Reference no.: NTPS/2023/062

21 March 2023

Dear Parents / Guardians,

We hope that you have had a restful break during the March holidays and would like to warmly welcome you back to a new school term. We would like to thank all parents for taking time off to connect with our teachers during the Parent Engagement Sessions and Meet the Parents Session 1. We would also like to extend our deep appreciation to our Parent Support Group (PSG) and parent volunteers for supporting us in the daily morning traffic duties as well as school events and learning journeys held in Term 1. We look forward to your continued partnership and support in the holistic development of our children.

As part of our home-school partnership, we would like to share the following updates:

1. New Town Fiesta

New Town Primary will be organising our inaugural New Town Fiesta – an event to showcase our New Town Learning Experience and to connect with various stakeholders and partners. During the event, the school will showcase our vibrant learning experiences and holistic development programmes at various curriculum and co-curriculum booths. To strengthen home-school-community partnerships, we would like to extend our warm invitation to all our students and their parents, as well as our partners, alumni and SAC members to join us during the event. Details of the event are as follows:

- Day and Date: Friday, 26 May 2023
- Time: 1.00 p.m. 5.00 p.m.
- Venue: New Town Primary School
 - * No lessons in the morning. All students are encouraged to join us in the event.

During the event, beyond showcasing our learning experiences and school programmes, there will be food, games and merchandise stalls set up, as part of our donation drive to raise funds to build non-standard new school facilities. Details on the sales of coupons which will be used during the event will be shared at a later date. The school would like to raise up to \$45,000 for two non-standard items as listed below:

- New Town Primary Heritage Room
- New Town Art Gallery and Aesthetics Trail

In conjunction with the event, Parent Support Group (PSG) will be setting up a booth to sell pre-loved books. PSG hopes to collect as many books as possible and you can support them by donating and buying these pre-loved books. You may drop off donated books in the boxes outside the school's General Office from Monday, 3 April to Friday, 14 April 2023. The criteria

for donated books are listed in Table 1. For any clarification(s), please email our PSG Point-of-Contact, Ms Evonne Wong, at ntps.psgroup@gmail.com.

Table 1: Criteria for Donated Books

Types of Books	Criteria
Fiction and Non-fiction Books (suitable for Pre-school children, Primary and Secondary school students)	 no textbooks / dictionaries no textbooks / political / religious books books in English Language or Mother Tongue Languages books must be in good condition no stains / torn or missing pages / holes

2. Celebrating Learning and Achievements

We are pleased to share with you some of our students' achievements in Term One.

Competition	Achievement	
Girl Guide (Brownies) - Puan Noor Aishah Award	Gold Award	
National Primary Schools Chinese Calligraphy Competition 2023	Consolation Prize	
National School Games – South Zone Netball Championship (Senior)	Third Runner-Up	
Red Cross Youth – Excellent Unit Award 2022	Gold Award	
Red Cross Youth – Ambassadors of Blood Donation Championship Poster Design	Second Runner-Up	
Red Cross Youth – Let's Prepare a Ready Bag	Top 10 Award Winner	

Our heartiest congratulations to all!

More information on our students' achievements can be found on our school website: https://www.newtownpri.moe.edu.sg/spotlight/Achievements/.

3. Welcoming our New Staff

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new staff who have joined our school:

- Mr Gan Soon Rui (English Language and Social Studies Teacher)
- Ms Eunice Ang (Untrained PE Teacher)
- Ms Sylvia Sim (Untrained Special Educational Needs Officer)

They will work together with you to support your child's learning and well-being in school.

4. Centre for Teaching and Learning Excellence at New Town Primary School (CTLE@NTPS)

Since the appointment as a CTLE in 2021, New Town Primary has been partnering Master Teachers (MTTs) and experts from the professional bodies such as the Academy of Singapore Teachers (AST) and the National Institute of Education (NIE) to offer professional learning opportunities for Singapore teachers, e.g., webinars, masterclasses, workshops and demonstration classes. We are pleased to share that our teachers will be collaborating with the MTTs on the following in Term Two 2023:

