
LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

3 July 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians and Pupils

I hope all of you are well. The dengue outbreak and haze situation have been a major cause for concern. In view of the dengue situation in Singapore, the school continues its vigilance in ensuring that there are no breeding grounds within the school premises. Parents may, however, want to take some precautions and could consider using an anti-mosquito patch or lotion for the children. The Ministry of Education (MOE) and schools will be monitoring the haze situation and implement appropriate measures based on the health advisory to ensure the well-being of our pupils and staff. For example, the school will cease outdoor activities as guided by daily health advisories. In addition, we will have an air-conditioned room with an air purifier for staff and pupils who have heart or respiratory problems and/or who are not feeling well. There are also processes in place to ensure that staff and pupils can get the necessary medical help. In addition, we will maximise the use of enclosed indoor spaces such as high-ceilinged rooms (e.g. Hall) and air-conditioned rooms to reduce the impact the haze might have. In the meanwhile, we encourage all children and their family members to seek medical attention promptly when they feel unwell.

Review of Key Term 2 School Programmes and Accolades

There were many occasions to celebrate the learning and achievements of our pupils in the second term. On 12 April, we celebrated International Friendship Day and Earth Day. The theme for this combined event was 'The World in Singapore'. The activities deepened the pupils' understanding of the relations we share with other countries as well as what we are doing collectively to save our planet. Other than the class-based activities, the Parent Support Group (PSG), with their usual enthusiasm and dedication, helped to run hands-on activities during recess to help our pupils appreciate the friendships that they have. The activities reinforced our school values of compassion and responsibility.

We are happy to praise our pupils for their positive attitude, dedication and achievements. The Environmental and Science Club participated in the Go Green! Competition and won the 3rd prize. In the 2nd National Photography Festival for Primary Schools, our team emerged 2nd and Tan Wei Xin from P6C also received an Individual Best prize. Our 'A' Division boys in Athletics won 4th place in the Primary Schools National Track and Field Championships. The Primary 1-6 Tamil Language pupils took part in the West 5 Cluster Tamil Language Competitions and returned with prizes across all the levels. In addition, the Cub Scouts enjoyed their Sixers Camp held in our school from 29 - 31 March. A key objective of this camp was to nurture the leadership qualities of the Scouts. Teck Whyeans participated in various National championships and competitions including the other Divisions in Athletics, Sepak Takraw, Wushu and Table Tennis. Not all might have returned with medals but it is more important to know that they had tried their best and displayed good sportsmanship.

The Beary Good Booklets have been distributed to all the pupils and I hope you have had the opportunity to engage your children in the suggested activities to support the development of good character and values. We notice that our pupils are courteous and responsible in school. Many exhibit respect for themselves, their peers and the school environment. We request that you join us in encouraging them to display this good behaviour even out of school. If any Teck Whyean is found behaving inappropriately, do not hesitate to inform us. In a similar way, if you do notice that they demonstrate positive behaviour and character, please respond generously by letting us know. Together, we can cultivate the desired character that we want our children to possess.

Engaging our pupils in learning

The school continues to provide the children with a broad range of learning opportunities. The PAL programme for the Primary 1 and 2 pupils has been running well and the school has been invited to share its PAL-based practices at the nationwide PERI Seminar organised by MOE on 10 July 2013. During the June holidays, we had one group go out on International Trips to Sarawak. The trip to Kuala Lumpur which was postponed because of the haze situation will be confirmed later but it is likely to be in September. The remaining trips will be to Malacca in September, and Surabaya and Hong Kong in November. We hope these trips reaffirm our pupils' connections to and love for Singapore whilst encouraging a global mindset. Our Language Development Programmes in areas such as Debating and e-Journalism have also begun.

These programmes develop the confidence and critical thinking capability of our pupils. The Sports Experience Programme saw our Primary 3, 4 and 5 pupils try their hands at archery and golf. Pupils can look forward to more exciting learning opportunities in the next semester. Also, to support our Primary 6 pupils in their preparation for the upcoming examinations, we will begin a homework club from Monday to Thursday for pupils who need an environment conducive for study. More details will be given via a separate letter to the Primary 6 pupils' parents.

