



# Commz@BTPS

A SCHOOL THAT FUELS THE HEARTS AND MINDS TO BE FUTURE-READY

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Jan – Jun 2023, SEMESTER 1

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## School Leader Message

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Dear Parents and Guardians

Welcome to the 2023 school year at Bukit Timah Primary School (BTPS). I am honoured to receive the baton from Mdm Teresa Len who had guided the school for 8 years, supporting the development of staff and students to achieve their personal best and growing BTPS as a choice school in the community. I hope to lead BTPS in providing a holistic educational experience for every student so that they can strive for the best.

The BTPS School Leaders and teachers believe that education goes beyond academic learning, with equal importance placed on character growth, sound values and social emotional development. We value every BTPS student as a unique individual with intrinsic worth and are committed to supporting them as individuals within our learning community. We hope that every student is heard and respected, while also respecting others and their differences.

As Singapore emerges from the shadow of the pandemic, we have seen a resumption of face-to-face activities in school, starting with parents joining their Primary 1 child on the first day of school. We certainly hope that we can continue to welcome parents back to school and that we will have more activities for our students so that they interact as a level and as a whole school.

As you would have noted while dropping off or picking your child up from school, our new Indoor Sports Hall is still work in progress. This has in turn affected access to the school. We have worked tirelessly with various parties and would like to assure you that everyone is doing their best to complete the upgrading works so that there is better overall accessibility in the mornings and at dismissal. In the meantime, we seek your understanding and patience about our current drop off and pick up arrangements during arrival and dismissal timings. We will continue to provide regular updates on our traffic management plan.

Do check the Parents Gateway (PG) app regularly for announcements, and to provide your timely response when necessary. Your reading of and timely responses to the PG messages will keep you updated on school matters and ease the workload of our teachers. Lastly, we wish parents, guardians, staff and students an interesting and joyful year ahead.

Ms Lau Wan Sze  
Principal

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## A Spotlight On...

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- Education Programme (GEP) Identification Exercise
- Use of Images and Videos in School
- Canteen Updates
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- School-wide Events
- Important Dates

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# A SPOTLIGHT ON...

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## Home-School Partnerships

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### Parent-Support Group

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Dear BTPS Parents & Guardians,

On behalf of the BTPS Parent Support Group, we would like to wish you all a happy 2023! We are excited to meet our old friends, and to welcome new faces to our wonderful school.

The Parent Support Group works with the school on major events, including International Friendship Day, Children's Day, Teachers' Day and the Primary 6 Graduation, as well as the Primary 6 Yearbook. We also strive to serve as a bridge between the parents and the school, and to enrich the experiences our children have in BTPS with regular fun sessions in the library at recess. We have been very fortunate to have the school welcome us back for these programmes in the second half of 2022, as the country's Safe Management Measures were eased.

The PSG will hold a welcome tea session for new parents/guardians early in the year. You are invited to come and find out more about what we do, ask questions, and perhaps sign up to join us.

See you soon!

Catherine & Neeta  
Chairperson & Vice-Chairperson BTPS PSG

To find out more about the PSG, please email us at [btps.psg@gmail.com](mailto:btps.psg@gmail.com) or visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BTPS.PSGbuzz>

To join the PSG, scan the QR code for the registration form so that we can get to know you better!



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## Positive Peer Support Culture

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In addition to developing positive mindsets and prosocial behaviours and supporting mental well-being in a safe and supportive environment, BTPS also empowers students to be peer supporters who look out for one another, online and offline, and encourage those in distress to seek help from trusted adults.

Our students are taught to positively influence others in cyberspace, in addition to advocating positive use of technology for the good of the community. Parents can play an active role in guiding their children to navigate cyberspace by reinforcing these key messages:

1. Respect self and others – Practise asking for consent before posting photos, videos, and details online (including your child's).
2. Practise safe and responsible use – Show your child how to be safe, responsible and respectful online.
3. Be a positive peer influence – The same values that guide everyday interactions are applicable online and offline.

Below are useful resources on Parental Control:

<https://go.gov.sg/parental-control-apps>

<https://go.gov.sg/apple-parental-control>

<https://go.gov.sg/android-parental-control>

You may also refer to our school website for Cyberwellness resources:

[Cyberwellness \(moe.edu.sg\)](#)

Finally, be mindful of your child's digital media use (or over-use). You are encouraged to talk your child regularly to check-in on his/her wellbeing.



