



MONTFORT JUNIOR

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3 January 2023

Dear Parents / Guardians,

NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS (TERM 1/2023)

1. A Happy New Year and a very warm welcome to all who are returning to Montfort Junior after the holidays. We especially welcome our new students and our Primary 1 students. Welcome to the Montfort family!
2. As we begin the year, we would like to remind you of our school's Vision, Mission and Values (VMV):
 1. Vision: A Montfortian, A Man for Others - Scholar, Sportsman, Gentleman, Leader, Maker.
 2. Mission: Montfort is a Catholic School. Guided by our Montfortian values, and spirituality, we nurture each child to realise his potential and inspire him to be a Man for Others.
 3. Values: Compassion, Humility, Respect, Integrity, Service, Team spirit, Excellence (CHRISTE).

The VMV guides us in the work that we do and with your partnership, we have confidence in being able to provide an educational experience that will enable us to fulfill them.

Communication with Parents

3. The annual Parents' Engagement session for the different levels to better understand how we can support one another to help your child/ward achieve his fullest potential is scheduled for the different levels (P2 to P3 on 12/1/2023 and P4 to P6 on 13/1/2023) from 4.00pm to 5.00pm via Zoom. All P2 to P6 parents/guardians are invited to the session. The details will be sent out separately.
4. To maintain close communication with parents, the school will be using the Student Handbook. The Student Handbook is used for parents to note the homework assigned for the day and any other messages between teachers and the home. We seek your cooperation in checking the

Student Handbook daily and ensuring that all homework assigned is completed and all reply slips are returned by the deadlines given.

5. You may also contact our teachers via email or their office's telephone numbers. Our teachers will respond to emails/calls when they are available, after their lessons in class and during term time school operating hours (7:40 am to 6:00 pm). Should you wish to meet the teachers, please do make an appointment.

Academic Matters/School Programmes

6. **Holistic Assessment.** For P1-P6 students, there will be bite-sized assessments for each subject throughout the term. This will enable teachers to better assess students' level of attainment in specific topics and areas of concern and provide timely remediation to close learning gaps. It will also prevent over-testing and allow for more curriculum time to be utilised for teaching and learning.
7. **CCA Selection.** CCA Selection Day will be held on 11 Jan 2023 (Wed). Students can choose to sign up for one CCA. Signing up for a CCA is compulsory for all P5 and P6 students.
8. **Modular CCA (MCCA).** MCCA will begin on 18 Jan 2023 (Wed). MCCA is compulsory for all P3 to P6 students. MCCA will be conducted during curriculum hours on Wednesdays. P3 and P4 students will be exposed to different MCCAs which aim to expose the boys to sports, appreciation of visual/performance arts and computational thinking.
9. **Chinese New Year.** Chinese New Year will be celebrated on 20 Jan 2023 (Fri). Students are encouraged to wear Chinese traditional costumes and bring two oranges to exchange with their teachers and classmates.

Spiritual Programme

10. **Catholic Mass.** We will be having Masses on the first Tuesday of every month for all Catholic boys from 7.00am to 7.30am. More information will be sent out to all Catholic students.

Values Education

11. **Respect & Responsibility.** To instill a sense of responsibility in our students, kindly ensure that your child/ward packs his bag daily according to the timetable given. This will enable him to have all that he needs for learning while preventing an excessively heavy bag. If he has forgotten something, we strongly discourage parents from bringing these items to school. The General Office will not send up any items that he has forgotten to bring to school. Your child will also not be asked to come down to the office to collect the items unless it is an emergency or a medical requirement. This is to prevent disruptions in classroom teaching for your child and the rest of the class.
12. **School Attendance.** Please note that regular attendance in school is very important for students' learning. If your child is unwell, please do seek medical treatment. If

parents/guardians choose not to bring their children to the professional health practitioners, supporting letters from parents/guardians up to 6 per semester is allowed but are not acceptable during the end-of-year examination. Only medical certificates from professional health practitioners are acceptable.

13. **Punctuality.** It is important that parents work with the school to reinforce the value of punctuality. This teaches the students to be responsible and to show respect for the flag raising ceremony which is intended to instill in them a sense of pride and affiliation to the nation. School begins punctually at 7.30am. Please ensure that your son is in school and seated with his class by 7.15am for silent reading. He will also need to always have a storybook with him.

