



COMMZ@BTPS

Mar 2018

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

Term 2

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We spent the last week of Term 1 listening to joyful music from the P3 Cornet Showcase and P5 Guitar Presentation. Every child had the opportunity to perform and shine in their own way and as teachers, we are always awed when we discover a different facet of our children's character through other activities.

We thank our parents who volunteered for the Chinese New Year walk, guiding our pupils in reaching out to our neighbours. Our P3 pupils took great pride in designing the cards to spread the well-wishes. The 'ang bao' donated by our children and neighbours were sent to SPD (the organization Serving People with Disabilities) to contribute to their efforts.

Term 2 is an exciting term where the famous *BTPS International Friendship Day* led by our PSG takes centre stage. Our school community comes together to not only learn about other cultures but also to honour our diversity and respect one another despite our many differences. You can support us by role modelling this curiosity and acceptance of others in your daily interaction with your children.

Finally, do make an appointment with your child's teachers for the Parent Teacher Meeting on 25 May.

School Leaders

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Important Note - Traffic Problems

The school and LTA have observed an increase in traffic woes that can cause injury to our children and staff or slow down the flow of vehicles at peak times. Please strictly adhere to the rules:

ARRIVAL TIME:

- Drop off the children swiftly. Teach the children to get their bags ready before alighting.
- Do not make 3-point turns or drop off your child at the junction opposite the school. This is a safety hazard for the staff on duty and children crossing the junction.

DISMISSAL TIME:

- Be considerate and switch off engines during waiting times if you have arrived early.
- Do not stop at the main gate to pick up your child as this delays the buses leaving the school.

Thank you for looking out for **all** our children when driving. Together, we can show what it means to be good citizens as our actions impact and influence the children.

FOCUS AREA – POSITIVE EDUCATION

In support of our national goal to deliver a Student-Centric, Values-Driven Education, BTPS has adopted Positive Education (the application of Positive Psychology in education) as an approach, as we believe that our students will flourish with the blending of academic learning, character building and emotional well-being.

In BTPS, we believe that a positive educational environment - one that values supportive relationships between teachers and students, and among students, can give joy to learning. Drawing from research on educational connectedness, relationships that make students feel respected, supported and valued by their teachers and peers play an important role in one's academic development.

To create a positive educational environment, our Student Development Team embarked on the different pedagogical practices of a positive classroom culture. We started the year with Setting Expectations and Routines giving more autonomy and choice to the students during our Back to School programme. Our Pupil Management Team continuously works with the teachers to maintain Positive Discipline when dealing with students' issues. As Year Heads, we work closely with our teachers to strengthen teacher-student and student-student relationships. In January, all P1-P6 teachers and pupils completed the Five Love Languages - Words of Affirmation, Quality Time, Acts of Service, Receiving Gifts or Physical Touch - quiz by Gary Chapman (1995) to build closer ties and stronger relationships in school.

Since 2017, we have provided a strong foundation for teachers to use their own character strengths (based on Martin Seligman's (2004) 24 Character Strengths) in their work, collaborating with others to enhance their well-being and gain a deeper understanding of the rich diversity that each child brings to the class. At the same time, BTPS enables pupils to experience how some character strengths can build positive emotions such as Gratitude and Kindness (P1-P6), Love of Learning (P1-P6) in *BTPS Inspire*, Teamwork (P3-P6) in *Games Carnival*, Perseverance and Self-regulation (P5) in 'Work Like a Scientist' series, Creativity and Perspective (P4) in the upcoming *Journaling Super Team* and *My Character Strengths Camp in March* (P3).

With the school's efforts in using positive emotions, building on positive relationships and creating a positive classroom culture to make learning more engaging, we seek your continued support for the school and your child, as we embark on this meaningful journey together.

Mr Effandi Jasman
P5-P6 Year Head



Ruth Irfan Grace Cai Ling Arul Rui Heng

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP DAY (2 April)

The theme for 2018 International Friendship Day (IFD) is ***Celebrating the ASEAN Community***. As Singapore continually works with our ASEAN neighbours for peace and collaboration in the region, it is important for our pupils who come from such diverse backgrounds to develop cross-cultural skills and be able to relate to one another respectfully.

