



# Newsletter

## Udon Thani International School

31st January 2020 | ISSUE 9



### Celebrating Chinese culture at UDIS

#### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

3 February	Parent Cafe #5
5 February	Global play day
10-14 February	Thriving week
14 February	Sports day (half day)
2 March	PTA #5
2-6 March	International week
16 March	Parent Cafe #6
3 April	Songkran festival (full day)

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## Message from the Head of School

Dear Parents

We had a lovely visit by Mr. Robert (Rob) Taylor this week, who is our incoming Principal for August, 2020. Rob's mission will be to take on the day to day leadership of the school and help develop our Middle Years Programme (MYP) and entry into the Diploma Programme (DP). It was good to hear him discuss the MYP and I am really happy that we have found such a dedicated educator who will help us move forward as a school.



Rob had the chance to meet with parents this week and we also held a session with our Year 5 to 7 learners as well to explain to them about the MYP. This helps them with transition and preparing for what middle school brings. I know a lot of the learners were really excited about next year and the next stage of their learning in the MYP.

Finally, we celebrated Chinese New Year last week with a special event. I really love how we are able to celebrate the diversity within our school with events to celebrate Thai, Chinese and the other cultures we have at UDIS. We are all different, but we come together as one to learn about and understand about each other. It is great to see our vision of intercultural education come together like this. We are working towards our big event later this term with our International Week which helps celebrate our cultures further.

Best regards  
Dr. Lindsay Stuart  
Head of School





# IB Diploma

## The best choice for university entrance around the world

The International Baccalaureate® (IB) Diploma Programme (DP) is an assessed programme for students aged 16 to 19. It is respected by leading universities across the globe. The programme aims to develop students who have excellent breadth and depth of knowledge — students who flourish physically, intellectually, emotionally and ethically.

### Why study the IB Diploma?

The IB not only gives learners the best chances of accessing the world's best universities. It also helps them succeed by developing the skills they will need at university. research shows that there are many benefits to choosing the DP over other curricula. In the IB's 2014 Review of Research, results found that IB programmes had a positive impact on student preparedness for college, career and civic life:

- IB graduates are more likely to persist through college
- IB students are prepared for college-level coursework
- IB students demonstrate civic knowledge and skills
- IB students graduate with a sense of civic responsibility
- IB students demonstrate strong critical thinking skills
- IB primary students demonstrate superior science literacy
- The IB prepares students from around the world to attend top universities

The IB Diploma is a widely recognised high school qualification that can be used across the world. You can find university recognition by country by examining the following website from the IB:

<https://www.ibo.org/university-admission/recognition-of-the-ib-diploma-by-countries-and-universities/country-recognition-statements/>



# THE PRIMARY YEARS PROGRAMME (PYP)

UDIS uses the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) to provide our learners with the knowledge, concepts, skills personal attributes and the capacity to take action, all of which our learners need to equip them for successful lives, both now and in the future. Learning through inquiry, a child's investigations across and beyond subject areas will strengthen knowledge and understanding as they explore global, topical and relevant 'big picture' questions, or transdisciplinary themes.

## Student-centred learning

The PYP provides an ideal foundation for children to become successful, lifelong learners by developing their:

- social and emotional well-being
- independence, as they take responsibility for their own learning
- international mindedness
- understanding of the world and their ability to function effectively within it
- attitudes and dispositions for learning
- ability to take mindful, appropriate and sustainable student-initiated action
- language skills; all students study an additional language from at least 7 years of age.

## Success with the PYP

Learning in the PYP is viewed as a continuous journey; teachers work with students to identify their needs and then document, monitor and provide ongoing assessment and feedback to plan the next stage of their learning.

## Quality assurance

Implementation of the PYP is a transformative experience for students, schools and the wider learning community. Professional development for teachers together with a rigorous process of authorisation and regular evaluation ensure that IB World Schools deliver the best possible education for PYP students.

“UDIS is fully authorised by the International Baccalaureate to offer the Primary Years Programme (PYP).”





# Council of International Schools

CIS is a membership community working collaboratively to shape international education through professional services to schools, higher education institutions, and individuals. The CIS vision is to inspire the development of global citizens through high quality international education: connecting ideas, cultures, and educators from every corner of the world. CIS provides membership and high quality accreditation for international schools and is a benchmark for the best quality international schools in Thailand.

