

30 December 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the new school year! We hope that you and your family have had a rejuvenating year-end holiday together.

2025 is a special year for our Xinmin community as we celebrate our 80th anniversary! The theme for this milestone is **Decades of Dedication :: Shaping Future Generations** (饮水思源 :: 继往开来). The double colon is a mathematical symbol representing equal importance – we are grateful to many generations of educators, students, and stakeholders for their decades of dedication in bringing our school to where we are today, and we are committed to carrying this spirit of excellence to continue shaping future generations – including your child/ward – for our nation for many more years to come.

Our Xinmin community can look forward to several activities to commemorate this milestone together, including **our 80th Anniversary dinner on Saturday 1 November 2025** where past and present students, staff, and parents are welcome. Save this date, and we will share more details when ready.

This letter outlines the key areas to note as we get ready to start the new school year.

Contents

Start of School Matters	2
(a) First Week of School (2 January 2025 to 10 January 2025)	2
(b) School's Academic Calendar and Schoolwide Protected Time	2
(c) Timetable	3
(d) Home-Based Learning (HBL) Days	3
(e) Updated Rules on Digital Device Usage in Schools	3
(f) Student Insurance Coverage	4
(g) Student Concession Pass (for Sec 1 Students Only)	4
Upcoming Events	4
(a) Parent Engagement Sessions	4
(b) First Temperature-Taking Exercise of 2025	5
Let's Recognise Our Teachers!	5
(a) President's Award for Teachers (PAT) and Outstanding Youth Award in Education (OYEA) 2025	5
Annex: Key Dates in 2025 Term 1	6

Start of School Matters

(a) First Week of School (2 January 2025 to 10 January 2025)

The new 2025 school year will begin on **Thursday 2 January 2025**.

Morning assembly continues to be at 7.30am every school day (except Thursdays). To enable students to frame their minds and prepare themselves to learn in the day ahead, students should be at the respective morning assembly venues by 7.25am.

As many CCAs have sessions on Wednesdays, our school designates Thursdays as late start days. Hence, morning assembly will be at 8.30am for all students on Thursdays, with students expected to be at their form classroom by 8.25am.

As the first day of school falls on a Thursday, all students will report to the Parade Square for morning assembly at 8.25am.

To support our students in starting the new school year well, we have designed a Back-to-School Programme (BTS) in the first week with different activities for each cohort. Kindly refer to the Parents Gateway (PG) message from the Year Head team for your child's/ward's cohort for more details.

If your child/ward has fever and/or flu-like symptoms, please consult a doctor. Your child/ward should refrain from being in school until he/she has fully recovered. Please contact the school via email at xinminss_email@schools.gov.sg or call 6288 9382 if your child/ward is unwell and unable to be in school.

(b) School's Academic Calendar and Schoolwide Protected Time

The school's academic calendar is accessible via <https://go.gov.sg/xmscalendar>. This is also on our website under the "Resources for Students and Parents" section. It is regularly updated with the latest schedule of school events and programmes.

In particular, from the [MOE calendar](#), while the last day of lessons is Friday 24 October, year-end school holidays begin on Saturday 22 November. Between these dates, secondary schools continue to have activities such as CCAs, supplementary lessons, Open House, and overseas trips which your child/ward may be involved in. Hence, **you may wish to plan the year-end holiday from Saturday 22 November**.

To ensure the well-being of students and staff, from 2025, while there will still be some activities during parts of the school holidays, there will be **schoolwide protected time where no activities should take place** (except those approved by school management, such as national-level competitions):

School Vacation	Dates of School Vacation	Schoolwide Protected Time
Between Terms 1 & 2	Sat 15 Mar to Sun 23 Mar	Sat 15 Mar to Tue 18 Mar
Between Terms 2 & 3	Sat 31 May to Sun 29 Jun	Mon 9 Jun to Sun 22 Jun
Between Terms 3 & 4	Sat 6 Sep to Sun 14 Sep	Fri 5 Sep (All Staff Day) to Tue 9 Sep
Year-End	Sat 22 Nov to Wed 31 Dec	Mon 24 Nov to Sun 14 Dec

(c) Timetable

The school timetable can be accessed via our school website under the “Resources for Students and Parents” section **from Thursday 9 January 2025**, with lessons starting from Monday 13 January 2025 (Term 1 Week 2). Similarly, the timetables for the respective classes can be accessed via <https://go.gov.sg/xmstimetable>. Students and parents/guardians are advised to check the timetables for planning of their schedules.