As mentioned in my previous letter, the school has refined our internal Homework Policy guidelines to ensure that the benefits from completing homework are realised by our pupils. In assigning homework, both quality and quantity of homework matter. In this instance, more does not necessarily mean better. The school understands that excessive homework can have an adverse impact on the pupils' holistic development. Our pupils need time to rest and engage in other activities that inculcate important life skills. Children also progress at different pace and so not all of them have to do the same piece or same amount of work. Our teachers use a simple mechanism of recording all homework and deadlines on the whiteboard in class. At a glance every teacher will have an idea of the pupils' load and can then adjust the amount and/or the deadline for homework. Pupils are encouraged to record homework details in their own notebooks so that they can better plan their time and remind themselves to complete all assigned work. At the end of the day, homework should enhance the learning process. It should get pupils to a level higher than they were before completing the homework. Parents can play a vital role by just ensuring that pupils complete the assigned work and to encourage them to approach the teachers if they face any difficulty. If you do have any comments or feedback on homework matters, you can write to us or contact the teachers directly.

A quality staff

We are happy to welcome Mr. Casey Ang, Head of Department (HOD) Mathematics and Mr. Priji Nair HOD Information and Communications Technology (ICT) to our school. In addition, we have five new teachers joining us. They are: Mdm Chang Oi Kuen Cynthia, Miss Lim Gek Khim Michelle, Miss Tan Xiu Ying Eileen, Miss Gayeathri d/o K Ramashamy and Miss Yoong Cai Ngo. Miss Musha is also with us as a new support staff. We look forward to their contributions towards our school's development.

A mutually beneficial supportive partnership

The school has organised several activities as part of the School Family Education (SFE) programme. In the second term, we held two talks on the DISC Profiles of Parenting, and Finance, Time & Stress Management for Parents. We also had a bonding workshop where parents and children worked together to create beautiful pieces of art with clay. These programmes do not require any additional payment and we encourage more of you to take advantage of them as they provide useful tips to better understand the children and engage them more effectively.

We concluded our inaugural Parents' Seminar on 13 April with very positive feedback from parents. Close to 150 parents attended the workshops that day and all of them strongly agreed or agreed that they 'would like more of such workshops to be organised' and that they 'benefitted from the workshops'. We thank the parents for their strong encouragement and support.

Our School Advisory Committee continues to attract committed individuals keen to give back to society. I am happy to announce that two new members have joined the committee. They are Ms Lim Cheng Pier from Apple South Asia and Mr. Lim Meng Liang, Alan from ITE College (West). They will provide additional and varied perspectives in our journey to provide all Teck Whyeans with high quality educational experiences.

To further enhance our communication platforms to be in touch with parents, we have introduced an SMS system for essential reminders and notices, and made some changes to our school website in May. Please update your mobile numbers with us if you have recently changed them. Over the next few months, we will be working on redesigning the website so as to make it more informative and user-friendly. If you have any specific requests and ideas, please write to us. We expect the new website to be launched in August.

In closing...

Appended to this letter are some administrative details relevant for Term 3. We have completed a busy but fulfilling second term. We can now look forward to another enriching term. Should you have any queries or feedback, please call the school at 67691025 or email us at twps@moe.edu.sg. We aim to address all queries promptly and review each feedback seriously.

Yours sincerely

Suraj Nair

INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

Health and Safety

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

Attendance and Punctuality

Pupils are expected to **attend school regularly and on time**. Pupils who come in after 7.20am will be considered late. The school will need to take the appropriate actions if pupils do not attend school regularly or are persistently late despite the advice given. We seek parents' strong cooperation on this.

School Closure in Term 3

Parents will be informed via a letter and the school website if there are changes.

School Closure	Dates	Levels affected	Remarks
Youth Day	8 July	All	
Hari Raya Puasa	8 August	All	
National Day	9 August	All	
PSLE Oral	15 & 16 August	P1 to P5	P1 to P5 pupils will not be attending school.
Teachers' Day	6 September	All	
September Holidays	7-15 September	All	See September Holiday activities below
School Hours Curtailed			
National Day Celebrations	7 August	All	School will function from 7.30-10.30am

School Activities for Term 3

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

Activities	Dates	Time	Teacher i/c	Remarks
P5-P6 HMT	Mondays – 1/7, 15/7, 22/7, 5/8, 12/8, 19/8, 26/8, 2/9	2.10 - 3.20pm	Tan Wan Foon	
P3-P6 Remedial/Supplementary	Mondays – 15/7, 22/7, 5/8, 12/8, 19/8, 2/9	2.10 - 3.20pm	Respective subject HODs	
P2-P6 Remedial/Supplementary	Tuesdays – 9/7, 16/7, 23/7, 6/8, 13/8, 20/8, 3/9	2.10 - 3.20pm (Session 1) 3.20 - 4.30pm (Session 2)	Respective subject HODs	
P3-P5 Remedial/Supplementary	Thursdays – 11/7, 18/7, 25/7, 1/8, 29/8	2.10 - 3.20pm	Respective subject HODs	
P6 MT Remedial/Supplementary	Thursdays – 11/7, 18/7, 25/7, 1/8, 29/8	2.10 - 3.20pm	Tan Wan Foon	
P3 Dyslexia Remediation (Selected pupils)	Mon to Thurs	2.10 - 2.55pm	Azlina, Lim Mingli and Nurwati	
LSP Extensive Reading Programme (Buddy Reading)	Mon and Thurs	2.00 – 3.00pm	Estherelda Chin	P2 LSP Pupils only