All CIS member schools are committed to incorporating international and intercultural perspectives into their programmes so that students can move forward with the attitudes and understanding that will provide them with a solid base wherever their studies or work may take them.

CIS member schools further commit to undertaking an ongoing quality assurance process such as CIS International Accreditation to enhance student learning. CIS Accreditation ensures that the school meets the CIS standards for accreditation which examines the areas of school philosophy and objectives, teaching and learning, governance and management, faculty and support staff, student support services, facilities and resources and student and community life.

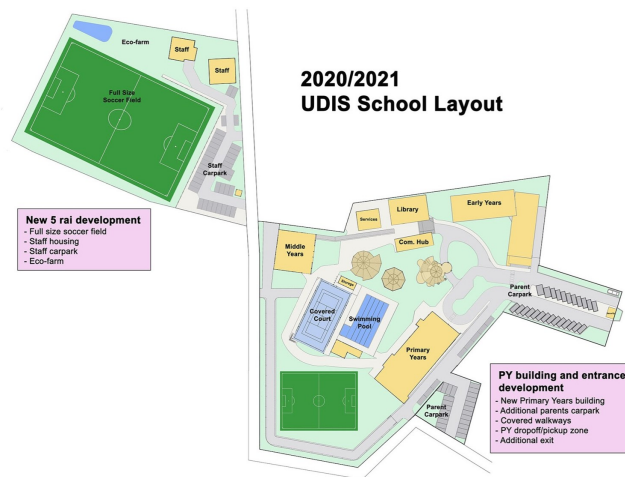
Higher education institutions recognise immediately that a CIS Accredited school meets globally-recognised standards and promotes values and skills that they are seeking in students. CIS International Accreditation is recognised by various government and non-government agencies in a number of countries.

**UDIS is a full member of CIS and is working towards full accreditation**



## UDIS 2020/2021 - Bigger and Better!

Over the past several years, UDIS has invested almost 100 million baht in the development of new facilities and resources. We are now pleased to announce the development of a new 5 rai plot of land next to the school and an additional ½ rai plot that is being developed for a new parents carpark. As enrolment grows, we are also looking at the development of a cafetorium and the completion of classroom spaces for the Diploma Programme (upper high school).



In particular, we are excited that we can provide a chance for our learners to put our inquiry curriculum into action. In the science lab, learners can conduct experiments and test out hypotheses. In the design and technology laboratory, learners can build and develop technology to solve problems they have identified. In our eco-farm, learners can understand our connection to our environment and get their hands dirty. Our new facilities will help our learners develop and enhance our entry into the Middle Years Programme.



# UDIS 2020/2021 - Bigger and Better!

## Our facilities for 2020/2021 will include:

- 26+modern classrooms
- Science lab
- Design and technology lab
- Large meeting hall
- Community Hub
- Music and art classrooms
- Covered gymnasium
- Library
- Full size soccer field
- Eco-farm
- 80+ carparks
- Full size covered swimming pool

## Highlights of the 5rai development

- Full size soccer field
- Ecofarm
- Staff carparking



Full size sports field



Ecofarm



Staff housing

## Highlights of the new Primary Years building

- Large meeting hall
- Design and technology lab
- Science lab



Large meeting hall (120 persons)



Design and technology lab (example)



Science lab

The student council would like to update the UDIS community about some of the activities that they have taken part in, and will be taking part in, during the coming months. In Term 1 the student council had the opportunity to visit the Ban Nong Kung School and teach the children about the importance of recycling and caring for the environment. This is a traditional Thai village school with very limited resources and funding. Therefore, the student council have decided to use all of the proceeds from the Christmas event to purchase much needed sporting equipment requested by the school as well as additional school supplies for the classrooms.



## UDIS Student Council Charity Bake Sale Friday, February 14th



In Term 2, UDIS will be hosting a Sports Day as part of our school's Thriving Week on Friday, February 14th for our PY students. The student council members will be hosting a bake sale at the end of this event to sell healthy snacks and raise funds for a local charitable organisation. If any parents would like to support the student council during this event by donating healthy snacks that we can sell it would be greatly appreciated. All donations can be dropped off at the school office on the morning of Friday, February 14th.

