



## School Mission

A CHIJ School is a Christ-centered school community where all work together for the promotion of truth, justice, freedom and love, with special reference to the needs of students who are disadvantaged in any way.

## School Vision

Girls of Today for Tomorrow



## Principal's Message

**A Blessed New Year to all our staff, students and parents!**

**I would like to warmly welcome our Primary 1 students and their parents to our CHIJ OLN family; and to welcome all our Primary 2 to 6 students and their parents back to school in this new academic year.**

**It is with great joy and blessing that I join the family here at CHIJ Our Lady of the Nativity (CHIJ OLN). An IJ girl myself, I had the privilege of experiencing the IJ education in primary and secondary school. Grounded in values and Catholic teaching, the 10 years of IJ education has indeed played a major part in making me who I am today. As an educator, I began my teaching experience back at my alma mater, believing strongly in wanting to share the IJ experience and culture with future generations, and allowing the IJ spirit to live on.**

**The theme for 2025 is *"How good and pleasant it is when people live together in unity!"***

**Guided by our vision, mission, values and motto, the school will focus on developing collaborative relationships among students, staff and parents. In tandem with the theme, values such as love, patience, understanding and harmony will be reinforced as an extension of the school's GRACIA values.**

**As one CHIJ OLN family, we will provide the opportunities and experiences for our students to develop holistically and to stretch their talents and achieve their potential across the various domains. We look forward to working together with all parents and community partners to give our students the love, care and support they would need as they journey through 2025 and beyond.**

**As a school committed to quality education, we strive to develop "Girls of Today for Tomorrow". I invite all parents to embrace our theme for 2025, and to work in collaborative partnership for the future success of our girls.**

**I wish you a happy and blessed 2025. May your homes be filled with love and grace in the coming year.**

# General Information

## Primary 2 to 6 Arrangements for School Re-opening on Friday 3 Jan 2025 **IMPORTANT!**

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All P2 to P6 students are to report to school on Thursday, 3 January 2025 by 7.25 am.

- P2 students are to assemble at the Lobby
- P3 to P6 students are to assemble at the Hall

P2 to P6 students are to bring to school the following items:

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| • Report book (signed)  | • Water bottle                            |
| • Story Book  | • Pocket money for recess where necessary |
| • Stationery including colouring materials & a permanent black marker | • Snacks                                  |
| • A pair of scissors (P4 to P6 students only)                         | • Oral Digital Thermometer (ODT)          |

Your child's teachers will let her know what to bring to school for the subsequent days.

Given that P2 to P6 students are familiar with the school, we seek your understanding that parents / guardians / care-givers will not be allowed into the school.

## Updating of the Student Details Form (SDF) and Medical Conditions

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You will be receiving a notification on the update of the SDF by Monday, 6 January 2025 for you to update your and your child's information: Contact details, medical conditions and other personal particulars.

At the end of the PG notification, do click 'Yes' at the end of the PG notification to enable us to also collect your child's

dietary preference for our records. This would be useful, e.g. for school camps.

Please complete the necessary update of information via the [Student Details Portal](#) by **Friday, 31 January 2025**.

In addition, if your child is bringing medication / inhalers to school, please ensure that her Form Teachers are aware of this.

### **School Smart Card (SSC) for P1 and P6 students**

MOE will be conducting the yearly photo-taking exercise for all students in Primary One (P1) and Primary Six (P6) for the purpose of generating the School Smart Card (SSC). The photo-taking will be conducted by SimplyGo Pte. Ltd. (SimplyGo)'s appointed vendor on behalf of MOE. The SSC serves as the student's identification card and can be used for concessionary travel on public transport and to borrow library books from the National Library Board and the school's library, amongst other usage.

The photo-taking session for P1 and P6 students will be conducted during school hours from 13 - 14 January 2025 (Monday - Tuesday). Your child's Form Teacher will inform your child of the schedule by Friday, 10 January 2025. Your child will need to be in her school uniform (i.e. school blouse and pinafore) for the photo-taking session. If she has a PE lesson that day, please ensure that she has her school blouse packed in her school bag. Do ensure that your child's hair is neat and tidy.

