

Local police ensure safe new beginning

Zhu Yuting

STUDENTS of kindergartens as well as primary, middle and high schools in Shanghai returned to campus on Wednesday with local police on hand to maintain order.

About 40,000 police officers, police assistants as well as security guards were out on the street, ensuring a safe start to the new semester.

More than 2 million students in approximately 4,000 schools returned to campus.

The traffic pressure rose sharply on Wednesday morning, with the peak hour reaching 20 minutes earlier than during the school vacation, according to local traffic police.

They stepped up efforts in advance to cope with any emergency situation around school gates, such as opening new parking lots for parents, putting traffic

signs as parking guide and increasing personnel on special areas and roads.

Also, more police motorcycles were put on the road to help ease traffic pressure before and after school times.

Around 7:15am, Chang Yi Primary School in Shanghai's landmark Lujiazui area, which is located near the newly opened exit of Yan'an Road E. Tunnel, police officers were on motorcycles to direct traffic, which was easier and quicker when persuading vehicles caught in a traffic to leave.

The complex traffic condition around the school gate put more pressure on the police.

"To cope with the traffic problem around the school, we increased the police force to begin with," said Liu Wenxuan, an official with

the city's traffic police. "We also dispatched more motorcycles along with police assistants."

Liu revealed that they also changed the all-day parking spaces around the school to day-parking spaces "to provide convenience for parents transporting their kids."

In Huangpu District, a 50-meter-long and 1-meter-wide walking path was set out of Xiling No. 1 Kindergarten, which was to be used exclusively when picking up and dropping the children.

The "safe path" was initiated by officers of Bansongyuan police station, assisted by the local property management office and residents.

"Children lack safety awareness. When they see their parents coming to pick them up after school, they rush out of the gate. If there is a scooter passing by

at the time, it can be very dangerous," Yao Peiying, the deputy headmaster of the kindergarten, explained.

"Now with this 'safe path,' the hidden danger will be greatly reduced."

Along with safeguarding students outside schools, police officers also spared no effort in improving the children's safety awareness.

At noon, a SUV police car drove into Xuhui No. 1 Central Primary School. Around the car were 30 traffic cones.

Some students got on the vehicle to learn the safety knowledge of knowing drivers' blind spots.

"From the outside, people probably think that the driver in the car can find us in time, but in fact, if we stand in his blind spot, they cannot notice sometimes," said a police officer, surnamed Han.



recovered between one and three months for moderate exercises and monitor their conditions."

During PE classes, students wear digital watches to monitor their heart rates and oxyhemoglobin saturation, which can be viewed on the teacher's tablet.

Another piece of good news is that parents are more likely to visit the campus. "We have a lot of activities for parents," Xu explained. "Next week we will hold a campus fair for students to sample cuisines from various regions of China, and we will invite some parents to participate."

The fair is an annual tradition to celebrate the Chinese New Year at the school. It is usually held on December 31 but was canceled due to the pandemic last year and will now take place on February 24.

The school served rabbit-shaped stuffed buns for lunch on the first day of school to mark the Year of the Rabbit. "This is just the start, and we are confident that parents will have more opportunities to visit the campus where their children study."



Above: A firefighter teaches a child to tie a knot at a school.

— Jiang Xiaowei

Right: A policeman helps students cross the street in Shanghai.

— Dong Jun

