

From the Headmaster's Desk

Dear Parents,

As our city prepares to welcome 2026 and the Year of the Horse—a symbol of energy, perseverance and forward motion—our thoughts turn to the tradition of best wishes or resolutions for the new year. This is a perfect time for our children to harness that spirited "horse" energy for their own growth.

As a teen, my New Year resolutions were often as ambitious as they were short-lived. On the first day of the year, I would vow, "This year, I will be the topnotcher in English," or "I will be the best writer of my grade." Yet, by the time we visited grandpa's grave at Ching Ming Festival in April, my resolve had often galloped off without me, lost in the rhythm of school, social activities and family commitments. My goals were fixed only on a distant finish line—the exam result, the teacher's praise—and not on the steady trot of daily practice. When the finish line seemed too far, I would simply stop running.

Lest your child should repeat my mistake, I write to share with you my reflections and tips. In our fast-paced society, where academic achievement is paramount, we have a precious opportunity to guide our children towards a more resilient and joyful approach to learning English in the coming year.

The key is to help them transform broad wishes into specific, trotting-paced actions. Instead of the overwhelming "I must improve my English," we can guide them to set a goal such as, "I will listen to one English podcast on my MTR commute every Tuesday and Thursday," or "I will write three sentences in a journal about my weekend, using two new words I have learned." Let's make their goals fit into the unique cadence of a Hong Kong student's life.

Most importantly, let us honour the process—the steady ride—over just the end result. A resolution to "get an A in the exam" places all the weight on a single, high-pressure day. A resolution to "complete one extra English activity from my textbook each week" builds consistent skill and confidence. The former defines success by a single stamp; the latter by the ongoing journey of learning. Let's cheer for the chapter finished, the question asked in class, or the attempt to speak English with a friend, as much as for the score on the top of the page.

The spirit of the Horse also reminds us that a journey sometimes requires a change of course. Regular, gentle check-ins are vital. Perhaps the goal of "reading a book a month" was too ambitious during the busy school term. We should show our children that it is a sign of strength, not surrender, to adjust the reins: "Let's change our goal to reading two short stories this month instead." This flexible and reflective practice is a life skill that will carry them far beyond their English studies.

At E-Smart, our teachers will embody this "Horse" spirit of steady progress in the classroom. We will encourage students to set personal learning milestones that celebrate consistent effort and the discovery of language as a tool for connection.

Thank you for your continued partnership. By guiding our children to set thoughtful, process-oriented goals, we are not just building their English skills for the coming year; we are saddling them up with the resilience and perspective for all the gallops ahead.

Wishing your family great health, happiness, and success in the new year!

Yours sincerely,



Clive Chan

Stars of the Month

Cheng Chun Hei, Marcus	IEK10B Sat 11:00-12:00
Choi Ho Lam, Jack	IEK4B Sat 9:00-10:00
Hung Ling To, Allen	GWF4B Fri 5:30-6:30
Ko Sum Yau, Zoe	WTE8B Sat 11:00-12:00
Ku Tsz Yau, Yoyo	IEK4A Sat 1:00-2:00
Kwong Ho Ying, Hayley	WTE8B Fri 6:30-7:30
Kwong Tsz Yau, Hazel	WTE6A Sat 3:00-4:00
Lee Sing Wai, Ella	WTE2A Sat 10:00-11:00
Li Chin Ying, Jade	WTE6A Tue 4:30-5:30
Li Sheung Wing, Bernice	WTE10A Thu 6:30-7:30
Ling Jaiden	WTE2A Fri 4:30-5:30
Lo Herman	IEK2A Wed 5:30-6:30
Lui Hong Yu, Alexandra	WTE4B Fri 6:30-7:30
Mak Pak Him, Fason	PTW2 Sat 5:00-6:00
Poon Ka Ki, Andrew	GWF9A Wed 6:30-7:30
Shek Cheuk Ting, Cherry	GWF6B Sat 1:00-2:00
Shek Cheuk Ting, Cherry	WTE6B Sat 3:00-4:00
Tan Cheuk Yu, Katie	PTWR Sat 3:00-4:00
Tsai Chi Ko, Nick	WTE4A Sat 10:00-11:00
Tsoi Hei Tong, Hazel	PTWE1 Sat 10:00-11:00
Wat Sin Yan, Sylvia	WTE2B Fri 5:30-6:30
Yeung Ching Hei	WTE6B Fri 4:30-5:30
Yip Yu Shing, Bernie	IEK6B Sat 12:00-1:00
Yu Man Him, Nico	WTE4A Thu 4:30-5:30



Happy New Year 2026!

Wishing you all a wonderful, happy and healthy year ahead, filled with great new experiences.

Please include browsing the library and reading more books as a goal for this year.

Finding a great book to read is like going on an adventure of discovery. You can choose an adventure, a mystery, a biography or historic works, and explore at your leisure, page by page. Unlike watching a movie, reading a book will stimulate your imagination as you follow the story.

Not only is reading books fun, but you can also easily expand your vocabulary, better structure thoughts and improve communication and writing. If you think reading books is boring, you have just not found the right book yet!

