

7 Jan 2021

Newsletter to Parents – The January Edition

Dear Parent,

Greetings and best wishes for a healthy and happy 2021! On behalf of the school, I would like to extend our warmest welcome to the parents of our new Sec 1 students. We look forward to partner you closely in supporting the learning and growth of your child. To the parents of our Sec 2, 3, 4 and 5 students, welcome back and we hope you and your child had managed to spend some quality time together during the holidays.

Congratulations to Our 2020 N-Level Cohort!

We ended last year by celebrating the achievements of our Sec 4 N-level students. 96.6% of our Sec 4N(A) students eligible for progression to Sec 5, 33.0% eligible for the Polytechnic Foundation Programme (PFP), and 93% eligible for the Direct Entry to Polytechnic Programme (DPP). Our Sec 4N(T) students also achieved outstanding results with 100% of them eligible for progression to the Institute of Technical Education (ITE). Notwithstanding the disruptions brought about by the Covid pandemic, our students did us proud!

Keeping Our School Safe in Phase 3

To ensure that our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning, we will continue to observe Safe Management Measures (SMM) in school. These include visual screening and daily temperature-taking, mask-wearing and limitations on group size. Even as we continue to be vigilant, we remind our students to do the same, as all it takes is a single infected person to create a new cluster. We seek your support to do your part for the school community by keeping your child at home, should he/she, or an adult household member, be unwell. We would appreciate it greatly for your child to update his/her Form Teacher promptly if any of your household member is on Quarantine Orders or Stay-Home-Notice. Together, our collective efforts will help to ensure the safety and well-being of our students and our staff.

We will continue to monitor the Covid-19 situation closely and review our plans in tandem with our Ministry's guidelines. We urge all students and staff to continue practising good personal hygiene, exercise social responsibility and abide by SMM, whether in or outside school.

School's Focus for 2021

As part of MOE's *Learn for Life* movement, we will be implementing the Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDLP) and Blended Learning (BL) in the second half of this year. Both initiatives aim to prepare our students to be self-directed learners with a passion for lifelong learning. Under the PDLP, all our Sec 1 to 3 students will be equipped with a school-prescribed personal learning device by end-of 2021. To keep the devices affordable, there will be top-ups

in Edusave accounts and other subsidies. Beyond the provision of the hardware, our teachers will use technology more frequently in class to help students learn more effectively.

BL will also become a permanent and regular feature in our school to complement physical classroom teaching. There will be regular BL days where our students can learn to be more self-directed learners. We will share more details with you in the later part of the year.

We have included some upcoming events and administrative matters in this newsletter. You may also refer to our school website for a full update of our calendar of events for 2021. We would also strongly encourage all parents to join our parent support group, Parents@Xinmin (P@X). Through P@X, you will be able to share parenting tips with other parents and engage with the school management to better understand the school policies and decisions. Please refer to the details provided in page 6 on how you may reach out to P@X directly.

On behalf of my colleagues in Xinmin Secondary School, we hope that 2021 will be a fulfilling year of learning and growth for your child.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual School Based Health Screening (25 Jan to 8 Feb)

The School Health Service will be visiting the school to conduct the yearly age-appropriate health screening for all lower secondary students and selected upper secondary students. The health screening will commence from 25 Jan to 8 Feb in the school.

School Dental Programme (1 to 5 Feb)

The Health Promotion Board will be providing free dental checks for all Secondary One and Three students from 1 to 5 Feb. Parents will need to give their consent before their children can receive such services. Secondary One parents may log on to <https://childconsent.hpb.gov.sg> to give your consent using your Singpass. Parents who encounter difficulties in accessing the portal may obtain hardcopy forms from our General Office.

NRIC Registration for 15 year-old SC and SPR (4 Feb)

ICA will be conducting an NRIC registration exercise for all 15 year-old Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents on 4 Feb 2021 in our school. Parents should have received an ICA notification letter concerning the details of this registration exercise. Students are to approach General Office if they did not receive their notification letter.

