

3 January 2024



FERNVALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Global Learners of Tomorrow

Dear Parents/Guardians

As we embark on the journey of a new academic year, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your child back to school! We are excited about the opportunities and experiences that 2024 holds for your child. Our dedicated team of educators and staff is committed to creating a caring and enabling environment where your child can thrive and flourish.

I would like to take the opportunity to provide an update on matters pertaining to staff and students as well as keep you informed of the school events in Term 1.

1 ANNOUNCEMENTS

1.1 School Achievement

National Thinkers Challenge (NTC) 2023

The NTC 2023 is an annual competition organized by Nan Chiau Primary School and Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan. In November 2023, two teams of students participated in the competition where they had to make use of Artificial Intelligence to develop a solution to encourage people to lead a healthier lifestyle. We are proud to share that one of the teams consisting of Geetha Vijay, Grayson Valencio Hernawan, Prisha Kudli Kaushik and Mhapsekar Pratik Vidhyadhar, clinched the Most Innovative and Creative Award. Our other team comprising of Alia Blanche Garces Torres, Ong Lei Tong, Charlotte, Aaryan Sharma, Alfred Tan Zi Xuan and Dhruv Anand Kulkarni, emerged as one of the Top 15 teams. Well done!

1.2 Staff Movement

We would like to express our thanks and gratitude to Mr Tay Peng Cheng Eric (Head of Department/Mother Tongue Languages), Mdm Nadhira Parveen and Mr Jegendren s/o Tanapal who have been posted to MOE/other schools this year. We wish them all the best in their new posting.

Mr Chua Lee Guan will be on long term leave due to personal reasons. A few of our staff, Mdm Teo Ying Zhi (Subject Head/Project Work), Mr Goh Tong Wee (Senior Teacher/Physical Education) and Mr Roslie bin Buang Sidik (Lead Teacher/Malay Language) will also be away this term/semester to attend their milestone leadership programme.

We would like to welcome the following staff to the school:

Name	Designation
Mr Long Tian Heng Michael	Master Teacher/Science

Miss Carina Chua Li Jun	Head of Department/Mother Tongue Languages
Mdm Puah Puay Koon Eileen	Year Head/Lower Primary
Mdm Sokku Umaiya	Teacher/Tamil Language
Mdm Muniraj Muthulakshmi	Teacher/Tamil Language
Mdm Tan Hooi Wan June	Special Educational Needs Officer
Mr Sim Teck Hee Jason	ICT Manager

We are confident that the insights and experience of these staff will help to enhance our school programme.

2 SCHOOL CALENDAR, EVENTS AND PROGRAMMES

2.1 Public/School Holidays

Term 1 commences on **Tuesday, 2 January 2024** and ends on **Friday, 8 March 2024**. Please take note of the public/school holidays during Term 1 as shown below. Students are **not required to report to school** on these days.

Date	Day	Public/School Holiday
12 - 13 February	Monday - Tuesday	Chinese New Year
9 – 17 March	Saturday – Sunday	Term 1 School Holidays

2.2 School Programmes

Please take note of the programmes and activities that have been planned for the students in Term 1.

Level	Date	Day	Programme	Remarks
Primary 1 - 6	3 – 4 January	-	Start It Right Programme	
	9 February	Friday	Chinese New Year Celebrations	
	15 February	Thursday	Total Defence Day	
	4 – 8 March	-	English Learning Fiesta	
	8 March	Friday	Celebration of Joyful Learning	More details will be provided later.
Primary 3	1, 4 March	-	Learning Journey (LJ) to Science Centre	Classes are scheduled to go for their LJ on different days. The LJ will take place after

				school. More details will be provided later.
Primary 4	Throughout the term	-	SwimSafer Programme	Classes are scheduled to go for this programme during their PE lessons.
	16, 23, 27 February, 1, 5 March	-	Learning Journey (LJ) to National Gallery	Classes are scheduled to go for their LJ on different days. The LJ will take place after school. More details will be provided later.
Primary 6	16, 19, 26 January	-	Learning Journey (LJ) to Asian Civilisation Museum	Classes are scheduled to go for their LJ on different days. The LJ will take place after school. More details will be provided later.

2.3 Start It Right (SIR) Programme

The SIR programme aims to provide students with a positive start at the beginning of each term. Besides checking in on the well-being of the students, the programme also seeks to equip students with social-emotional competencies so that they will be able to succeed in school and life.

