
LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

23 March 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students

We are well into the new year and I hope it has been a good start for you.

In the beginning of the year (letter dated 6 Jan 2015), I had shared about what the school will focus on over the next few years. We call these our strategic thrusts. They are:

1. Providing a **balanced curriculum** that emphasises **strong fundamentals** and **future learning**
2. Creating a **learner-centred school** conducive for teaching and learning
3. Growing a **quality and committed staff**
4. Engaging **community and key stakeholders**
5. Strengthening the **TWPS Culture**

In this letter, allow me to elaborate on the first point and I will address areas 2 and 3 in my next letter. There are essentially 3 main components to the first thrust (i) balanced curriculum; (ii) strong fundamentals; and (iii) future learning. Why are these important for our students?

All of us experience the rapid pace of change in our society. The expectations of what a graduate of the education system should possess have altered due to new and increasing demands. Using education with the sole aim of getting a paper qualification is no longer a sure path to success. It instead limits what a good education can do for a child. There is a real demand for students to be developed with the requisite skills and competencies so that they can be future-ready and function effectively in a globalised and technology-dominated world. SkillsFuture was recently announced by the government. It is a national movement to provide Singaporeans with opportunities to develop their fullest potential throughout life. It emphasises the point that learning is a life-long endeavour to develop skills for the future and to develop a future based on skills mastery. In addition to knowledge, skills and competencies, students will need to have strong and positive characters to manage the increasing complexities in our world.

It is with the above in mind that TWPS aims to nurture every child holistically and focuses on five key student outcomes: Confident Communicators, Healthy Individuals, Adaptive Leaders, Model Citizens and Passionate Learners (CHAMPS). Moreover, it is critical in the primary years for students to attain strong mastery of the basics so as to provide a firm foundation for their future learning. Students need a balanced set of educational experiences across domains (cognitive, physical, aesthetic, social and moral, leadership and morale) so that they have greater opportunities to find their areas of interests, talents and passion. We need to give all our children time, space and meaningful experiences to discover what they truly excel in.

The strategies in Thrust 1 are, therefore, geared towards providing a curriculum that will help us to realise the five student outcomes we desire and move towards our vision of "A future-ready community of passionate learners anchored in values and striving for excellence to make a positive difference".

In the 2014 TWPS Parents' Survey, close to 95% of parents expressed satisfaction with the school's academic and co-curricular programmes. These are very positive and encouraging numbers. Regardless, we want to further strengthen our curricular provisions. For example, this year, the Primary 4 and Primary 6 students will get to experience basic programming. By exploring, experimenting and putting together a basic set of computer codes, students will strengthen their problem-solving and logical reasoning capabilities. They will also be exercising their creativity as they can use their codes to give different kinds of instructions to the computer. They can then create a variety of products such as stories, games or works of art. We will similarly review all areas of our curriculum regularly so as to remain relevant and further enrich our students' learning experiences.

SG 50

This year, Singapore is celebrating its golden jubilee - 50 years of independence. It is a time for celebration, reflection and positing our desired future. The students and staff will be engaged in a series of activities throughout the year to mark this important occasion. For example, students and staff will be writing about their favourite places in Singapore as part of the SG Heart Map project (Jan-Mar); there will be Heritage Trails in July for the P1-3 students; and from May all students, staff and parents will be invited to pen their well wishes and aspirations for Singapore. The school will also look to work with a charity to engage the students in a meaningful community-based project. In addition, we have started work on the TWPS Heritage Space which will be set up over the next two years and as part of this we will be approaching those who are and have been associated with Teck Whye Primary to share their fond memories of the

school. On National Day this year, we will be inviting our pioneer educators to join us in the celebrations. We seek parents' strong support for the various activities that their children will participate in and their keen involvement in the activities where parents are invited.

Homework Policy

Homework is an essential and integral part of learning and teaching. Homework refers to any learning activity that students are required by the school to complete, outside of curriculum time. This includes assignments and projects but not time spent on revision of school work or studying for tests and examinations. Homework is important for several reasons. Namely, to

- instil discipline and help students form good habits of completing the tasks and assignments given to them and provide opportunities for students to take personal responsibility for their learning
- reinforce classroom teaching and learning and provide feedback to teachers on the effectiveness of lessons
- provide timely information to parents on the learning progress of their child and provide the opportunity for parents to be involved in their child's learning.