Dates	Titles	Presenters	Mode
21 March	Raising Student Agency through Supporting Our Students to Learn How to Learn	Mr Michael Long Mr Low Yew Fai	Demonstration Class
6 April	Engaging Students in Constructing Explanations & Designing Solutions	Mdm Anne Wong Dr Judy Lee Ms Tan Yan Fen	Masterclass
13 April	Inquiry-based Learning in Primary 4 Mathematics Classroom	Mr Choon Ming Kwang Mr Low Yew Fai	Demonstration Class
Supporting Students with Special Educational Needs in our Primary Classrooms		Ms Sarinajit Kaur Mr Johnson Li Mdm Tee Ying Ying Mrs Valencia Wee Miss Jessica Sum	Zoom Webinar
21 & 28 April Differentiated Instructions and Self-directed Learning in Physical Education: Two Sides of the Same Coin?		Miss Joanna Phan Mr Loh Zhi Hao	Demonstration Class & Workshop

We are heartened by our teachers' pursuit of excellence through their continued efforts to hone their craft. We wish them a fruitful learning in the collaboration.

5. Term One – Key Events Highlights

Term One has been an eventful term and the following are the key highlights which we are proud to share with you.

5.1 Primary 1 to 6 Start-it-Right Programme (3 - 6 January 2023)

This year's theme, 'Together, We R.I.S.E.', seeks to promote a sense of belonging to the school and foster positive relationships between students and teachers. During the programme, Form Teachers and their students co-created their class mission statement and establish expectations and routines for the class. The programme also included several experiential activities to teach students how to form positive relationships, cultivate good habits and routines, and enhance their personal skills for their overall well-being.



5.2 CCA Start-it-Right Programme (11 January 2023)

CCA Start-it-Right Programme is designed to welcome new CCA members and for all students to build team identity, team spirit and rapport with their CCA peers in the new academic year. This year, we empowered our CCA student





leaders to co-plan with their CCA teachers and co-facilitated various fun and engaging activities for their CCA peers.

5.3 Chinese New Year Celebrations (20 January 2023)



During the Chinese New Year (CNY) celebrations, our school hosted seniors from the Lion's Befrienders and St. Andrew's Nursing Home. Our student leaders interacted with the seniors during the celebrations. They also designed greeting cards and prepared goodie bags to share with the seniors. Our guests felt welcomed and included in the celebrations.

During their interactions with the seniors, our students enjoyed listening to their life experiences. It was a great opportunity for our students to learn from the seniors and appreciate the value of service to others. Our students truly demonstrated generosity, hospitality and our school value - 'Service with a Heart', and made a positive impact on the seniors.



5.4 Primary 4 Learning Journey (LJ) to National Gallery Singapore (1 - 8 February 2023)

Our Primary 4 New Towners were fully immersed in the world of art and learning beyond the classroom during their LJ to National Gallery Singapore. Through close observation and discussion of various art pieces by local artists, such as Chong Fah Cheong and Koeh Sia Yong, they learnt about the origins of Singapore's hawker culture and how these artists create an engaging experience for their audience through their art.



5.5 Chingay 2023 – Rabbit ART-Venture (3 - 5 February 2023)

Our New Town student leaders participated in the Chingay 2023 Community Art Installation – Rabbits ART-Venture at the F1 Pit Building. Since November 2022, under the guidance of their teachers and community artists, our student leaders worked tirelessly on their installations. They put in a lot of effort and creativity, brainstormed ideas on the concept and decorated the New Town Explorer R'100 rabbits together as a team.



At the event, our student leaders demonstrated their public speaking skills and shared confidently about their concept and creation with President Halimah Yacob, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Members of Parliament, and members of the public. Our student leaders had the opportunity to showcase their talents and represented our school with pride!



5.6 Learning for Life Programme – Student Leaders Day (7 February 2023)



New Town Primary School's Annual Student Leaders' Day was held on 7 February 2023, with the New Town Family coming together to witness the appointment of student leaders from the Prefectorial Board and CCA groups. The senior prefects had the honour of presenting the prefect ties to their juniors, and the CCA teachers-incharge presented the leadership sash to the CCA leaders. It was a moment of pride and joy for the newly appointed leaders, as they stood tall and received this honour.

The newly appointed leaders have a vital role to play in setting an example for their peers. They have been chosen for their leadership qualities and are expected to demonstrate these qualities in their daily actions and decisions. During the ceremony, our Head Prefect led the student leaders in the recitation of the Student Leaders' Pledge and renewed their commitment to serve the school with humility and dedication. He also encouraged his peers to work together to make New Town Primary proud.

The school would like to acknowledge the support of parents who have encouraged their children to take on this responsibility and participate actively in the student leadership training sessions throughout the year. These sessions have deepened their leadership skills so that they can serve confidently and effectively in their leadership roles. We would like to thank all our parents for instilling the values of leadership and service in your children, and we look forward to our close partnership with you to help them grow and develop to be confident leaders!