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## Safety Matters

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We would like to seek the support and cooperation of all parents and guardians in ensuring the safety of students when coming to and leaving school. Please share the following with your child/ward and the caregiver (where applicable):

<b><u>Correct Road Safety Behavior</u></b> Use the pedestrian crossings and avoid jaywalking. While crossing the road, stay alert and focused. Do not use your handphone or play along the road. At road junctions without pedestrian crossings, practise the Kerb Drill. Wait for all vehicles to stop before walking briskly across the road. Do not dash across the road. Alight only at the designated drop-off point and move quickly to safety.	<b><u>Kerb Drill</u></b> Remind your children to practise the Kerb drill before crossing – “look right, look left, look right again, and ensure all vehicles have stopped, raise your hand and cross the road briskly”.  <b><u>Playing on slopes</u></b> There had been feedback from the public on BTPS students playing on the slopes outside the CERTIS compound and dashing across the road from Gate 2 and Gate 4. Please reiterate the safety rules to your child/ward.
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### **Current Road Situation**

As our new Indoor Sports Hall is still work in progress, we seek the cooperation of all parents/guardians to adhere to the current drop off and pick up arrangements during arrival and dismissal timings.

Do note that we are unable to allow entry of all vehicles except for school buses and vehicles belonging to school staff. As drop off is along Lorong Kismis, please remind your child to be prompt and mindful of their safety as they alight.

Thank you for working with us to ensure that our students are safe. We thank all parents and guardians who have been the role models for our children.

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## Communication Channels

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**Student Handbook BT Kit** Teachers and parents have found the handbook helpful for sharing reminders or notes. Students should use it as a homework diary and be responsible for their own learning.

**Teacher Emails and School Office Numbers** Our teachers' email addresses and office numbers are available on our school website <https://bukittimahpri.moe.edu.sg> and the school email address is [bukittimahps@moe.edu.sg](mailto:bukittimahps@moe.edu.sg). For urgent matters or if you are unable to reach our teachers during school hours, please call 6466 2863 and the message will be relayed to the teacher on the same day. We seeking your kind understanding that our teachers will respond during school days, between 7.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Parents Gateway App** All parents are strongly encouraged to come onboard Parents Gateway. For assistance, call our school main line at 6466 2863.

**Commz@BTPS** With the pervasive use of Parents Gateway App, the school has reviewed our communication channels. Please be informed that Commz@BTPS and the school calendar will be sent on a semestral basis from 2023.

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## Important Reminders

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**Request of Delivery of Items to Students** Students may borrow money from the General Office if they have forgotten to bring their recess/lunch money. To avoid disrupting lessons, please do not send items such as textbooks, homework and pencil cases. If you need to send other important items, it will only be collected by your child from the General Office during recess.

**Sudden Change of Transport Before Dismissal** There were incidents where parents made last-minute requests for the school to inform their child of a change in transport arrangement. This creates confusion for the children, which may compromise their safety and cause delay to the school's dismissal procedure. Do only change the pick-up routine in case of emergencies and give sufficient time for the school to relay the message.

**Healthy Snack Time** Students enjoy a 5-to-10-minute snack time at 12.10 p.m. daily, except Fridays. The snack should be easy to consume and allows your child to clean up quickly thereafter. Please guide your child in making healthier choices for snack time.

**PAL lessons** Please note that P1 and P2 students should wear full P.E. attire for PAL lessons.

**Birthday Celebrations** In view of safety, birthday celebrations are not allowed at the canteen. Due to our students' various dietary needs, we discourage parents from distributing goody bags for birthday celebrations.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

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## Staff Movement

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We welcome the following new staff to our BTPS family.

1. Dr Mohammad Shah Razak (Senior Teacher, Physical & Health Education Teacher)
2. Mr Kenny Chin Peng Kiew (Mathematics and Science Teacher)

At the same time, we would also like to bid farewell and thank Mdm Chong Pei Li, Ms Karyn Ang Bi Xia and Mr Philip Lee Weng Fatt for their contributions during their time with BTPS. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

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## Education Programme (GEP) Identification Exercise

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Every year, the school supports the conduct of GEP Identification Exercise as we believe that every child is special. For 2023, the tentative schedule for the two stages of GEP Identification Exercise is as follows:

GEP Screening Exercise (English Language and Mathematics) will be conducted during curriculum time on 17 August 2023 (Thursday).

Only shortlisted students will be invited to participate in the subsequent Selection Exercise. The GEP Selection Exercise (English Language, Mathematics and General Ability) will be conducted on 17 & 18 October 2023 (Tuesday & Wednesday). This is subject to confirmation.

