



JING SHAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thinkers. Learners. Leaders.

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5 January 2018

REF: 2018T1_008

Dear Parents/Guardians,

From the Principal's Office – January 2018



A Happy New Year to you and a warm welcome to Jing Shan Primary!

The big news for 2017 was about our impending merger in January 2019 with Da Qiao Primary School. Last week, we informed all parents of the name of the merged school, in which our existing name of "Jing Shan Primary School" will be retained. The merger presents an excellent opportunity to combine the good practices from both schools and offer new learning opportunities to our pupils. My colleagues and I are committed to ensure a smooth transition for everyone, and preparatory work has already started in 2017 to align our practices and programmes including the sharing of common exam papers, use of common textbooks, and alignment of common teaching schedules. The preparations will intensify this year and we will be organising events for pupils of both schools to connect and bond.

In September last year, I informed all of the postponement of our school upgrading works. This is unrelated to the announcement of our merger, but rather due to a need to further review the design to accommodate new requirements for the upgrading project. We are still on course for the upgrading works to start in November this year. Taking into account the pupils joining us from Da Qiao, immediate provisions will be made by Jan 2019 to ensure that there are ample classrooms and facilities to cater to the increased student population in the existing school blocks. The building of the new Indoor Sports Hall block with new special rooms is projected to be fully completed by Jun 2020.

Amidst the preparations for the merger and the upgrading, we are fully committed to ensure that we continue to deliver quality education to your children. At the Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE) last year, the school maintained our good passing rate, with over 99% of our pupils eligible for Secondary school. The school will continue to work on improving our quality results by customising our programmes for our pupils of different abilities, including a talent development programme for our high progressing pupils and a structured support programme for our low progressing pupils.

The focus this year will be on cultivating a culture of thinking in the school. Since 2014, we have introduced the use of thinking routines as a classroom pedagogy. This is evident in most subjects at Jing Shan, including Science, Mother Tongue, English and Art. We have married thinking routines with technology in the curriculum with the Seamless Science programme at P3 and P4 this year. Our belief is that thinking should go beyond the use of the routines and be part of the way of life for our pupils. In the area of student well-being, we are introducing Growth Mindset principles to all our pupils. Through simple but enduring messages that teach our pupils that intelligence is not fixed, that they should always try their best, and to learn from their mistakes, we hope to inculcate in our pupils the resilience and strength of character to persevere in the face of adversity.

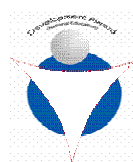
I look forward to meet all parents on Thursday 11 January 2018 (for P5 – P6 parents), Friday 12 January 2018 (for P3 – P4 parents) and Thursday 18 January 2018 (for P1 – P2 parents). The event will start with a short 30-minute Welcome segment in the classroom with your child's/ward's form teachers, followed by my briefing for parents in the Hall. I hope you can make time to attend on the designated day(s) as I will be sharing with all parents more about the above and how you can play your part in supporting your children.

Onward we strive!

Principal,
Mdm Goh Meei Yunn



Loyalty
Integrity
Generosity
Enthusiasm
Respect &
Responsibility



1) **Welcome**

The school is pleased to introduce the following staff who joined the school this year: Mdm Catherine Chin, Ms Sudhisha Pillay, Mdm Ng Wei Eng, Mrs Diana Tan, Mrs Chia Siew Eng and Mdm Mainah,

We bid farewell to Ms Clarine Tan, Ms Pang Jing Yi, Ms Yu Ziling, Ms Sim Wan'er, Mrs Violet Yan, Mr Steven Tay, Mdm Chang Lye Kuen and Mdm Azlinah, The school would like to extend our sincere thanks to them for their contributions to the school.

2) **School Values of Respect, Responsibility & Enthusiasm & Growth Mindset@Jing Shan**

In alignment with the school vision, mission and values, and to foster a quality school culture, the school places special emphasis on our school values of **Respect** and **Responsibility** throughout the year. In addition, one other value is emphasized each term: **Enthusiasm** (Term 1), **Integrity** (Term 2), **Loyalty** (Term 3) and **Generosity** (Term 4). The school hopes that all parents could support the school's efforts and reinforce these values at home.

Respect: All pupils need to be respectful of self, others and our environment. Pupils who are self-respecting present themselves well and are neat at all times. Pupils show their respect to others by politely greeting their peers, elders and teachers. They are also kind with their words and actions. Pupils undertake green efforts in school and at home to demonstrate their commitment to respect our environment.