5.7 Total Defence Day Commemoration (14 February 2023)

The theme for Total Defence Day (TDD) 2023 is "Together We Keep Singapore Strong". During their Social Studies and CCE (FTGP) lessons, New Towners learned various ways they can put Total Defence into action in their everyday lives. Learning about TDD also took place beyond the classroom. During assembly, they enjoyed a skit about the importance of being digitally safe and how to demonstrate Digital Defence by keeping themselves safe online and being responsible netizen.





To further deepen their understanding, they had the opportunity to visit the *Go Safe Online Exhibition*, which was organised by the Cyber Security Agency. The exhibition aimed to promote safe online behaviour through interactive games and activities. In addition, our Parent Volunteers organised fun and engaging activities during recesses. Students enjoyed playing with puzzles and had their photographs taken at the photo booth where they dressed up as their favourite Total Defence Day Heroes. It was a

meaningful way for our students to enjoy and reinforce their learning while having fun with their peers.

<u>5.8 Applied Learning Programme (ALP) – Citizen scieNcE@New Town (28 February - 1 March 2023)</u>

Our Primary 5 students went on a learning journey to the NEWater Visitor Centre (NVC) as

part of the school's ALP module on Singapore's water security. At the NVC, they toured the NEWater plant, learnt about Four Singapore's National Taps participated in a rain garden workshop to understand how Science innovation can help to increase our water supply. In Term Two, they will be using Minecraft Education software to design and build their own virtual house with waterproducing and water-saving features to ensure sustainability.



5.9 Primary 6 Camp G.R.I.T. (8 March 2023)

Primary 6 Camp G.R.I.T. was organised to develop our students' resilience and positivity when faced with challenges and. In addition, we hope to empower our students with the skills

to reflect, learn from one's experience and the experiences of others, and view setbacks as learning opportunities. These outcomes were achieved through three physical and outdoor activities namely Parachute, Kinball and Key Punch. Each activity concluded with a debrief and reflection session for the students.





5.10 Primary 3 to 6 Parent Engagement Sessions

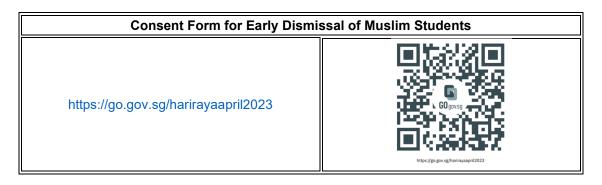
We want to extend our gratitude to parents for taking the time to attend the Primary 3 to Primary 6 Parent Engagement Sessions held in February. We hope that the sessions have been useful in helping you to understand your child's needs and how the school can partner you to enhance your child's confidence in learning. For those who have missed the sessions, you can access the recordings and slides on our school website.

5.11 Term One Meet-the-Parents Session 1 (10 March 2023)

We are encouraged by the strong support of our parents in the recent Meet-the-Parents Session 1. Our discussions centred on developing habits and attitudes that will enable our students to learn for life. During the session, students shared about their individual strengths and their goals for the year. We hope to continue to partner our parents in fostering their child's growth by engaging in frequent and meaningful dialogues with them at home.

6. Upcoming School Events / Programmes in Term 2 and Term 3

6.1 Early Dismissal for Muslim Students on Eve of Hari Raya Puasa (Friday, 21 April 2023) Muslim students who celebrate Hari Raya Puasa can be dismissed at 10.10 am on Friday, 21 April 2023. We request that parents of these students to indicate in the consent form whether you would be fetching your child from school at 10.10am or require your child to remain in school and be dismissed at the usual dismissal time at 1.40 pm. We would appreciate if you could make the necessary transport arrangement in advance should you require your child to leave early. Please submit your reply via the link or QR code below before Friday, 7 April 2023. We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our Muslim students and their families Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri!



6.2 Primary 1 & 2 Sports Education Programme (22 and 23 May 2023)

The Sports Education Programmes (SEP) aim to equip and widen our students with new sporting skills. With a wider repertoire of sporting skills, students will be able to enjoy a variety of sports and lead an active and healthy lifestyle.

Primary 1 students will participate in "DanceSport for Fun" on 23 May 2023, which will provide opportunities for students to incorporate a balance of motor skills and rhythmic movements in the activity. Primary 2 students will participate in modified fencing on 22 May 2023, which students will have the opportunity to apply movement skills learnt in their PE lessons in a new sport. We look forward to our Lower Primary students developing their sporting skills during the SEP!

