

13 Jan 2022

Newsletter to Parents – The January Edition

Dear Parent,

Warm greetings and best wishes for a healthy and fulfilling 2022! On behalf of all of us in the school, I would like to extend our warmest welcome to the parents of our new Sec 1 students. Having rode out the storms in the past two years, I sincerely hope that this year we would be able to bring some degree of “normalcy” back to our students and have them experience life in Xinmin as it should be experienced.

Preparing our Children for their Future

You see, we want to offer diverse experiences to our students because we believe it will better prepare them for the future. In my talk to the Sec 3 students at the start of the year, I shared about some trends experts anticipate, like the pervasiveness of technology, importance of AI and Big Data, greater interdisciplinarity and collaboration required in different professions, and a gradual shift of global power to Asia.

It is important for us to start preparing our children for these anticipated shifts in the broader landscape. Gone would be the days when good academic performance alone would guarantee success in life. Increasingly, what is valued would be values, social and emotional learning and 21st century competencies.

Indeed, we are committed to developing these in all our students (i.e., our Desired Xinmin Outcomes (DXOs)). How we do this would be through the different learning experiences and platforms we have designed for them. We also do this through our approach to developing your child.

Taking Ownership

One of our expectations of all our students is that they take ownership of their learning and development. Based on feedback from our parents, this is one of the common adjustments they have to make when their child transitions from primary to secondary school.

We understand that in primary school, it is common for parents to set up private WhatsApp groups to remind each other about details pertaining to their children (e.g., when the next Weighted Assessment will take place, what to bring for lesson tomorrow). But in secondary school, we hope parents would understand that we would like our students to take note of all these details and learn to be responsible for their own learning. It is for this purpose that we are equipping all students with a digital Student Handbook this year and teaching them to harness technology as a productivity tool.

That said, we understand if parents would still like to network and communicate with each other to seek and share advice on supporting their child. For this purpose, we would strongly encourage parents to join the official WhatsApp groups established by P@X instead. The reason is so that you would receive accurate information from us, and enable us to receive and act on your feedback in a timely manner.

Developing Holistically

As mentioned earlier, while the academics are important, it is far more crucial that our students have the values, non-academic competencies (e.g., working well with others), and dispositions if they want to thrive in the future.

When I was doing my Masters in the US, I recalled reading a case study about some Charter Schools¹ in the US. Because of their single-minded focus on the academics, the schools featured in the case studies have excellent student test scores. Most, if not all the students were able to progress to colleges of their choice. To many, these schools are the epitome of success. What they did with their students seemed to work. That is, until researchers tracked the performance of the students in the colleges and dug a little deeper into the schools' practices. What the researchers found out was that although students from these schools gained entry into their dream colleges, many were not able to cope and had to drop out halfway. The researchers also found out that in order to drive up the test scores, the charter schools also restricted students' learning experiences to just a narrow list of academic subjects.

This is not something we want for our students. In Xinmin, we want all our students to succeed even when they leave us. It is for this reason that we emphasise holistic education. While we pay attention to our students' academic learning, what is more important to us are how we develop our students' values and dispositions towards learning. We also encourage our students to seize different opportunities we provide in school to hone competencies like leadership, collaboration and global and cross-cultural awareness. These, we believe, would serve our students much better than simply having a sterling set of national exam results.

Embracing Diversity

Powered by globalisation, our world is getting increasingly diverse. Our children could expect to work overseas at some point in their career, or experience working and living with people who are different from them. Research has also shown that diversity would give rise to richer learning – not just from learning ideas through different perspectives, but also from learning to work with people who might have very different working styles from us.

It is thus important for our students to hone their communication skills and learn to work with peers who may have different experiences and strengths from them. As part of the Xinmin learning experiences, we offer students with different opportunities to work in collaborative teams. Some may be in the context of academic learning in class, others, through CCAs, or even enrichment (e.g., participation in the Science Buskers' Festival).

As your child engages in such experiences, we can expect some hiccups along the way. He/she may disagree with other team members. There may be harsh words exchanged. Feelings might get upset. Rather than shun away from working in teams, these experiences help us grow to be better collaborators. Rest assured that as your child engages in group learning experiences, our teachers will be supporting their learning from the side, giving them timely feedback as they learn.

