



Dear parents/guardians,

On behalf of my staff, I would like to wish all our families celebrating Chinese New Year a joyful and flourishing Year of the Horse. May the New Year usher in good health and abundant success for everyone!

We hope that the 'First Days of School' (FDOS) programme carried out during the start of Term 1 has helped your child settle well in school and get them ready for learning in 2026. We look forward to a fulfilling start with your child/ward.

1. Safety of Our Pupils in School

The safety and well-being of our pupils are our school's top priority. As we work together to create a safe and secure environment for our children, we seek your cooperation in ensuring their safety both on the roads and within the school premises.

a) Road Safety for Pupils

- Pupils attended a safety talk during the January assembly to reinforce road safety and safe play in school.
- Pupils walking to school are reminded that jaywalking is a traffic offence. They must use signalised crossings (traffic lights) or zebra crossings, and should **not** cross along Gate A (main vehicular gate) during arrival and dismissal.
- For cycling pupils, please ensure your child/ward is a competent cyclist and familiar with safe cycling rules.

b) Guidelines for Parents Driving to School

- Reduce vehicle speed and remain alert for pedestrians in the school zone. Cooperate with the staff on duty to ensure safe and smooth traffic flow.
- Allow your child/ward to alight safely and independently at the designated drop-off point. Please refrain from getting out of your vehicle to assist, as this may delay traffic flow.
- Ensure your child/ward is prepared with bags and belongings before arriving at the school porch.
- Vehicles will be allowed to enter the school compound 5 minutes after official dismissal (1:35 pm). Do not park or wait along Pasir Ris Street 11, as this causes traffic congestion.
- Avoid unsafe or illegal manoeuvres, and refrain from sounding your horn unnecessarily.

c) Teaching Safety to Children at Home

- Please reinforce safe road behaviours with your child/ward, such as using pedestrian crossings, avoiding jaywalking, and not using mobile phones while crossing.
- Encourage your child/ward to practise the **kerb drill**:
 1. Look right
 2. Look left
 3. Look right again
 4. Ensure all vehicles have stopped
 5. Raise your hand high and cross briskly

d) Safety within the School Compound

- Parents/guardians must sign in at the Security Post and obtain a Visitor's Pass before entering the school compound. With the pass, you may visit the school bookshop or report to the General Office for assistance. Access to classrooms or other areas is not permitted.
- To facilitate a safe and orderly dismissal, please avoid entering the school between 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm, as entry will not be allowed during this time.

We thank all parents and guardians for your understanding and cooperation in ensuring the safety and well-being of our pupils, staff, and the school community. By working together, we can provide a safe environment where your child/ward can learn, play, and grow with confidence.

2. School Attire and Safety of Belongings

Every White Sandian is expected to come to school well-groomed and properly dressed in accordance with the school dress code (Please refer to the Student Handbook). Pupils are to wear their full school uniform unless they have CCA, PE, or Learning Journeys. On days when the pupils are in their PE attire, the P3 - P6 girls are reminded to wear their skirts over their PE shorts after their PE lessons.

Pupils are strongly discouraged from bringing smart watches or handphones, as these devices may distract them from learning. Should you need your child/ward to bring these devices to school, please remind them to be responsible for their belongings and not leave them unattended. The school is not responsible for any loss of electronic devices. The school may confiscate these items if they are deemed to be misused. When such action is taken, the school will arrange for the items to be collected by parents/guardians.

We seek your understanding and support in these matters.

3. Learning Journey to Lee Kong Chien Natural History Museum for Primary 6 Pupils

The Primary 6 classes will be visiting Lee Kong Chien Natural History Museum in February during school curriculum hours. The visit will allow pupils to nurture their interest in biodiversity and the associated environmental issues. Please see the schedule below:

Class	Date
6A, 6C	3 February 2026, Tuesday
6B, 6D	5 February 2026, Thursday
6E, 6F	10 February 2026, Tuesday

Please refer to the notification sent out via Parents Gateway on 15 January 2026 for details.

4. Total Defence Day 2026 – Together We Keep Singapore Strong

The theme for Total Defence Day (TDD) 2026, *"Together We Keep Singapore Strong"*, emphasises Singaporeans' readiness in the face of crises and disruptions, and highlights how the principles of Total Defence can be practised in our daily lives.