P1 students should be able to get their SSC by April 2025. For P6 students, the photo taken that day will be used for the SSC issued in 2026 when she goes to Secondary 1. For P1 students, while pending the receipt of the SSCs, they can

continue to use the Child Concession Card for free travel on public transport until 30 April 2025.

## **School Organiser**

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Each child will be issued a School Organiser by Monday, 6 January 2025. All parents are encouraged to browse through the organiser to familiarise themselves with the information it contains. The School Organiser can also be used to communicate with your child's teachers. Please remind your child to keep it safe as there will be no replacement for lost or damaged organisers.

## **Inculcating a Sense of Responsibility** Reminder

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Please do not bring books, bags, money etc., at the request of your child. Should your child forget to bring the items for that day, all she needs to do is to highlight the fact to her teachers. The teachers will do the necessary to ensure that she is able to participate in the lessons.

We seek your cooperation to inculcate in our students the need to be responsible and take ownership of their learning in school.

## **Birthday Gifts and Goodies** Reminder

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This is a reminder that the school does not accept goodie bags or food items from parents to be given to a child's classmates for birthday or other celebrations.

## **For P3 only - Gifted Education Programme (GEP)**

The tentative schedule is as follows:

- GEP Screening Exercise - 21 August 2025 (Thursday)
- GEP Selection Exercise - 14 and 15 October 2025 (Tuesday and Wednesday)

## **Bookshop Operating Hours**

The bookshop supplier is BL Marketing Pte Ltd and the operating hours (for parents) are as follows:

	<b><i>2 to 10 Jan 2025 only</i></b>	<b>From 6 Jan onwards</b>
<b>Monday to Friday</b>	2.00pm to 4.00pm	11.30am to 12.30pm

School uniforms tailored by Magdalene Sewing Centre are available for sale at the school bookshop from Thursday, 2 January 2025 onwards. Please follow the timing in the above table.

## **Chinese New Year Celebrations on Tuesday, 28 January 2025**

Our Chinese New Year celebrations will be held on Tuesday, 28 January 2025. This is an opportunity for students and staff of different races to come together and celebrate the Chinese tradition and culture. The school will be planning activities including a concert and the blessing of oranges.

Your child can bring along 2 mandarin oranges to school on Tuesday, 28 January 2025 if she wants to participate in the blessing of oranges. Your child is to come in her school uniform with school shoes.

All students are to report to school by 7.25am and will be dismissed by 10.30am. To minimise overcrowding, we will implement staggered dismissal.

<b>P1 &amp; P2</b>	<b>P3 &amp; P4</b>	<b>P5 &amp; P6</b>
10.10am	10.20am	10.30am

There will be no afternoon activities that day, i.e. CCA, support lessons and enrichment programmes. The bookshop and canteen will also be closed on that day.

There will be no classes for all students on Wednesday, 29 January 2025 and Thursday, 30 January 2025. Classes will resume on Friday, 31 January 2025.

### **Tentative School Closure Dates for 2025**

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We would like to share the tentative school closure dates for 2025:

<b>Date / Day</b>	<b>Event</b>
1 Jan / Wed	New Year Public Holiday
29 - 30 Jan / Wed - Thu	Chinese New Year Public Holiday (Please take note that eve of Chinese New Year i.e. Tuesday 28 January is a half day)
15 - 23 Mar / Sat - Sun	Term 1 School Holiday
31 Mar / Mon	Hari Raya Puasa Public Holiday
4 Apr / Fri	Home-Based Learning (HBL)
18 Apr / Fri	Good Friday Public Holiday
1 May / Thu	Labour Day Public Holiday
12 May / Mon	Vesak Day Public Holiday
29 - 30 May / Thu - Fri	Parents-Teachers-Student Conference (PTSC)
31 May - 29 Jun / Sat - Sun	Term 2 School Holiday
7 Jul / Mon	Youth Day School Holiday

