



NORTHOAKS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Letter to Parents 01/2020

3 January 2020

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 pleasant 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:

- ❖ Mrs Hee Jun-Lynn, Vice-Principal
- ❖ English-medium teachers:
 - Mr Daniel Teo (HOD-EL)
 - Mr Clarence Chang (HOD-ICT)
 - Ms Christine Ang
 - Mdm Cecilia Ang
 - Ms Teng Yan Ni
 - Mr Muhd Sabar Bin Adam
 - Mrs Jeralynn Loy (Flexi-Adjunct teacher)
 - Mrs Jenny Heng (Flexi-Adjunct teacher)
 - Mrs Yeo Li Siah (Flexi-Adjunct teacher)
 - Mr Ramanan (Flexi-Adjunct teacher)
- ❖ Mother-Tongue Language teachers:
 - Mdm Pearly Yeo (CL)
 - Miss Khoo Wan Xin (CL)
 - Miss Nur Hafizhah Bibi Bte Haji Mohamed Omar (ML)
 - Miss Farhana Bte Mohammad Yunos (ML)

The school wishes all the best to the following staff who have left the school:

- ❖ On No-Pay Leave
 - Mdm Noor Alinah Bte Ismail
 - Mdm Aiman Khursedah Begam
 - Mdm Rahimah Bte Abdullah
- ❖ Transferred to another school
 - Mdm Irfah Bte Mohamad Aripin
 - Mr Patrick Low

New Appointment

Mr Toh Kian Chong will be appointed as HOD-Science.



PSLE Results 2019

The school is happy to share with you that all our Primary 6 students (in 2019) have passed their PSLE. We wish them all the best as they continue their education in the secondary schools.

STUDENT WELL-BEING

Temperature-taking Exercise – Thursday, 16 January

The first temperature-taking exercise is scheduled on **Thursday, 16 January**. This routine exercise will serve to educate the students on the need to take personal responsibility for their own health and social responsibility for the health of others.

All Primary 1 students will be given an Oral Digital Thermometer (ODT) and will be taught how to use it in preparation for the exercise. The thermometers will be kept by the Form Teacher after this first exercise for the year. The ODTs will only be issued once to the child.

As for the Primary 2 to 6 students, the ODTs have been returned to them. We would like to seek your assistance in ensuring that your child brings his/her personal ODT on Wednesday, 15 January for the teachers to check.

Chinese New Year Celebration – Friday, 24 January

The school will be celebrating Chinese New Year on Friday, 24 January. On that day, students will be in their PE attire and school will function from **8 a.m. to 10 a.m.**

Due to the constraints of space, only parents of Primary 1 students are invited to join in the celebration which will begin at 8 a.m. We sincerely apologise that we are not able to accommodate all parents in the celebration.

For safety reasons, parking in the school will **NOT** be available for parents that day. We seek your understanding on this matter.

Students will be dismissed at 10 a.m. 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, 27 January and Tuesday, 28 January are public and school holidays respectively, hence school will resume on Wednesday, 29 January.

Photo-Taking for students for the School Smart Cards – Friday, 31 January (For Primary 1 & Primary 6 students only)

The Ministry of Education will be conducting the yearly photo-taking exercise for all students in Primary 1 and Primary 6 for the issuance of the School Smart Card (SSC). While Primary 1 students will get their SSCs by end Mar 2020, the photo-images captured for Primary 6 students will be used for the printing of Secondary SSCs when they are promoted to Secondary One in 2021.

The photo-taking session is scheduled on **Friday, 31 January** 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.)

Morning Assembly and Lunch Time

The school would like to reiterate that students will only need to be in school **by 7.40a.m.** Parents/Guardian may wish to take your child/ward to the school between 7.25a.m. to 7.40a.m. 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).

Recess, Lunch Break and Snack Time

	For Primary 1, 2 and 4	For Primary 3, 5 and 6
Recess	10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	10.30 a.m. – 11a.m.
Lunch Break (For Monday and Wednesday only)	12.30 p.m. – 1 p.m.	1 p.m. – 1.30 p.m.
Snack Time	12 noon – 12.10 p.m.	