Looking at the incredible potential our students bring with them, we have confidence that with the right support and guidance, they will amaze us with what they can achieve! I hope we can work in close partnership to help your child realise his/her aspirations and achieve his/her goals!

¹ Charter Schools are semi-autonomous schools in the US that receive public funding. In exchange, they need to meet the terms set out in their contract (or charter) such as how the school will be managed, student achievements and KPIs that have been agreed upon. Charter schools may be for profit or non-profit organisations.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring-It-Up (10 Jan to 21 Jan)

As Xinmin Secondary School is a school built by the community, we believe in nurturing our students to be grateful and Chinese New Year is a good time for our students show our appreciation to the community. This year, our students will be making digital Chinese New Year cards, recycling information card and banners for our Hougang residents. Through this programme, besides nurturing a sense of gratitude, we also hope that our students will acquire a better understanding on zero waste, and acquire new ICT skills to design cards and banners on PowerPoint slides.

XinminCares (starting on 17 Jan)

XinminCares is a school-wide signature programme where students develop empathy and the will to act for betterment of the community through interacting with various stakeholders and members within the community. Through the programme, we hope that students appreciate the need and importance of care in society and recognise their ability to contribute and address community issues within their sphere of influence.

As part of XinminCares, Sec 1 students will befriend seniors from Thye Hua Kwan Nursing Home (Hougang). Our Sec 2 students will embark on VIA projects with several other community organisations. XinminCares is scheduled in the timetable for Sec 1 and 2 students every fortnight in Semester 1. More details will be disseminated through Parents Gateway. For any queries, please contact Ms Charlene Chan, Coordinator for XinminCares, at chan_shu_min_charlene@schools.gov.sg.

Read@Xinmin News-In-Education (NiE) Reading Workshop for Parents (21 Jan)

The Mother Tongue Languages Department will be organising 'Read@Xinmin News-In-Education (NiE) Reading Workshop for parents of Sec 1 students studying Chinese Language and Malay Language on 21 Jan (Fri) from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm. Parents are encouraged to attend the workshop together with your child. The registration details will be given to Sec 1 parents via Parents Gateway on Term 1 Week 2. You may email Mr Tau Jun Hui (Covering HOD/Mother Tongue Languages) or Mdm Norliza (ST/Malay Language) at tau_jun_hui@schools.gov.sg and norliza_ali@schools.gov.sg if you have queries regarding this workshop.

Chinese New Year Celebrations (31 Jan)

The school will celebrate Chinese New Year with classroom decoration competition, class-based bonding activity and a school-wide virtual concert on 31 Jan (Mon). Staff and students are encouraged to wear red top on Chinese New Year Eve. Students will be dismissed at 11 am and the school will be closed at 12 pm.

Please also note that lessons will resume on 3 Feb (Thu). On that day, the Lower Sec students will stay home for their Home Based Learning while the Upper Sec students will report to school physically.

School Sports Partnership Programme (starting on 14 Feb)

To encourage a healthy lifestyle among our students, Xinmin is collaborating with SportSG to offer four sports to all Sec 2 and 3 students who wish to learn and/or further enhance their skills in the following areas: Football, Badminton, Floorball and Basketball. In addition, one of the main objectives of this partnership is to use sports as a platform for character development. Xinmin PE teachers, together with SportSG coaches, will aim to instil values such as sportsmanship, fair play and self-discipline during the training sessions. This is a wonderful opportunity for Xinmin students to exercise, learn new skills, make new friends, get them away from their mobile devices and relieve their daily academic stress.

The Xinmin PE department hopes that parents will encourage their children to sign up for this programme. The deadline for signing up is 11 Feb (Thu). In view of SMM, to ensure student health and well-being, we would like to assure parents that there is no mass or large-scale gathering of students, with the number of students for each sporting venue capped at 50.

