



Dear Parents / Guardians

1. Principal's Message

Welcome back to Term 2 2021! Term 1 has been very exciting for our students with the resumption of some of our programmes such as CCA sessions and the Active Recess Programme. Our students also participated in activities and events such as Orientation, Total Defence Day Commemoration, Chinese New Year Celebration and Reading Under The Stars.

We would like to thank all parents who joined us at the parent e-briefings on 4 Jan (Pri 1), 4 Mar (Pri 5 & 6) and 8 Mar (P4). We are very heartened by the turnout for the e-briefings and are looking to organise one for our Pri 2 and 3 parents later this term.

STUDENT WELL-BEING

2. Feedback on New School Curriculum Hours for Semester 2 in 2021

Thank you for taking time to share with us your feedback regarding the above-mentioned topic. We are encouraged by the extremely positive response from our parents. More than 80% of our parents responded to our survey and almost 99% of these parents saw the benefits in adjusting the school curriculum hours. We are pleased to share that we will proceed with our plans to adjust the school curriculum hours for Semester 2 in 2021 (from 28 Jun 2021). Please refer to the following schedule for more details:

	Monday to Friday	Remarks
Start Time of First Lesson	7.45am	
Reporting Time	By 7.40am in the classroom	The school will start our flag-raising ceremony at 7.40am sharp in the classroom. Students reporting after 7.40am in the classroom will be considered late .
Pre-Assembly Programme in the Classroom	From 7.30am to 7.40am	Students are highly encouraged to participate in the pre-assembly programmes. Reporting to school slightly earlier will provide our students with ample time to settle down and get into the right frame of mind for learning.
Dismissal Time	1.15pm (for P1, P2) and 1.30pm (for P3 to P6) daily	All after-school lessons and activities including CCAs, enrichment and remedial/supplementary lessons will begin from 2pm onwards.

We would also like to assure parents that the adjusted curriculum hours will not compromise our students' learning in any way. The school will continue to adhere strictly to the guidelines provided by Ministry of Education (MOE) in terms of planned total curriculum hours for our students and will not remove any period from any subject as a result of this adjustment in the school curriculum hours.

In addition, for our P6 students, starting school slightly earlier will help our students to cultivate the good habit of sleeping early at night and reporting to school by 7.30am daily. This will stand them in good stead when they sit for their Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE) at the end of the year as our students will need to report to school by 7.15am on days of the examination. No extra time will be given to students who are late during PSLE.

We hope that the above information had helped to address some of the feedback raised by parents in Parents Gateway. The school will be issuing a new time-table to our students latest by day 1 of Term 3 (more information will be provided closer to the day). You can continue to provide us with your feedback using the school's official communication platforms regarding the implementation of the new school curriculum hours in Semester 2 2021.

3. Cyber Wellness

With reference to a recent article published by Today pertaining to a study conducted by Google with 315 Singaporean parents in 2020, it was found that:

- Of the Singapore respondents, more than half (54%) said that their children saw inappropriate content, a sharp increase from 38% in 2019.
- Another 42% said that their children had overshared information such as personal data, compared with 31% in 2019.
- Singapore had the fourth highest cyber-bullying encounters in the region, with 25% parents reporting that their children had been affected. This was higher than the Asia-Pacific average of 2%.
- Around 35% said that their children had received unwanted attention from strangers online, 14% reported that their children had encountered scams, and 12% experienced being hacked.

Adapted from: (<https://www.todayonline.com/singapore/more-half-spore-children-encountered-inappropriate-content-2020-google>)

You can play a part in educating and protecting your child from these online risks such as:

- Have a conversation with your child. This will give you an indication of his or her areas of interest and prepare you for further interaction.
- Set a schedule in consultation with your child on specific time periods that he or she can use the devices and for specific purposes.
- Set parental controls and privacy filters in the digital devices if you feel it is necessary to do so, explain to your child why it is necessary to do so.
- Set a Family Digital Contract with your child to regulate device usage at home.

You may also find the following parent guide from Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) useful: <https://www.betterinternet.sg/-/media/Resources/PDFs/Parents-Guides/Safe-and-Smart-Online-Parent-Guide.pdf>.