When setting homework, teachers consider whether the homework is purposeful, worth doing and related to class teaching; within the students' capabilities and developmental readiness; and differentiated, where possible, to meet the different needs and abilities of students. The amount of homework given may vary as different children complete the same homework at different rates.

As a visual reminder to students and to manage homework load, assignments of homework are written on the class whiteboard by subject teachers. Deadlines for submission of homework take into consideration the competing demands for the students' time (e.g. CCA, competitions, enrichment classes, tests, examinations). Students are expected to record the homework given to them in the Student's Handbook every day. This will allow parents to monitor and check the assigned homework regularly. We want to emphasise that students should complete and submit their homework on time. It is a basic responsibility of a student.

The school is cognisant that for holistic development, students need a balanced life with adequate time for family bonding, social activities, personal interests and rest. The table below is a rough gauge on the amount of time that students should be spending on homework daily. Do note that these are just estimates and may vary during the course of the week.

Level	Suggested Daily Average (does not include revision or studying for tests and examinations)
P1 / P2	1h
P3 / P4	1.5h
P5 / P6	2h

During the school holidays, homework assigned will generally not be more than 50% of the daily load given during a typical school week. This is subject to the teachers' discretion especially for graduating classes. If you have any feedback or concerns regarding your child's homework, you may contact your child's teacher or email us.

Administrative matters

Please retain the coloured section of this letter for future reference as it contains useful and important information. Read through the section carefully especially on school closure, curtailment of school hours and dates for meeting teachers. We also seek your understanding and cooperation on the matters raised.

I understand that many parents have downloaded the SNAAPP application and this has been a useful way for them to keep in touch with their children's form and co-form teachers. More parents could consider downloading the app (available on Android and IOS) if they have not already done so.

I hope we continue to be committed to working as one learning community. Our children will learn from the way we interact and our strong positive engagement can be a role modeling opportunity for our children as they witness how we grow stronger together. They will then better understand what it means to be a supportive member of the community.

Should you have any queries or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact the school at 67691025 or email us at twps@moe.edu.sg.

Yours sincerely

Suraj Nair

INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

Birthday celebrations in school

While birthdays are special occasions, this is a gentle reminder that parents/guardian should avoid giving out gifts or food, or hold birthday celebrations for their children in school. Parents may wish to consider other meaningful ways for your child to appreciate his/her birthday.

General Office Operating Hours

Day	Opening Hours
Monday-Thursday	7.30am-6pm
Friday	7.30am-5pm
Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays	Closed
School Holidays:	
Monday-Thursday	7.30am-5.30pm
Friday	7.30am-5pm

Payment of School Fees

We encourage all parents to pay school fees via GIRO. In the event that you are paying cash, please note that **cash payments can be made in our General Office at the times listed below**. We seek your cooperation to adhere to these timings.

Day	Time for fees payment
Monday	7.30am-1pm; 1.45pm-2.15pm
Wednesday	7.30am-1pm; 1.45pm-2.15pm
Thursday	7.30am-1pm; 1.45pm-2.15pm

Opening of Bookshop Hours

Our bookshop will be open to parents from

Mon –Fri: 10.30am to 12noon and 1.45pm to 3.30pm

As our students will be having recess from 9am-10.30am, parents intending to go to the bookshop are requested to wait near the security post during this period.

Health and Safety

Please ensure that children who are **unwell stay home** and seek appropriate medical attention. Students are reminded to **take good care of their thermometers** and to bring them to school when required.

2015 School Closure, Holidays and Hours Curtailment

Parents will be informed via a letter and the school website if there are changes. Please make the necessary care arrangements.

School Closure	Dates	Levels affected	Remarks
Good Friday	3 Apr	All	
Labour Day	1 May	All	
Parent-Child-Teacher Conference P1-6 cum Home-based Learning Day	26 May	All	School is closed for all students. Parents of P1-6 students can arrange to meet your children's form teachers. Students who report to school are expected to be in proper school attire.
June Holidays	30 May – 28 Jun	All	
Vesak Day	1 Jun	-	General Office is closed

Curtailed School Hours	Dates and Time	Level	Remarks
TWPS Games and Sports Carnival (P1-6)	22 May	P1 to 6	7.10am-11.00am

Important Dates for Parents

Parents, we are informing you of these dates early and hope that it will facilitate your attendance where necessary.

