



SBPS/22/068

31 October 2022

**Open Letter from School Leaders 8/2022**

Dear Parents,

1. Warmest greetings! We are thrilled to be running the home stretch before the year-end school holidays. Some highlights taking place in the remaining few weeks of school include the P6 Graduation Ceremony, Parent-Child-Teacher Conference, and year-end activities to keep your child engaged.
2. The school would like to take this opportunity to bid farewell to Mdm Jessie Ho Yit Har who has retired from MOE in October, having served the school for 13 years. We wish her every success in her next chapter in life.

***Important Information...***

**Student Matters**

3. Non-reporting School Days. Please take note of the following dates on which students do not need to report to school (see Table 1).

Table 1 – Non-reporting School Days

Date	Event	Remarks
8 November	School's Admin Day	All students do not need to report to school.
15 November	e-Parent-Child-Teacher Conference	
18 November	Annual Speech Day & P6 Graduation Ceremony	Only prize winners and P6 students will report to school. Prize winners will be notified at a later date.

4. e-Parent-Child-Teacher Conference (e-PCTC). The e-PCTC is a platform for students to share their learning experiences with parents. During the session, students will lead the sharing through a portfolio presentation. Please refer to Table 2 for the details of the e-PCTC. Parents may book their preferred slots from 1 November via Parents Gateway (PG). The duration of each slot will be 10 minutes. Please note that students need not report to school on 15 November.

Table 2 – Details of e-PCTC Sessions

Date	Time
14 November	2.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.
15 November	8.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

5. Annual Speech Day and P6 Graduation Ceremony. Parents of P6 students are cordially invited to the Annual Speech Day cum P6 Graduation Ceremony on 18 November at 9.00 a.m. More information will be given at a later date.



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6. P6 Cohort Camp. This year, we are specially organising a Cohort Camp for the P6 students who have previously missed out their P5 camp due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This non-residential P6 Cohort Camp will be held from 3 November to 4 November. As this is also the P6 students' final year in our school, we hope that this camp will leave behind fond memories and end their primary education journey on a high note.

7. e-Orientation for P1 (2023) Students. The e-orientation for P1 (2023) students will be conducted on 18 November at 2.30 p.m. There will be briefings and engagement by the School Leaders, Year Heads and Form Teachers (FTs). Details of the meeting will be shared via PG on 2 November.

8. First Day of School (2023). All K1 and P1 students will start school on 3 January 2023 (Tuesday), while K2 and P2 to P6 students will report to school on 4 January 2023 (Wednesday). The programme on the first day of school in 2023 will be set aside for orientation activities for your child. Except for the usual 30-minute recess, the day's timetable will be replaced by orientation activities comprising school and class routines, re-acquainting with classmates and class tasks helmed by the FTs. The purpose of the orientation activities is to ease your child into the school after a long school holiday break and to allow the new FTs to know your child better. Students are to report to school before 7.30 a.m. (see Table 3 for the details).

**Table 3 – Reporting Venues and Items to Bring on First Day of School in 2023**

Reporting venues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Primary 1 and 2 – Indoor Sports Hall (ISH), Level 2</li><li>• Primary 3 to 6 – Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH), Level 4</li></ul>
Items to bring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thermometer</li><li>• Storybook</li><li>• Pencil case</li><li>• Water bottle</li><li>• Healthy snacks for snack break</li></ul>

### **Safety and Emergency Preparedness**

9. Enhancing the Learning Environment. Studies have shown that environmental factors such as too much time indoors, excessive use of smart devices and screen exposure are some contributing factors to myopia. Myopia can also be attributed to students having to squint their eyes to view what is written on the whiteboard at the front of the classroom due to the glare from the sun. To minimise this glare, we have installed roller blinds in all the classrooms for a more conducive learning environment (see Figure 1).



10. Security Incident (SI) Exercise. The SI Exercise, which will be held on 7 November, is a key milestone for the school in our preparation for any security incident. This is an excellent opportunity for your child to experience the rigour of a lockdown and evacuation



out of school. In the event of inclement weather, the SI Exercise will be cancelled for safety reasons. Your child's FTs will brief the class in greater detail in due course.

### ***Celebration of Successes...***

11. Hokkien Huay Kuan LEAP Award. The Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan presents the LEAP Award (飞跃教师奖) annually in recognition of teachers who have shown extraordinary and sustained efforts towards nurturing students and contributing to their holistic growth. We are pleased to announce that Mdm Zheng Hongyu and Mdm Wu Yongyun (see Figure 2) received the Certificate of Commendation for being nominated for the LEAP Award. We hope the recognition would be an inspiration not only to fellow colleagues in championing a similar cause, but also to our students to work hard. Congratulations to Mdm Zheng and Mdm Wu!



Figure 2 – Mdm Zheng and Mdm Wu

12. CCA. Beyond the classroom setting, inspirational talks by celebrities and sports personalities complement the authentic learning of our CCA students. Our Drama Club students benefitted from MediaCorp artiste Christopher Lee's (李铭顺) recount of his experiences and advice on acting. Our student photo buffs learnt about photography from a former team Singapore sprinter Mr Lim Yao Peng, who has a passion and knowledge about photography. Ms Joan Poh, Singapore's national rower, an Olympian and a nurse, shared her preparation and experiences at the Tokyo Olympics to our sports CCA students. We hope these sessions will further inspire our students to pursue their passion and dreams.

13. Children's Day Donation Drive. As part of Children's Day celebration, the Applied Learning Programme (ALP) Committee and the Red Cross CCA collaborated to organise a donation drive to provide our primary school students with an opportunity to contribute to needy children in the community. Over the course of 4 days from 3 October to 6 October, new and pre-loved items such as stationery, notepads and school bags were collected from the school population (see Figure 3). The response was overwhelming and we were able to prepare more than 120 gift packs for beneficiaries from Curious Thoughts Giving Ltd and Woodlands Social Centre. Well done, SBPS!

Figure 3 – Children's Day Donation Drive



Donation items packed by Red Cross CCA members

Handing donation items to Mr Samuel Lie from Woodlands Social Centre



14. Our children from MK@Sembawang and their families also shared joy with the children from Fei Yue's Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIC) at Wellington. The MK children presented soft clay key chains and a finger-printed canvas artwork, while their families contributed stationery sets nicely packed into gift bags by our Parents Support Group members who also helped to deliver the gift bags to EIPIC. The highlight of the celebration was the class dance item by students from the various MK classes with kids from EIPIC via Zoom (see [Figure 4](#) for snapshots of the celebration).

**Figure 4 – Children's Day Celebration at EIPIC**



*Top – Clay making*

*Bottom – Class dance item*

*Top – Gift bag preparation*

*Bottom – Finger-printed canvas artwork*

### **Up-coming School Events...**

15. Deepavali Celebrations. We would like to extend our blessings to all Hindu parents, students and staff who celebrated Deepavali on 24 October. The festivities will continue on 2 November with a live performance by a local vendor during assembly programme.

### **Miscellaneous**

16. Eat with Your Family Day (EWYFD). The last EWYFD for the calendar year falls on 18 November. To support this initiative, the General Office will close at 5.00 p.m. to allow our staff to leave early to enjoy a meal with their children and families.





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### **Concluding Remarks...**

*"The future depends on what we do in the present"*

*~Mahatma Gandhi~*

17. To our P6 students, we wish you well and hope that you will always keep close to your heart the teachings and values that you have learnt in Sembawang Primary. All the best to you!

18. We thank parents for your partnership and support throughout this year and would like to take this opportunity to wish parents and children a wonderful bonding time during the year-end school holidays.

Warmest regards.

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