Parents who wish to bring lunch for their child could pass it to their child at the school gate at the times stated.

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

Change in Recess and Lunch Time on 6 January to 8 January (for Primary 2 and 6 only)

	Primary 2	Primary 6
Recess	10.30 a.m. – 11a.m.	10 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.
Lunch Break	1 p.m. – 1.30 p.m.	12.30 p.m. – 1 p.m.

Insurance

MOE has engaged NTUC Income to provide Basic Student Protection Plan for 2020 for all students of the school. The plan will cover all school-related 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 following link: <https://www.income.com.sg/studentgpa>.

Student Well-Being Form and Individual Student Details Record Form

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 which will be distributed to your child/ward and submit them to the Form Teacher, through your child/ward, **by Thursday, 9 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.

Digital Portals for Teaching and Learning

In our continuous effort to engage students in teaching and learning within and beyond the classrooms, the school will use some digital portals. The use of these portals will engage the students in self-directed and collaborative work. This will also provide opportunities for students to be aware of and demonstrate good Cyber Wellness behaviours.

The use of these portals will also mean that assignments for the students will come in digital forms as well. Our school seeks the cooperation of parents to allow your child time and space to complete their digital homework at home. The main digital portal is the Student Learning Space (SLS) and the link (<https://vle.learning.moe.edu.sg/login>) is provided for your reference. However, besides SLS the school may make use of other online applications if the need arises.

Please complete a short survey (Annex A) for internet access at home **by Thursday, 9 January**.

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 Handbook

- The Student 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 of 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 at least 3 working days to respond to you.



Parents Gateway

- From time to time, you will be receiving letters/newsletters from the school via **Parents Gateway**, a mobile app specially designed for parents. Developed by MOE and GovTech,

the app allows parents to engage closely with schools, receive information and perform a range of administrative functions including giving consent for school trips. The step-by-step guide for Parents Gateway is available at our school website.

- 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. 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.



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.

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.

School Dismissal

We have noticed that a large number of students needs to make phone calls at our General Office during dismissal. We seek your understanding that the office may not be able to manage such numbers on a daily basis and would advise that phone calls to be made at dismissal at our General Office is only when very necessary.

We would like to seek parents' understanding that for the safety of our children, a letter from parents would be required if your child goes home on his/her own.

School Holidays 2020

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 14 Mar to Sun 22 Mar
Between Semesters I & II	Sat 30 May to Sun 28 Jun
Between Terms III & IV	Sat 5 Sep to Sun 13 Sep
At end of School Year	Sat 21 Nov to Thu 31 Dec

Calendar of Events for Term 1

Date	Event
Friday, 3 Jan	Welcome Breakfast and Curriculum Briefing for Primary 1 Parents (in the morning)
Monday, 6 Jan	Start of Primary 6 Higher Mother-Tongue classes
Tuesday, 7 Jan	Start of Primary 3 Swimsafer 2.0 Programme (Primary 3A and 3E)
Thursday, 9 Jan	Start of Primary 3 Swimsafer 2.0 Programme (Primary 3C and 3D)
Monday, 13 Jan	Start of Primary 5 Higher Mother-Tongue classes
Tuesday, 14 Jan	Start of Primary 5 and 6 supplementary lessons
Wednesday, 22 Jan	Start of Co-Curricular activities (CCA) for Primary 4, 5 and 6
Friday, 24 Jan	Chinese New Year Celebration (School will end at 10 a.m.)
Monday, 27 Jan	Chinese New Year (Public Holiday)
Tuesday, 28 Jan	Chinese New Year (School Holiday)
Friday, 31 Jan	For Primary 1 & Primary 6 only Photo-Taking for School Smart Card (all students are to wear their school uniform).
Monday, 3 Feb	Start of Primary 2 Inline Skating (Primary 2A and 2C)
Tuesday, 4 Feb	Briefing for Parents of Primary 6 students (6pm)
Wednesday, 19 Feb	Start of Modular Co-Curricular activities (CCA) for Primary 3
Term 1 School Vacation – Sat 14 Mar to Sun 22 Mar 2020	

CURRICULUM MATTERS

Higher Mother-Tongue Classes for Primary 5 & Primary 6

These classes are only for students taking the subject and will start in Term 1 on Mondays from 2.30 p.m. to 3.45 p.m.