NE Show (Saturday)	13/7	2.15 – 9.30pm	Lavanya	P5
P3-P5 Pupil Leadership Training	1/7, 15/7, 22/7	3.30 – 5.30pm	Chye XW / Rani	
P4 Media Literacy Programme	1/7	2.00 – 5.00pm	Nurul Huda Misman	4A – 4D
	4/7			4C, 4D, 4E
	11/7, 18/7, 22/7, 25/7			All P4
	29/7			4A, 4B, 4E
P3 Story Telling	15/7, 22/7, 5/8, 12/8	2.00 – 3.30pm	Siti Noor	3C, 3D
	11/7, 18/7, 25/7, 1/8			3A, 3B
P5 Blood Pressure Awareness Programme	3/7	Curriculum Time	Ho Bo Hui	
Mobile Buster Academy Bus Exhibition 2013 (Anti-Drug)	11/7, 12/7	Curriculum Time	Ho Bo Hui	P3-P5
P6 QSE Survey	22/7 – 26/7	Curriculum Time	Susan Gan	
P2 Learning Journey	23/7	8.30 – 12.00pm	Yong Wei Ying	2C, 2E, 2F
	24/7			2B, 2D
	5/8			2A, 2G
P2 NE/SS Learning Journey	23/7	Curriculum Time	NE/SS Dept	2 classes - TBC
	24/7			2 classes - TBC
	25/7			3 classes - TBC
P3 CCM	2/9, 3/9, 4/9, 5/9	Curriculum Time	Yip LK	
P3 Math and NE Trail	4/9 (tbc)	Curriculum Time	Lay Tin	4 classes
CCA (for P3 – P5)				
Mondays: Selected CCAs	1/7, 15/7, 22/7, 5/8, 12/8, 2/9	3.30 - 5.30pm	Kenneth /Sham	Unless otherwise specified by CCAs 8/7, 29/7, 19/8, 26/8 – NO CCA
Thursdays: CCAs	4/7, 11/7, 18/7, 25/7, 1/8, 29/8	3.30 - 5.30pm	Kenneth /Sham	Unless otherwise specified by CCAs 8/8, 15/8, 22/8, 5/9 – NO CCA
P1 Registration				
Phase 1 Registration	4/7, 5/7	8.00 am to 11.00 am and 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm	Susan Gan & Rathigha	
Phase 2A1 Registration	9/7			
Phase 2A2 Registration	15/7, 16/7			
Phase 2B Registration	22/7, 23/7			
Phase 2C Registration	30/7, 31/7, 1/8			
Phase 2C Supplementary Registration	13/8, 14/8			
Phase 3 Registration	29/8			
Continual Assessments				
Prelim Oral (EL/FEL/MT/FMT)	29/7, 30/7	2.00 – 4.30pm	Tan Wan Foon	
Prelim Listening Comprehension	2/8			
PSLE Oral (EL/FEL/MT/FMT)	15/8, 16/8	8.00am – 1.00pm		No school for P1-P5

P6 Prelim - EL/FEL Paper 1 & 2	21/8	Curriculum Time	Tan Wan Foon	
P6 Prelim - MA/FMA	22/8			
P6 Prelim - MT/FMT Paper 1 & 2	23/8			
P6 Prelim - SC/FSc	26/8			
P6 Prelim - HMT, CA2 P5 HMT	27/8			
CA2 P5 MA/FMA, P4MT, P3SC	21/8			
CA2 P5MT, P4SC, P3EL	22/8			
CA2 P5SC/FSc, P4EL, P3MA	23/8			
CA2 P5EL, P4MA, P3MT	26/8			
September Holiday Activities				
P6 Supplementary	9/9, 10/9	8.00am – 12.30pm	Respective Teachers	
P4 - MT Language & Cultural Camp	9/9	8.30am – 4.30pm	Tan Wan Foon	