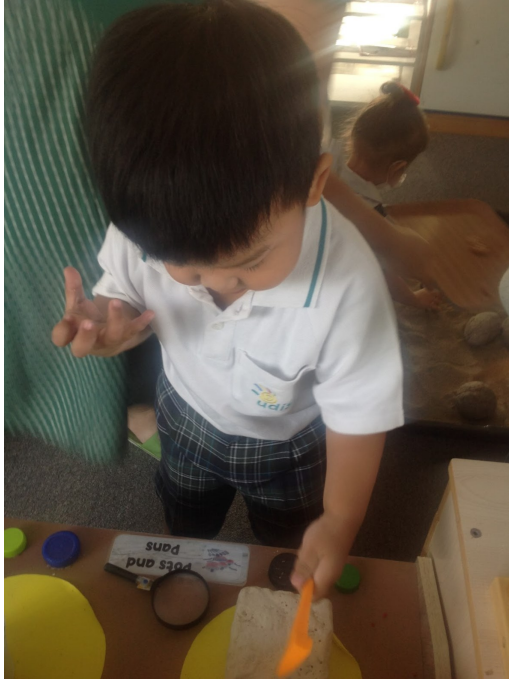


## Early Years Update

### Preschool class update - Dinosaur Discovery

By Ms Charlotte, Preschool teacher

For our Unit on Where We Are in Place and Time, Preschool have been learning about objects from the past. We kicked this Unit off by making dinosaur fossils, dinosaur eggs and dinosaur bones. We then played at being archeologists and 'discovered' them in our sandpit.



# Early Years Update

## K2 class update - Exploring the world!

By Ms Jane, K2 teacher

K2 have been learning about different cultures around the world. We have started to find out about Thailand, Japan and China. We explored some of the food they eat, their traditions, the clothes they wear and games they play. We are going to continue travelling around the world and look forward to learning new and exciting things!





## Year 2 class update - Old Toys

By Mr John K., Year 2 teacher



### Old Toys

We are enjoying playing with the old toys that Chris's Grandmother brought in during our last unit of inquiry. These old toys are still fun today!



### Maths

Our focus has been how to tell the time. I think we are progressing well and next week some of our homework will be about how to tell the time, just to make sure the children do know this skill.



### UOI

We now know about animals habitats. Next week we will be attempting to create an animals habitat in class. We will be using boxes, paper glue, string, paint, pencils and many other recycled objects to make a diorama.



### Group Reading

We did some great reading work this week, finishing with a visit by Mr John E, who was very impressed by the students independence and effort during their work time. Well done to all of you. We are very proud of you!

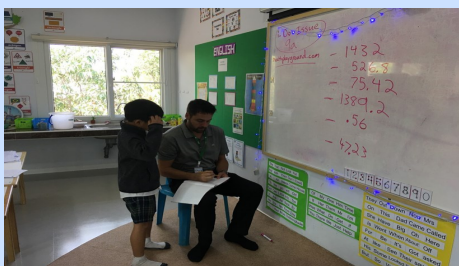
## Year 4 class update - Celebrations Around The World

By Mr Seth, Year 4 teacher

Year 4 learners have gotten off to a rocking start in Term 2 so far! Our UOI this term has focused on the central idea that communities celebrate events that connect them to their beliefs, history, and culture. Students have been learning all about the many different celebrations around the world and what they mean to the people that honor them. We also were able to research and learn about the amazing life of King Bhumibol Adulyadej and how his efforts and many projects impacted Thai people in such a positive way. Students will be visiting the Udon Thani police station to learn from local law enforcement officers about citizenship. The purpose of this field trip is to give students the opportunity to learn about citizenship in regards to how one should behave in order to help their community and the world thrive. The learner will discover what it means to be principled and caring when they listen to police officers in their community speak about the requirements of being a good citizen.

For English class this term students have been working more to enhance their writing abilities. Students have learned to produce proper paragraphs as well as started learning about the writing process of thinking, writing, revising, peer review, rewriting, and publishing. Students will continue to work on the writing process to produce personal narratives and stories this term.

