



STILL NO GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FOR SCHOOLS TO OPEN

We have clear information that:

1. New COVID-19 cases are falling, since many people in Bishkek have already been infected and are currently immune;
2. There is very little risk of COVID-19 transmission at school, when windows are open in summertime and students are wearing masks;
3. Even if children are infected with COVID-19, the risks to them are extremely low, and most show no sign of even being infected;
4. Remote learning is not very effective for school students, and this is particularly true for weaker and disadvantaged students, who never catch up;
5. Very sadly, during the remote learning period, there has apparently been a 60% increase in domestic violence and around 38 adolescent suicides in the Kyrgyz Republic;
6. BIS has written approval from the Ministry of Health to open, provided we follow the strict [BIS COVID-19 Protocol](#) to prevent transmission;
7. BIS has written approval from the Ministry of Education and Science to open, provided we receive written approval from the Local Education Office and Local Sanitary Control.



To its great credit, the government has taken account of the much lower risk of COVID-19 in recent weeks and has opened cafes, bazaars, leisure centers, health spas, parks, churches, mosques and public transport, despite the lack of real COVID-19 transmission controls, with many people not wearing masks or social distancing.

To our surprise, the government has not allowed the Local Education Office or Local Sanitary Control to give BIS approval to open, as a government decree forces all schools to close, except for classes up to local Grade 1.

It is very difficult to understand why our school cannot open, since all of the publicly available information indicates that we should be open. Therefore, we can only assume that the government has some other unknown 'internal information' that provides reasons for keeping schools closed. We are very thankful to government for their great wisdom in keeping us safe, based on their 'internal information'. However, our lack of knowledge of this important 'internal information' makes it impossible to predict when the government might change their decision, therefore we have to continue with remote learning for the foreseeable future.

As a legal and law-abiding school, which does not pay bribes to government officials, but paid 27 million SOM in official government taxes and social fund payments in 2019, we await the next wise decisions of government with great interest.