6.3 Primary 5 Camp Endeavour (Term 3 Week 2)

Camp Endeavour aims to equip our Primary 5 students with important life skills that will enable them to perform proficiently in curricular and co-curricular activities. Camp Endeavour aims to develop in our students stronger relationships with their classmates and teachers through collaboration to achieve team goals. Camp Endeavour is scheduled to take place in Term 3 Week 2. More details will be provided closer to date.

7. Home-School Partnership

7.1 Appreciation to our New Town Primary – Parent Support Group (PSG)

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our parent volunteers from the Parent Support Group for their strong partnership and unwavering support in contributing to the holistic development of our New Towners by organising activities for our students during the Total Defence Day, and for making the school a safe place by serving as traffic wardens at the drop-off point in the morning. We look forward to your continued support in this meaningful partnership.

7.2 Primary 1 & 2 Parent Engagement Session (Friday, 31 March 2023)

We will be holding an online engagement session for parents of Primary 1 and Primary 2 students on Friday, 31 March 2023. The Heads of Department will be sharing how parents can partner the school in your child's learning of English Language, Mathematics and Mother Tongue Languages. In this session, you will also hear how Holistic Assessment can support your child to build his/her confidence and desire to learn. There will also be a short segment by Lakeside Family Services on Triple P Positive Parenting Seminars and other services available to support parents on their parenting journey. The registration link will be sent through Parents Gateway at a later date. We look forward to meeting you at the session.

7.3 Upcoming Positive Parenting Programme Seminars (April 2023)

Lakeside Family Services has been appointed by MSF since 2019 to deliver parenting support services to New Town Primary School. Positive Parenting Programme (Triple P) is an evidence-based programme that equips parents with techniques to promote your child's psychosocial-emotional competencies. Triple P seminars are designed to introduce the principles of positive parenting and are packed with ideas to help make raising kids easier (Refer to Table 2.). To ensure greater flexibility and options for parents, there will be two sessions available for parents to choose from within the same week. You may scan the QR code below to register. Only **one** registration is needed for parents to attend any of the sessions. Here are the dates of the upcoming online seminars which will be held on Zoom:

Registration for Positive Parenting Programme Seminars https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtc-iuqjoiG9A-zepCxu5h2kqxlmlQE3b4

Table 2: Positive Parenting Programme (Triple P) Seminars

Seminar Title	Date	Time
The Power of Positive Parenting	12 April, Wed	12 – 1 p.m.
The Fower of Fositive Farenting	13 April, Thu	8 – 9 p.m.
Daiging Confident Competent Children	19 April, Wed	12 – 1 p.m.
Raising Confident, Competent Children	20 April, Thu	8 – 9 p.m.
Doining Positiont Children	26 April, Wed	12 – 1 p.m.
Raising Resilient Children	27 April, Thu	8 – 9 p.m.

7.4 Parenting Tips: ABCs on Motivation

Lakeside Parenting Support Services would like to share parenting tips to motivate your child to learn by using the 'ABCs on Motivation' below:

A – Autonomy

Let your children take ownership of their studies. Guide them to make a study plan. Discuss what and when to study. Teach them how to prioritize. Allow them to experience the consequences of their actions or the lack thereof without blaming. Don't say "I told you so," but rather say something like, "That must have been difficult, what can you do differently next time?" Nag less, encourage more. Take them on a journey of self-discovery by using curiosity questions like, "What do you think are you good at and how can I support you?" Help them discover what their strengths and interests are. Get their own ideas on how they wish to be supported.

B - Belongingness (Relatedness)

Let your children feel that they are an essential part of something wonderful. When they are studying, consider putting aside your devices and entertainment to show your support. Be present, praise their efforts along the way. Encourage study groups with friends (with supervision), whether face-to-face or even on Zoom. Arrange play dates with your children's friends with the same interests academically or recreationally. Relating with others helps develop intrinsic motivation to succeed.

C - Competence

Set your children up for success. Start with easier revision/questions/tasks/subjects that they are strong in. Praise their effort and progress more than the results. Encouraging statements like, "You've put in so much effort to show the steps required to answer this question!" and "You were so close to getting the right answer, good try!" goes a long way in building confidence and competence. The more they experience success, the more confident and motivated they will be in trying, even when the task at hand seems tough.