As an extension of the school cultural exchange programme, staff and pupils from Santa Laurensia, Indonesia will join us in our commemoration of IFD. Such initiatives give our pupils the opportunities to interact with peers from our neighbouring countries and learn more about their country, culture and lifestyle.

We look forward to the IFD booth activities led by our Parent Support Group (PSG) who would be putting up elaborate exhibitions and hands-on activities featuring *Greece, Nepal, South Africa and Colombia* and our P6 pupils' booth on *ASEAN*. We will conclude the day's activities with a Brazilian Street Percussion performance by our P6 pupils.

We encourage all our pupils to wear their ethnic costumes to show our commitment to stronger relationship with people of other nationalities.

Mother Tongue Learning Fortnight and Cultural Camp (P1 – P6)

Customs & Traditions in Marriages

For this upcoming Mother Tongue Fortnight and Cultural Camp (19 – 29 March), our pupils will gain a deeper understanding of customs and traditions in marriages in the main ethnic groups in Singapore.

You can support our efforts by sharing your own experience with your child.

PARENT-TEACHER Meeting (P1-P6)

25 May 2018 (8 a.m. to 3.00 p.m)

We look forward to seeing all Parents at the Parent-Teacher Meeting to discuss the holistic development of your child. Please make an appointment with your child's teachers. Should you not be able to meet the teachers, you can call them for updates on your child's progress.

See Annex A for instructions.

E-LEARNING

There will be no classes for all students on that day. However, we would like to carry out E-Learning for all levels. To ensure that your child is able to complete the E-learning tasks, please check if your child knows how to access his/her E-learning account on ASKnLearn and Koobits from home.

More details about E-Learning will be given to the children nearer the time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BTPS GAMES CARNIVAL 2018 (P3-P6 only)

The Games Carnival aims to inspire pupils to have an active, healthy lifestyle through sports. Pupils will work in teams and have many opportunities to try new sports.

The Games Carnival also encourages social interaction through team events. Students will have the time to interact and learn to work on their differences. Every student takes part in all the events and contributes to the overall team result. This reinforces the idea that the participation of each student is valued.

Please note that **P1 and P2 students** need not come to school on 23 March 2018.

P3 CAMP (28- 29 Mar 2018)

My Character Strengths

P3 pupils will enjoy a 2-day, 1-night camp in familiar surroundings at BTPS. Through this outdoor experiential learning experience, pupils will learn how to use their character strengths to achieve the following objectives:

- Manage and overcome problems
- Improve relationships with peers
- Enhance health and overall well-being

P3 Parents, do join us on Wednesday, 28 March 2018 at 7.00 p.m. for a special bonding session with your child and the teachers.

BTPS INSPIRE 2018 (9 - 16 July 2018)

This year, BTPS Inspire celebrates Racial Harmony Day with the theme “Diversity Our Strength”. To prepare for the event, we have set aside Prep Days after the SA1 (2 hours during curriculum time) from 21 to 23 May and pockets of time from 4 to 6 July.

This will provide an opportunity for pupils to develop the Love of Learning through acquiring new skills (fully sponsored by the school) and team work while working towards a performance.

NATIONAL PHYSICAL FITNESS AWARD (NAPFA) TEST 2018

The school will conduct its annual NAPFA Test for P4 and P6 pupils in April 2018.

The NAPFA Test schedule is as follows:

Level	5 Static Stations	1.6km Run/Walk
P6	Thurs, 5 April 2.00 - 4.00 pm	Thurs, 5 April From 7.30 am.
P4	Tues, 10 April 2.00 - 4.00 pm	Tues, 10 April From 7.30 am

In order for pupils to perform at their best for the test, please advise your child to:

- have adequate sleep on the eve of the test.
- avoid solid or oily food less than 2 hours before the test.
- wear the school PE attire and properly fitted shoes (running shoes are allowed)
- drink water freely before, during (if necessary) and after the test.
- not to take the test if unwell or just after recovering from a severe illness (an alternative test session in Term 3 will be arranged)