(d) Home-Based Learning (HBL) Days

Starting in 2025, Home-Based Learning (HBL) Days will follow the schedule outlined below, instead of being fixed on Thursdays. This approach aims to provide greater flexibility in scheduling and optimising curriculum time.

Students are reminded that homework assigned for/during HBL Days must be completed, just like homework assigned for/during face-to-face school days. Defaulting on HBL Day homework is in non-compliance with the school’s homework policy, and will be subjected to disciplinary consequences.

Term & Week	Date	Sec 1	Sec 2	Sec 3	Sec 4 & 5
T1W4	Fri 31 Jan	✓	✓	✓	✓
T1W6	Mon 10 Feb	✓	✓	✓	✓
T1W8	Tue 25 Feb	✓	✓	✓	✓
T1W10	Thu 13 Mar	✓	✓	✓	✓
T2W2	Tue 1 Apr	✓	✓	✓	✓
T2W6	Wed 30 Apr	✓	✓	✓	✓
T2W10	Thu 29 May	✓	✓	✓	
T3W3	Mon 14 Jul and Fri 18 Jul (2 days) *Tue 15 Jul to Thu 17 Jul are full days for national oral exams				✓
T3W3	Mon 14 Jul to Fri 18 Jul (5 days)	✓	✓	✓	

(e) Updated Rules on Digital Device Usage in Schools

With increasing evidence on the negative impact of digital device usage on youth mental well-being (e.g. [about one in two Singaporean youth has problematic smartphone use](#); [more teens getting hooked on digital devices and seeking help](#)), there are ongoing reviews of measures at the [societal level](#) and in [schools](#).

Currently, our school already requires students to lock their mobile phones in student lockers during all lessons, unless specific permission from school staff is given (e.g. for teaching and learning purposes).

As shared with students before the end of the 2024 school year, from 2025, **to promote balanced screen use amongst students in school**, mobile phones must be locked in students' own lockers during all lessons and from 7.25am (or 8.25am on Thursdays) to at least 11.40am. Usage within the school compound will not be allowed during the aforementioned periods, including during recess and free periods. Existing consequences for unauthorised possession and/or misuse of digital devices, such as confiscation and demerit points, will apply for non-compliance.

As good digital habits need to be instilled both at home and in school, we look forward to continuing to partner you in guiding your child/ward to be safe and responsible users of digital devices. We recommend resources such as [Health Hub's article](#) and [MOE's Parent Kit](#) for your reference.

(f) Student Insurance Coverage

MOE requires schools to cover their students with the basic Student Protection plan from NTUC Income. The coverage extends to all school and CCA-related activities and is with immediate effect from January to December. The cost of this insurance plan is fully borne by the school.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that all claims should be submitted to the school **within 1 month of the receipt date**. Should you have any queries, you might wish to contact our school at 62889382.

(g) Student Concession Pass (for Sec 1 Students Only)

All Sec 1 students will be issued with a new secondary level School Smart Card (SSC). While waiting for their secondary level SSCs to be ready, Sec 1 students can continue to use their primary level SSCs for concessionary travel till end-April 2025. Students can still purchase the Bus Concession Pass (BCP) using their primary level SSCs, but they would need to purchase the BCP for secondary school students.