Updates to XinminCares Spring-It-Up

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.

XinminCares typically begins with Spring-It-Up, a community outreach that includes the collection or recyclables from the HDB flats in the Hougang neighbourhood. Mandarin oranges

were also distributed to Hougang residents to spread festive joy of Chinese New Year. This year, however, in light of Covid-19 restrictions, the school will be maintaining our connection with our community and extend our well wishes through other means in order to minimise physical interaction and to keep our students, staff and community safe.

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

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

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 29 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Year Heads and Form Teachers for 2021

Here is the list of Year Heads and Form Teachers for 2021 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	Email
Sec 1	Mr Alan Ang, Year Head	ang_tong_hock@schools.gov.sg
Sec 2	Ms Ng Lee Hua, Year Head	ng_lee_hua@schools.gov.sg
Sec 3	Mr Jeremy Tan, Assistant Year Head	tan_kian_seng_jeremy@schools.gov.sg
Sec 4 & 5	Mr Effendy Ahmadi, Assistant Year Head	effendy_ahmadi@schools.gov.sg

Class	Form Teacher	Email
101	Ms Pang Hui Chin Ms Nanthini Gunasekaran	pang_hui_chin@schools.gov.sg nanthini_gunasekaran@schools.gov.sg
102	Ms Vanessa Chia Ms Izyan Ayuni	vanessa_chia_su_qing@schools.gov.sg izyan_ayuni_binte_azmi@schools.gov.sg

103	Ms Low Yan Jin	yan_jin_low@schools.gov.sg
104	Mrs Shanti Teo	shanti_b@schools.gov.sg
105	Ms Lio Dan Wei Ms Isabelle Lim	lio_dan_wei@schools.gov.sg isabelle_lim_ji_yu@schools.gov.sg
106	Mr Lee Kin Meng Ms Asniza Hassan	lee_kin_meng_a@schools.gov.sg asniza_hassan@schools.gov.sg
107	Mr Chow Zhen Zao Ms Tan Hui Li	chow_zhen_zao@schools.gov.sg hui_li_tan@schools.gov.sg
108	Ms Emily Lim Ms Joey Tay	emily_lim_xin_yi@schools.gov.sg joey_tay_hui_lin@schools.gov.sg
201	Ms Charlene Chan Ms Anny Roezza Abdul Aziz	chan_shu_min_charlene@schools.gov.sg anny_roezza_abdul_aziz@schools.gov.sg
202	Mrs Kwek Yin Sy Ms Ong Chiew Inn	chew_yin_sy@schools.gov.sg ong_chiew_inn@schools.gov.sg
203	Ms Nor'Ain Ismail Mr Mr James Tan	nor_ain_ismail@schools.gov.sg tan_wa-wa_james@schools.gov.sg
204	Ms Koh Cher Yee Mrs Junie Sim	koh_cher_yee@schools.gov.sg lim_may_ling_junie@schools.gov.sg
205	Ms Xiao Yanfei Mr Andrew Lau	xiao_yanfei@schools.gov.sg andrew_lau_an_rong@schools.gov.sg
206	Mr Lim Kok Chong Mr Peter Ho	lim_kok_chong@schools.gov.sg ho_siang_teng@schools.gov.sg
207	Ms Aminah Mohd Nagieb Mr Lin Shunyi	aminah_mohd_nagieb@schools.gov.sg lin_shunyi@schools.gov.sg
208	Ms Norfarhana Abdullah Mr Ang Koon Yong	norfarhana_abdullah@schools.gov.sg ang_koon_yong@schools.gov.sg
301	Mr Zhuang Haoyang Ms Junice Chia	zhuang_haoyang@schools.gov.sg chia_yen_har_junice@schools.gov.sg
302	Ms Ten Yu Ping Ms Nur Amalina	ten_yu_ping@schools.gov.sg nur_amalina_mohamed_zain@schools.gov.sg
303	Mrs Belinda Goh Guan Jing	lim_ee_gek_belinda@schools.gov.sg guan_jing@schools.gov.sg
304	Mrs Seetoh Lai Yip	low_lai_yip@schools.gov.sg
305	Mrs May Ng Ms Siaw Pey Shin	lee_lu_may@schools.gov.sg siaw_pey_shin@schools.gov.sg
306	Ms Estee See Toh Mr Yeap Choon How	seetoh_sijia@schools.gov.sg yeap_choon_how@schools.gov.sg
307	Ms Sophie Ng	sophie_ng_lai_san@schools.gov.sg
308	Mr Kuo Yu-Hsuan Ms Grace Ho	kuo_yu_hsuan@schools.gov.sg ho_su_yin_grace@schools.gov.sg
309	Mrs Cindy Wong Mr Kevin Lu	oh_hwee_kiang_cindy@schools.gov.sg lu_wenqi_kevin@schools.gov.sg
401	Ms Wang Xuejuan Ms Grace Heng	wang_xuejuan@schools.gov.sg heng_hui_mien_grace@schools.gov.sg
402	Ms Ulrica Liang	liang_zhirong_ulrica@schools.gov.sg
403	Ms Yap Bee Leng Mrs Wong Pui Leng	yap_bee_leng@schools.gov.sg tong_pui_leng@schools.gov.sg
404	Ms Gwyneth Chua	chua_li_shan@schools.gov.sg
405	Ms Norhuda Maksum Mr Lionel Foon	norhuda_maksum@schools.gov.sg lionel_foon_koi_siong@schools.gov.sg
406	Mrs Doreen Ng Mr Mohamed Firdaus	yeo_meow_ling_doreen@schools.gov.sg mohamed_firdaus_mohamed_ta@schools.gov.sg
407	Mdm Abey Rebecca	abeyegoonasekera_rebecca@schools.gov.sg
408	Ms Lyn Song Mr Ganesan	song_meien_lyn@schools.gov.sg ganesan_selvarathnam@schools.gov.sg
409	Mrs Annie Ng Mr Loo Wen Bin	tan_annie_a@schools.gov.sg wen_bin_loo@schools.gov.sg
501	Mrs Evelyn Leong	lai_mei_ling_evelyn@schools.gov.sg