2.4 English Learning Fiesta

The English Learning Fiesta is an annual event, which aims to inculcate in our students a love for the English Language, provide a platform for students to develop their communication skills and encourage students to reflect critically on local and global issues.

This year, the theme is 'Reading is Magic'. During the week-long event, students will have the opportunity to engage in conversations and participate in a variety of books-related activities such as storytelling sessions, language games and vocabulary challenges.

Our students will also participate in Book Character Day where they are encouraged to dress up as their favourite book characters from an English or Mother Tongue Language book. In line with environmental sustainability efforts, students are highly encouraged to use recycled materials to design their costumes.

3 PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

3.1 Home-School Partnership

The Home-School Partnership sessions will be conducted virtually by each class on **Thursday, 11 January 2024 and Friday, 12 January 2024**. Through this session, we hope to develop a better understanding of your child/ward so that we can partner you to provide the care and support for your child/ward.

A separate letter with the Zoom link and password will be issued by the respective form teachers. We strongly encourage all parents to attend the session.

Date	Time	Level
11 January	2.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Primary 2 to 4
12 January	2.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Primary 5
	3.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Primary 6

3.2 Communication with Parents

We will continue to work together with parents/guardians to support and improve the way your child/ward learns and develops. A key effort to achieve this will be to proactively communicate information on school events and provide updates on your child's/ward's development in school via platforms such as Parents Gateway, the Student Handbook, and emails.

We would like to seek your understanding that there will be times where our teachers might not be able to respond to your queries immediately and as far as possible, do contact the teachers during school operating hours only. Parents/guardians can contact the school's General Office for assistance should there be any urgent queries and/or requests.

4 SCHOOL OPERATIONS AND SAFETY MATTERS

4.1 School Dismissal Timing

Students will be dismissed at staggered timing to reduce congestion at the gates and ease students' movement. Please refer to the schedule below for the dismissal timing of the different levels:

Level	Time
Primary 1	1.25 p.m.
Primary 2 to Primary 4	1.30 p.m.
Primary 5 and Primary 6	1.35 p.m.

4.2 School Recess Timing

Please note the recess time for the different levels:

Level	Recess Time	Refresh Time
Primary 1	8.35 a.m. – 9.05 a.m.	11.05 a.m.
Primary 2	9.05 a.m. – 9.35 a.m.	11.05 a.m.
Primary 3	9.35 a.m. – 10.05 a.m.	12.05 p.m.
Primary 4	10.05 a.m. – 10.35 a.m.	12.05 p.m.
Primary 5	10.35 a.m. – 11.05 a.m.	9.05 a.m.
Primary 6	11.05 a.m. – 11.35 a.m.	9.05 a.m.

In between recess, students will be given time (Refresh Time) to have a small snack. We encourage you to prepare healthy snacks for your child/ward. You may refer to the list below for the suggested snack items.

Snacks which are encouraged	Snacks which are not encouraged
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buns (e.g. red bean bun) • Bread/Sandwich • Cereal (small box) • Vegetable sticks (e.g. carrot/cucumber) • Dried fruit • Energy Bar (e.g. muesli bar and oats bar) • Fruit (e.g. apple and banana) • Raisins • Nuts • Whole meal biscuits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fried Food (e.g. fried chicken) • Rice, porridge, and noodles • Sweets • Chocolate bar/biscuits/cakes • Tidbits (e.g. potato chips)

We would also like to encourage your child/ward to bring their water bottles daily to school.

4.3 Road Safety and Traffic Management

We would like to seek your cooperation to drive safely within the school compound and along the road outside the school. Please adhere to the traffic rules and instructions given by our staff and security guards on duty.

For the safety of the students, please refrain from dropping off and picking up your child/ward along Fernvale Lane (outside the Main Gate) and Sengkang West Avenue (outside the Orange Gate).

For morning arrival, please drive into the school and drop off your child/ward at the school foyer between **6.45 a.m. and 7.30 a.m.** To avoid any traffic congestion, your child/ward should get his/her bag ready and alight from the vehicle once you stop at the school foyer.

For dismissal, please park your vehicle at the nearby HDB multi-storey car park and

fetch your child/ward from either the Orange or Blue Gate.

4.4 Temperature-Taking Exercise

There will be a temperature-taking exercise on **Wednesday, 10 January 2024**. Please ensure that your child/ward brings a working oral digital thermometer (ODT) on that day.