As part of the TDD 2026 commemoration, the school will continue to participate in **Exercise SG Ready 2026 (ESR26)**. This exercise provides pupils with opportunities to learn how to respond calmly, responsibly, and resiliently to future threats and challenges. ESR26 will be conducted on **Monday, 9 February 2026**.

Unlike last year's food rationing exercise, this year's simulation will focus on a disruption to electricity supply. On the day of the exercise, there will be a planned power shutdown in classrooms for one period immediately after the school's pre-assembly. Through this symbolic power disruption, pupils will experience the inconveniences faced by earlier generations during

periods of power outages in Singapore's past. This aims to help pupils appreciate the resilience of our forefathers during challenging times, while fostering gratitude and a deeper connection to Singapore's history and values.

In addition to ESR26, the school has planned a series of engaging TDD-related activities throughout February to further reinforce the principles of Total Defence. These activities will deepen pupils' understanding of resilience, responsibility, and the importance of preparedness in the face of potential disruptions.

We encourage parents and guardians to reinforce the key messages of Total Defence through everyday conversations with your child/ward. By guiding pupils to reflect on the values of resilience, unity, and adaptability, we can work together to better prepare them for future challenges.

5. School Hours on Eve of Chinese New Year, 16 February 2026

Please note that on **Monday, 16 February 2026**, the school will be having early dismissal as part of the Chinese New Year celebrations. Pupils will be dismissed at 10.30am.

Pupils are to report to school as per normal. They are strongly encouraged to be attired in a red coloured top with the school shorts/skirt or in a Chinese traditional costume with school shoes. Pupils may also come to school in their school uniform or PE attire.

Please ensure that your children have their breakfast before coming to school as there will not be any recess breaks on that day. However, there will be a snack break as part of the programme planned. Please make the necessary transport arrangements for your children. For pupils taking the school bus, the school has informed the bus operator of the change in the school hours on that day.

6. National Schools Games (NSG)

The National School Games (NSG) 2026 has officially kicked off, marking the start of the nation's largest annual inter-school youth sporting event. Running from January to August, NSG 2026 continues to serve as a meaningful platform for character development, sportsmanship, and the pursuit of excellence among student-athletes across the Primary, Secondary, and Junior College levels. Our school is proud to be part of the National School Games, with our pupils competing in sports such as Football, Netball, and Table Tennis.

At White Sands Primary School, we believe that sports provide valuable learning experiences beyond the classroom. Through their participation in NSG 2026, pupils have opportunities to put our school's C4RE values — Care, Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Rallying Together, and Excellence — into practice. Whether celebrating victories or learning from challenging matches, pupils are encouraged to demonstrate perseverance, sportsmanship, and leadership, and to be positive role models for their peers.

We wish all our participating pupils every success as they represent the school with pride and passion.

7. Healthy Living #1: Why Your Child Needs Daily Physical Activity

Regular physical activity supports your child/ward's physical, mental, and emotional development. Children aged 6–17 should aim for at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity daily, plus muscle- and bone-strengthening activities (e.g., climbing, jumping, playground play) at least three times per week. Activity can be done in shorter sessions throughout the day.

Physical activity strengthens the heart, builds strong bones and muscles, improves coordination, and helps maintain a healthy weight. It also boosts concentration, memory, and problem-solving skills, while reducing stress, supporting better sleep, building confidence, and fostering friendships.

Simple ways to encourage activity include walking or cycling to school, dancing, playing catch, using playground equipment, swimming, or family bike rides. Encourage enjoyment over effort—celebrate improvement, try new activities, and participate as a family whenever possible.

Every bit of movement counts. The habits your child/ward develops now lay the foundation for a happy, active, and healthy future, as active children are more likely to become active adults.

8. Growth Mindset Nuggets #2: Learning from Mistakes in Mathematics

In Mathematics lessons, pupils consistently used the **checking-back strategy** to verify their answers, ensuring calculations were correct, methods appropriate, and answers reasonable.

This reflects a **growth mindset**, as pupils saw checking not as uncertainty, but as an essential habit that deepens understanding and improves accuracy. When errors were found, they showed **resilience and perseverance**, correcting mistakes and refining their thinking, recognising that errors are valuable learning opportunities.

These strategies help pupils internalise that success in Mathematics comes from **deliberate effort, sustained motivation, and reflective learning**, nurturing confident, resilient learners with a strong growth mindset.

Thank you for your kind attention to the above information.

Your partner-in-education,

Ms Audrey Wong
Principal

This is a computer-generated bulletin. No signature is required.