

BUKIT TIMAH PRIMARY SCHOOL 111 Lorong Kismis Singapore 598112 Tel: 64662863 Website: <u>https://www.bukittimahpri.moe.edu.sg/</u> Email: bukittimahps@moe.edu.sg

BTPS/2024/02

10 January 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

BTPS 2024

As the school year begins, we welcome to BTPS new staff who will strengthen our teaching and administration capacities to meet the demands of the new year. They are:

- Mdm Jan Lin (Vice Principal)
- Mr Ernest Choon (Head of Department, ICT)
- Ms Chen Yingru (Teacher, English and Science)
- Mr Chua Teck Yong (Teacher, Mathematics and Science)
- Ms Edina Yong (Teacher, English and Mathematics)
- Ms Foo Li Wei (Teacher, English and Mathematics)
- Ms Iris Lim (Teacher, Mathematics and Science)
- Mr R. Rajamohan (School Counsellor)
- Mr Desmond Goh (Operations Manager)
- Mr Abdul Azhari Bin Sapari (Administration Executive)

We are also proud to announce the appointment of Mrs Wong-Chong Yu Pei as Level Head Mathematics.

School Calendar

A list of key school events for Semester 1 2024 is attached for your reference. We appreciate your understanding that there may be changes, of which we will inform you in advance. The 2024 Assessment Schedule for Primary Three to Six students will follow shortly.

Student Health and Safety

In consideration of our students' differing dietary needs and with a number of students with severe allergies, we would like to strongly discourage the distribution of goody bags for birthdays and the sharing of food amongst students, especially food with nuts. We seek your assistance to complete the updating of student information including health updates as soon as possible.

Student Development

The Primary 6 Cohort of 2023 achieved good PSLE outcomes and has headed on to schools of their choice. The teachers will continue to work with successive cohorts on not just academic outcomes but also character development. Our school's refreshed Character Development Structure spells out the level focus and the observable behaviours we would like the students to practise. You may refer to them at <u>BTPS Character Programme (moe.edu.sg)</u>.

You will notice that the observable behaviours use mainly "I will" statements to help students understand how they can own their actions and take responsibility for themselves as they mature. Our teachers will work with your child/ward to practise behaviours and develop habits that will ensure a conducive learning environment for all.

Together with our school rules, the Character Development Structure shapes our school's policies and practices. Our emphasis on school attire is a step in this direction as we help our students develop an awareness of appropriate attire and behaviour. This in turn instils discipline in the child, to have respect for rules, to be proud of wearing the school uniform and to play a part in shaping the school identity. We want to develop students who can be leaders of themselves and who have a shared sense of responsibility for the school learning culture. Our teachers will then be able to spend more time crafting engaging lessons, rather than managing behaviour.

The teachers are working towards easing our students into an awareness of appropriate attire for different occasions. We have noticed in 2023 that many of our older students do not have the full uniform (formal uniform top and bottom) or even a formal bottom that fits them by the time they are in Semester 2 in Primary 6. As a result, many of our P6 students have come in PE attire for PSLE oral examinations, for Direct School Admission (DSA) interviews by secondary schools and formal school occasions, which is inappropriate, especially as they mature physically.

We thank you for working with your child/ward on this and appreciate your support as we have observed that most students are making good progress. We will continue to practise this in a gradual manner and our PE and CCA teachers will work with your child on attire changes when required and adjust accordingly. We have also taken heed of your feedback and the challenges some of you face. Do give us some time as we review the practice to ensure a balance between comfort, convenience, and a sense of formality when necessary.

Use of Images and Videos in School

Throughout the years of a student's journey in BTPS, authorised event photographers and videographers may capture photograph(s) and/or video recording(s) of our students 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 on official platforms and materials that include but are not limited to the school website, the school's print materials and online platforms including social media, promotional materials for school events, publicity materials for prospective students and parents, MOE Facebook and Instagram and special displays/walls to celebrate student achievements and joyful moments.

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

Connecting with the school

The Year Heads are writing to you to provide information on the level Meet-The-Parents Sessions shortly. We are differentiating by levels and hope to provide a more customised experience in 2024.

Lastly, to support our teachers, we hope that you will continue to connect with them through the BT Kit, through email (available on school website) and via our school's General Office. We seek your understanding to keep communication to between 7am and 5pm on weekdays during term time and give our teachers time to respond/return your call. We strongly encourage you to come onboard Parents Gateway if you have not done so. We hope to launch the school's social media channels in coming months to provide more timely and updated news about the school.

Yours sincerely Ms Lau Wan Sze Principal