



Beginning Normal Attendance ~New School Lifestyle in Summer~

Principal Yoji Hatano

Soon one month will have passed since Higashimachi reopened. Although we say it reopened, the halved classes and twice-a-week attendance felt very far away from everyday school life. Even still, after coming to school, the children played and enjoyed themselves as if they were trying to make up for all the time spent apart. There were even children who said they could not adjust to the irregular pace and wanted instead to come every day. Those children who looked uneasy about returning at the beginning are now smiling. We could also see children be more involved in their studies because of the fewer number of people in class. Bit by bit, the children are taking back their usual lifestyle.

On the other hand, the children are steadily adapting to a new way of life at school. What surprised me most were the students who washed their hands so thoroughly when they returned to school. Their parents and guardians surely taught them how to properly wash their hands during the school closure. I was impressed to see the children come to the sink, lather their hands with soap, and thoroughly rub not only the palms of the hands but the backs of their hands, between their fingers, and under their fingernails. Also, around two weeks after staggered attendance had begun, even the lower students had become accustomed to social distancing. Even during lunch, to prevent infection by spreading droplets, students in every grade ate silently.

During this month of staggered attendance, the Tokyo Alert was announced on June 2nd (Tues) and then called off on the 11th (Thurs), and, on the 19th (Mon), the Tokyo government lifted their restrictions on businesses. Even schools will begin regular attendance starting July 1st (Wed). However, this in no way means that we are returning to life before the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). It's my belief that the children all coming back to school in July marks the beginning of a new lifestyle at school. Because of this, since June and on into the second term, Higashimachi has been shifting step by step towards a new way of life.

Having said that, we are also concerned about the threat of heatstroke that will be caused by this summer's extreme temperatures. The masks that are essential to combating infections may be a major risk for causing heatstroke. We distributed a notice on June 24th ("Measures to Prevent Infection and Heatstroke during Regular Attendance in July") that outlines Higashimachi's policies on when to wear or not wear masks. It is also available on the school's website. Please refer to that notice for details about measures taken to prevent infection and heat stroke. Please also take this opportunity to talk with your family about when and where to use masks, using and taking care of cooling towels, and other measures to help your children adapt to a new lifestyle for the summer.

July

Date	Day	Event	After-school
1	W	Safety lesson, 5 periods	x
2	Th		6
3	F		5
4	Sa		
5	Su	Tokyo Gubernatorial Election	
6	M	Vision test(G6)	x
7	Tu	G1 Meet and Greet (G6)	4
8	W	G1 Meet and Greet (G4, 5)	x
9	Th	G1 Meet and Greet (G2, 3)	5
10	F	Vision test(G2)	6
11	Sa		
12	Su		
13	M	Suido Caravan(G4) Vision test(G1)	x
14	Tu	Emergency evac. drill (G3, 4)	6
15	W	Emergency evac. drill (G5, 6) Vision test(G3)	x
16	Th	Emergency evac. drill (G1, 2)	4
17	F	Drug Abuse Prevention Lesson (G6)5, 6 periods	5
18	Sa		
19	Su		
20	M	Vision test(G5)	x
21	Tu		4
22	W	Vision test(G4)	x
23	Th	Marine Day	
24	F	Sports Day	
25	Sa		
26	Su		
27	M		x
28	Tu		5
29	W		x
30	Th	School lunch ends	6
31	F	Closing Ceremony, 4 periods	x

Notices

School Fee Withdrawals

This year, school fees will be withdrawn three times (July, October, and January). The first withdrawal will be on July 10th (Fri), the same day as the school lunch fee withdrawal. Please refer to your child's class newsletter for the fee amount.

Lunch Fee Withdrawals

The lunch fee for June and July will be withdrawn on July 10th (Fri). Please refer to the notice about direct deposit accounts for each grade's fee amount.

Emergency Evacuation Drill

In June, students practiced the basic drill for an earthquake evacuation. In July, students will practice the basic drill in response to a fire. To avoid crowding, the drills will be conducted two grades at a time over three days.

Human Rights Day

This month's Human Rights Day will be on the 16th (Thurs). The lunch will be American jambalaya.

Suspension of PTA Events

To adjust to the new lifestyle at school, the PTA's "Water Fight" and "Radio Taiso" events have been cancelled.

Educational Counselling

July's Goal

Let's Get Used to the New Way of Life at School

Junichi Takagi
Educational Counselor

Now that school has fully reopened, the children have returned, and we are teaching the students about the new lifestyle at school.

Every day, students must check their temperature, wash their hands when they get to school, properly wear a mask, and keep a 2m distance from others. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.