Title of Event	Dates	Times	Remarks
TWPS Parents' Seminar – Together, We Play and Stay (TWPS) Fit	28 Mar	7.30am - 12pm	Registration closed 9 March. Successful registrants have been notified via a letter on 13 March to sign up for the concurrent sessions.
HEEP Parents Workshop	11 April	8am – 10am	For parents of students in HEEP programme only
Parents' Briefing for P5 Overseas trip to Sarawak and Surabaya	18 May	5pm – 6pm	
Parent Engagement Sessions	23 May 25 May	9am - 11am 6pm - 8pm	Parents will be invited to sign up for the sessions
P1-6 Parent-Child-Teacher Conference cum Home-based Learning Day*	26 May	8am – 4.30pm	You may make an appointment with your child's teacher Students attending with parents are expected to be in proper school attire.
P1 Speech & Drama Performance	29 May	11.30am – 12.30pm	
Family Matters@ School Programmes:			Registration forms will be made available through your child
Session 1	8 Apr	5.30pm – 8.30pm	"Managing yours and your child's expectations: P5 & P6 (Eng/Malay)"
Session 2	28 Apr	10.30am – 1.30pm	"Managing the rebelliousness and misbehaviour of your teens"

* Other than these official slots, do keep in close contact with your children's teachers and make an appointment to meet them where necessary.

School Student Activities for Term 2

Please note that students will be issued with consent forms by the teachers-in-charge for all after school activities.

Activities	Dates	Time	Teacher I/C	Remarks
P1 EL Speech & Drama	23/3 – 29/5	Curriculum time	Mdm Lynn Yeo	
P1 Learning Journey to the Zoo	31/3	Curriculum time	Mdm Nurwati	
P1 Buddy Reading	Thursdays – 9/4, 16/4, 23/4, 7/5	2.00pm – 3.00pm	Ms Estherelda Chin	Please also refer to consent forms issued by the respective trs
P1 EL Speech & Drama Performance	29/5	11.30am – 12.30pm	Mdm Intan	
P2 MT Speech & Drama	24/3 –19/5	Curriculum time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
P2 Learning Journey to Hort Park	30/3	Curriculum time	Mrs Elaine Lee	
P2 Percussion Programme	Term 2	Curriculum Time	Mdm Abigail Teng	

Activities	Dates	Time	Teacher I/C	Remarks
P2 Buddy Reading	Mondays – 30/3, 6/4, 13/4	2.00pm – 3.00pm	Ms Estherelda Chin	Please refer to consent forms issued by trs
Kids Excel Programme	P2 & P3 Wednesdays- 25/3, 1/4, 8/4, 15/4, 22/4, 29/4, 6/5, 13/5, 20/5, 27/5, 3/6	2.00pm – 5.15pm	Mdm Joyce Liew Ms Nur Khalidah (SPE)	Please note that any change in dates will be notified directly by KidsExcel service provider
	P1, P2 & P3 Fridays- 27/3, 10/4, 17/4, 24/4, 8/5, 15/5, 18/5 (Mon-make-up session), 29/5, 5/6	1.30pm – 4.45pm		
P3 to P6 Math Olympiad Training (Selected students)	Fridays- 27/3, 10/4, 17/4, 8/5, 15/5	1.30pm – 3.30pm	Ms Charmian Chng	Please also refer to consent forms issued by the respective trs
	Wednesday- 1/4	2.00pm – 4.00pm		
P3 Garage Band Programme	Term 2	Curriculum time	Mdm Abigail Teng	
P3 SwimSafer Programme	Tuesdays – 24/3, 31/3, 7/4, 14/4, 21/4, 19/5	1.45pm – 4.30pm	Mr Morris Koh	P3-2, P3-4, P3-6 only
P3 Photography	Term 2	Curriculum time	Mdm Abigail Teng	
P3 EL Storytelling	Monday: 23/3, 30/3	2.15pm – 3.15pm	Mdm Lynn Yeo	
	Friday: (SDR,RRP students only) 27/3, 17/4	1.30pm – 2.30pm		
	Wednesday (SDR,RRP students only) 22/4			
P3 CL Cultural Performance Exposure Scheme	10/4	1.30pm – 4.00pm	Mdm Tan Wan Foon & Ms Qiu Yanyun	P3 CL students
P3 Zoo Trail	20/4	1.00pm – 5.00pm	Ms Eileen Tan & Ms Gayeathri	
P3 Reading Remediation Programme (RRP) (Selected Students)	Mon and Wed - 25/3, 30/3, 1/4, 6/4, 8/4, 13/4, 15/4, 20/4, 22/4, 24/4 (Fri) , 4/5, 6/5	2.15pm – 3.15pm	Mdm Chong	Please also refer to consent forms issued by the respective trs

