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Dear Parents,

Good day.

As the Festival of Lights draws near, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all our Hindu families and those celebrating this special occasion — **Happy Deepavali!** May you and your loved ones be blessed with good health and happiness always. For the rest of us, please have a great and enjoyable long weekend. We deserve a good break, and may you find time to rest, recharge and spend quality time with your family and friends.

Deepavali, or Diwali, reminds us that even in times of darkness, light will always prevail. It is a festival that celebrates the triumph of good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair. Homes that celebrate Deepavali are lit with oil lamps, symbolising the inner light that protects us from spiritual darkness and guides us towards truth and harmony.

Let me share a short story often told during Deepavali: **The Story of Prince Rama and the Return of Light**

Long ago, Prince Rama, his wife Sita, and his brother Lakshmana were exiled from the land of Ayodhya to the forest for 14 years. During this time, the demon king Ravana kidnapped Sita. With courage and faith, Rama fought to rescue her, defeating Ravana and returning home victorious. When the people of Ayodhya heard of Rama's return, they lit rows of clay lamps to welcome him — celebrating the return of light, goodness, and love into their lives.

This is why Deepavali is called the *Festival of Lights* — it reminds us that no matter how long the darkness lasts, light and goodness will always return.

Here in Singapore, Deepavali is more than just a cultural celebration — it is a **reminder of the harmony that binds our multi-racial society together**. Just as lamps of many colours brighten a single street, our diversity of faiths, traditions, and languages make our nation shine brighter. Together, we are also stronger.

As parents and us as educators, we can guide our children to appreciate and celebrate the festivals of others with curiosity, respect, and joy. When children learn about different cultures, they grow in empathy and understanding — essential qualities for harmony in our shared future. After all, we cannot take the peace and prosperity that we enjoy today for granted. We hope that our children will continue to show respect to one another, act responsibly and strengthen our social cohesion for many years to come.

This Deepavali, may we all take a moment to light a lamp in our hearts — one of **respect, kindness and gratitude** — and teach our children that harmony begins with each of us, at home and in school.

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**Vision** : Touching Souls, Challenging Minds

**Mission** : To maximise students' potential and develop in them a passion for life-long learning guided by compassion, conscience, purity and righteousness.

**Motto** : Compassion, Conscience, Purity, Righteousness

**愿景** : 净化心灵, 挑战思维

**使命** : 以校训慈、良、清、直为指引, 激发终身学习之热忱, 务必人尽其才。

**校训** : 慈、良、清、直

As parents and us as educators, we share a **common goal** — to help our children grow into good, useful and responsible citizens of tomorrow. The school cannot do this alone, nor can families walk this journey without partnership. Together, we can light the way towards a brighter future for our children.

At the same time, I also want to acknowledge that as a school, we are not perfect. There may be moments when we **fall short** or when our decisions made may not meet everyone's needs, preferences and expectations. In the spirit of Deepavali — a time of renewal and forgiveness — we seek your understanding and grace in areas where we could have done better. Our commitment remains steadfast: to work closely with you and your family, to listen, and to rebuild any bridges where needed, so that **our partnership continues with mutual trust and shared purpose**.

We also would like to alert you that we will be arranging an **online meeting** to update you of the changes that will take place in 2026 regarding scheduling and programming. Please look out for our notification that will come by the end of October, inviting you to attend this online meeting. There will also be focus group discussions at the end of November 2025 to hear from you on how we can do better in educating your precious child / children.

Let us continue to nurture the light of harmony, respect, and compassion in our homes and in our Mee Toh Family. When our children see the adults around them model understanding and unity, they too will learn to bring light wherever they go. After all, our name Mee Toh means 'Eternal Brightness' – may our children go forth to shine their light for others.

Wishing all families a bright and meaningful Deepavali filled with peace, forgiveness, and togetherness. Thank you, and please take care and keep well.

Partnering with you,  
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