4.5 Exercising Personal and Social Responsibility

We seek parents'/guardians' support to keep the school a safe environment for our students. If your child/ward is unwell, please ensure that he/she stays at home and seeks medical attention if necessary. If your child/ward is recovering from respiratory-related illnesses, please encourage him/her to exercise social responsibility (e.g. wear a mask, minimise social interactions with big groups).

5 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

5.1 Photograph-Taking Session for School Smart Card (SSC)

The school will be conducting the annual photograph-taking session for all Primary 1 (P1) and Primary 6 (P6) students for the purpose of generating the SSC. The SSC serves as the student's identification card and can be used for concessionary travel on public transport. Students can also use the SSC to borrow library books from the National Library Board and the school's library. Please refer to the schedule for the photograph-taking session.

Level	Day
Primary 1	10 January
Primary 6	11 January

Please ensure that your child/ward is dressed in their school uniform and that his/her hair is neat and tidy on the day of the photograph-taking session. If your child is absent during the photograph-taking session, the school will either arrange for him/her to have his/her photograph taken on another day or request for the parent/guardian to submit a softcopy of their child's/ward's photograph to the school.

Following the photograph-taking, P1 students will get their SSCs by end March 2024, while the photographs for P6 students will be used for generating the SSCs when they are promoted to Secondary One in 2025. Prior to receiving their SSC, P1 students can continue to use the Child Concession Card for free travel on public transport until 30 April 2024.

5.2 Annual School Health Visit

Health Promotion Board (HPB) will be conducting the annual school health visit at the school from **Tuesday, 9 January 2024 to Wednesday, 17 January 2024**. During this visit, age-appropriate health screening and/or immunisation services will be provided for your child as required.

All parents must use SingPass and access the Child Consent Portal (<https://go.gov.sg/hpb-ccp>) to update your child's medical information and provide consent for immunisation and health screening. Immunisation will only be administered to your child if required. For parents/guardians who do not have a SingPass account or encounter submission error, please contact the school at 63153051 or fernvale_ps@moe.edu.sg

To facilitate the health visit, all Primary 1 and Primary 5 students are to submit their Health Booklets to the Form Teachers by **Friday, 5 January 2024**.

5.3 Transport Arrangement for After-School Programmes and CCAs

The school bus operator, JNB Travel, will be providing additional trip daily (except on Wednesdays) for students involved in after-school programmes/CCAs. This service is only for students who are taking the school bus. The **pick-up time is at 4.30 p.m.** and the bus driver will collect **\$5.00 per trip** when your child/ward boards the bus.

Parents/Guardians are to make their own arrangements with the bus operators if they require this service.

5.4 Updating of Emergency Contact and Medical Information

We would like to seek parent's/guardian's assistance to provide an update of your information and your child's/ward's information via the Student Details Form (SDF) for the purpose of providing educational services to your child/ward in MOE schools.

Please submit the information through the SDF portal which can be accessed via this URL <https://pg.moe.edu.sg/forms/sdf> or the QR code below.



Both parents must login separately to the portal **using his/her own Singpass account** to submit particulars of himself/herself. Authorised caregivers can only submit your own information.

We seek your help to complete the submission by **31 January 2024**.

You may also wish to know that the SDF portal will be accessible till the last day of Term 4 for you to provide timely updates of your information and/or your child's/ward's information.

5.5 Student Protection Plan

NTUC Income has been appointed by MOE to provide Group Personal Accident Insurance for all students. The policy coverage includes medical expenses incurred due to accident in school and during school activities.

You may submit your claims online and check the claims status through Income Insurance's online claims portal (<https://studentgpa.incomegroupins.com.sg>).

5.6 Use of Videos and Photograph

We would like to inform parents/guardians that photographs and/or videos of students and their work may be taken by the School during school activities and events (e.g. classroom lessons, CCA, etc). The School may use and publish such photographs or video recordings in school publications, the school's website, or other media platform. Should you have any concerns regarding the use of photograph(s) and/or video(s) taken by the school, please direct them to the General Office.

We look forward to a year filled with growth, learning, and memorable moments. Together, we can make this academic year a successful and enriching experience for your child/ward. If you have any queries or need further information, please feel free to contact our school office at 63153051 or email us at fernvale_ps@moe.edu.sg.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Enoch Lau
Principal