

18 August, 2017

Dear Parents,

I have uploaded the information shared at the Parent Forum today onto the KIS Primary School Community Blog. Thank you to those of you who were in attendance.

One of the areas discussed was the changes to the Additional Language Programme (Spanish and Mandarin); as mentioned in our meeting today this will not be held on Fridays anymore. My apologies for any confusion caused.

For the last few years we have been offering one period of Spanish or Mandarin as an optional, parent funded programme, for students in Grade 1-Grade 5. We have decided to review this programme and how it is offered based on three main reasons.

- **Scheduling:** it is quite complex to schedule classes for the students, we have been running these before school starts and during TAL class time; because of the different Ministry requirements for Thai and Non-Thai Students, finding time that accommodates all the students is difficult, this coupled with feedback from parents not wanting their children to miss classroom time or school events has caused some complications in the past.
- **Decline in numbers:** over the years interest in the programme has declined, last term we were offering the programme with classes as low as two students from a grade level.
- **Teacher Sourcing:** I did not mention this in the meeting today but this is also a deciding factor in the resulting decision. As the program only runs once a week, and the take up is so low, the school is not in a position to be able to meet the requirements to get a work permit and teachers license for a part time position

Our Mother Tongue Programme (the parent/family language spoken at home) can be offered as parents, supported by the school, personally hire the teacher/tutor to work for them; the school offers support and space.

As I mentioned in the meeting today I am happy to work with interested parents to develop something similar to the Mother Tongue Programme to support the continuation of the Spanish and Mandarin lessons/tutorials. We can work with you to secure a parent funded teacher and offer space for these classes to happen. This could possibly be an After School option or a before school option, I am open to discuss ideas to support this if we have enough people interested. I will send a short questionnaire shortly to gauge interest and requirements and ask for your support in helping to make this happen. Once the After School programme, coaching and other programmes are up and running we can meet to discuss this further.

I hope this helps to clarify the changes we need to make. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Warm Regards,



June van den Bos