Details of the School Sports Partnership Programme are as follows:

Start: Term 1 Week 7 (14 Feb)

End: Term 3 Week 9 (26 Aug)

The tentative weekly schedule for the 4 games are as follows:

Sport	Day	Time (<i>To be confirmed</i>)
Football	Tuesday	4.30 pm to 6.30 pm
Basketball	Tuesday or Thursday	4.30 pm to 6.30 pm
Badminton	Tuesday or Thursday	4.30 pm to 6.30 pm
Floorball	Tuesday or Thursday	4.30 pm to 6.30 pm

Please note that there will be no sessions during the school holidays

The cost of the programme is heavily subsidised by both the school and SportSG, and made free for Xinmin students. Students who sign up are expected to remain committed and maintain at least 75% attendance. For further information, please contact Mr Gabriel Tay, HOD PE&CCA, at tay_lye_hock_gabriel@schools.gov.sg.

ASSESSMENT MATTERS

2022 Assessment Plan

Please note the assessment plan for Sec 1, 2 and 3 students in 2022.

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
WA1 (10%)	WA2 (15%)	WA3 (15%)	EOY Exam (60%)

For Sec 1 to 3 students, Weighted Assessments (WA) consisting of written class tests, online assignments, projects and practical tests will be conducted in Term 1, 2 and 3. We hope that the current assessment plan will help to reduce the assessment load and nudge the students to revise their work regularly throughout the year.

**Semestral-based subjects e.g. D&T and FCE will follow subject-specific assessment plans. These will be briefed by the respective subject teachers.*

For Sec 4 and 5 students, they will be taking the following assessments:

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
Class Test	Mid-Year Examination	Preliminary Examination

Their results will be reported in the form of progress reports and result slips. However, only the scores obtained during the Preliminary Examinations will be used in the computation of school grades for their graduating year. Sec 4 and 5 students will not be graded based on alternative modes of assessment.

Weighted Assessment 1 (WA1) (7 Feb to 4 Mar)

WA1 is scheduled to take place for all students from 7 Feb to 4 Mar. A WA schedule that reflects the week designated for specific subject/level will be published on the school website towards the end of Term 1 Week 4 on the school website. Students/Parents may access the information on the school website through [Resources>Parents>Timetables>Weighted Assessment Schedule](#).

We thank all parents for your continued support of the school and our programmes. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need further clarifications. We can be reached via email at xinminss_email@schools.gov.sg or you can call us at 6288 9382.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Year Heads and Form Teachers for 2022

Here is the list of Year Heads and Form Teachers for 2022 and their email addresses. If you need to enquire about matters pertaining to your child's progress in our school, please email them.

We do know that some teachers may have shared their mobile numbers with parents and students. However, we would greatly appreciate if parents and students contact teachers during weekdays between 7.30 am to 6.00 pm. If teachers are uncontactable, we seek your kind understanding that they may only be able to respond the next working day as they are occupied with lessons, CCAs, consultations or other activities. If the queries or requests made during working hours are urgent, parents should contact the school's General Office for assistance.

Level	Year Head	Year Coordinator
Sec 1	Mrs Joanne Wong Mei Jun joanne_chan_mei_jun@schools.gov.sg	Ms Aminah Binte Mohd Nagieb aminah_mohd_nagieb@schools.gov.sg
Sec 2	Mr Alan Ang ang_tong_hock@schools.gov.sg	Ms Lyn Song Mei'En song_meien_lyn@schools.gov.sg
Sec 3	Ms Ng Lee Hua ng_lee_hua@schools.gov.sg	Mr Effendy Bin Ahmadi effendy_ahmadi@schools.gov.sg
Sec 4 & 5	Mr Jeremy Tan tan_kian_seng_jeremy@schools.gov.sg	Ms Norfarhana Abdullah norfarhana_abdullah@schools.gov.sg