David Grant, Head of School

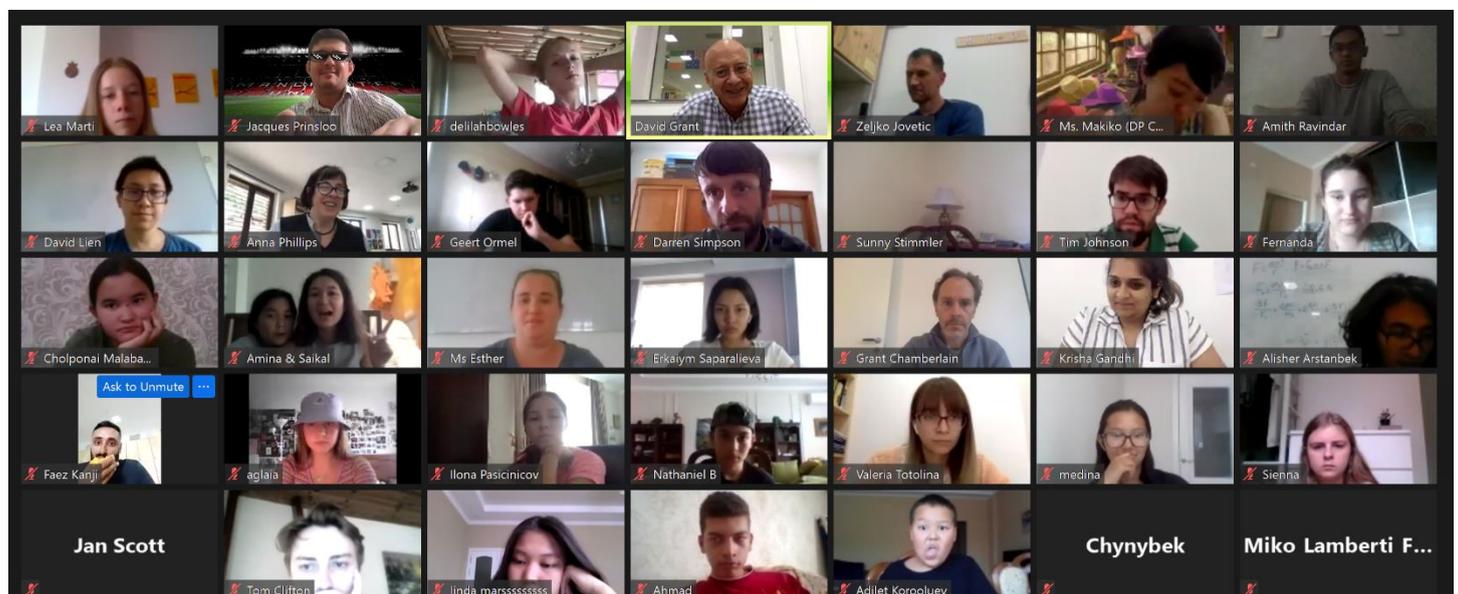
ZOOMED IN – ZOOMED OUT – FIRST MIDDLE/HIGH ASSEMBLY OF THE YEAR

Secondary had their first assembly of the new academic year and the one question on everyone's lips was: "When can we come back?". While we understand the desire that some of our Taigans have in returning we also understand and fully support any of our community members that prefer to remain online. BIS is ready to open physical schooling when approved by the government and we appreciate the trending hashtag created in the assembly: #openourschool.

Whatever the future holds, rest assured that BIS aims to deliver quality education for all our students, remote and in school.

Thank you for your support and we want to congratulate all our students for their efforts in week 1 of remote learning, you are all worthy winners of the first CPR award for 2020/2021.

Mr. Jacques, Assistant Head of School, IGCSE Coordinator



PYP ASSEMBLIES!

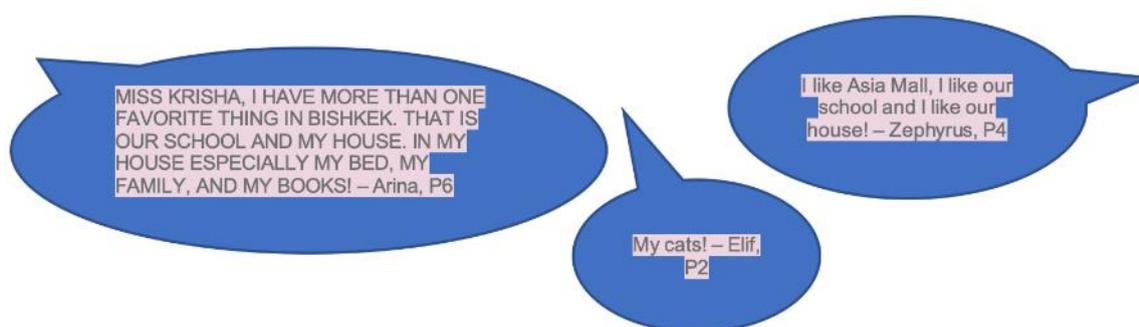
As we have so many students who are located around the world and students who are in live calls for much of the day, this year's remote learning assemblies will take place via NearPod and can be accessed all weekend. We had 53 students participate in our first NearPod assembly and here we can see some of their wonderful contributions!

Aisha in P2 showed us the emotions she had been feeling in her first week of being back to school:

Kais in P6 seemed to have a fun week too!



Some students explained what they loved about Bishkek:



Some students explained what they are looking forward to finding out about Bishkek:

Theo wants to know if there is good food, **Lucie** is interested in how big the city is, and **Cora** is intrigued by the weather! All great questions which we hope you can find out the answers to soon!

Our assembly ended with an up-beat song for the weekend: RESPECT by Aretha Franklin. 6 students **Humay**, **Neslihan**, **Nikita**, **Ilya**, **Arya** and **Erik** all received 10 House Points each for their RESPECT inspired dances!



You can watch and participate in this week's Primary Assembly by clicking [here](#)!

In PYP 6, students are learning about the body and health. So in drama class with Mr. David, students are learning about and exploring facial expressions, and how they can use their faces to communicate effectively and expressively. Here the students are recreating these faces from "Calvin and Hobbes".



NEW FACES AT BIS: MS LAURA

Hi there, BIS community! I am joining this wonderful school community as the Homeroom Teacher for P4. I was a teacher for many years in the UK, and I am now in beautiful Bishkek, and looking forward to getting to know such a green and welcoming city. I have also volunteered and taught in Sierra Leone, West Africa, and my experiences there have certainly helped me hone my flexibility and adaptability to whatever life and school throws my way. In my spare time I enjoy photography, yoga, gym training and weightlifting, and CrossFit. I'll try almost any class at least once! I also enjoy singing, and inherited a choir while I was in Sierra Leone, despite having very questionable music reading abilities! Singing with them always gave me such joy, and I hope I can continue to do this in some form while here in Bishkek. I was born and raised by the sea, and it is a place which always brings me such peace and tranquility, so being far away from that may take some getting used to. However, I see the beautiful mountain views almost everywhere I look in Bishkek, and I am looking forward to discovering new terrains and areas of beauty.