4. Student Attendance

To better support our students' learning in school, we will be monitoring our students' attendance closely so that we will be able to provide timely intervention for our students when they are in school in terms of bridging their learning gaps.

As such, we would like to remind all parents once again that all **student's absences** must be accounted for with **valid reasons** when they are not in school. Only medical certificates (MCs), in hard copy or electronic format, from medical practitioners (including those from Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) practitioners) who are **registered** under the **Medical Registration Act** are recognised by the school.

The school will accept up to a maximum of only 5 excuse letters from parents/guardians for medically-related reasons. Beyond that, our Year Heads will be inviting parents to the school for a chat so that we will be able to better understand your child's/ward's needs. This will help us to provide the necessary support for your child/ward for him/her to attend school regularly.

Lastly, we would like to seek the cooperation of all parents to remind your child/ward to submit all MCs and/or excuse letters from parents to the Form Teacher upon the student's return to school. Similarly, all electronic-MCs must also be emailed to the school upon the student's return to school.

5. Student Services Provided by School General Office

In the spirit of developing our students to be independent and responsible, we would like our students to take ownership of their assignments, tasks and belongings. Should your child forget to bring his/her pocket money, please encourage your child to go to the General Office (GO) where he/she can borrow money for his/her recess and return it the following day. Parents need not come down to school to hand the money to your child. If your child has dirtied his/her uniform, he/she can also come down to the GO to borrow a set of uniform/PE attire which should be returned to the GO after it is washed. Likewise, if they have forgotten their water bottle, they can also borrow a bottle from the GO and return the washed bottle after use.

The school also seek our parents' cooperation that we discourage having parents or care givers bring in students' stationery, belongings or homework if they have forgotten to do so. We seek your understanding that the GO staff would not be able to send the items to your child's class. If your child has requested for you to bring the items, do inform him/her to pick up the items from the GO. More importantly, we hope to have your support in developing and guiding our students to take responsibility for their own assignments, learning items and work.

Should you wish to pick up your child prior to school dismissal (e.g. medical appointments, external examinations), kindly inform your child's form teacher in advance so that arrangements can be made for you to pick up your child at the GO. Please arrange with your child the timing to meet you at the GO too. The GO staff will then assist with the early dismissal for your child upon your arrival.

6. School Smart Cards for Primary 1 Students

Primary 1 students will receive their School Smart Cards (SSC) today. To start using the SSC for concessionary travel, students are required to activate the card at the TransitLink Ticket Offices/TransitLink Concession Card Replacement Offices/Passenger Services Centres (PSCs)

located in the MRT Stations/Bus Interchanges by toping-up the value for the card. In support of national initiative to steer commuters towards adopting e-payments in transit ticketing, top up at Passenger Services Centre has ceased.

However, PSCs will continue to assist in the activation of concession card for MOE students. To avoid being turned away, students are advised to inform the PSC staff that they would like to activate their concession card. The minimum top-up value is \$5.

Please check the photo and details printed on the card upon receipt of your child/ward's SSCs, and inform the school immediately of any discrepancy.

For the Primary 6 students, they will receive their SCC in Secondary 1 in their respective secondary schools.

CURRICULUM MATTERS

7. NKPS Health & Aesthetics Week 2021

The school will be organising the NKPS Health & Aesthetics Week between 29 Mar and 1 Apr 2021. The NKPS Health & Aesthetics Week is a holistic and integrated programme that aims to meet the following objectives:

- To actively promote good physical, mental, social health and the Arts amongst our students.
- To encourage students to actively take part in sporting, outdoor and Arts activities.
- To promote the demonstration of HEART Values during the activities.

This is a good opportunity for our students to deepen their health & arts knowledge and apply it to their daily life. A myriad of health & arts related activities such as Health Promotion Board (HPB) Roving Carnival, Outdoor Education, Virtual Museum-Based Learning, Active Recess, Art appreciation & Music talent celebration via Student Learning Space (SLS) and many more activities will be conducted in school during this period. Do encourage your child/ward to participate actively in all our activities in order to benefit from a meaningful holistic experience during the NKPS Health and Aesthetics Week.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

8. Health Matters

Daily temperature-taking will continue to be carried out in Term 2. We seek your help to remind your child of good hygiene practices and to bring his/her thermometer to school every day for temperature-taking before the start of lessons. Please also check that the oral digital thermometer is in good working condition. Should your child feel unwell, please bring him/her to seek medical help and let him/her rest at home.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

