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ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL

26 December 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Greetings from all of us at St Andrew's School (Secondary), and we wish you a blessed year ahead. We welcome our Saints back to school and extend a special warm welcome to our Secondary One boys and their parents/guardians.

We are happy to furnish you with the following key information for the start of the year:

1. Key Events in Term 1
2. 2026 School Terms and Holidays
3. School-based Assessment
4. Saint-Parent-Teacher Conference for Term 1
5. Reinforcing Social Skills at Home
6. Strengthening School-Home Partnership
7. Use of Boys' Images in School-related Communications
8. Dropping-off of Boys in School

1. KEY EVENTS IN TERM 1

1.1 2026 First Day of School (2 Jan, Fri)

School starts at 8 a.m. Boys are required to report to school by 7.50 a.m. in full school uniform (button-up shirt and school shorts or pants), with their school badges pinned.

Full school uniform with tie is compulsory every Monday, as well as on the first day of school (on 2 Jan) and for the Beginning of Term Service (on 5 Jan).

To start the new school year well, Saints are expected to maintain good grooming standards in accordance with the Saints Code of Conduct. Hair should be kept short and neat, uniform neatly ironed, and shirt properly tucked in at all times.

Boys will assemble in the school courtyard for morning assembly on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (even week); they will report to their classrooms for morning assembly on Thursday and Friday.

1.2 Mobile Phone Policy (w.e.f 1 January 2026)

As part of our ongoing efforts to reduce unnecessary screen time amongst our boys and to enhance student well-being, we have already implemented our revised mobile phone policy with effect from 16 October 2025.

Our boys will be required to lock their mobile phones in their lockers 10 minutes before the start of the school day, e.g., by 7.50 a.m. To ensure a smooth transition, we ask that each boy bring a sturdy lock on the first day of school. Boys may only retrieve their mobile phones after the last time-tabled curriculum lesson of the day. The mobile phones must be kept into their schoolbags thereafter, and are not to be seen during school hours, except with permission from school authorities. This will help maintain security and consistency as we adopt this healthier, more mindful approach to technology use. Please refer to our Code of Conduct for details on the use of mobile devices in school.

Please note that our policy is in line with Ministry of Education (MOE) guidelines on mobile device use announced on 30 November 2025 (ref. <https://www.moe.gov.sg/news/press-releases/20251130-moe-to-introduce-enhanced-measures-to-promote-healthier-screen-use-in-students>), and aligned to our national health promotion strategy Grow Well SG, where, from January 2026, secondary school students will not be allowed to use smartphones and smartwatches outside lesson time – including recess, between lessons, during supplementary, enrichment and remedial sessions, and during co-curricular activities (CCAs). Students' devices will have to be kept in designated storage areas. Where necessary, school may allow students to use their smart devices by exception.

We appreciate your support in reinforcing these expectations at home and helping us create a learning environment free from unnecessary distractions. Together, we can help our boys develop good habits to live balanced, healthy and self-disciplined lives.

1.3 Home-Based Learning (HBL) on Tech Goodness It's Friday (TGIF) and Flexi Day

Home-Based Learning (HBL) will be conducted on TGIF (Secondary 1-5) and Flexi Day (Secondary 1-3 only).

- 1) In line with the Ministry's guidelines, TGIF will be scheduled on odd week Fridays in our school. On TGIF days, boys need not report to school. Instead, boys will log on to the Student Learning Space (SLS) for specific instructions and tasks for the day. Boys will be assigned work for a maximum of four subjects a day, to take into consideration factors such as curriculum time for all subjects and the nature of assignments given.
- 2) Flexi Days will be introduced in 2026, providing opportunities for staff and boys to explore innovative approaches to teaching and learning. On these days, Secondary 1 to 3 boys will participate in lessons conducted synchronously via Microsoft Teams, with

meeting links and lesson materials shared through the SLS. Secondary 4 and 5 boys will report to school for their lessons as usual. There will be one Flexi Day in Term 1.

- 3) Please refer to the schedule below for the specific TGIF and Flexi Day dates for Term 1:

Week 1 (Friday)	9 January	TGIF
Week 3 (Friday)	23 January	TGIF
Week 5 (Friday)	6 February	TGIF
Week 7 (Friday)	20 February	TGIF
Week 8 (Monday)	23 February	Flexi Day
Week 9 (Friday)	6 March	TGIF

1.4 **Odd Wednesday**

Starting in 2026, staff will have meetings on Odd Wednesday mornings. On these days, boys are to report directly to their classrooms by 8.20 a.m. and ensure that their mobile phones are stored in their lockers. Lessons will begin at 8.30 a.m. promptly.