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

More details of the GEP Screening Exercise and the coverage of topics will be given in Term 3, 2023.

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## Use of Images and Videos in School

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Throughout the years of a student's journey in Bukit Timah Primary School, authorised event photographers and videographers may capture photograph(s) and/or video recording(s) of our students during daily and school-wide activities and events, including external events such as National School Games, Singapore Youth Festival and NE Show.

These photographs and videos may be featured in official platforms and materials that include, but are not limited to:

- The school website
- The school's Commz@BTPS
- Promotional materials (slides, brochures) for school events
- Publicity materials for prospective students and parents (e.g. Open House)

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- The MOE/School Facebook and Instagram
  - Special displays/walls to celebrate students' achievements and joyful moments

#### Withdrawing consent

If you DO NOT wish for your child/ward to be featured, please email our school at [bukittimahps@moe.edu.sg](mailto:bukittimahps@moe.edu.sg) with the subject title – 'Use of Images and Videos in School'.

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### **Canteen Updates**

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BTPS provides sale of healthier food and beverage choices in our canteen, following guidelines set by Health Promotion Board (HPB). The school works closely with our canteen stallholders to ensure that the food sold is of quality, meets the basic nutritional needs of students and is reasonably priced. Under this programme, canteen stallholders need to follow certain food service guidelines. These include:

- Cutting down fat, sugar and salt
- Serving whole grains, fruit and vegetables
- Serving healthy set meals by incorporating food from the four main food groups – brown rice, wholemeal bread, meat and others, vegetables and fruit. These help students receive the appropriate nutrients necessary for their growing needs

Fruits play an important role in keeping our diet healthy and balanced. To encourage the consumption of fruits, all set meals sold will include a portion of fruit. We understand that there will be times when students might not be able to finish the fruit during recess. Thus, we encourage students to keep and consume the fruit during their snack time.

Though healthier snacks are sold in our canteen, they are to be eaten in moderation. Our PE teachers will cover the topic on healthy eating during their Physical Health and Fitness lessons. We hope that we can work together to provide our children the knowledge to make healthier decisions in their food choices and at the same time, enjoy consuming a wider variety of food.

The school will inform you of the menu and pricing from the different stalls via Parents Gateway and we hope that you can encourage your child to try the different types of food from the different stalls.

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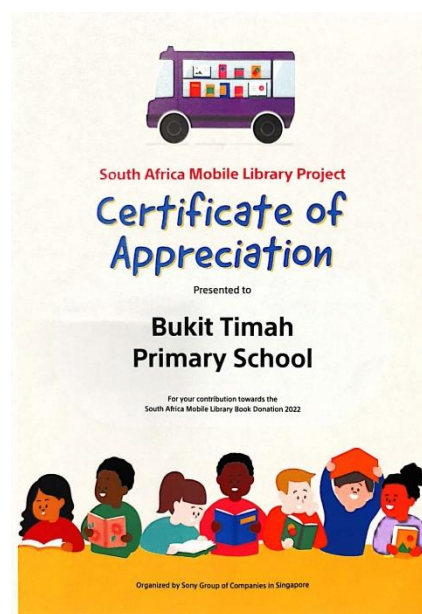
## Values-In-Action (VIA) Projects

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With your support for our P6 Innovation & Entrepreneurship Day (I&E Day) and P4 Prefect's South Africa Mobile Library Book Donation Drive, our students had the opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others.

Our school raised \$4006.75 through the P6 I&E Day for SASCO Senior Citizen's Home. With the raised funds, the school bought groceries for the home. Also, together with other Sony Electronics partners, the school also collected a total of 7018 books in the meaningful sustainability project.

Thank you for supporting these two VIA projects. We look forward to more meaningful partnerships where our students learn to support others in the world we live in.



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## School-wide Events

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Level-based events and assessment dates will be communicated through Parents Gateway at a later date.

Date	Event	Details
20 Jan	Chinese New Year Celebration	School dismissal is as usual that day.
30 Jan to 3 Feb	P2 to P6 Meet-the-Parents Session	Please refer to the Parents Gateway (PG) app for the latest announcements.
15 Feb	Total Defence Day Commemoration	Students will learn how they can contribute to the defence of Singapore.

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## Important Dates

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Date	Remarks
2 Jan	New Year's Day public holiday
23 – 24 Feb	Chinese New Year holiday
11 Mar to 19 Mar	Term Break