Health and Safety Matters

14. **Snack Breaks.** Only dry snacks such as biscuits, sandwiches or fruits should be consumed in class during the snack break. Kindly refrain from packing wet food items for your child to consume in class as it will be difficult for them to eat or manage and the food also may not last or remain fresh for consumption after a few hours. Please discourage your child from consuming unhealthy or processed food such as chips, chocolates, and sweets. Simple yet easy to eat snacks such as fruits, biscuits and bread with healthier choice symbols will serve the students' needs well. Eating healthily at a young age will go a long way in cultivating healthy lifestyle when they reach adulthood.
15. **Traffic Safety.** We continue to seek your cooperation in preventing potential traffic accidents at the front gate when dropping off or picking up your son/ward. Due to the heavy traffic conditions of both vehicles travelling along the road and pedestrians crossing the walkway outside of the gate along Hougang Ave 8 (main road outside the school), any stoppage of vehicles near the front gate would constitute a breach of safety. On some occasions, the cars are blocking the entrance and cause congestion on the road. Please help the school to reinforce the importance of traffic safety and role model safety practices by dropping off or picking up your son/ward at any of the HDB car parks next to the side gate.
16. **Safety on the Road.** For students and parents who cycle to school, please note that cycling along the narrow pedestrian pavements just outside the school can pose a danger to both the riders and pedestrians alike. All cyclists are recommended to wear appropriate protective gears as recommended by LTA.
17. **Safety in the School Bus.** For parents whose children are taking the school bus, please be informed that it is a requirement that all children wear seat belts when in the school bus. We seek your help in reminding your children of the importance of wearing their seat belts and always remaining seated while in the school bus. Repeated failure to wear the seat belts may result in the bus company preventing your child/ward from using the school bus services.

18. **Consideration for Residents.** The school seek your understanding when you are dropping off your sons/wards in the residential carparks nearby in the following:

- a. Do make full use of all 3 available carparks near the school to prevent congestion and bottlenecks in any one of them, especially the one nearest to side gate (between blocks 526 and 527). This carpark has been observed to be overly congested during peak period (usually close to 7.30 am). Cars have been observed to maneuvered dangerously on some occasions by concerned residents as well.
- b. In the event there is a congestion in the carparks, do exercise patience and avoid sounding the horns unnecessarily which can cause distress to nearby residents. You can help to role-model the school values of Respect and Compassion to your sons/wards and help the school maintain our cordial relationship with the community.
- c. The school thus strongly encourages you to send your sons/wards to school earlier, to minimise the risks of them hurting themselves while rushing to classroom/hall/parade square for flag-raising ceremony. Arriving earlier will also allow the teachers to check in on their well-being and for the boys to interact with their peers to start the day better. On this note, the school takes a strong stance in punctuality, and we seek the parents'/guardians' partnership to instill the same message as well.

19. **Safe Management Measures (SMM).** The school will continue with the community SMMs, in alignment with national posture, as Singapore become more Covid-resilient:

- a. Daily visual and question screening will continue to be carried out for all students and staff. Students and staff who are unwell **OR** have COVID-like symptoms (e.g., *fever, runny nose, cough, loss of smell*) will be reminded to stay away from school.
- b. For students who are taking the school bus, our bus drivers will continue to visually screen the boys when they board the buses. Similarly, students who are unwell, will **not** be allowed to board the bus.
- c. Students will continue to bring a working thermometer with them daily as part of social responsibility to check their own temperature whenever they feel unwell. They are **no longer** required to bring their TraceTogether tokens to school.
- d. The wearing of masks for all activities remains optional, including during their rides in the school buses. It would be recommended for students who have slight symptoms to continue to wear a face mask until they have fully recovered.
- e. Students will continue to exercise strict wipe-down routines during lessons and mealtimes. The school will continue to clean high-touch surfaces and disinfect the premises regularly.
- f. Students will be reminded on maintaining a high level of personal hygiene such as washing their hands frequently with soap / using of hand sanitisers, refraining of touching their eyes, mouths, and noses etc.
- g. Dismissal and recess timings will remain staggered to reduce congestions.

Parents Support Group

20. We encourage you to join the school's Montfort Junior Parents Connection (MJPC) to enhance the partnerships between the school and parents. You can sign up for activities that suit your schedule. More information is available at MJPC Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MJPConnection>

21. We look forward to working with you in 2023 to provide the best learning environment and experiences for our students. May God bless you and your family abundantly.

Age Quod Agis!

Yours sincerely,
Victor Tan
Principal

Term 1 Calendar 2023

	EVENT
*3 to 6 Jan (Tue – Fri)	Orientation Week ('Start Right' Programme) *3 Jan: P1 Orientation. P2 to P6 students do not attend school. 4 Jan onwards: All students return to school.
6 Jan (Fri)	Information Session for P3 to P5 Parents on MSTEAM Programme, 12.00pm to 1.00pm
11 Jan (Wed)	CCA Selection Day (7.40am to 9.10am)
12 Jan (Thu)	Parent Engagement Session (P2 to P3) via Zoom, 4.00pm to 5.00pm
13 Jan (Fri)	Parent Engagement Session (P4 to P6) via Zoom, 4.00pm to 5.00pm
16 Jan (Mon)	Photo-taking for School Smart Card for P1 students
20 Jan (Fri)	Chinese New Year Celebrations
23 to 24 Jan (Mon to Tue)	Chinese New Year - Public Holidays
27 Jan (Fri)	Montfortian Dedication of School Mass (8.00am)
15 Feb (Wed)	Total Defence Day
13 to 17 Mar (Mon to Fri)	Term 1 School Holidays
20 Mar (Mon)	First Day of Term 2