8. School Routines, Safety and Student Well-being

8.1 Traffic Management, Arrival and Dismissal of Students

We appreciate parents for your understanding and cooperation in ensuring a safer and smoother traffic flow during arrival and dismissal times. In our ongoing effort to keep the school safe, we would like to encourage parents to ensure children get ready and alight promptly at the foyer. For safety reasons, parents should alight your children on the left side of your vehicles, adjacent to the steps at the foyer. During school dismissal, parents who drive may enter the school to pick up your children after the school buses have left the school grounds, which is approximately 20 minutes after dismissal time. This is to ensure a smooth traffic flow within the school and expedite movement of school buses out of the school.

Parents who are picking your children at the gates should wait in an orderly manner for your child outside the school (at Gate 1) and at the Parent Waiting Area (at Gate 2 and at Gate 3). The front and back gates will be opened for half an hour after dismissal time. For safety reasons, parents will not be allowed to enter the school premises during the first ten minutes of the school dismissal. Parents should continue to follow the instructions given by our staff and parent volunteers and cooperate with them to ensure the safety of our children.

8.2 Updates on Safe Management Measures

As Singapore has established a new endemic norm and has moved towards Disease Outbreak Response System Condition (DORSCON) Green since 13 February 2023, the school will cease the provisions of wipe down tissue and hand soap in classrooms and school facilities like the Hall and Indoor Sports Hall, with effect from 3 April 2023. However, students should continue to stay vigilant, and maintain personal hygiene and social responsibility. Students may bring their own towel, tissue or wet wipes for snack time and the end-of-day classroom cleaning.

While mask-wearing in school setting is no longer required, it is still an effective way to minimise the risk of infectious disease transmission. Students who prefer to continue to wear masks are allowed to do so. For students who are tested positive for COVID through testing (i.e., PCR+/Ag+), school will continue to mark their absence as 'Absent with MC'. School may request to have sight of the photo evidence of the PCR+/Ag+ test result. Students should only return to school when they no longer test positive, even if they still exhibit symptoms. Students who are absent from school-based Weighted Assessments or End-of-Year examinations will be required to submit either photo evidence of the PCR+/Ag+ test result taken on the day of the examination or a Medical Certificate.

9. Nomination for the Inspiring Teacher of English Award 2023, Arif Budiman Malay Language Teacher Award 2023, Most Inspiring Tamil Teachers' Award 2023 and Distinguished Chinese Language Teachers Award 2023

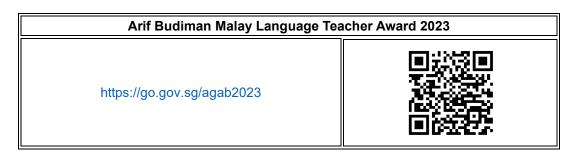
9.1 The Inspiring Teacher of English Award 2023

Presented by the Speak Good English Movement and The Straits Times, with the support of the Ministry of Education, the Inspiring Teacher of English Award is a national award for English teachers in Singapore schools that acknowledges teachers who ignite a love for the English language and are effective in helping their students speak and write accurately. The Award has two categories – the Teaching Award and the Leadership Award. Nominations for the award are now open. We would like to invite you and your child/ward to nominate any deserving teacher(s) by downloading the nomination form via the URL or QR code below. The completed nomination form(s) should be submitted to New Town Primary School by 6 p.m. on Monday, 27 March 2023.

Inspiring Teacher of English Award 2023 http://goodenglish.org.sg/inspiring-teacher-of-english-award/nomination-information

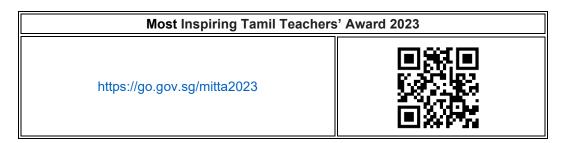
9.2 The Arif Budiman Malay Language Teacher Award 2023

Jointly organised by the Malay Language Council, Singapore, Malay Language Teachers Association, Berita Harian and the Malay Language Learning and Promotion Committee, the Arif Budiman Malay Language Teacher Award recognises Malay Language teachers who have made significant contributions to the teaching of the Malay Language. We would like to invite you and your child/ward to nominate any deserving teacher(s) by completing the nomination form via the URL or QR code below by **Friday**, **31 March 2023**.



