



# COMMZ@BTPS

Jan 2018

*A School That Fuels the Hearts and Minds to be Future-Ready*

Term 1

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We thank all parents for contributing one way or another to support us in building a positive BTPS culture in 2017. From January when many of you came to write encouraging notes for your child to October where some of you gave meaning to Children's Day with your creative notes of gratitude, you have helped us role model how positive emotions can inspire us to live a joyful life.

In 2018, we look forward to stronger School-Home partnership where we put every child at the center of our decisions. This can be done with better communication between teachers and parents - not so much for daily updates in class but to be proactive and openly discuss the concerns you or the teacher may have for your child. We urge all of you to download the *Tok-Tok Communicator* App.

Finally, do note that we have made some slight adjustment to the arrival time. Children will need to be in school by 7.30 a.m. for morning assembly allowing the children some extra time to get ready in the morning. This is also in preparation for some changes to dismissal times in Term 3. We will keep you updated.

We look forward to working together for another amazing year where our children will blossom and learn!

*School Leaders*

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## Important Note

### **EMERGENCY PREPARATION TRAINING - 7 March 2018**

Our school places great emphasis on the safety and security of our students and staff. School leaders, staff and students will be taking part in an emergency preparation training exercise on the morning of 7 March 2018, to learn how to handle emergency situations such as security incidents in the school.

The Singapore Police Force and Singapore Civil Defence Force will also be involved in this exercise, which includes a lockdown drill (with teachers and students enacting steps to take in an emergency that demands staying in the classrooms out of sight), and an evacuation to our External Holding Area at Eng Kong Garden Playground (P4 - P6 only).

We wish to assure Parents that we will ensure the safety of pupils and staff during the exercise as we will be supported by external vendors specialised in such training. We will keep you updated on further details closer to the date of this exercise.

# FOCUS AREA: SCHOOL ROUTINES

Dear Parents, we need your full support and strict adherence to the following school routines as safety for our children and staff is of the utmost importance to us. It is only when we work together and reinforce appropriate behaviours that we can instil good habits in our children. They learn best through role modelling by adults.

## TRAFFIC CONTROL

To facilitate the flow of traffic along Lorong Kismis which is a two-way single lane road, BTPS has put in place security officers and school staff at designated points to assist you. Please heed the directions given during the school arrival and dismissal time.

## ARRIVAL ROUTINES

All pupils are to report to the assembly area by 7.30 a.m. for flag raising. If your child needs breakfast at the canteen, he/she should seek permission from the teacher on duty in the Hall.

Long queues along Lorong Kismis build up around 7.15 a.m. Please observe the following when dropping off your child:.

- \* Teach your child to alight safely and swiftly
- \* Drive to the very end of the porch area if possible
- \* Do not alight to assist your child unless necessary

Upon leaving the school, **turn LEFT** only.

## DISMISSAL ROUTINES

Please park at appropriate areas so as not to inconvenience other road users. We work closely with LTA to enforce traffic rules. Do note the dismissal times below:

<b>Days with no extra activities</b>	<b>Mon/Tues/Thur Wednesday Friday</b>	1.30pm 1.00pm 12.30pm
<b>CCA Days</b> (except for Band)	<b>Tuesday Thursday</b>	4pm
<b>*After School Classes</b> (P4-P6)	<b>Monday</b>	4pm
<b>HMT Classes</b> (P5-P6)	<b>Tuesday</b>	4pm

## CHANGE IN TRANSPORT MODE PRIOR TO DISMISSAL

Please note that only in times of emergency should you change the pick-up routine of your child. Allow plenty of time - at least an hour - for our staff to locate the teacher and child as the end of school day is the most hectic time of our day.

## RECESS ROUTINES

### **1) Encourage Responsible Actions**

We teach our pupils to be socially responsible by allocating cleaning duties at the end of recesses, and expecting them to take care of their personal belongings.

We have observed that P1 and P2 pupils leave their personal belongings, including wallets with money, unattended at the Arena during recess. In 2017, about 200 water bottles and 50 lunch boxes had to be discarded even after our numerous reminders to collect them.

Taking care of one's belongings is a life skill we Parents must teach our children.

Teach your child some simple steps:

- Label water bottles / lunch boxes with name and class
- Keep wallets in pockets
- Use shelves outside the library for belongings if they want to play
- Remember to take their things back before going to class

### **2) Support our Safety Mind-set**

Also note that to improve safety for our younger pupils, all levels have their designated area for play during recess. P1 and P2 pupils are to use the blue Net-ball Court, not the Arena for play.

