



WHITE SANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

2 PASIR RIS STREET 11, SINGAPORE 519075

TEL: 6922-9100

FAX: 6581-5013

ILB / 02 / 2021

IN LINK Bulletin 1 February 2021

Dear Parents,

A very Happy New Year to our Chinese parents and students who are celebrating this occasion! Wishing all the prosperity and joy in the festive season.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for being on board the Parent's Gateway (PG). Currently, we have a whole school take-up rate of close to 100%, with our parents of Primary 1 students 100% on board. I would strongly encourage all our parents to refer to PG for updates as this will be the main mode of communication between the school and you until your child completes his/her Secondary school education.

1. Importance of home-school partnership

Research has shown that home-school partnership is correlated with the positive impact they can have on students' motivation, engagement, behaviour, academic and social outcomes. As a parent/guardian, you are the key navigator in your child's life journey. Having a close partnership with the school will help you to understand your child's/ward's learning experiences in school, so that you can provide him/her with the necessary support and reinforcement at home.

The school has established many channels of communication with parents/guardians to enhance our partnership in delivering a holistic educational experience for our students, as reflected below:

- Notification to parents (In-Link Bulletin via Parents' Gateway/Information letters)
- SPECS (School-Parents Engagement & Communication Session)
- Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTM)
- Pupil Handbook 2021
- Email address: wsp@moes.edu.sg
- Telephone: 69229100

Let us also be mindful in our partnership efforts by extending graciousness and mutual understanding to one another in our interactions while showing appreciation and respect for our staff's efforts.

2. Safety of our students in school

We would like to thank our parents/guardians for your strong support and understanding in ensuring the safety and security of our students in the school. The movement of students in the morning and during dismissal has been smooth since the start of the academic year.

Parents/Guardians are reminded to sign in at the Security Post and get a Visitor's Pass if you need to come into the school compound. With the Visitors' Pass, parents/guardians can then proceed to make purchases at the book shop or report to the General Office to get assistance on any other matters. Parents/Guardians **are not allowed** to go to the other parts of the school, especially the classrooms.

We seek your understanding and support in these areas.

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3. Group Personal Accident (GPA) Insurance for Pupils

The Ministry has purchased a Group Personal Accident (GPA) insurance plan from NTUC Income Insurance Co-operative Ltd for all pupils. Information on claims, FAQs and other details pertaining to the GPA insurance plan can be found on NTUC Income's website at <https://www.income.com.sg/studentgpa>. Parents may also refer to the attached GPA Product Factsheet 2021 on details of the benefits of the GPA insurance, claims procedures and contact persons from NTUC Income.

For claims submission, parents are to submit their claims online and check their claims status through the online portal <https://studentgpa.incomegroupins.com.sg>

4. Grooming and school attire

Every White Sandian is expected to come to school well-groomed and properly dressed in accordance with the school dress code (Do refer to the Pupil Handbook). We urge parents to reinforce in your children the importance of personal hygiene and good grooming. Daily supervision of such habits by parents will result in the growth of the child's self-esteem and pride in personal appearance.

Safety of belongings - Smart Watches and handphones

Pupils are strongly discouraged from bringing smart watches and handphones as these devices may distract the pupils from their learning. Should you need your child to bring these devices to school, please remind your child that they need to be responsible for them and not leave them unattended. The school is not responsible for any loss of electronic devices. The school may confiscate these items if they are deemed to be misused. When such action is taken, the school will communicate to parents and make an arrangement for the items to be returned.

5. Birthday Celebrations in School

We seek parents'/guardians' understanding that the school does not allow parents/guardians to send food items, tidbits and cakes to school for your children's birthday celebrations. While we appreciate the good intention of parents/guardians who wish to share the joy of your children's birthdays with their classmates, we are concerned with food allergies. Your kind understanding and co-operation is greatly appreciated.

6. School Hours on Eve of Chinese New Year, 11 February 2021

The school will be having our Chinese New Year celebrations on Thursday 11 February 2021. Please note that there will be early dismissal that day. Pupils will be dismissed according to the staggered dismissal timings as shown below:

Levels	Dismissal time
P1 & P2	9.45am
P3 & P4	10.00am
P5 & P6	10.15am

Pupils are to report to school as per normal. They are strongly encouraged to be attired in a red coloured top with the school shorts/skirt or in a Chinese traditional costume with school shoes. Pupils may also come to school in their school uniform. Please ensure that your children bring their snacks to school for snack break time that day as there will not be any recess breaks. The snack break will be part of the programme planned for the day. Please make the necessary transport arrangements for your children too. For pupils taking the

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school bus, the school has informed the bus operator of the change in the school hours. Please note that the school buses will leave after the last level has been dismissed.

7. P3 Gifted Education Programme (GEP) Identification Exercise 2021

Every year, MOE conducts the GEP Identification Exercise to identify suitable pupils with high intellectual potential. Test-preparation activities could inflate pupils' scores and not reflect their actual potential. Pupils 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. This would place undue stress on the pupils and may even cause them to lose confidence and impact their self-esteem. With this in mind, we would like to urge parents to avoid any test-preparation activities which could inflate the pupils' scores and inaccurately reflect their suitability for the programme.

Please find the tentative schedule for the 2 stages of the GEP Identification Exercise 2021 as given below:

GEP Screening Exercise

Date(s)	Papers	Participants
18 August 2021 (Wednesday)	English Language Mathematics	Primary 3 pupils enrolled in government and government-aided schools

GEP Selection Exercise

Date(s)	Papers	Participants
19 & 20 October 2021 (Tuesday & Wednesday)	English Language Mathematics General Ability	Primary 3 pupils shortlisted after the GEP Screening Exercise

The GEP Screening and Selection Exercises will be based on the **Primary 1 to Primary 3** English Language and Mathematics syllabuses.

8. Primary 3 – 5 Assessment

As a follow up to our January In-Link Bulletin, please see attached Assessment Format and topics to be tested from Primary 3 to Primary 5.

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9. Promoting Healthy & active living

One of the objectives of physical education is to enable students to demonstrate individually and with others, the physical skills, practices and values to enjoy a lifetime of active and healthy living.

This year, the PE Department would like to collaborate with parents in promoting active and healthy living so that our children can enjoy and value the benefits of living a physically active and healthy life.

This month, our theme is "Exploration". Did you know that the park's name was derived from the Malay word 'Pasir Ris', which means 'beach bolt-rope', implying a narrow beach?

Below is the website link where you can explore Pasir Ris Park over the weekends with your family. Keep your eyes peeled for Grey Herons taking flight, Giant Mudskippers trying to blend in with the environment, or Vinegar Crabs climbing up trees. You can learn about the different root systems of the hardy mangrove trees in the mangrove forest at Pasir Ris Park, one of the last few mangrove forests in Singapore. Have fun exploring!

Do share with your child and have fun exploring Pasir Ris Neighbourhood together!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=TOUZalm3CTI>

https://www.nparks.gov.sg/-/media/peb/sg50-picnic/pasir_ris_park_guide.pdf

Meanwhile, please take care and stay healthy.

Your partner-in-education,



Ms Audrey Wong
Principal

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