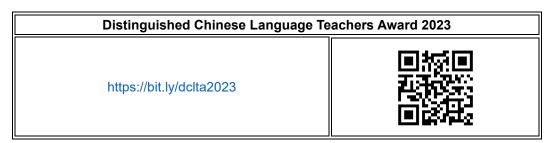
9.3 The Most Inspiring Tamil Teachers' Award 2023

The Most Inspiring Tamil Teachers' Award 2023 is jointly organised by Tamil Murasu, Singapore Tamil Teachers' Union and the Tamil Language Learning and Promotion Committee. This award serves to recognise the stellar performance of Tamil Language teachers in their role in educating and promoting Tamil Language among their students. We would like to invite you and your child/ward to nominate any deserving teacher(s) by completing the nomination form via the URL or QR code below by **Monday**, **10 April 2023**.



9.4 The Distinguished Chinese Language Teachers Award 2023

The Distinguished Chinese Language Teachers Award is organised by Lianhe Zaobao and ZBSchools, with support from the Ministry of Education and sponsorship from SPH Foundation. The Awards is also co-organised by Singapore Centre for Chinese Language, the Society of Chinese Education Singapore, Singapore Chinese Teachers' Union, and Singapore Middle School Chinese Teachers' Association. The award aims to give due recognition to deserving Chinese Language teachers who have shown exemplary efforts towards the cultivating of students' interests and teaching of the Chinese language and culture. We would like to invite you and your child/ward to nominate any deserving teacher(s) by completing the nomination form via the URL or QR code below by **Sunday, 30 April 2023**.



10. Updated School Calendar - Term Two

As per past practice, a copy of the updated 'School Calendar – Term 2' has been appended at the end of this newsletter for your reference.

Thank you for all your support in our various school programmes towards the holistic development of our students. We look forward to your continual support as our partners-in-education.

Yours faithfully,

MRS TAN-NG WIE PIN PRINCIPAL

[UPDATED] 2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR - TERM 2

	[UPDATED] 2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR – TERM 2					
Week	Day/Date	Time	Activity/Events	Remarks		
1	Mon 20 Mar	-	Term 2 begins	Value of Term: Integrity		
2	Fri 31 Mar	2.30pm – 5.00pm	P1 & 2 Online Parent Engagement Session			
3	Tue 4 Apr	During curriculum time	International Friendship Day Commemoration			
	Fri 7 Apr		Good Friday (Public Holiday)			
5	Fri 21 Apr	-	Eve of Hari Raya Puasa	Muslim students are dismissed at 10.40 a.m.		
	Sat 22 Apr	-	Hari Raya Puasa (Public Holiday)			
6	Mon 24 Apr	-	School Holiday in-lieu (Hari Raya Puasa)	Schools and Student Care Centre (CLS) will be closed .		
	Mon 1 May	-	Labour Day (Public Holiday)			
7	Tue 2 May	1	DSA-Sec Application begins	Pending MOE's announcement		
	Tue 2 May - Wed 3 May	1.30 – 5.00 pm	P4 Social Studies Learning Journey to Kreta Ayer Heritage Gallery	Details will be shared closer to date		
8	Wed 10 May - Thu 11 May	11.30 – 2.30 pm	P5 Social Studies Learning Journey to Indian Heritage Centre	Details will be shared closer to date		
	Mon 22 May	During Curriculum Time	P2 Sports Education Programme	Details will be shared closer to date		
	Tue 23 May	During Curriculum Time	P1 Sports Education Programme	Details will be shared closer to date		
10	Wed 24 May	1	Issue of Holistic Development Report			
	Thu 25 May	-	E-Learning Day (For ALL P1 to P6 students)	Parents to contact SCC (CLS) if support is required		
	Fri 26 May	1.00 – 5.00 pm Note: No lessons in the morning	New Town Fiesta 2023	Parents to contact SCC (CLS) if support is required		
	Sat 27 May	-	Start of Term 2 School Holiday (Sat, 27 May 2023 to Sun, 25 June 2023)			
Sch Hols	Mon 19 Jun	8.30am – 12.30pm	Supplementary Classes for P6 Students			
	Tue 20 Jun	8.30am – 12.30pm	Supplementary Classes for P6 Students			
	Wed 21 Jun	8.30am – 12.30pm	Supplementary Classes for P6 Students			
	Fri 23 Jun	-	Student Care Centre (Commit Learning SchoolHouse) Closed	SCC (CLS) Staff Learning and Sharing Day		
	Term 3 commences on Monday, 26 June 2023					