In maths class students have been focusing on decimals and fractions. In the next few weeks, students will transition to measurements and shapes.





## Year 6 update - Camping Trip and Baking Cookies

By Mr Mark, Year 6 teacher

This term the Year 6 students have been working on many activities to help build their independence and self-managing skills. The overnight camping trip that we had was a huge success and the learners enjoyed building social and independence skills. Also, as part of our mathematics class the learners took part in a baking activity where they had the opportunity to use their measurement skills to bake Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies and sample them to determine if their measurements were correct and the cookies tasted as they should. This was a fun way for the learners to wrap up their unit on measurements. The learners always enjoy practical learning experiences where they can work as a team to showcase the new skills they have learned.



Welcome back to Term2. We started to learn about celebrations such as New Year's Day, Children's Day and Chinese New Year. Students learned about how to give and receive presents and cards on these special days. Our students really enjoyed learning about these celebrations.





# Health and Safety- Air Quality

Reduce your risk of **coronavirus** infection:

-  Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
-  Cover nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with tissue or flexed elbow
-  Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
-  Thoroughly cook meat and eggs
-  Avoid unprotected contact with live wild or farm animals

 World Health Organization

Hi everybody, recently the air quality in Udon Thani has not been pleasant. At school we have air purifiers in each classroom. We follow air quality guidelines that help us decide if the student's can play outside. Mr. Xavi checks the AQI each morning before the student's arrive and advises the teachers what the air quality is for the day. Perhaps you might want to download the app onto your phone. Here is a link for the app we use at school. [AirVisual | Air quality monitor and information you can trust](#)

Air Quality Index - Particulate Matter	
301 – 500	Hazardous
201 – 300	Very Unhealthy
151 – 200	Unhealthy
101 – 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
51 – 100	Moderate
0 – 50	Good

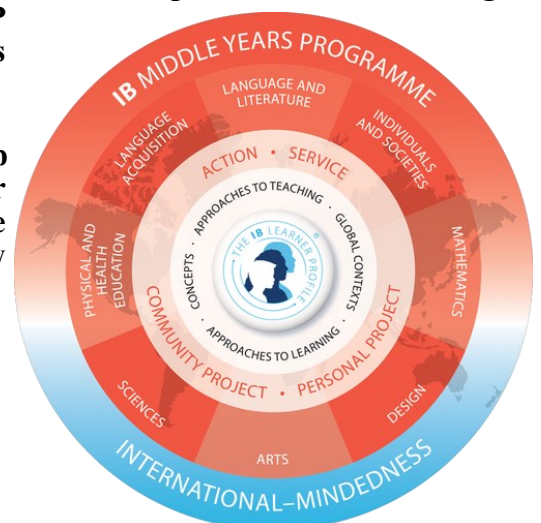
This week we have witnessed a new problem to our student's health called, coronavirus. Here is a video to watch about how to use and wear a mask to help protect you during the day. [Will A Mask Really Protect You From Coronavirus?](#)

## Inquiry corner

We are at a special time in the development of our school because we are about to open the Middle Years Programme. Until this point we have been a primary school, but from August we can proudly say that we have a middle school too.

Our Primary Years Programme has become well developed and we now have students who are well experienced in the practice of inquiry style learning. They are not passive learners who simply receive what the teacher tells them. They are actually able to ask meaningful questions and then go on to find answers for themselves. They know how to observe and interact with what is going on around them, search the internet, use the library and speak to knowledgeable people around them. This is what we mean by 'research'. This style of learning is far more powerful than listening to a teacher and reading from course textbooks. Our PYP students are well equipped to move into the Middle Years Programme.

What exactly is the MYP? Briefly stated, it is the next step in progression from the PYP. Learners continue to use their inquiry skills and continue to become ever more active in the area of international mindedness. Please continue to follow our newsletters and social media posts for updates.



## House Update

UDIS has a House system comprising of five house teams. This is the third year that we implemented the house system at our school.

The current house point totals are:

House team	Current points
Red House	92
Blue House	95
Black House	128
Green House	135
Yellow House	139



## Parent cafe

Our Parent cafe for 2019/2020 will resume this year and the upcoming events are:

Date	Topic
3/02/2020	Phonics at UDIS
16/03/2020	Student led conferences & high quality learning

The next parent cafe is “Phonics at UDIS” with the EY team on Monday 3 February, 2020.