CLASS	Form Teacher	
101	Mr Lin Shunyi lin_shunyi@schools.gov.sg	Ms Ho Su Yin Grace ho_su_yin_grace@schools.gov.sg
102	Mr Lionel Foon Koi Siong Lionel_Foon_koi_siong@schools.gov.sg	Ms Nor'Ain Binte Ismail nor_ain_ismail@schools.gov.sg
103	Ms Yeo Meow Ling Doreen (Mrs Doreen Ng) yeo_meow_ling_doreen@schools.gov.sg	Mr Lim Kok Chong lim_kok_chong@schools.gov.sg
104	Ms Koh Cher Yee koh_cher_yee@schools.gov.sg	Mr Mohamed Firdaus Bin Mohamed Taib mohamed_firdaus_mohamed_taib@schools.gov.sg
105	Ms Chua Li Shan Gwyneth chua_li_shan@schools.gov.sg	Ms Ong Chiew Inn ong_chiew_inn@schools.gov.sg
106	Mr Tan Wa-Wa James tan_wa-wa_james@schools.gov.sg	Ms Guan Jing guan_jing@schools.gov.sg
107	Ms Yap Bee Leng yap_bee_leng@schools.gov.sg	Ms Izyan Ayuni Binte Azmi izyan_ayuni_binte_azmi@schools.gov.sg
108	Ms Asniza Binte Hassan asniza_hassan@schools.gov.sg	Mr Zhuang Haoyang zhuang_haoyang@schools.gov.sg
201	Ms Nanthini Gunasekaran nanthini_gunasekaran@schools.gov.sg	
202	Ms Vanessa Chia Su Qing vanessa_chia_su_qing@schools.gov.sg	
203	Ms Janice Low Earn Qing janice_low_earn_qing@schools.gov.sg	
204	Mrs Shanti Teo shanti_b@schools.gov.sg	
205	Ms Lio Dan Wei lio_dan_wei@schools.gov.sg	Ms Isabelle Lim Ji Yu isabelle_lim_ji_yu@schools.gov.sg
206	Mr Lee Kin Meng lee_kin_meng_a@schools.gov.sg	Ms Abeyegoonasekera Rebecca abeyegoonasekera_rebecca@schools.gov.sg
207	Mr Chow Zhen Zao chow_zhen_zao@schools.gov.sg	Ms Hailey Tan Hui Li hailey_tan_hui_li@schools.gov.sg
208	Ms Emily Lim Xin Yi emily_lim_xin_yi@schools.gov.sg	Ms Joey Tay Hui Lin joey_tay_hui_lin@schools.gov.sg
301	Ms Hazirah Bte Mohamad Helmy hazirah_mohamad_helmy@schools.gov.sg	
302	Mr Lee Pei Pin Arthur lee_pei_pin_arthur@schools.gov.sg	
303	Ms Noor Hafizah noor_hafizah_mohamed_alias@schools.gov.sg	Ms Chua Ai Chen chua_ai_chen@schools.gov.sg
304	Ms Anny Roezza Abdul Aziz anny_roezza_abdul_aziz@schools.gov.sg	
305	Ms Joanne Kong Min joanne_kong_min@schools.gov.sg	
306	Ms Norhuda Bte Maksum norhuda_maksum@schools.gov.sg	
307	Ms Charlene Chan Shu Min chan_shu_min_charlene@schools.gov.sg	Ms Siti Khairunnisa Abdul Jalil siti_khairunnisa_abdul_jalil@schools.gov.sg
308	Ms Xiao Yanfei xiao_yanfei@schools.gov.sg	Mr Ho Siang Teng Peter ho_siang_teng@schools.gov.sg
309	Mr Ang Koon Yong ang_koon_yong@schools.gov.sg	

401	Ms Chia Yen Har Junice chia_yen_har_junice@schools.gov.sg	
402	Ms Nur Amalina Bte Mohamed Zain nur_amalina_mohamed_zain@schools.gov.sg	
403	Mdm Lim Ee Gek Belinda (Mrs Goh) lim_ee_gek_belinda@schools.gov.sg	Ms Ho Xin Ni, Angeline ho_xin_ni_angeline@schools.gov.sg
404	Ms Tan Annie (Mrs Annie Ng) tan_annie_a@schools.gov.sg	
405	Ms Lee Lu May (Mrs May Ng) lee_lu_may@schools.gov.sg	Ms Siaw Pey Shin siaw_pey_shin@schools.gov.sg
406	Ms Estee See Toh Sijia seetoh_sijia@schools.gov.sg	Mr Yeap Choon How yeap_choon_how@schools.gov.sg
407	Ms Sophie Ng Lai San sophie_ng_lai_san@schools.gov.sg	
408	Mr Kuo Yu-Hsuan kuo_yu_hsuan@schools.gov.sg	
409	Mr Lu Wenqi, Kevin lu_wenqi_kevin@schools.gov.sg	
501	Mr Ganesan Selvarathnam ganesan_selvarathnam@schools.gov.sg	