2021 Calendar of Events

The 2021 Calendar of Events is available on the school website under the section called 'Stakeholders'. Updates to the calendar may be made periodically. Please check the online copy for the latest on 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. It is not mandatory for students to have their TraceTogether tokens yet. The tokens will only be required in schools after nationwide distribution is completed and more details will be shared at a later stage.

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 not report to school if an adult household member is unwell or if any household member is on Quarantine Orders or Stay-Home-Notice. In such cases, we seek your support to keep your child at home and have your child to inform their Form Teacher promptly.

From Feb, National School Games (NSG) "B" Division and Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation (SYF AP) will resume for sports and events which meet the national guidelines. These activities will be conducted with the necessary modifications and SMMs in place to ensure the safety of the participants.

For recess/lunch, we will discontinue the online ordering of set meals (Grab@XMS) next year and 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. We hope this change will allow the students to stretch their legs during the breaks and hopefully not be glued to their mobile phones for the entire break.

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.

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.

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 with their phones while walking.

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/yTpKMsUzXvvBoofm9>

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 Facebook XMSS P@X. We look forward to have you in our P@X family!

ACADEMIC AND CO-CURRICULAR MATTERS

2021 Assessment Plan

Please note the assessment plan for Sec 1, 2 and 3 students in 2021.

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

Since 2019, we have removed the mid-year examinations for all Sec 1 to 3 students. Instead 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 NFS 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.

Term One Class Tests

Term One Class Tests, as part of WA1, are scheduled to take place for all students from 8 Feb to 6 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 3 on the school website. Students/Parents may access the information on the school website through Study Here>Assessment>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.

Your partner in education,



Mr Tan Kuo Cheang
Principal