Most injuries happen during recess and our pupils need to learn that we each play a part in keeping one another safe.

# FOCUS AREA: SCHOOL-HOME PARTNERSHIP

## **PARENTS' MEETING**

We believe that in helping our pupils to have a positive school experience, partnership with the parents is important. We invite all parents to meet with us.

### **Primary 1 Day - 9 Mar 2018 (9.30a.m. to 12.00 noon)**

Parents of P1 pupils, spend the morning with your child in BTPS. We will open the canteen for you so that you can order some food together with your child. You will also get to meet the teachers and take part in some fun activities while getting to know the school. To ensure better engagement, we will limit the participation to 1 parent per child.

### **Briefing for Parents from P2 to P6**

Please join your child's teachers to bond and get to know them better. We will also brief you on some matters relevant to each level. Details are as follows:

<b>Level</b>	<b>Date /Time</b>
<b>P2</b>	Friday 19 Jan 2-4 p.m.
<b>P3</b>	Thursday 18 Jan 2-4 p.m.
<b>P4</b>	Wednesday 17 Jan 2-4 p.m.
<b>P5</b>	Tuesday 16 Jan 2-4 p.m.
<b>P6</b>	Monday 15 Jan 2-4 p.m.

Please complete and return Annex A to the Form Teacher by 10 January.

## **IMPORTANT REMINDER: REQUEST TO DELIVER THINGS TO PUPILS**

Please note that the school will not entertain requests to deliver forgotten items (pencil case, water bottle, homework, CCA items...) to pupils during school hours. Let us work together to teach our children to be responsible. If they have forgotten their lunch money, please teach your child to borrow money from their teacher or the general office. The money can be returned on the next day.

Should you pass us any item, note that our staff will only pass it to the pupils during recess to avoid disruption to lessons. Thank you for your support.

## **ANNUAL UPDATES of Student Details (P2-P6)**

Please confirm your personal details and your child's health updates in the Student Details Report generated by the school and make amendments if needed. Return the form by 10 Jan to the Form Teacher. This is to ensure that we have the updated details for emergencies.

## **Tok-Tok! COMMUNICATOR**

In 2017, about 30% of parents have downloaded the Tok-Tok! Communicator as an additional communication platform with Teachers and BTPS.

Tok-Tok! is used by School Leaders for school matters and by Teachers to keep in touch with the class parents or individual parents.

For communication to be more effective, we need all parents to come on board and download the Tok-Tok! App. Parents have given positive feedback about the App as you can receive not only important messages but also pictures of activities and can easily contact the teachers.

The App can be downloaded from App Store and Google Play, on iOS and Android devices respectively. Should you not be able to do so, please contact Mr Abdul Halik (Tel: 64662863 - ext 107).

For parents who are not using smartphones, you will receive the messages via SMS.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS (15 Feb)**

Chinese New Year will be celebrated from 16 to 19 February, (Monday being a school holiday).

The school will celebrate Chinese New Year and commemorate Total Defence Day on Thursday 15 Feb. Pupils will be dismissed at 10.00 am.

We encourage pupils to wear their ethnic costumes or something festive.

## **CHINESE NEW YEAR VISITS - P3 (22 Feb 2018)**

8.00 a.m – 10.00 a.m.

To foster the school-community relationship and provide an avenue for our students to put into action the values they have learnt in school, our P3 pupils, accompanied by teachers and PSG members will visit the residents of Eng Kong Neighbourhood to spread good wishes.

## **MOTHER TONGUE LEARNING FORTNIGHT and CULTURAL CAMP (P1 - P6)**

*Theme: Customs & Traditions in Marriages*

The Mother Tongue Learning Fortnight & Cultural Camp (19 - 29 March) is a fun-filled annual event that creates opportunities for our pupils to appreciate and deepen the understanding of their own Mother Tongue culture.

This year, pupils will be engaged in a variety of programmes which will enable them to understand the customs and traditions in marriages among the various ethnic groups in Singapore.

## **P3 SWIMSAFER PROGRAMME 2018**

The P3 pupils will be going through the Swimsafer Programme which is part of our Physical Education programme in 2018.