<b>Date / Day</b>	<b>Event</b>
1 Aug / Fri	HBL due to P6 Preliminary Oral Examinations
9 Aug / Sat	National Day Public Holiday (Please take note that eve of National Day i.e. Friday 8 August is a half day)
11 Aug / Mon	National Day School Holiday.
13 - 14 Aug / Wed - Thu	PSLE Oral
5 Sep / Fri	Teachers' Day School Holiday (Please take note that eve of Teachers' Day i.e. Thursday 4 September is a half day)
6 Sep - 14 Sep / Sat - Sun	Term 3 School Holiday
16 Sep / Tue	PSLE Listening Comprehension
3 Oct / Fri	Children's Day School Holiday (Please take note that eve of Children's Day i.e. Thursday 2 October is a half day)
13 - 15 Oct / Mon - Wed	PSLE Marking Exercise (Please take note that certain groups of students may be required to report to school. More details will only be confirmed later.)
20 Oct / Mon	Deepavali Public Holiday
11 Nov / Tue	School Administration Day
19 Nov / Wed	GRACIA! Celebrations
20 - 21 Nov / Thu - Fri	Parents-Teachers Conference (ePTC)
22 Nov - 31 Dec / Sat - Wed	Term 4 School Holiday

As these are only tentative dates, please look out for updates via PG or our monthly OLN Connect.

## **Updates for 2025** Reminder

### **School Hours and Punctuality**

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Please note the official school hours for 2025:

Mondays - Fridays: 7.30 a.m. - 1.30 p.m.

Assembly will begin promptly at 7.30am, and students who are not with their class for assembly at 7.30am will be considered late. As such, please ensure that you factor in time taken for your child to get to her class by 7.30am so that she can be with her class punctually.

### **The Use of Handphones and Smartwatches**

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Students are not encouraged to bring digital devices like handphones and smartwatches to school. However, if you require your child/ward to bring such a device to school, you would need to complete a Request Slip which will be sent out through Parent's Gateway in January 2025.

Should your child/ward bring a personal digital device like a smartwatch / handphone to school, it would need to be switched off so long as she is within the school premises. She would not be allowed to use it during school hours which include recess, CCA and after-school programmes e.g. supplementary/support/enrichment lessons. This means she would not be allowed to use these devices to make/receive calls or texts, take pictures or make any form of recording.



## Attendance

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All students are expected to attend school daily during the school terms. Attendance is compulsory on all school days, functions and activities. Students who are absent must inform the school of their absence and present medical certificates or letters from parents/guardians when they return to school.

The school will accept a maximum of 10 letters from parents/guardians per year for their child's/ward's absence from school.

Students will be considered absent without valid reason should they go for holidays overseas or staycation during school term as curriculum time is important.

## Recess Timing

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We will continue to have 6 recesses in 2025. The recess timing is as follows:

Level	Recess Time	Snack Time (15 minutes)
P1	10.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.	<i>Between 8.30 a.m. and 9.00 a.m.</i>
P2	8.30 a.m. to 9.00 a.m.	<i>Between 11.00 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.</i>
P3	9.00 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.	<i>Between 11.00 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.</i>
P4	11.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.	<i>Between 9.00 a.m. and 9.30 a.m.</i>
P5	9.30 a.m. to 10.00 a.m.	<i>Between 11.30 a.m. and 12.00 p.m.</i>
P6	10.00 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.	<i>Between 8.30 a.m. and 9.00 a.m.</i>

*\*Parents, please pack dry and healthy snacks for your child to eat during snack time e.g. fruits, buns, biscuits.*

## Wet Weather Staggered Dismissal

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Should there be a need for staggered dismissal due to inclement weather, we will dismiss the P1 students at 1.20pm, followed by the P2 students at 1.25pm. P3 and P4 students will be dismissed at 1.35pm while the P5 and P6 students will be dismissed at 1.40pm.

