWS FROM THE HUB

READ-A-THON

Book Week is just around the corner, and so is our exciting Readathon! Last year was a fantastic success, and the funds raised have helped us bring an amazing lineup of authors to visit us this year. We're doing it again, so let's get that fundraising spirit fired up!

Today, your child has received their sponsorship forms, so please encourage them to gather sponsors and get ready to read! The reading challenge will take place from **February 17 to 21**. We kindly ask that all sponsorship forms and collected money be returned to the class teachers by **February 27** at the latest.

Thank you for your support in making this Readathon a memorable experience for our students. Happy reading!

PARENT WORKSHOP SERIES

The PTA is excited to announce the first of a series of parenting workshops designed to support and empower parents in their journey.

These workshops aim to provide practical tools and strategies to enhance your parenting skills and foster positive relationships with your children.

Workshop details:

Instilling a Growth Mindset

Do your children give up easily? This workshop will explore the concept of a growth mindset - the belief that abilities and intelligence can be developed through hard work, dedication and learning from mistakes.

In this session, you will:-

- Learn strategies to help your children to unlock their potential and embrace challenges.
- Gain insights into fostering a connection with your children while instilling important values.

Date: Friday 14th February 2025

Time and Date: 08:30 AM - 10:00 AM.

Venue: 2/F The Centre

[Click here to register your attendance.](#) Registration deadline: 13 February 2025.

Y2 VALENTINES DAY BAKE SALE - FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2025

Join us on the playground next Friday 14 February for a Valentine's Day Bake Sale! Gates will open at 3:00 PM. Please note that we will not be accepting coins, so we kindly ask you to bring notes in small denominations only. We look forward to seeing you there!



CNY MARKET PICS

A massive thank you to all the amazing volunteers who made the Year 4 Bake Sale and the Chinese New Year Marketplace such a fantastic success! From delicious treats to vibrant decorations, you brought joy and community spirit to life. [Click here](#) to enjoy the pictures capturing all the fun and laughter—your efforts made it all possible!