1.5 **Beginning of Term Service & Secondary 1 Crossover Ceremony (5 Jan, Mon)**

It is our tradition to begin the new academic year by committing the school, both staff and boys, to the Lord's care. Parents/Guardians of Secondary One boys are cordially invited to watch the Beginning of Term Service and Secondary 1 Crossover on 5 Jan, Mon at 8.00 a.m. at the school field. All other parents are also welcome.

1.6 **Secondary 1 Orientation Programme (2 Jan, Fri - 9 Jan, Fri)**

The Secondary 1 Orientation Programme will take place from 2 Jan to 9 Jan.

Parents Day will fall on 5 Jan, Mon. On this day, the official Badge Pinning ceremony and briefings for parents/guardians will take place in the school hall. We invite all parents/guardians of Secondary One boys to join us in the ceremony. Our boys will then proceed for their 4D3N overnight camp at HomeTeamNS Bukit Batok from 5 to 8 Jan.

Information on CCA selection will be provided to parents during the CCA Talk on 5 Jan. Below is the summary schedule:

- CCA Talk: 5 Jan (Mon)
- CCA Display: 9 Jan (Fri)
- CCA Exploration: 9 Jan (Fri) - 30 Jan (Fri)

- CCA Selection: 26 Jan (Mon) - 30 Jan (Fri)
- CCA Allocation: 2 Feb (Mon) - 6 Feb (Fri)
- Release of Allocation Results: 6 Feb (Fri)
- CCA Official Start-date for Sec 1: 9 Feb (Mon)

Further details will be disseminated through the Parents Gateway.

1.7 National Digital Literacy Programme Briefing for Secondary 1 Parents (5 Jan, Mon)

There will be a briefing for Secondary 1 parents on Blended Learning and the purchase of Personal Learning Device (iPad) on 5 Jan, Mon during the Secondary 1 Parents Day.

1.8 Programmes for Saints Development

Our boys will be involved in an array of activities at the start of the term. Details of the Level activities will be disseminated through Parents Gateway.

Level	Activities
Secondary 1	Orientation Programme, Parents Day, Cohort Camp and CCA Display
Secondary 2	Cohort Learning Journey
Secondary 3	Strengths Profiling Workshop and Coaching
Secondary 4 and 5	Polytechnic Open House Visit

1.9 Weighted Assessment 1 (2 February, Mon – 6 March, Friday)

Secondary 1 to 5 boys will sit for the Weighted Assessment 1 (WA1) from 2 Feb, Mon, to 6 Mar, Friday. A detailed schedule will be furnished in due course.

1.10 Chinese New Year (17 Feb, Tue – 18 Feb, Wed)

The school will be closed during Chinese New Year on 17 Feb, Tue, and 18 Feb, Wed. On Chinese New Year's Eve, school will be dismissed at 10.10 a.m. Lessons will resume after Chinese New Year on 19 Feb, Thu.

1.11 Mother Tongue Language Fortnight (23-27 Mar, Mon-Fri, & 30 Mar-2 Apr, Mon-Thu)

To provide boys with opportunities to be immersed in an environment conducive to the learning and active usage of MTL and also the appreciation of the culture associated with the language, the annual Mother Tongue Language Fortnight will be organised on 23 to 27 Mar, Mon to Fri, and 30 Mar to 2 Apr, Mon to Thu. Secondary 1 to 3 boys offering Chinese, Malay and Tamil Languages, including Higher MTL and MTL 'B' syllabuses, will be involved in language programmes during curriculum time and as after-school activities. These

programmes are fully subsidised by MOE and compulsory for boys to attend. More information will be provided closer to the date.

1.12 Competitions and National School Games

NSG Division	Levels (Secondary)	Typical Competition Period
'B' Division	Sec 3, Sec 4, Sec 5	~ January to April
'C' Division	Sec 1, Sec 2	~ May to August

In preparation for the competitions and games that will take place, we would like parents and guardians to partner us in guiding your son/ward in managing his time and having a fulfilling all-rounded experience in school.

1.13 End-of-Term Service (13 Mar, Fri)

The End-of-Term Service will be on 13 Mar, Fri, at 10.50 a.m. School will end by 11.10 a.m.

1.14 Term 1 Break (14 Mar, Sat to 22 Mar, Sun)

School holidays will begin on 14 Mar, Sat. Boys will return to school on 23 Mar, Mon for the commencement of Term 2.