## Access Timing for School Gates 2025

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The access timing for the school gates will be as follows:

Gate	Opening Hours during School Term (Mondays – Fridays)
Main Gate	<p>7.00 a.m. – 7.45 a.m. (only for school buses and parents who are driving their children to school)</p> <p>Should you arrive earlier than 7.00 a.m., please let your child alight at Side Gate 2 near the HDB carpark at Blk 465A.</p> <p>Parents who drive and pick up their children from school after dismissal, should wait at Side Gate 2.</p>
Side Gate 1 (Behind the bus stop)	<p>6.30 a.m. – 8.00 a.m. (the gate will be opened only if it rains)</p> <p>1.30 p.m. – 2.00 p.m. (P4/P5/P6 students will be dismissed via Side Gate 1)</p>
Side Gate 2 (Near the HDB car park at Blk 465A)	<p>6.30 a.m. – 8.00 a.m.</p> <p>1.30 p.m. – 2.00 p.m.</p>

	(P1/P2/P3 students will be dismissed via Side Gate 2)
	3.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. – 5.45 p.m.

### **Higher Mother Tongue Language Lessons (HMTL) - P5 to P6**

Higher Mother Tongue Language Lessons for P5 and P6 will commence from Thursday 9 January 2025 onwards.

### **Higher Mother Tongue Language Lessons (HMTL) - P3 to P4**

Higher Mother Tongue Language Lessons for P3 and P4 will commence from Monday 20 January 2025 onwards.

### **Support Lessons - P3 to P5**

Support lessons will commence for **identified students** from Monday 20 January 2025 onwards. The list of identified students and the support lesson schedule will be made known and Consent Forms issued to these students, by Friday 10 January 2025 via PG.

*Support lessons for P1 and P2 will commence for identified students from Semester 2 and Term 2 onwards respectively. More details will be disseminated later.*

### **Supplementary Lessons - P6**

Supplementary lessons will begin for all P6 students from Monday 20 January 2025 onwards. The supplementary lesson schedule will be made known and Consent Forms issued to these students, by Friday 10 January 2025 via PG.

## **Co-curricular Activities (CCA)**

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CCA will commence from Monday, 20 January 2025 onwards. The CCA schedule can be found on page 13 and will be published on the school website under the 'Learn @ IJOLN' tab by Wednesday, 8 January 2025.

CCA teachers will inform you directly should there be a need for the CCA to commence earlier or should extra training days be required e.g. preparation for competitions.

## **Commencement of School Bus Transportation for After-School Activities**

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KW Bus Services Pte Ltd will resume its services for after-school activities i.e. Support Lessons and CCAs from Monday, 20 January 2025 onwards.

If your child is currently taking the school bus and the drop-off from the school is up till 4km based on the Google Map distance, you can consider booking this service by contacting the vendor at 8498 4950 at least 3 working days in advance. Each trip will cost \$8.00.

## **Safety Matters**

### **Keeping CHIJ OLN a Safe Environment for Students**

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We seek your support to keep our school a safe environment for students:

- If your child is unwell, please ensure that she stays at home and seeks medical attention if necessary.

- If your child has a communicable disease e.g. Covid-19, Hand-Foot-Mouth Disease and Chicken Pox, please inform the school immediately.
- Do let us know if your child has recently been vaccinated against Covid. This would help us ensure that she does not participate in the PE classes / Sports CCAs for 14 days after the vaccination.
- Mask-wearing for staff and students in school is optional. However, if your child is recovering from respiratory-related illnesses, please encourage her to exercise social responsibility e.g., by wearing a mask, by minimising social interactions with big groups.

We appreciate your support and will continue to work with you closely to keep all students safe. Let us all do our part to exercise personal and social responsibility.

### **Being Gracious & Considerate - Reminders on Safety**

While waiting for your child at the gates, do give way to other care-givers if your child is not due for dismissal yet. We also seek your understanding and help not to block access to / from the overhead bridge and the passageway connecting the open-air carpark next to Block 466A to the bus stop.

Do help us to convey this message to your child's caregivers e.g. grandparents, helpers etc. if they are the ones picking your child. Let us use this as an opportunity to role model the value of graciousness to our children.