2022 Calendar of Events

The 2022 Calendar of Events is available on the school website under [Resources>Parents>Academic Calendar](#). Updates to the calendar may be made periodically. Please check the online copy for the latest updates on our school activities.

Safe Management Measures

To ensure that our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning, we will continue to observe Safe Management Measures in school. Your child will be required to wear a mask and bring a working oral digital thermometer to school daily. Students are to have their TraceTogether tokens with them while in school.

Students who are unwell with flu-like symptoms such as fever or cough are reminded to seek medical attention and stay away from school. Students should also inform the school if they are serving Health Risk Warning (HRW) Order or if any household member is a confirmed COVID-19 case. In such cases, we seek your support to inform their Form Teacher promptly.

For recess/lunch, we will continue to allow students to purchase food directly from the canteen during their meal breaks. However, students must only consume the food in their own classrooms to minimize contact with others when they are eating and unmasked.

The canteen vendors will be providing disposable food containers but at an additional charge. Hence, your child is advised to bring their own reusable food containers and utensils for recess/lunch. Students may choose to line their containers with plastic bags provided by the school to keep the containers clean or bring two separate containers (one for recess and one for lunch) daily.

We will continue to monitor the Covid-19 situation closely and review our plans in tandem with the national posture and ministry's guidelines. We urge all students and staff to continue

practising good personal hygiene, exercise social responsibility and abide by SMMs, whether in or outside school.

Road Safety

Student safety is of paramount importance. If you are driving your child to school, please alight him/her before the zebra crossing outside the school. We will need motorists to play their part by slowing down as they approach the vicinity of the school. Please cooperate with the security officers and student leaders deployed to facilitate flow of traffic during arrival times. On rainy days, students arriving to school by car or motorcycle may alight at the drop-off point in front of the foyer. If your child is walking/taking public transport to school, please remind him/her to be alert of the surroundings and not use their phones while walking.

For parents who drive their child to school, please do not pick up/alight your child along Hougang Ave 8 main road. This is against the road traffic regulations. The act may also put your child's safety at risk.

Insurance Coverage for all Students

All students are covered by MOE Master Contract for Group Personal Accident (GPA) Insurance under NTUC Income Co-operative Limited. Under this contract, students who participate actively or represent the school in the following sports and activities – badminton, shooting, volleyball, rock climbing and ODAC will be adequately covered. All claims submitted to the insurance provider must be endorsed by the school. Should you find the coverage inadequate to meet your child's needs, you may consider purchasing your own insurance policy. The insurance coverage fact sheet to all parents has been attached in this newsletter for further information.

School Bill

As part of MOE's efforts to facilitate cashless payment, the school will be issuing School Bill for all enrichment programmes and other school miscellaneous charges. Parents will be issued a statement for your child's list of enrichment programmes and school charges planned by the school. This statement is separate from the current payment of school fees issued by MOE otherwise known as the MOE Bill.

Invitation to join Parents @ Xinmin (P@X)

P@X is the official parent support group working in partnership with the school. It is made up of a group of parent volunteers who serve as the communication channel between parents and school. Our P@X members participate in school events and share their expertise to enhance school programmes. P@X organises bonding activities between and child, as well as networking sessions for parents to learn from one another and share parenting tips.

Parents are invited to join P@X using the link below:



<https://forms.gle/1uSHLJNiGHVSbjo96>

If you need more information on P@X, feel free to email the group at xmss.pax@gmail.com. You may also follow them on their Facebook page, XMSS P@X (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/xmsspax/?ref=share>). We look forward to have you in our P@X family!

Your partner in education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tan Kuo Cheang', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Tan Kuo Cheang
Principal