I am thoroughly excited by the prospects ahead for P4 this year. In our 'new normal' here in 2020, I know that I will have plenty to learn about adapting learning for online students as well as those physically attending school, when they are able. I am excited to see how we can build and develop a cohesive community while still exploring all that the IB curriculum has to offer. I love learning from children, as I think they have so many fascinating ways of viewing the world, and many ways of expressing their views. I know that learning may look and feel a little different to usual for a while, and I am excited to embark on this journey with such a dynamic group of students and parents. Please keep in touch, and let's make 20/21 a learning year to be remembered!

Ms. Laura, Primary 4 Homeroom Teacher

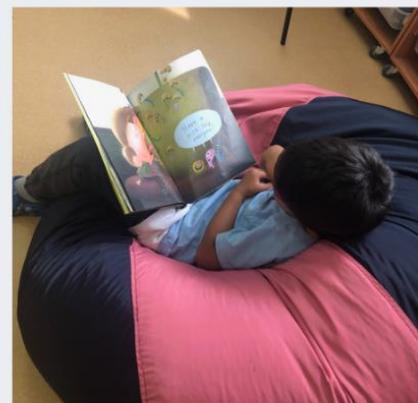
An art work done by our student Philipp from Primary 1



Some of our In-Person P1 Friends



Primary 1 students had a wonderful week full of new learning experiences!



BIS Snapshot: Picnic Lunches on the Grass



BIS Snapshot: Sport ECAs



FOCUSING ON ZOOM

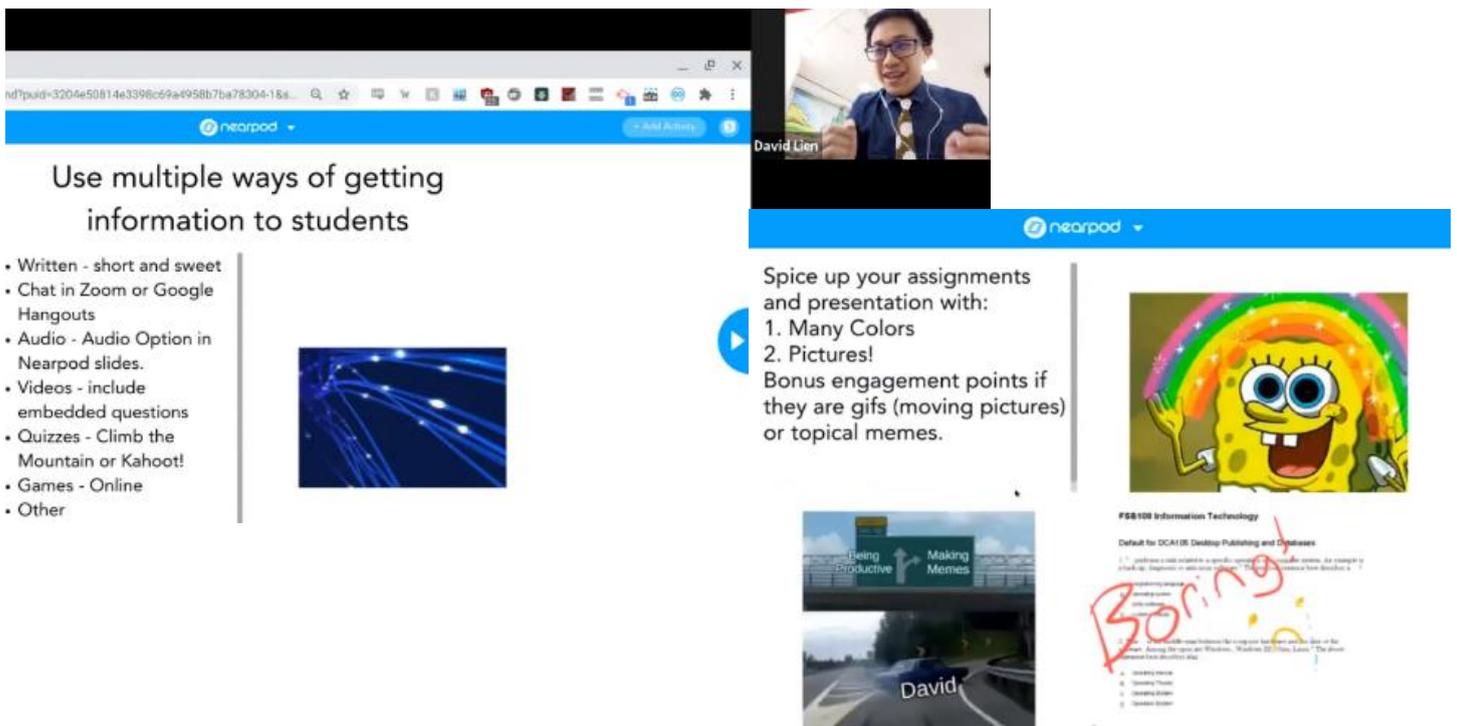
This week our teachers have been working hard to make Zoom lessons more engaging and more productive. With new technology, new lesson formats, new students, new teachers and new classes, teaching via video call does not come naturally for most of us. So when we heard good things from our community about our Performing Arts teachers' online classes, we could not resist asking them to share their tricks and tips with the rest of the teaching team!