Should your child be driven to/from school, please do note the following:

- Get your child ready a few minutes before alighting and enter/exit the car quickly so as not to hold up the cars behind
- Not stop along Upper Serangoon Road especially at the bus-stop outside the school
- Not sound the horn so as to be considerate to residents in neighbouring blocks. A little patience goes a long way. Let's all be gracious as there is no need to respond in kind.
- Drive carefully so as to ensure the safety of students and others. Please note there can only be one line of cars once your car enters the HDB carpark (or the school in the mornings).
- If you need to leave the car, please park in an allotted space in the HDB carpark.
- The HDB carpark is most crowded 10 minutes before/after assembly and dismissal. Do adjust your drop-off/pick-up time accordingly.

CHIJ OLN has 1440 students and as such, there are large numbers of cars, caregivers, and children coming in and going out through our gates each day. Let us always be good role models for our children and their friends.

## **Temperature-Taking Exercise**

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As part of our measures to ensure your daughters' safety, we need all students to be familiar with the temperature-taking process. As such, there will be a temperature-taking exercise on **Wednesday, 15 January 2025**.

Please ensure that your child brings her personal Oral Digital Thermometer (ODT) daily. All P1 pupils will be given an ODT issued by MOE.

## Students' Accident Protection Scheme for 2025

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MOE has continued to engage Income Insurance Limited to manage the Students' Accident Protection Scheme for 2025. The insurance policy provides accident coverage related to school activities and/or co-curricular activities. The insurance premium is borne by MOE. You can refer to <https://www.income.com.sg/group-insurance-for-schools-and-centres-and-moe> for more information on the coverage.

## Home News

We warmly welcome the following staff to the CHIJ OLN family:

- Mrs Karen Tan (Principal)
- Mrs Delphine Minjoot (Senior Teacher)
- Mdm Zulia Bte Mohamed Said (Senior Teacher)
- Ms G Vasantha Devi Naidu (Teacher)
- Ms Fonseka Halena Nimali (Teacher)
- Ms Lin Yingying (Teacher)
- Mdm Nazurah Bte Ibrahim (Teacher)
- Mr Ng Yee Hong (Teacher)

Our congratulations to Mrs Sharon Lai who has been appointed as Subject Head Art!

We would like to extend our appreciation to both our Principal, Ms Christina Teo and our Corporate Support Officer, Mdm Ng Guek Eng who will be retiring from service with effect from 31 December 2024.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to the following staff who will be leaving the school with effect from 31 December 2024:

- Ms Sarina (HOD ICT)
- Mdm Nurathirah (SH NE/SS)
- Mrs Eadelin Marzinek (Teacher)
- Mrs Emily Chew (Teacher)
- Mdm Illiany (Teacher)
- Ms Jenny Lee (Teacher)

## Upcoming School Events

Date	Activity/Programme	Remarks
1 Jan (Wed)	New Year Day Public Holiday	School will be closed.
2 Jan (Thu)	School reopens for 2025 P1 students	
3 Jan (Fri)	School reopens for 2025 P2 - P6 students	
2 - 7 Jan (Fri - Tue)	Back to School Programme	Classes for P2 to P6 will begin on 3 Jan.
9 Jan (Thu)	Commencement of P5 & P6 HMTL classes	
15 Jan (Wed)	Temperature Taking Exercise	Please refer to this issue of OLN Connect.
20 Jan (Mon)	Commencement of Support Lessons, Supplementary Lessons and CCAs	
20 Jan (Mon)	Commencement of P3 and P4 HMTL lessons	
24 Jan (Fri)	P2, P3 and P4 Networking	More details will be given later.



## Upcoming School Events

Date	Activity/Programme	Remarks
28 Jan (Tue)	Eve of Chinese New Year	School will be dismissed at 10.30am. General Office will operate till 1.00pm. More details will be given later.
29 - 30 Jan (Wed - Thu)	Chinese New Year Public Holidays	School will be closed. All students are to report on Friday, 31 January 2025.
7 Feb (Fri)	P5 and P6 Networking	More details will be given later.
12 - 14 Feb (Wed - Fri)	P5 GRACIA Camp	More details will be given later.
19 Feb (Wed)	Total Defence Day Celebrations	
<p><i>We seek your understanding that there may be changes to the schedule of activities shared in this newsletter due to unforeseen circumstances. Please refer to Parents Gateway and our <a href="#">school website</a> for copies of letters issued by the school.</i></p>		