



DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

Sunday, May 6, 1973

SIX MORE GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOLS

TO HAVE WHOLE DAY SCHOOLING

Another step has been taken by the Education Department to re-introduce whole day schooling from next September in six more government primary schools in areas where there are sufficient primary places.

The Assistant Director of Education (Primary), Mr. K.S. Yeung, said today that five of the schools are on Hong Kong Island and one in Kowloon.

"They bring to seven the total number of government primary schools with whole day sessions," Mr. Yeung said.

The existing whole day school is the Pokfulam Government Primary School. The others going into single session are: Arsenal Street Police Primary School, Eastern Hospital Road Government Primary School, Hollywood Road Government Primary School, Morrison Hill Government Primary School and the Yu To Sang Memorial School all on Hong Kong Island and the Tai Hang Tung Government Primary School in Kowloon.

Parents or guardians who wish to seek admission for their children to Primary 1 in these seven schools and other bi-sessional government primary schools can do so between May 10 and 26 when application forms will be available from these schools in Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories.

Only children born between September 2, 1965 and September 1, 1967 will be considered for admission. In other words, they must be six years of age or under eight by western reckoning on September 1, 1973.

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"Birth certificates should be produced when parents or guardians go to the schools to obtain application forms," Mr. Yeung said.

All completed forms should be returned to the school named as the first choice on the form on or before May 31.

Selected candidates will be informed by letter on or before June 22 and interviewed on a date specified by the school heads.

Mr. Yeung said: "Children will normally be admitted to schools serving the district in which they live according to the zoning system used in previous years, unless the places in a particular school have all been taken up.

"Care will be taken so that children from the same family are not separated."

He pointed out that places in police primary schools would also be available to children whose parents were not members of the Royal Hong Kong Police Force.

The Assistant Director advised the public that "application forms are free, no entrance fee is charged for admission to any government school and no tuition fee is charged in any government Chinese primary schools."

Mr. Yeung said he would be making a further announcement shortly about the admission of pupils to primary 2 to 6 in government primary schools. Parents should not apply for places for their children in these classes until the announcement was made.

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MEASLES -- A POTENTIALLY SERIOUS DISEASE

Tens of thousands of children between the age of six months and five years are susceptible to measles because their parents fail to appreciate the danger of the disease.

A spokesman for the Medical and Health Department said many parents still think that every child should be made to go through an attack of measles.

"In fact measles, like smallpox, is infectious and can be prevented by vaccination," the spokesman said.

During the past 10 years, over 23,000 children have been notified as suffering from the disease. Just under 2,200 died as a result.

Since the introduction of measles immunisation in 1968 the incidence of the disease has declined and deaths have nearly been eliminated, the spokesman said.

The vaccine itself is safe and effective. Only one injection is required and the child will be protected for at least five years.

Referring to the current annual anti-measles campaign, the spokesman said the response had been very poor during the first three weeks.

"It appears that parents still fail to recognise measles as a potentially serious disease," he said.

The danger of measles lies in the fact that complications, such as bronchitis, pneumonia and middle ear infection may arise.

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Some of the measles victims may become deaf or mentally retarded as a result of damage to the ear-drum and the brain. In more serious cases, death may result.

Although an epidemic is unlikely at present, the spokesman stressed that it could not be ruled out.

He estimated that at least 60 per cent of susceptible children had to be immunised to prevent the occurrence of an epidemic.

During the current campaign, free measles vaccine is available at all maternal and child health centres as well as at 25 fixed centres which have been set up in housing estates -- health offices, government clinics, dispensaries and hospitals.

The campaign ends on May 30.

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