



NORTHLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Firm Foundations, Future Learnings

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3 January 2017

Letter to Parents: 01/2017

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Happy New Year! As we receive your child back to the school with open arms for a brand new academic year, let me extend a special welcome to all the new parents and students who have just joined Northland Primary. May the year 2017 be filled with joyful learning and meaningful experience for all our students, parents and staff.

For a start, I would like to update you on the following (most of the updates will also be posted on our school website):

1. *Year Head (YH) Briefing & PTM for Parents in January 2017*

There are changes to the schedule that I sent out in my earlier letter dated 16 Nov 2016. The updated schedule is as follows (more details will be given to you in a separate letter by the Year Heads):

Date	Level	Time	Venue
Wednesday, 11 Jan 2017	P2	2.30 pm to 3.30 pm (YH briefing) 3.30 pm to 4.00 pm (with FT/Subject teachers) 4.00 pm to 4.30 pm (with MT teacher)	School Hall Classroom Classroom
	P6	4.30 pm to 5.30 pm (YH briefing) 5.30 pm to 6.00 pm (with FT/Subject teachers) 6.00 pm to 6.30 pm (with MT teacher)	School Hall Classroom Classroom
Thursday, 12 Jan 2017	P3	2.30 pm to 3.30 pm (YH briefing) 3.30 pm to 4.00 pm (with FT/Subject teachers) 4.00 pm to 4.30 pm (with MT teacher)	School Hall Classroom Classroom
	P4	4.30 pm to 5.30 pm (YH briefing) 5.30 pm to 6.00 pm (with FT/Subject teachers) 6.00 pm to 6.30 pm (with MT teacher)	School Hall Classroom Classroom
Friday, 13 Jan 2017	P1	2.30 pm to 3.30 pm (YH briefing) 3.30 pm to 4.00 pm (with FT/Subject teachers) 4.00 pm to 4.30 pm (with MT teacher)	School Hall Classroom Classroom
	P5	4.30 pm to 5.30 pm (YH briefing) 5.30 pm to 6.00 pm (with FT/Subject teachers) 6.00 pm to 6.30 pm (with MT teacher)	School Hall Classroom Classroom

2. Applied Learning Programme (ALP)

Northland will launch its new signature programme (ALP) this year. A comprehensive thinking programme, Northland's ALP aims to teach students how to think critically, analytically, reflectively and creatively through a systematic and explicit approach. Younger students (P1 & P2) will first be inducted to the programme through the playing of Chess. Starting with the P3 in 2017, students will be progressively introduced to a host of thinking skills which will be infused into the curriculum of the various disciplines. On top of these, students will get to learn *Scratch*, a programming language for children in which they will have fun applying the thinking skills they learn. More information about this new programme will be made available during the meeting with the YH.

3. School Hours and CCA Timing

There is no change to school hours in 2017. It remains the same as follows:

- a) Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri: 7.45am to 1.45pm
- b) Wed: 7.45am to 12.45pm

All students are to report to school by 7.30am.

CCAs (with the exception of few Sports CCA due to the availability of Hall and ISH) will be conducted on Thursday afternoons and they will begin in Term 1 Week 3. The timings of the CCAs are as follows:

- Non-Sports CCA: 2.15 pm to 4.15 pm
- Sports CCA: 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm

4. Remedial Lessons & Higher Mother Tongue Classes

In keeping with past practice, there will be 2 afternoons scheduled for remedial lessons (P3 to P6) for English, Math, Science and Mother Tongue Languages. Regardless of levels, these will be on held on Mondays and Tuesdays from 2.15pm to 4.15pm. For remedial lessons, you will be notified through your child's subject teacher should he / she need to attend them.

Higher Mother Tongue (P5 & P6) classes will be conducted on Fridays from 2.15pm to 3.15pm. Do note that Higher Mother Tongue classes are considered curriculum time. Hence, attendance for these classes is **compulsory**.

5. Temperature-Taking Exercise

The school will be conducting the annual Temperature-Taking Exercise on Friday, 6 Jan 2017. We will be reminding students to bring their personal Oral Digital Thermometer (ODT) on that day for the exercise. I would like to seek your assistance to ensure that your child has their own ODT. For P1 students, ODT will be provided for them.

