



NORTHOAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Letter to Parents 01/2017

5 January 2017

Dear Parents / Guardians

Northoaks Primary School warmly welcomes all our students to the start of a new school year. I hope you and your child have had a good holiday together, enjoying each other's company.

To our Primary 1 students and their parents, we are happy to have you and your child as members of our big family.

New Staff

We also warmly welcome the following staff to the Northoaks family:

- ☞ Ms Evelyn Lee – Vice-Principal (Admin)
- ☞ English-medium teachers:
 - Mrs Lim Shi Ling
 - Mdm Nur Hidayu Bte Sami'an
 - Mdm Irfah Bte Mohamad Aripin
 - Mrs Michelle Chow
 - Mdm Soh Hui Leng
 - Miss Jasmine Kwek
 - Mdm Laura Wee (Flexi-adjunct teacher)
 - Mrs Angela Lye (Flexi-adjunct teacher)
 - Mrs Chan Pui San (Flexi-adjunct teacher)
- ☞ Malay Language teachers:
 - Mdm Nurdiyanah Bte Samsuri
 - Ms Nazurah Bte Mohamed Majeed
 - Mdm Aiman Begam
- ☞ Chinese Language teacher:
 - Ms Ong Sir Yan (HOD-MTL)
 - Miss Tan Poh Ching (HOD-CCE)
 - Mr Cyrus Poh
- ☞ PE teacher:
 - Mr Mohamad Rizal Bin Marof

STUDENT'S WELL-BEING

Photo-Taking for students for the School Smart Cards – Monday, 23 January (For Primary 1 students only)

The Ministry of Education will be conducting the yearly photo-taking exercise for all students in Primary 1 for the issuance of the School Smart Card (SSC). Primary 1 students will get their SSCs by end-March 2017.

The photo-taking session is scheduled on **Monday, 23 Jan** in the school. Students will need to be in their **school uniform** for the photo-taking. (Note: If they have PE lessons on that day, they **DO NOT** need to put on their PE attire. Instead, students will wear the school uniform.)

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Morning Assembly and Lunch Time

The school would like to reiterate that students will only need to be in school **by 7.40am.** Parents/Guardian may wish to take your child/ward to the school between 7.25am to 7.40am and not any earlier.

Please also have a story book for your child/ward to read during the morning silent reading time (Monday to Wednesday: English Language Books, Thursday & Friday: Mother Tongue Languages Books).

As stated in the Student's Handbook, students will be dismissed at 2.30 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. The Primary 1 and 3 students will have their lunch break at 12.30 pm while the lunch break for Primary 2 and 4 students will be at 1 pm. Parents who wish to bring lunch for their child could pass it to their child at the school gate at the times given.

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, please pack a light snack (preferably dried food) for your child/ward to be consumed in the classroom at 12 noon. Children are not allowed to leave the classrooms to purchase food from the canteen.

Insurance

The school has engaged AVA Insurance Brokers Pte Ltd to provide Basic Student Protection Plan for 2017 for all students of the school. The plan will cover all related school activities, including co-curricular activities carried out in the school as well as outside school. The cost of the student protection plan will be fully borne by the school. Details of the Plan can be found in the information sheet attached.

Student Well-Being Form and Students' Well-being

To enable the school to provide necessary support to your child/ward, we seek your assistance in providing us with the latest information relating to your child/ward. Please complete the Student Well-Being Form and Individual Student Details Report Form attached and submit them to the Form Teacher, through your child/ward, **by Thursday, 12 January.**

If there are any updates to the information especially changes to phone numbers and addresses, it would be very much appreciated that you notify the Form Teacher as soon as possible.

For children who come to school without breakfast and would like to have their breakfast in the school, the drinks and snack stall will sell simple healthy sandwiches for breakfast. The stall will open at around 7.15 am.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Modes of Communication

The school believes that communication between parents and school is very important. Hence, in this issue of the school's newsletter, the various modes of communication available to you are shared.



Student's Handbook

- The Student's Handbook contains important information regarding the school such as school rules, school hours and school contact.
- Your child may record homework or other information in the handbook.
- You and your child's teachers could write to one another through this handbook. Your child should alert his/her teacher if there is a written message from you to the teacher.

Tip for parents:

Make it a daily routine to go through the handbook to monitor your child's homework or whether there is a message from his/her teacher. Teach your child to use the timetable for packing of his/her schoolbag.



Telephone: 6753 8835

- This is the telephone number of our General Office. Should you wish to call a teacher, it is best to leave a message at the General Office as teachers are very likely to be in class and not at the Staff Room to answer your call. Appointments should also preferably be made in advance instead of just walking into the school to meet up with the teacher.
- Please understand that the teachers will do their best to return your call as soon as possible but as they have teaching duties during curriculum time and meetings outside curriculum time, they might not be able to return your call immediately. Do specify if there is something urgent to talk to the teacher when you contact the school.



Email: northoaks_ps@moe.edu.sg

- This is the generic email address of the school. Please give the school 3 working days to respond to you.



Letters/Newsletter from school

- From time to time, you will be receiving letters/newsletters from the school. The school may require an acknowledgement from you so that we know that you have read the letter(s). These letters will keep you informed of what is happening in the school as well as upcoming events so that you could make alternative transport or childcare arrangements, if needed.
- Sometimes, this could be seeking your consent for an out-of-school learning journey. If we do not receive a written approval from you, your child would not be able to join his/her classmates on such learning journeys.
- Moving forward, the school will be embarking on paperless newsletters. More details will be made known later.

Tip for parents:

Work out a system with your child to share such information with you, e.g. talk about what occurs in the school during your bonding time or set up a communication noticeboard to post such letters if your work hours do not match your child's daily schedule.