The Swimsafer curriculum aims to inculcate water safety-survival skills and awareness to minimise drowning and other water accidents. It comprises of 12 sessions starting on 17 Jan. P3 Parents, please refer to the letter attached.

## **TOTAL DEFENCE DAY (15 Feb)**

*Theme: Together We Keep Singapore Strong*

This year's Total Defence Day marks the 76th anniversary of the fall of Singapore to the Japanese during World War II in 1942 and coincides with Chinese New Year as it did in 1942.

We mark Total Defence Day on 15th Feb every year to strengthen our determination to keep Singapore safe and sovereign. In 2018, we will focus on ways we can put Total Defence into action everyday.

Pupils learn the 5 aspects of Total Defence and how they can play a part in each aspect. Even at their age, their participation in Total Defence is important so that we can nurture active citizens in Singapore.

## **P3 CAMP 2018 (28 & 29 March)**

In March, the P3 pupils will spend time with their friends during our annual 2D1N camp in Bukit Timah Primary School.

The Camp will give opportunities to our pupils to develop stronger friendship and social emotional competencies while taking part in team building activities. Parents can also look forward to join their child and take part in the night activities for some quality bonding time. Details of the camp will be given to all P3 pupils in Week 10 of Term 1.

## **TEMPERATURE-TAKING EXERCISE**

In order to ensure that all new pupils are familiar with this exercise, we will be conducting a temperature-taking exercise on **Friday 5 Jan.**

Only P1 pupils will receive their thermometers on Thursday 4 Jan.

Please ensure that your child brings his/her personal thermometer for the temperature-taking exercise and ensure that it is in working condition.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **STAFF MOVEMENT**

We welcome new members to the BTPS family:

Ms Cheng May Ling, Mr Zaini Bin Zanal, Mdm Goh Poh Siang, Mrs Dolly San, Ms Nadiyahul Afiqah Bte Rosli, Mrs Daphne Ng, Mdm Goh Yang Phian and Mdm Wong Sensen.

We wish to thank the following teachers for their valuable contributions and wish them the best in their future endeavors: Mdm Dong Yan, Mrs Bala, Mdm Liang Hong Bing and Mr Victor Tan.

## **AFTER SCHOOL CLASSES (P4-P6)**

We have refined the policy of our After School Classes for 2018.

Time will be carved out for the following purposes:

- Preparation for school-wide events
- Extension programmes for whole level
- Academic programmes with a focus on needs

In 2018, P4-P6 pupils will be selected and notified if he/she is invited to join the academic programme for After School Classes. This is to enable teachers to focus more on the needs of individual pupils.

*After School Classes* will be held on Mondays, starting on 22 January 2018 from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

## **GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAMME IDENTIFICATION P3 Pupils only**

The tentative schedule for the two stages of the GEP Identification Exercise 2018 is given below:

Stage	Date	Participants	Papers
<b>GEP Screening Exercise</b>	24 August 2018 (Friday)	P3 pupils	English Language Mathematics
<b>GEP Selection Exercise</b>	16 & 17 October 2018 (Tuesday, Wednesday)	Only shortlisted pupils will be invited to this stage	English Language Mathematics General Ability

## **BTPS PARENT SUPPORT GROUP (PSG)**

A huge ***Thank You*** to our outgoing Chairperson, Goh Bee Lin and the PSG EXCO team who have served passionately in the last 2 years.

As the PSG, our main objective is to enrich the school life of BTPS children by working along with the school and infusing the school's core ethos into our programmes. We are actively engaged in many school projects and events and our volunteers have built a healthy relationship with the school community.

I look forward to working with our new PSG EXCO Members in 2018 who were appointed in Nov 2017. We hope that many of you will join us either regularly or on an ad-hoc basis.

If you have signed up with us, we will contact you within the first week of January. For others who are interested to join our many activities, please contact us via email at [btps.psg@gmail.com](mailto:btps.psg@gmail.com).

**Shyamalee Mahibalan**  
**Chairperson-PSG**

## **HEALTHY SNACK TIME**

We would like to encourage all parents to pack a healthy snack for your child. The children not only become more energised after the snack but also look forward to the short break sharing, chatting and even swapping snacks. The fruits served with the set meal at recess can also be saved for their snack time.

The healthy snack can be fruits such as grapes, a banana, dried fruit or nuts that can be consumed quickly and neatly. We discourage pupils from bringing snacks such as biscuits or chips as we wish to make healthy eating a lifetime habit.