Primary 6 HMT classes	Start from 6 Jan 2020
Primary 5 HMT classes	Start from 13 Jan 2020

Supplementary Classes for Primary 5 & Primary 6

The supplementary classes for Primary 5 and 6 will be scheduled on Tuesdays from 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. The classes will start on 14 January 2020 (please refer to attached schedule). On these days, the lunch break for the Primary 5 and 6 classes will be from 1 p.m. to 1.30 p.m.

Sports Education Programme for Primary 2 – Inline Skating

The optional enrichment programme will start in Term 1 on Mondays from 2.45p.m. to 4.15p.m. The first session will start on 3 Feb 2020 for Primary 2A and 2C. The other 4 classes will start at a later date. A separate letter for the Primary 2 students will be issued.

Sports Education Programme for Primary 1 – Wushu-Silat Exposure

The optional enrichment programme will start in Term 3 (after the June holidays) on Mondays from 2.45p.m. to 4.15p.m. A separate letter for the Primary 1 students will be issued at a later date.

Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) for Primary 4, 5 & 6 and Modular CCA for Primary 3

The school strongly encourages all students to participate in CCA to enable them to experience a holistic education. CCA will be carried out on **Wednesdays from 2.45 p.m. to 4.15 p.m.** for Primary 3 to 6 students. Primary 4 students will be issued with a CCA option form by week 1 whereas a separate letter for the Primary 3, 5 and 6 students will also be issued.

Gifted Education Programme (GEP) Identification Exercise 2020 for Primary 3 Students

The GEP Identification Exercise aims to identify suitable students with high intellectual potential. There is no need to prepare your child for this test as 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 2020 is given below:

Stage	Date	Participants	Papers
GEP Screening Exercise	Wednesday, 19 August	Primary 3 students	English Language and Mathematics
GEP Selection Exercise	Tuesday, 20 October & Wednesday, 21 October	Primary 3 students shortlisted at the GEP Screening Exercise	English Language, Mathematics and General Ability

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

2020 Primary 5 & Primary 6 Supplementary Classes (Semester 1)

T/W	Date	P5 (Tue) 2 p.m.- 3.30p.m.	P6 (Tue) 2 p.m.- 3 30p.m.
T1W2	14-Jan	MTL	EL
T1W3	21-Jan	MATH	MTL
T1W4	28-Jan	NO SUPPLEMENTARY CLASS	
T1W5	4-Feb	MTL	MATH
T1W6	11-Feb	EL	MTL
T1W7	18-Feb	MTL	EL
T1W8	25-Feb	MATH	MTL
T1W9	3-Mar	MTL	CONTINUAL ASSESSMENT
T1W10	10-Mar	EL	MATH
T2W1	24-Mar	MTL	EL
T2W2	31-Mar	MATH	MTL
T2W3	7-Apr	MTL	MATH
T2W4	14-Apr	EL	MTL
T2W5	21-Apr	MTL	EL
T2W6	28-Apr	MATH	MATH
T2W7	5-May	MTL	P6 SA ORAL EXAMS
T2W8	12-May	EL	SEMESTRAL ASSESSMENT
T2W9	19-May	MTL	NO SUPPLEMENTARY CLASS
T2W10	26-May	NO SUPPLEMENTARY CLASS	

Survey for internet access at home

(Please submit to Form Teacher through your child by Thursday, 9 Jan 2020)

Our school would like to find out from parents whether your child/ward is able to access internet at home for his/ her digital homework.

Please tick (✓) in the appropriate box. There can be more than one ✓.

☐ We have a computer/tablet/smartphone at home.

☐ We are able to access the internet.

Are there any alternative arrangements if the above are not available?

Thank you