Earlier this week, Mr David and Mr Grant (not to be confused with Dr David Grant, our Head of School) ran an online session for teachers about making the most of lessons on Zoom. They covered a wide range of topics based on their personal experience and reflections of teaching online: timing tasks, getting the difficulty level right, using a variety of activity types in each lesson, integrating video content, making students personally feel part of the lesson and conveying energy on the call. At the end, teachers had the chance to discuss their own practice and what they will try out and change going forward.

For teachers trained in the physical classroom, teaching online is a challenge. Like our students, we are learning. We are risk-takers, trying out new tools and strategies. We are reflective; we think about what has worked well and what we can improve. We collaborate, sharing ideas in and across departments.

While we cannot wait to get back to school, we continue to strive to provide inspirational education in the heart of Central Asia, or wherever our students join our Zoom calls from!

Mr. Tim, MYP Coordinator



Use multiple ways of getting information to students

- Written - short and sweet
- Chat in Zoom or Google Hangouts
- Audio - Audio Option in Nearpod slides.
- Videos - include embedded questions
- Quizzes - Climb the Mountain or Kahoot!
- Games - Online
- Other

Spice up your assignments and presentation with:

1. Many Colors
2. Pictures!

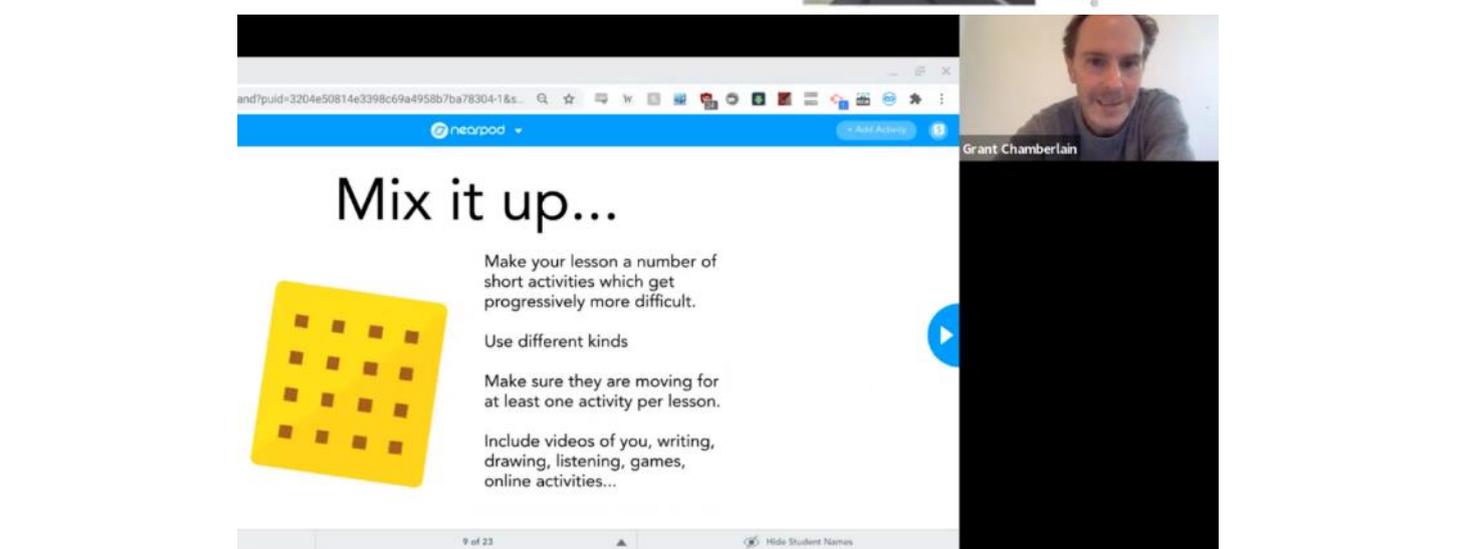
Bonus engagement points if they are gifs (moving pictures) or topical memes.



