

## A SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR AustCham Thailand



My name is Jerlin and this will be my fifth year teaching English with Phuket Has Been Good To Us at Kamala School. I am very excited for the year ahead when schools will open 1st July and eager to see how your sponsored primary year four students progress. We will be teaching not only English classes but also Science and Mathematics in English to these children as part of the EIS (English for Integrated Studies) program. More contact time with their English Teachers means more opportunity for the children to practice the language and essential learning skills relevant to their holistic development.

I am looking forward to seeing them grow and watch their English progress over the next year.

Your sponsored class consists of very energetic and inquisitive students. I had the pleasure of teaching them Science in English last year and I am looking forward to having them again in my class. They are highly kinesthetic so they learn best by doing. They love conducting experiments and answering 'what if' questions. My colleagues tell me that the class exhibits the same enthusiasm and curiosity in their English and Mathematics in English subjects. This year, in Science, we will be learning about the interesting life of plants and the various processes involved. We will also explore the different properties of materials. English will be more challenging as they are expected to read and understand more complex words and also construct longer sentences. There will also be more listening and reading comprehension exercises. In Mathematics, they will apply the 4 basic mathematical operations to numbers up to millions. They will also learn the different lines and angles, time and decimals.



## A SPECIAL MESSAGE

### From Teacher Jerlin



The children are currently back at home with their families or carers, where it is safest amidst the pandemic. The Government have told us that classes will start again on 1st July. They have said that there will be no school holidays this year. To make sure we are able to cover all the topics required, this year we will teach from July through to end of April 2021, with the next school year starting beginning of May 2021. We will have to work hard to ensure that the students can keep focussed and energized during such an extended period of learning.

I have been thinking about the children a lot during this lockdown – how are they doing and where they channel their energy at home. While our team spends time volunteering in the community, helping pack and distribute 700 free lunch boxes a day for those who need them in Kamala, I have met some of my students' parents. One of them told me that her son refuses to go out of the house because he is terrified of the virus. He spends his time watching English cartoons in YouTube where he mimics some of the lines and songs. Another parent shared that his son helps with gardening and goes fishing with him. I hope all the children and their families are keeping safe. We see some of our little ones at the food collection point. Apart from happy to be getting lunch, they are also excited to see some familiar faces, they wave at us and shout hello teacher!



We also sometimes see the little ones in our neighbourhood near home. These students never fail to come by to say hello. Most of them miss school, the learning, their friends as well as their teachers. However, for the safety and well-being of students and teachers, the school is adhering to the government's Emergency Decree.

MAY 2020 - PHUKET HAS BEEN GOOD TO US

# UPDATES FROM PHUKET HAS BEEN GOOD TO US

*THE LATEST NEWS FROM OUR STUDENTS IN PHUKET*



+66 076 278 146

[www.phukethasbeengoodtous.org](http://www.phukethasbeengoodtous.org)

Kamala, Phuket 83150

[info@phukethasbeengoodtous.org](mailto:info@phukethasbeengoodtous.org)



Vocational Opportunities  
Through English

## Insights from the village..



*Since March 2020, schools have been closed due to the COVID-19 outbreak and our team won't be allowed on the school grounds until June. We are all looking forward to seeing the students again!*

*In the meantime, the children are keeping safe. Quarantined in their villages, they have the opportunity to spend more time with their extended families or primary carers. We see those who live in Kamala keeping active playing football and badminton.*



*Teachers and volunteers are supporting the community by helping the amazing staff at Pim's Place, Kamala, serving free meals.*

*Since the beginning of April, each day more than 600 people queue up in front of the restaurant as they have no finances to feed their families.*

## QUARANTINE DIARIES



*In collaboration with Real Life Phuket, we have launched the Quarantine Diaries project, where we share stories and images from the families that keep Phuket alive. The recent COVID-19 outbreak has significantly affected the life of less privileged communities, leaving workers at home and entire families with no income.*

*Khun Ya, Mr. Air and many other members of the local community we work in, have shared their quarantine stories with us in the hope to increase awareness about the less privileged. In Kamala village we interviewed locals about the current situation. We are hearing that the children miss going to school, miss their teachers and classmates, parents are looking forward to school resuming, as they understand the importance of learning English for their children's future.*



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