



Date: 09 Sep 2024



Dear KJS Families

We hope this letter finds you and your families well.

As you will know, the Hong Kong government lifted the mandatory mask-wearing requirements in March 2023. Since then, we have observed that sickness and absence levels at our school have returned to pre-pandemic levels, which is a positive sign.

However, we recognise that the habitual use of masks has become a part of many students' daily routines over the past few years. While this practice was necessary during the height of the pandemic, recent research suggests that the continuous use of masks can have a negative impact on students' language development and social-emotional well-being.

The attached [‘Overview of Mask Wearing in Schools’](#) from Hong Kong’s Central Health Child Development team outlines some of the potential impacts of long-term face mask wearing on child development.

Given these risks, we would like to encourage all of our students to gradually transition away from the continuous use of masks in the school setting. We understand that this may be a significant change for some children who have become accustomed to wearing masks regularly. Therefore, we are sharing this information with you now, and encourage families to take the time to have conversations and reassure students about the safety of coming to school without a mask.





KOWLOON
JUNIOR SCHOOL
九龍小學

Success for Every Child



Starting after the October mid-term break, we would like to encourage all students to attend school without a mask, unless your child has underlying medical conditions that we should be made aware of. Students who are experiencing symptoms of illness should stay at home and rest. We believe that this approach will not only support the overall well-being of our students but also foster a more positive and engaging learning environment.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Best regards,

Gavin MacGregor

Principal