9. Helping our Children Achieve Success in Life

In our Term 1 newsletter, we shared with you the different modes of communication for us to

forge stronger partnership. Our children do best when schools and parents work hand in hand to support them. In this issue of our newsletter, we would like to share some tips with you on how we can work together to help your child achieve success in life. Please refer to the resources in following link for more information: <https://www.moe.gov.sg/-/media/files/parent-kit/school-home-partnership.pdf>

10. Homework in NKPS

Research has shown that the effective use of homework can help students to:

- (a) Reinforce learning and deepen understanding of lessons taught;
- (b) Practise regularly and apply skills and concepts taught;
- (c) Develop good study skills and habits; and
- (d) Encourage greater ownership and responsibility for independent learning.

For parents, homework provides:

- timely information on the learning progress of their child and
- opportunities to be involved in their child's learning

With the commencement of additional afternoon classes and Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) for some levels in term 1, our school has since put in place our NKPS homework policy so as to better look into the overall well-being of our students. We hope that, through this policy, our students who have to stay back longer on some days will have sufficient time to rest and be ready for learning the next school day.

Hence, the teachers will assign a suitable homework load, according to the school's homework norms, for the respective levels with a heavier homework load given to our upper primary students. As far as possible, the school will also adhere to the following guidelines:

- (a) The school has stipulated **every Wednesday as No Homework Day** as majority of the students will be engaged in enrichment activities/CCA on this day after school.
- (b) No homework is to be assigned over the three major festivals: Chinese New Year, Hari Raya Puasa and Deepavali public holidays.
- (c) Subject Teachers will not assign homework for students on the eve of examinations/weighted assessments so as to allow students to revise for their examinations/weighted assessments.
- (d) If homework is to be given during the school holidays, the daily homework load will not be more than 50% of the daily load given during the school week.

Lastly, we hope that parents can partner us in this area through the following ways:

- Create a home environment conducive for studying and completion of homework.
- Supervise and provide support for child's learning.
- Reinforce good study habits and attitudes.
- Be mindful of the stresses arising from school homework and out-of-school activities, and help their children prioritise their time among these activities and work in partnership with the school and teachers to support their child's learning and development.

11. NKPS Parent Support Group (PSG) Registration

The NKPS PSG are a group of parents volunteers who are passionate about providing support to enrich our children's learning environment in the school. Our community of parent volunteers

is growing and we would like you to be a part of it! Whether you have an hour a week or just an hour a month to spare, the time you give will signal to our students and your child/children that their schooling journey is important to you.

If you are interested to join us as a parent volunteer, you may fill up the PSG registration form through the link below and send it to our NKPS PSG committee who will contact you directly to follow up with your registration.

To sign up, simply fill up this form: <https://forms.gle/rPxEeR3xZLFjBws68>

12. School Instagram Account

We are pleased to inform you that we have been updating our official Instagram account more regularly since the beginning of this year. You can follow us on our Instagram to receive updates on the school's latest news and also view pictures of the school's celebrations and events. In addition, you can also share with us your suggestions or comments pertaining to your child's/ward's school life through our Instagram. Follow us ([@northoaksprimaryschool](https://www.instagram.com/northoaksprimaryschool/))

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR TERM 2

Date	Event
Mon, 29 Mar to Fri, 1 Apr	Health and Aesthetic Week
Fri, 2 Apr	Good Friday (Public Holiday)
Mon, 26 Apr or Thu, 29 Apr	Webinar briefing for Primary 2 and Primary 3 Parents (The date will be confirmed once we have booked the use of MOE's webinar-enable Zoom account)
Mon, 3 May	Labour Day (School Holiday)
Thu, 13 May	Hari Raya Puasa (Public Holiday)
Wed, 26 May	Vesak Day (Public Holiday)
Thu, 27 May	e-Parent-Teacher-Meet (PM)
Fri, 28 May	e-Parent-Teacher-Meet (Full Day) (No school for all levels)
Sat, 29 May to Sun, 27 Jun	Term 2 School Vacation

In partnership with you,



Mr Melvin Cher
Principal