## School board update - Summary of meeting held on Friday 22 November, 2019

The school operates a school board which oversees how the school is operated and makes decisions on policy, fees and budgets. The parent volunteers role is to look out for the interests of parents on the school board so that the Board can consider the interests of parents when it makes decisions.

On Friday 22 November, the school held its second Board meeting of the year. The Board lineup for this year is:

Acting Chairman:	K. Siriphat Pukpo
Representative of the Owner & Licensee	K. Siriphat Pukpo
Honorary member #1	Mr. Kurt Lunstrum
Honorary member #2	K. Wicha Chanklom
Parent representative #1	K. Kasama Kraikutree
Parent representative #2	Ms. Chen Wenshan Dawn
Teacher representative	Mr. Mark Abbadessa
School Director	K. Sineenad Chamat
Board member	Dr. Lindsay Stuart

In the second meeting of the year, the Board completed the appraisal of the Head of School for the 2018/2019 academic year and set targets for the 2019/2020 academic year. The Board then discussed strategy and planning for next year that would inform the approval of the new school budget for 2020/2021. The Board believed we needed to do better in marketing the benefits of the school to parents and suggested a regular climate survey to gauge parent perceptions. The Board also confirmed the plan to proceed step by step until the Diploma Programme (DP) which provides options for parents to continue with our style of learning until the end of high school. The Board then identified its work for the remainder of the year which includes finding new Board members and completing its technology plan amongst other things.

**The next Board meeting is planned for Friday 21 February.**



At this meeting, we spoke to parents about the results from the food survey. The school highlighted some of the main findings. Of these, 54% of parents were satisfied with the catering while 46% of parents were not. The school suggested that it could provide a food stall at the Christmas event for parents to try the school's food. The school can also provide a trial lunch for parents to come and try the food too.

การประชุมครั้งนี้เราพูดคุยกันถึงเรื่องผลการสำรวจเรื่องอาหาร ทางโรงเรียนได้นำผลการสำรวจบางข้อที่สำคัญ คือ ผลการสำรวจ 54% ของผู้ปกครอง พึงพอใจกับการให้บริการอาหารของโรงเรียน ส่วนอีก 46% ของผู้ปกครอง ไม่พึงพอใจกับการให้บริการอาหารของโรงเรียน ทางโรงเรียนจึงเสนอท่านผู้ปกครองว่า ในวันคริสต์มาสที่จะถึงนี้ ทางโรงเรียนจะจัดอาหารบางอย่างที่อยู่ในเมนูอาหารกลางวันของนักเรียน ให้ท่านผู้ปกครองได้ชิมในวันงาน และทางโรงเรียนยังเสนอให้ท่านผู้ปกครองเข้ามาทดลองชิมอาหารกลางวันได้ด้วยเช่นกัน

The second issue was around the opt-out option. 40% of parents surveyed said that they would like the ability to opt-out from the food fee. The school asked what this might mean to parents as this would mean they would have to provide their own lunch and snacks. Parents expressed some uncertainty about this and asked to query other parents. Parents suggested looking at the balance of foods as the vegetarian option did not seem popular, and surveying the popularity of the sandwich and salad bars.

ประเด็นที่ 2 คือ ผลการสำรวจ 40% ของผู้ปกครอง ต้องการให้โรงเรียนยกเลิกการให้บริการอาหาร นั้นหมายถึงท่านผู้ปกครองจะต้องเตรียมเบรคเช้า, อาหารกลางวัน และ เบรคบ่าย มาเอง ผู้ปกครองบางท่านไม่แน่ใจเกี่ยวกับเรื่องเปอร์เซ็นต์ที่สำรวจได้ ผู้ปกครองจึงอาสาจะไปสอบถามผู้ปกครองท่านอื่นๆ อีกครั้ง ผู้ปกครองแนะนำให้โรงเรียนดูเรื่องความสมดุลเรื่องอาหารมังสวิรัต เพราะผลการสำรวจอาหารมังสวิรัตไม่ค่อยเป็นที่นิยมมากนัก และยังมี การสอบถามเกี่ยวกับความนิยมของสลัดบาร์ และแซนวิชบาร์

The school then outlined changes it was making to the end of term report cards. These are intended to simplify reports and convey information more easily to parents.