Activities	Dates	Time	Teacher I/C	Remarks
P4 Reading Remediation Programme (RRP) (Selected Students)	Tue and Wed - 31/3, 1/4, 7/4, 8/4, 14/4, 15/4, 22/4, 28/4, 5/5, 6/5, 12/5, 13/5	2.15pm – 3.00pm	Mdm Farhanah	Please also refer to consent forms issued by the respective trs
P3 Dyslexia Remediation (Selected students)	Mon – Thurs 30/3 – 2/4, 6/4 – 9/4, 13/4 – 16/4, 20/4 – 23/4, 27/4 – 30/4, 4/5 – 7/5, 11/5 – 14/5	2.15pm – 3.15pm	Ms Sanly Poh, Mdm Vidhya	Please also refer to consent forms issued by the respective trs
P4 Dyslexia Remediation (Selected students)	Mon – Thurs 23/3 – 26/3, 30/3 – 2/4, 6/4 – 9/4, 13/4 – 16/4, 27/4 – 30/4, 4/5 – 7/5	2.15pm – 3.15pm	Mrs Elaine Lee, Ms Eileen Tan, Ms Zuraidah	Please also refer to consent forms issued by the respective trs
P4 Manga Art	Term 2	Curriculum time	Mdm Abigail Teng	
P4 E-journalism	Thursdays- 26/3, 2/4, 9/4, 16/4, 23/4, 7/5^ (P4-5 only), 21/5^(P4-4 only) Fridays (for SDR & RRP students only) 27/3, 10/4, 17/4, 24/4, 15/5	2.15pm – 3.15pm	Mdm Intan	^7/5 (P4-5 only) and 21/5 (P4-4 only)
P4 NE/SS LJ to Maritime Experiential Museum	24/3 – P4-1, 4-5 30/3 – P4-2, 4-3 31/3 – P4-4	Curriculum time	Ms Lee Lu Mei	
P4 Scratch Programming Enrichment	Tuesdays (P4-5)- 31/3, 7/4, 14/4, 28/4, 19/5 Fridays (P4-1)- 27/3, 10/4, 17/4, 24/4, 15/5	2.15pm – 4.15pm 1.30pm – 3.30pm	Ms Lye Sze Yee	P4-1 & 4-5 only. Please also refer to consent forms issued by the respective trs
P4 Theatre Experience	8/4	Curriculum time	Mdm Lynn Yeo	
P4 Science Centre Visit	21/4	2.15pm – 5.00pm	Ms Eileen Tan	
P4 to P6 Ukulele Programme	Term 2	Curriculum time	Mdm Abigail Teng	Music
P5 Blood Pressure Project	24/3 & 26/3	Curriculum time	Mdm Joyce Liew	
P5 IDA Lab on Wheels	20/5 – 21/5	Curriculum time	Ms Lye Sze Yee	