2. 2026 SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS

2.1 Please refer to the www.moe.gov.sg/calendar for the 2026 school terms and holidays.

3. SCHOOL-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 As part of the education system's move to strike a better balance between academic rigour and the joy of learning, formative assessment tools will continue to be used to gauge the learning progress of our boys and develop their strengths.
- 3.2 Please see the table below for an overview of formal assessments and their weighting for 2026. Do note that for some subjects (e.g., Food and Consumer Education, Design and Technology), the weighting for graded assessments may differ from the indicated norm. In such instances, your son/ward will be briefed by his subject teacher. A whole-year assessment plan will be issued to all boys and parents in due course.

Level	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Sec 1	Weighted Assessment 1 (WA1): 10%	WA2: 15%	WA3: 15%	End-of-Year Examination (EOY Exam): 60%

Sec 2	WA1: 10%	WA2: 15%	WA3: 15%	EOY Exam: 60%
Sec 3	WA1: 10%	WA2: 15%	WA3: 15%	EOY Exam: 60%
Sec 4 & 5	WA1: 15%	WA2: 15%	Prelim Examination: 70%	

4. SAINT-PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE FOR TERM 1

- 4.1 A Saint-Parent-Teacher Conference for Secondary 1 to 5 boys will be held on 27 Mar, Fri, between 8.00 a.m. and 12.00 p.m. The conference will be conducted face-to-face, and your son/ward will be sharing his progress in school with you. More information will be provided closer to the date.

5. REINFORCING SOCIAL SKILLS AT HOME

- 5.1 As part of our ongoing effort to nurture positive behaviour in our boys, build grit and foster stronger bonds of friendship amongst the boys, you may wish to reinforce these social skills that will give your son/ward a strong start to the school year: *Completing Homework Well*, and *Participating in Activities*. Your support will go a long way in ensuring our boys apply the skills taught in and beyond school.

- 5.2 Key steps for ‘Completing Homework Well’ are as follows:

- 1) Find out the homework for today.
- 2) Ensure you take the required materials home.
- 3) Begin your homework without delay.
- 4) Focus. Do it well. Finish it! *Remember to put down, switch off or walk away from distractions.*
- 5) Keep completed homework in your school bag.

- 5.3 Key steps for ‘Participating in Activities’ are as follows:

- 1) Politely ask to join a group (e.g., say ‘May I join you?’).
- 2) Ask what role you can play (e.g., say ‘How can I help?’).
- 3) Do your part well. Cooperate with others. *If unsure, ask for help or feedback.*
- 4) Praise others’ contributions. Thank them for what they have done.

6. STRENGTHENING SCHOOL-HOME PARTNERSHIP

- 6.1 We seek the kind understanding of all parents/guardians to contact our teachers via email for non-urgent matters. The teachers’ email addresses are available on the school website

for ready reference. Please be informed that our teachers are not expected to provide their personal phone number to parents/guardians.

- 6.2 Should you need to contact the teachers urgently, please call our school's office at 62851944. The teachers may be contacted during the weekdays from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. They are also not expected to respond to parents'/guardians' and boys' queries during the weekends except for emergencies. We seek your understanding to allow our teachers personal space and rest time on weekends and weekday evenings.
- 6.3 Further to the above, the teachers may only be able to respond on the next working day if they were not contactable or unable to access their email promptly during the day or if the queries and/or requests were made beyond the stipulated hours.

6.4 Official Video Conferencing Platforms for Online Engagement

Microsoft (MS) Teams and Google Meet will continue to be used as the official video conferencing platforms for online engagement with parents/guardians. Parents/Guardians who are using MS Teams for the first time may be prompted to install the application on their personal devices.

7. USE OF BOYS' IMAGES IN SCHOOL-RELATED COMMUNICATIONS

- 7.1 Through participation in school activities or external competitions, boys may be photographed from time to time. The school shall be granted full rights to such images and accompanying use of names, and other visual content or material for display on school-related communications (e.g., website, school magazine, publicity materials).
- 7.2 Parents/Guardians of boys who wish to **opt out** of participating in school-related communications may do so in writing by 9 Jan, Fri, via sass@moe.edu.sg. To best attend to your request, please state 'Attn to: Mr Koh Yong Mong (HOD/Humanities)' in the subject line.

8. DROPPING-OFF OF BOYS IN SCHOOL

- 8.1 The school will not be issuing 'Drive-Through Only' car labels to parents/guardians. Parents/Guardians dropping off their children may do so at the school foyer's drop-off area in the morning. We seek your understanding that parking is not permitted on the school premises. For your child's safety, please refrain from allowing him to alight along the main road.

We look forward to partnering you to nurture every Saint to be a Servant Leader who brings life to the nations.

Thank you and have a blessed 2026.

Up and On!

Yours in partnership,

Mr Lee Han Hwa
Principal