~Ms Carola

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WRITERS OF JANUARY:

Best Writer: Harriet Hui (2A) – What Would It Be Like For You To Go To University At Your Age?

Others writers: Emma Cheung (4B) – A School Day;

Perseus Wong (4A) If I Were The King;

Ling Yan Ho (6B) The Selection Day;

Haley Hon (6B) My Camping Experience;

Rianna Ho (6B) My First Day At School?

What Would It Be Like For You To Go To University At Your Age? – By Harriet Hui (WTE2A)

I don't want to be in university now because everyone will look at me and say, "How strange!". So I won't go there, and no one will play or chat with me because they are older than me by many years!

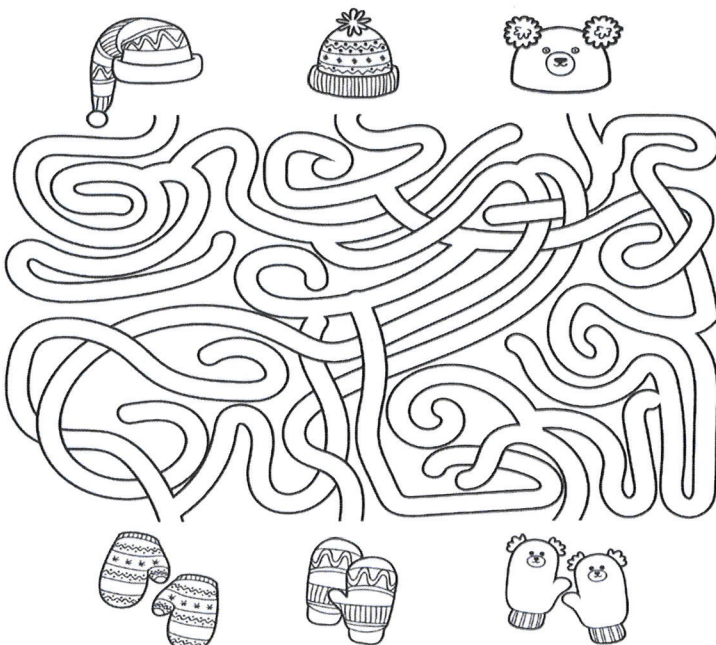
Everyone will walk away from me. And it will be silly because I am not of the same age as them and I will feel bored every day. I will have nothing to do every day.

I don't want to be as smart as Michael (Kearney) because I want to enjoy my life as a child.



All Bundled Up

DIRECTIONS: Use a different colored pencil or pen to trace the path from the hat to its matching mitten.



AULD LANG SYNE
BABY
BALL
BALLOONS
CALENDAR
CELEBRATION
CHAMPAGNE
CLOCK
CONFETTI
COUNTDOWN
DANCING
DECEMBER
EVE
FATHER TIME
FIRECRACKER
FIRST
FLUTE
GAMES

Happy New Year!

G	N	T	I	B	R	A	D	N	E	L	A	C	L	O	C	K	K	A
U	O	R	O	D	E	X	U	T	O	U	I	G	O	F	H	C	T	X
A	I	A	T	B	S	X	B	V	P	A	R	T	Y	I	M	I	O	W
T	T	D	V	Q	O	A	W	A	R	Y	F	F	T	R	M	S	T	G
Z	A	I	A	U	L	D	L	A	N	G	S	Y	N	E	T	U	L	F
I	T	T	F	L	U	R	E	M	A	E	R	T	S	C	F	M	M	N
O	I	I	O	C	T	Y	E	C	F	T	X	S	S	R	G	N	C	W
N	V	O	F	E	I	B	P	K	D	I	Q	U	I	A	N	W	O	G
C	N	N	B	E	O	A	A	P	A	U	R	K	K	C	I	V	U	C
S	I	F	N	D	N	B	L	G	A	M	E	S	C	K	C	T	N	W
I	H	Q	J	O	B	B	F	R	F	H	E	H	T	E	N	B	T	S
N	O	I	T	A	R	B	E	L	E	C	A	S	M	R	A	V	D	E
Z	U	D	L	F	N	L	V	Q	G	M	A	T	I	G	D	Q	O	W
V	R	L	K	K	U	E	M	P	O	D	C	D	O	Q	V	W	C	
P	G	G	R	R	V	R	A	A	T	T	E	I	N	J	N	P	N	F
R	L	Y	A	F	L	U	G	R	U	E	T	V	I	S	Q	R	L	S
L	A	P	A	K	E	N	Q	N	Y	E	W	M	G	V	H	Q	C	H
E	S	E	D	D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R	G	H	F	T	S	E	C
A	S	R	L	W	X	E	M	I	T	R	E	H	T	A	F	M	F	M



GOWN	PARTY
HAPPY	RESOLUTION
HAT	SPARKLER
HOURLASS	STREAMER
INVITATION	TIMES SQUARE
JANUARY	TOAST
KISS	TRADITION
MIDNIGHT	TUXEDO
MUSIC	VOW
NOISE MAKER	YEAR