You will need to refer to the information disseminated through the letters/newsletters. Thus, it would be good if parents can have a designated place to keep the various issues of the newsletter so that you can have easy access to them.



School website: <http://www.northoakspri.moe.edu.sg>

- Alternatively, you could access the school website to refer to past issues of the newsletter.
- The school website also gives you updates on school programmes and events.



SMS Notification System

- At times you may also receive updates and reminders through the SMS notification system. To be cost effective, only one parent will be informed via SMS.

Involvement in Child's Education

As a parent, you are the key navigator of your child's growth. Your child will benefit the most when we put your child at the heart of what we do, and when we understand our shared responsibilities for your child and work together to bring out the best in your child.

Here are some tips that you could consider to support your child's learning:

- Praise your child's good efforts, and not only his/her successes.
- Don't dwell on mistakes and academic marks. Rather, always encourage your child to strive for improvement.
- Give your child the confidence to seek help from his/her teacher.

School Name Tags

Name tags are compulsory on the school attire: school blouse for the girls, school shirts for the boys and PE T-shirts. They are to be sewn on the blouse / shirt just above the pocket or school crest on the PE T-shirt. For students who do not have the woven name tags, please order the name tags directly with the school bookshop.

Breakfast with Parents (7.30am to 8.00am)

Breakfast with Parents@Northoaks provides opportunities for parents to have some bonding time with their child while having breakfast together in the school. Parents may bring food in to the school and eat with your child or purchase simple food from our canteen vendors. For safety reasons, parking in the school will **NOT** be available. We seek your understanding on this matter and we look forward to your participation.

For the Primary 1 and 2, this is a monthly activity (on different days). As for the Primary 3 and 4, the activity will be held once every 2 months but on a different day from Primary 1 and 2.

The schedule of 'Breakfast with Parents' for the first 3 months is as follows:

Primary 1	<i>Tuesday, 4 Jan (Welcome Breakfast)</i>	Tuesday, 14 Feb	Friday, 10 March
Primary 2	Friday, 13 Jan	Wednesday, 15 Feb	Tuesday, 21 March
Primary 3	Wednesday, 18 Jan		Tuesday, 28 March
Primary 4	Friday, 20 Jan		Thursday, 9 March

Chinese New Year Celebration – Friday 27 January

The school will celebrate Chinese New Year (CNY) on Friday, 27 Jan from 7.40 a.m to 10 a.m. Due to the constraints of space, only Primary 1 and 2 parents are invited to join in the celebration which will begin at 8.00 a.m.

We sincerely apologise that we are not able to accommodate all parents in the celebration. As we have limited parking lots, and for safety reasons, parking in the school will **NOT** be available that day. We seek your understanding on this matter

Students will be dismissed at 10 am. The bus service providers have been informed of the school hours. Please make alternative childcare arrangements if your child/ward does not take the school bus home.

Please note that Monday, 30 Jan and Tuesday, 31 Jan are public holiday and scheduled school holiday respectively, hence school will resume on Wednesday, 1 Feb.

School Holidays 2017

In order for your child not to miss out on his/her school lessons, we seek parents' understanding and cooperation in taking your child on overseas holidays only during the school holidays. To help you in your planning, we have included the school vacations in this issue.

The 4 school vacation periods are as follows:

Between Terms I & II :	Sat 11 Mar – Sun 19 Mar
Between Semesters I & II :	Sat 27 May – Sun 25 Jun
Between Terms III & IV :	Sat 2 Sep – Sun 10 Sep
At end of School Year :	Sat 18 Nov – Sun 31 Dec

Calendar of Events for Term 1

Date	Event
Monday, 23 Jan	<u>For Primary 1 only</u> Photo-Taking for School Smart Card (all students are to wear their school uniform).
Wednesday, 25 Jan	Start of Co-Curricular activities (CCA) for Primary 4
Friday, 27 Jan	Chinese New Year Celebration (School will end at 10 a.m.)
Monday, 30 Jan	Chinese New Year (Public Holiday)
Tuesday, 31 Jan	Chinese New Year (Scheduled School Holiday)
Wednesday, 15 Feb	Start of Modular Co-Curricular activities (CCA) for Primary 3
Friday, 10 Mar	Curriculum Briefing for Primary 1 Parents (in the morning) and Breakfast with Parents
Term 1 School Vacation – Sat 11 Mar to Sun 19 Mar 2017	

CURRICULUM MATTERS

Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) for Primary 4 and Modular CCA for Primary 3

Co-curricular activities are not compulsory for primary school students. However, to enable our children to experience a holistic education, the school strongly encourages all students to participate in CCA. CCA will be carried out on Wednesdays from 2.45 pm to 4.15 pm for both Primary 3 and 4 students. More details will be given at a later date.

Sports Enrichment Programme for Primary 2 – Inline Skating

The optional enrichment programme will start in Term 1 on Mondays from 2.45pm to 4.15pm. More information will be provided at a later date.

Gifted Education Programme (GEP) Identification Exercise 2017 for Primary 3 Students

The GEP Identification Exercise aims to identify suitable students with high intellectual potential. Test-preparation activities could inflate students' scores and not reflect their actual potential. Students who are not ready to handle the intellectual rigour and demands of the programme will struggle with the enriched curriculum and not benefit fully from it.

The tentative schedule for the two stages of the GEP Identification Exercise 2017 is given below:

(a) GEP Screening Exercise (English Language and Mathematics)	Wednesday, 23 August
<u>Shortlisted students</u> are invited to participate in the Selection Exercise: (b) GEP Selection Exercise (English Language, Mathematics and General Ability)	Thursday, 19 October and Friday, 20 October

More information will be provided at a date closer to the exercise.

The staff and I would like to wish you a great year ahead and we look forward to your continuous support.

In partnership with you

Mrs Theresa Hong
Principal