จากนั้นทางโรงเรียนได้มีการอธิบายเพิ่มเติมเกี่ยวกับการเปลี่ยนแปลงการรายงานผลการเรียนนักเรียน จุดประสงค์เพื่อลดความซับซ้อน และสามารถสื่อสารให้ผู้ปกครองเข้าใจได้ง่ายขึ้น

Next, the PTA discussed the Christmas event. It was decided that an event that started from 5pm onwards was desirable. The school asked if parents were interested in setting up a food booth and parents agreed to follow up on this.

ต่อมาได้พูดคุยถึงเรื่องงานวันคริสต์มาส ผู้ปกครองส่วนใหญ่ประสงค์ให้งานเริ่มห้าโมงเย็นเป็นต้นไป ทางโรงเรียนยังได้สอบถามผู้ปกครองถึงความสนใจในการตั้งแผงขายอาหารด้วยเช่นกัน

For sports day, we invited suggestions from parents. Parents suggested that separate EY and PY events could be difficult to organise. They suggested holding them on one day and integrating them as much as possible.

สำหรับงานกีฬาโรงเรียน เรียงเชิญผู้ปกครองทุกท่านเข้าร่วมงาน ผู้ปกครองบางท่านเสนอว่า การแยกกิจกรรมระหว่างแผนกอนุบาล และประถม อาจจะทำให้เกิดความยุ่งยากในการจัดการ ผู้ปกครองจึงเสนอแนะว่าควรจัดในวันเดียวกัน และจัดร่วมกันจะดีกว่า

Lastly, the school reported on actions from the last meeting. The school has added air purifiers to all homerooms and a central AQI chart for parents to monitor. The school has also added portion plates as a plating option for learners at lunchtimes. Lastly, the school has invested heavily in replacing its WIFI network to support the 1:1 programme and the general use of technology within the school. Parents commented that for AQI inside days, this information should still be conveyed to parents before school starts.

หัวข้อสุดท้าย ทางโรงเรียนได้รายงานผลความคืบหน้าจากการประชุมครั้งที่แล้ว ทางโรงเรียนได้ติดตั้งเครื่องฟอกอากาศในห้องเรียนทุกห้องเรียนเรียบร้อยแล้ว และมีบอร์ดแสดงค่าอากาศต่างๆ เข้าๆ รวมถึงทางโรงเรียนได้เพิ่มตัวเลือกของชนิดภาชนะอาหาร รวมถึงภาชนะให้เป็นที่เลือกสำหรับนักเรียนด้วยเช่นกัน สุดท้ายโรงเรียนได้ปรับเปลี่ยนสัญญาณอินเทอร์เน็ตให้ดีขึ้นเพื่อรองรับโปรแกรม 1:1 ผู้ปกครองแนะนำให้ทางโรงเรียนแจ้งค่า AQI ลงในไลน์กลุ่มผู้ปกครอง เพื่อแจ้งให้ผู้ปกครองรับทราบว่าควรใส่หน้ากากอนามัยมาโรงเรียนหรือไม่



# Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

This year 40 people from UDIS joined the Khun Thong Boran Rotary Marathon for 2020. This year was a special one for Udon Thani as it celebrated 127 years. UDIS helped to sponsor this event with a water booth and water for runners. We appreciate the efforts Rotary have done to support hospitals and provide scholarships to poor students in the province.



# School Terms and Dates 2019/2020

UDIS operates three terms per school year as follows:

## Term 1 (80 days)

School start: Tuesday 13 August, 2019  
Half term break: 14-23 October, 2019 (1 week & 3 days)  
Finish: Friday 13 December, 2019

## Term 2 (61 days)

Start: Tuesday 7 January, 2020  
Half term break: 17-18 February, 2020 (2 days)  
Finish: Friday 3 April, 2020

## Term 3 (41 days)

Start: Monday 20 April, 2020  
Half term break: 18-19 May, 2020 (2 days)  
Finish: Friday 19 June, 2019