Upcoming Events

(a) Parent Engagement Sessions

The Parent Engagement Sessions enable the school and parents/guardians to connect and be updated on pertinent matters about the cohort. The sessions will be held on the dates below. We hope that parents/guardians will set aside time to join us for these sessions to understand more about the learning experiences planned for our students for this year.

For parents/guardians of Sec 2 to 5 students, there will be a subsequent PG message for each cohort closer to the date with more details about registration and for parents/guardians to share their questions/feedback prior to the session. For parents/guardians of Sec 1 students, thank you for registering through the e-form on our Sec 1 Posting microsite!

Level	Date	Time
Sec 1	Wed 8 Jan	3pm to 5.40pm Parents/guardians are also invited to join the Campfire & Finale Night from 6.20pm to 8.20pm.
Sec 4 & 5	Fri 17 Jan	6.30pm to 9pm
Sec 3	Fri 7 Feb	6.30pm to 9pm
Sec 2	Fri 21 Feb	6.30pm to 9pm

(b) First Temperature-Taking Exercise of 2025

To maintain preparedness for temperature-taking and to educate students on taking personal responsibility for their health, schools conduct temperature-taking exercises twice a year. The first temperature-taking exercise will be on **Wednesday 15 January 2025**. Please ensure that your child/ward brings a working thermometer that day.

Let's Recognise Our Teachers!

(a) President's Award for Teachers (PAT) and Outstanding Youth Award in Education (OYEA) 2025

Every year, two categories of national awards are given out to teachers in Singapore to recognise their professional excellence. They are the PAT and the OYEA.

The **PAT** gives national recognition to experienced teachers who are role models for the teaching profession. These teachers personify deep passion for teaching, and inspire both their students and peers through their words and deeds.

The **OYEA** gives national recognition to young teachers who are role models for the teaching profession. These teachers personify youthful idealism, energy and enthusiasm, and inspire both their students and peers through their words and deeds. Educators who are 35 years and younger are eligible for the award. Hence, OYEA 2025 is open to educators who are born on or after 30 June 1990.

Nominations are now open and will close on Friday 10 January 2025.

In support of MOE's sustainability and digital efforts, nominations for both awards can be submitted online (<https://go.gov.sg/pat2025> and <https://go.gov.sg/oyea2025>). We would like to invite you and your child/ward to submit your nomination(s) by accessing the URLs. Thank you for your support in recognising the good work of our teachers!

Thank you for a strong and close partnership in your child's/ward's education journey. We wish everyone an enriching and fulfilling year of learning and growth in 2025!

Yours in education,



Mr Tan Soon Hui
Principal

Annex: Key Dates in 2025 Term 1

Date	Event	Sec 1	Sec 2	Sec 3	Sec 4 & 5	Remarks
Thu 2 Jan – Fri 10 Jan	Back-to-School Programme (BTS)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Wed 8 Jan	Sec 1 Parent Engagement Session	✓				
Wed 15 Jan	Temperature-Taking Exercise	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Fri 17 Jan	Sec 4 & 5 Parent Engagement Session				✓	
Tue 28 Jan	Chinese New Year Celebrations	✓	✓	✓	✓	School ends at 10.30am
Fri 31 Jan	HBL Day 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mon 3 Feb – Fri 7 Mar	Weighted Assessment 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Fri 7 Feb	Sec 3 Parent Engagement Session			✓		
Mon 10 Feb – Fri 14 Feb	Total Defence Day Commemoration	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mon 10 Feb	HBL Day 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Fri 21 Feb	Sec 2 Parent Engagement Session		✓			
Sat 22 Feb	Upper Sec Parenting Workshops: (1) Helping your child with decision making & (2) Building Skills for Future of Work			✓	✓	
Tue 25 Feb	HBL Day 3	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Thu 13 Mar	HBL Day 4	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sat 15 Mar – Sun 23 Mar	Mar School Vacation	✓	✓	✓	✓	Sat 15 Mar to Tue 18 Mar is protected time for students and staff
Wed 19 Mar	Sec 3 NRIC Registration			✓		