Activities	Dates	Time	Teacher I/C	Remarks
P5 Overseas trip to Sarawak	28/5 – 31/5	Flight Departure: 6.55pm (28/5) Flight Arrival: 10.20pm (31/5)	Mdm Juraida	
P6 Drama in Writing	Tuesdays 24/3, 31/3, 7/4	2.15pm – 3.15pm (P6-4, P6-5) 3.15pm – 4.15pm (P6-1, P6-2, P6-3)	Mdm Intan	
P6 Learning Journey to Botanical Gardens	19/5	2.00pm – 5.00pm	Mr Andrew Koh	
P1 – P6 HEEP Programme	Wednesdays – 25/3, 1/4, 8/4 15/4, 22/4, 20/5 27/5 Fridays – 17/4 & 15/5	2.15 – 4.15pm 1.30 – 3.30 pm	Mr Shamsudin	Please also refer to consent forms issued by the respective trs
Class Photo taking	18/5	Curriculum time	Mdm Susan Gan	
P3, P4, P6 Remedial/Supplementary	Mondays – 23/3, 30/3, 6/4, 13/4, 20/4, 25/5	2.15pm – 3.15pm	Respective subject HODs	Please also refer to consent forms issued by the respective trs
P5 HMT & MT Remedial/Supplementary	Mondays – 23/3, 30/3, 6/4, 13/4, 20/4, 25/5	2.15pm – 3.15pm	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
P2-P6 Remedial/Supplementary	Tuesdays – 31/3, 7/4, 14/4, 21/4	2.15pm – 3.15pm (Session 1) 3.15pm – 4.15pm (Session 2)	Respective subject HODs	
P3-P6 Remedial/Supplementary	Thursdays – 26/3, 2/4, 9/4, 16/4, 23/4, 21/5	2.15pm – 3.15pm	Respective subject HODs	
P6 HMT & MT Remedial/Supplementary	Thursdays – 26/3, 2/4, 9/4, 16/4, 23/4, 21/5	2.15pm – 3.15pm	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
CCA (P3 – P5)				
Mondays: Selected CCAs	23/3, 30/3, 6/4, 13/4, 20/4, 25/5	3.15pm – 5.15pm	Mr Morris Koh	
Thursdays: CCAs	26/3, 2/4, 9/4, 16/4, 23/4, 21/5	3.15pm – 5.15pm	Mr Morris Koh	

Activities	Dates	Time	Teacher I/C	Remarks
Tests and Examinations				
P1 Holistic Assessment - English - Mathematics - Mother Tongue	22/4, 27/4, 27/4-29/4, 11/5-13/5	Curriculum time	Mdm Intan	
	27/3, 10/4, 30/4, 14/5		Dr Casey Ang	
	24/4, 4/5-5/5		Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
P2 Holistic Assessment - English - Mathematics - Mother Tongue	22/4, 23/4, 24/4, 15/5*	Curriculum time	Mdm Intan	*Please note the change in date for English Mini Test to 15 May
	10/4, 14/5		Dr Casey Ang	
	14/4, 27/4, 27/4-29/4, 12/5, 13/5		Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
SA1 P3 Oral (EL & MT)	27/4 – 28/4	Curriculum time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon & Mdm Intan	
SA1 P4 Oral (EL & MT)	29/4 – 30/4	2.00pm – 4.30pm	Mdm Tan Wan Foon & Mdm Intan	
SA1 P5 Oral (EL & MT)	27/4 – 28/4	2.00pm – 4.30pm	Mdm Tan Wan Foon & Mdm Intan	
SA1 P6 Oral (EL & MT)	29/4 – 30/4	2.00pm – 4.30pm	Mdm Tan Wan Foon & Mdm Intan	
SA1 P3 EL Paper 1 & LC	5/5	Curriculum time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon & Mdm Intan	
SA1 P4 MT Paper 1 & LC				
SA1 P5 EL Paper 1 & LC				
SA1 P6 MT Paper 1 & LC				
SA1 P3 MT Paper 1 & LC	6/5	Curriculum time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon & Mdm Intan	
SA1 P4 EL Paper 1 & LC				
SA1 P5 MT Paper 1 & LC				
SA1 P6 EL Paper 1 & LC				
SA1 - P3 SC - P4 MT - P5 MA/FMA - P6 EL/FEL	11/5	Curriculum time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
SA1 - P3 EL - P4 SC - P5 MT - P6 MA/FMA	12/5	Curriculum time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
SA1 - P3 MA - P4 EL - P5 SC - P6 MT/FMT	13/5	Curriculum time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
SA1 - P3 MT - P4 MA - P5 EL - P6 SC/FSC	14/5	Curriculum time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	

Activities	Dates	Time	Teacher I/C	Remarks
SA1 - P5 HMT - P6 HMT	15/5	Curriculum time	Mdm Tan Wan Foon	
School Holidays				
Term 2 Holidays	30/5 – 28/6			
P6 Supplementary Lessons	2/6 – 3/6, 23/6 – 25/6	8.00am – 12.00pm	Mdm Intan	
P5 Overseas trip to Surabaya	3/6 – 6/6	Flight Departure: 7.50am (3/6) Flight Arrival: 9.55pm (6/6)	Ms Chia Siew Hua	
Student Leadership Training (Tier 3 & 4)	23/6	To be confirmed	Mdm Joyce Liew & Ms Samantha Ting	