## Teacher Only Days

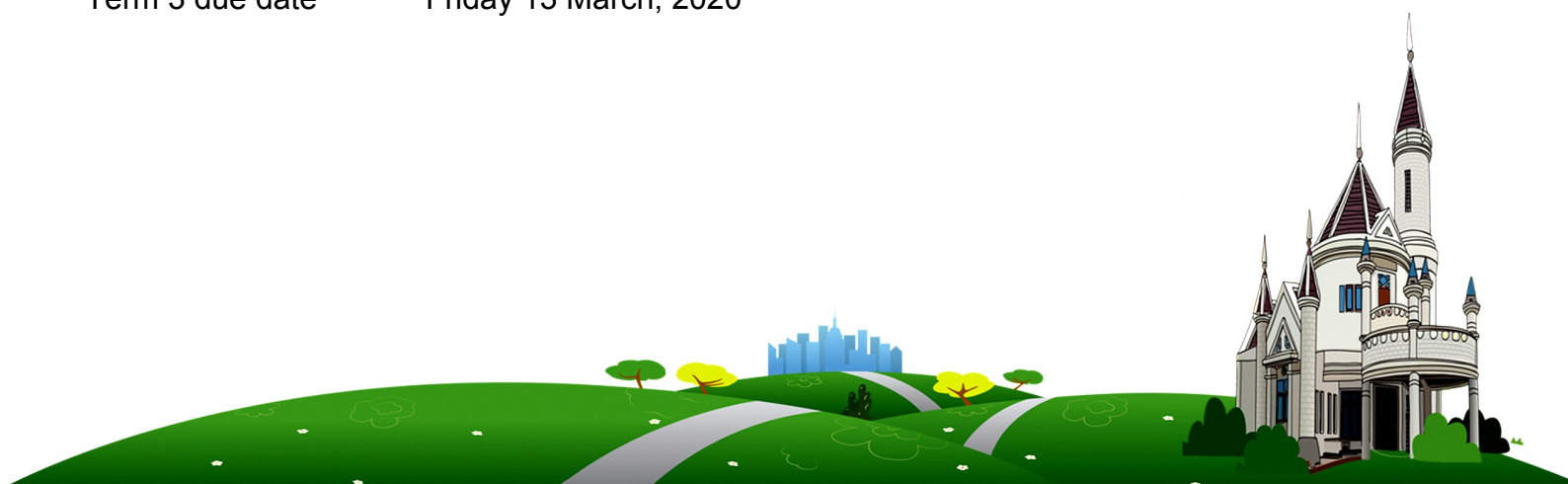
Teacher only day #1 Wednesday 23 October, 2019 (Substitute from Tuesday)  
Teacher only day #2 Monday 6 January, 2020

## Public holidays

Queens Birthday Monday 12 August 2019  
King Bhumibol Memorial Day Monday 14 October, 2019  
Chulalongkorn Day Wednesday 23 October, 2019  
King Rama IX Birthday Thursday 5 December, 2019  
Makha Bucha Day Monday 10 February, 2020  
Labour Day Friday 1 May, 2020  
Visaka Bucha Day Thursday 6 May, 2020  
Queens Birthday Wednesday 3 June, 2020

## Payment dates

Term 1 due date Friday 26 July, 2019  
Term 2 due date Friday 29 November, 2019  
Term 3 due date Friday 13 March, 2020





## Community Partnership Programme (CPP)

UDIS operates a Community Partnership Programme (CPP) with local businesses in the Udon Thani area who wish to support the school and its staff and students. Under the CPP, these businesses have offered discounts and benefits to staff and students who present their UDIS ID card.

Find out more on our website  
(<http://www.udoninternational.com/en/general-information/cpp/>)

or contact the School Office for more information.

## Contact us

**Office hours: 8.00am - 4.30pm**

School Number: 042 110 379 , 095 668 9636  
(for all general enquiries)

Head of School: [lindsay@udis.ac.th](mailto:lindsay@udis.ac.th)

Deputy Principal: [john.e@udis.ac.th](mailto:john.e@udis.ac.th)

Teaching and Learning Coordinator: [emmi@udis.ac.th](mailto:emmi@udis.ac.th)

Head of Thai Teacher: [sineenard@udis.ac.th](mailto:sineenard@udis.ac.th)

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