Being Productive Making Memes

David

Boring!



Mix it up...

Make your lesson a number of short activities which get progressively more difficult.

Use different kinds

Make sure they are moving for at least one activity per lesson.

Include videos of you, writing, drawing, listening, games, online activities...

9 of 23

Hide Student Names

ALL PARENTS MEETINGS

This **Saturday 5th September**, the PAMC will be hosting the first of its All Parents Meetings at 10:00. This event is normally held at BIS but will be hosted on Zoom at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84357628565>.

The agenda for this meeting will include:

- Welcome back - Head of PAMC Nirika Koirala
- BIS 2019/2020 annual survey report - Assistant Head of School, Jacques Prinsloo
- Update on enrolment - Head of School, David Grant
- Update on opening/not opening - Head of School, David Grant
- Update on new campus developments - Head of School, David Grant
- DP review - Head of School, David Grant
- ECAs and sports - Assistant Head of School, Jacques Prinsloo
- Remote learning at BIS - Director of Studies, Krisha Gandhi
- Q&A session - BIS Management Board.

Russian translation will be provided and we encourage all parents to attend this meeting. The recording of this meeting will be shared with all parents on the following Monday.

TAIGAN GEAR – PICK YOUR COLOR AND SIZE WHILE THE SUPPLY LASTS!

We have NEW colors and designs for T-Shirts and Caps and Hoodies and NEW item – eco-friendly Taigan sports water bottles - and more!

Please ask our School Cashier for any item you would like to purchase.



NOTEBOOKS

If you would like to pick up school notebooks for your child, these will be available from Monday 7th September, 2020, from our external reception.

Notebooks for pick-up are optional. If students would like to work with an official BIS notebook, they will be able to receive 2 lined notebooks and 1 grid notebook.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Saturday 5th September: All Parents Meeting – Parents Association
- Saturday 19th September: Asia Day Festival

LUNCH MENU

The lunch menu for September 7th – 11th is [Menu A](#). Form Teachers and our Chef are responsible for adjusting this menu to avoid any foods your child cannot eat, according to the information provided to us by you.

KEEP IN TOUCH

If you have anything you want to discuss or suggestions for the school, please contact your child's Homeroom or Form Teacher and they will either answer directly or pass the message on to the right person. Messages can be sent in English or Russian, or in your own language. If you do not know the correct email address for the person you want to write to, please write to info@bis.kg and our Reception will forward your email to the right person.



PRESCHOOL 1

This week, Preschool 1 friends have continued their school adventure of having fun and learning new knowledge. Our young friends focused on talking about friendships important to us. Together, we read stories about friendship in order to develop our class understanding of friends and to increase our understanding of how to be a good friend and how to treat each other. The story, "How do dinosaurs play with their friends?" has helped us to understand that sharing toys, taking turns, and playing nicely is an important while playing with the friends. For art, we made a friendship tree with all of our hand prints and a heart card from our friend's pictures. We also sang the "Friends, friends, 1, 2,3" song while showing and counting all friends in the class. Next week, we will start to talk about our families!

Ms. Begimai, Preschool 1 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 2

This week, Preschool 2 group has continued the unit “Who We Are” where we focused on talking about school life and what it means to be a student. Together we made a poster where we glued pictures of school, small houses, trees, cars and some people together to create a community. In our morning circle time activity, little by little we learned to say good morning, our morning routine, our weather song, and how to ask each other about our moods. Our friends like to share what they did at home and explained why they are happy or sad. To get to know each other better we played a game “What do you like to eat?” where children were pulling fruits and vegetables from a bag and telling the group whether they like it or not. Some of our friends know the names for fruits and vegetables; others did a great job learning new words. From our story times, our favourite book for the children was “I want to be your friend” written by Eric Carle that tells a story about a mouse that was looking for new friends and met many animals.



Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Homeroom Teacher

Ms. Oksana, Preschool 2 Homeroom Teacher



PRESCHOOL 3

Week 2 has come and gone in the blink of an eye. Our in class and online Preschool 3 friends have started adapting to their new class routine and started making friends with everyone in the class. We also started to learn our first letter, the letter 'a'. We made letter 'a' houses and tried to write the letter 'a'. We also recapped numbers 1-5. Next week we will be looking at letter 'b' and numbers 6-10.

Ms. Carmen, Preschool 3 Homeroom Teacher, Head of Preschool