6. Communication with Parents

Communication between school and parents is important as you are the school's most important partner in our students' education. For the benefit of our new parents, I would like to revisit certain key points with regard to communication. I seek your understanding and support to adhere to the following channels of communication:

- For matters relating to the class or subject, contact the Form Teacher or Subject Teacher.

- For matters relating to a departmental programme, contact the respective Heads of Department (HOD), Subject Heads (SH) or Level Heads (LH).
- For matters relating to the teaching level, contact the respective Year Heads (YH).
- For matters relating to school operations and administration, contact the General Office, the Operations Manager (OM) or the Administration Manager (AM).
- For matters relating to school policies, contact the VPs or P.

The email addresses of all our staff are available on the school website. We will appreciate it very much if parents make an appointment first should you wish to have a meeting with a staff member.

In addition, I would like to seek your understanding on the following:

- (a) for urgent matters that require immediate attention during curriculum time, leave a message with the General Office
- (b) for non-urgent matters, email the staff concerned directly, and they will respond to you within 3 working days.

The school will also communicate with parents via the usual channels such as letters, school website and SNAAPP (School Notification and Attendance App) which can be downloaded for free in iOS App Store and Android Play Store. You will also be receiving a letter from your child's Form Teacher in which he/she will introduce himself/herself and provide information about your child's schooling this year.

7. School Notification and Attendance App (SNAAPP)

The school has stopped using SNAC for our communication with parents. Starting this year, we will use the new app SNAAPP (School Notification and Attendance App). Parents are strongly encouraged to download and install this free smartphone application which is located via a keyword search 'SNAAPP' for iPhone APP store or Android Play Store. Information on how to register your child on SNAAPP is attached for your reference. Please refer to the school website for more details.

8. Building Confidence in Communication

As part of our ongoing effort to equip students with 21CC, we want to encourage our students to speak confidently. At school-wide level, we want our students to take greater ownership of their learning by making a conscious effort to speak up for themselves where there is a concern/issue/need instead of relying on their parents to drop a note to their teachers. Unless the concern/issue/need is too complex or sensitive for your child to represent himself/herself, I encourage parents to take a step back and let your child learn to express his/her needs in intelligible ways directly to the teacher-in-charge.

9. Road Safety Matters

Since 2015, the school has put in some additional measures to allow parents to drop off their children within the school compound before the start of the school day. For the safety of our staff and students, we seek your patience and cooperation to be a more responsible road user. It is my responsibility to remind parents of the tougher penalty that will be imposed by Traffic Police for traffic offences committed within the school zone.

Do heed the following traffic advisory:

- Slow down and drive more carefully when you are in a school zone.
- Be extra vigilant to watch out for children crossing the road as they may be easily blocked from your view due to their height.
- Be patient when you encounter heavy traffic at school zones or within school compound during school peak hours. Should you be rushing for time, please take other routes if you can.

We also seek your cooperation to guide your child by

- setting the right example for your child to use the road safely
- teaching your child to look out for potential safety hazards when crossing the road.

If you drive your child to school, please follow the instructions given by our road marshals on duty to ensure safety not only for your child but for other school children and road users as well. We are working closely with the LTA, HDB and the community to monitor the traffic situation in the mornings and will update you on the changes to improve the situation over the course of the year.

10. Calendar of Events 2017

Below is a schedule of the key school events and holiday for this term. This schedule is also made available on our school website (<http://www.northlandpri.moe.edu.sg>).

Date	Activity/Event	Level	Remarks
27 Jan (Fri)	CNY school celebration	All	Dismissal Time: 10.15am
30 Jan (Mon)	CNY Public Holiday	All	School holiday
31 Jan (Tue)	CNY Off-in-Lieu		
10 Mar (Fri)	Sports Day	All	No lesson on that day
11 Mar to 19 Mar	March School Holiday	All	School holiday

We are confirming the Calendar of Events for Semester 1 and will be updating them on the school website by next week.

Northland enjoyed a good year in 2016, due in large part to the tremendous support we received from parents. It reaffirms my belief that Northland parents understand the importance of working hand-in-hand with us for the good of their children and the school as a whole. There will always be challenges from time to time but together, we can create an inviting school that will excite our children in learning and create new and joyous experiences for them to grow, serve and excel.

Do continue to lend us your full support to make Northland Primary our second home for all – *a home where it is fun to learn and grow.*

With best wishes and regards,

Tony Tan
Principal