Responsibility: All pupils are to practise responsibility by taking care of themselves, taking care of one another and taking care of the school. Students who are responsible in taking care of themselves will make sure they come to school punctually and submit their assignments on time. Pupils who are responsible in taking care of others will go out of their way to help their peers. Pupils also have the responsibility to take care and maintain the cleanliness of the places that they use or visit.

Enthusiasm: All pupils are encouraged to be enthusiastic in their learning and have a positive mindset in all that they do. Pupils who are enthusiastic also participate actively in all class activities and school events.

Growth Mindset @ Jing Shan

In world-renowned Stanford University psychologist Carol Dweck's seminal book *Mindset: The New Psychology of Success*, pupils' mindsets and how they perceive their abilities, play a key role in their motivation and achievement. By changing pupils' mindsets, achievement is enhanced. More precisely, pupils who believe their intelligence can be developed (a growth mindset) outperform those who believe their intelligence is fixed (a fixed mindset). Having pupils focus on the process that leads to learning (like hard work or trying new strategies) can foster a growth mindset and harness its benefits.

In Jing Shan, we hope to actively cultivate and encourage our pupils to have a growth mindset. We want our pupils to relish challenges, embrace their mistakes as part of their learning process, value the importance of effort, respond carefully to feedback and take inspiration from others. This is in line with our school values of Enthusiasm and Responsibility. These learning objectives are articulated through the 6 key themes below and will be reinforced to our pupils through existing curriculum platforms like Form Teacher Guidance Period, Character and Citizenship Education and Social Studies lessons:

P1 & P2 – I Love to Learn; I Never Give Up

P3 & P4 – I Learn from Mistakes; I Give my Best Effort

P5 & P6 – I Lead and Learn; I Challenge Myself

3) **School/Public Holidays & School Events in Term 1**

Date	Event	Remarks (if any)
11 Jan, Thu	Principal's Briefing for P5/P6 parents	Refer to Item 5a
12 Jan, Fri	Principal's Briefing for P3/P4 parents	
18 Jan, Thu	Principal's Briefing for P1/P2 parents	
27 Jan, Sat (P1- P2)	Learning Festival for Parents	Ref to Item 5b
3 Feb, Sat (P3 - P6)		
12 Feb, Tue	Commemoration of Total Defence Day	During Curriculum Time
15 Feb, Thu	Chinese New Year Celebration	Refer to item 10
16 & 17 Feb, Fri - Sat	Chinese New Year	Public Holiday

Date	Event	Remarks (if any)
19 Feb, Mon	Chinese New Year	School Holiday
9 Mar, Fri	Parent-Teacher Meeting and E-Learning Day	No school for P1 – P6

4) **Learning Journeys, Term 1**

As part of the school's efforts to make pupils' learning more authentic and engaging, the school has organized the learning journeys (LJ) for the following levels:

Date	LJ	Level	Remarks
26 Jan, Fri (6/1 & 6/)	Science Centre: Aquatic Plants & Animals	All P6 Pupils	
2 Feb, Fri (6/3, 6/4, 6/5, 6/6)			
5 - 6 Mar, Mon - Tue (Gp 1)	P6 Internationalisation Programme: Malacca, Malaysia	All P6 Pupils	Refer to Item 9
7 - 8 Mar, Wed - Thu (Gp 2)			
7 – 12 Mar, Wed - Mon	P5 Internationalisation Programme: Suzhou & Shanghai, China	Selected P5 Pupils	Refer to Item 9

5) **Parent-related Programmes/Talks**

a) Principal's Briefing

We would like to invite all parents to attend the Principal's Briefing Series for the year. This is an opportunity for you to meet with your child's form teachers before Principal's Briefing and also a time to get to know the parents in your child's class. Pertinent information related to your child's level will also be shared by the Principal during the Principal's Briefing. The details of the above event are as follows:

Date	Time	Level	Programme	Venue
11 Jan, Thu	5.00pm – 5.30pm	Parents of P5 & P6 pupils	Meeting with Form Teachers	P5 & P6 Classrooms
	5.30pm – 6.30pm		Principal's Briefing	AVA Room
12 Jan, Fri	5.00pm – 5.30pm	Parents of P3 & P4 pupils	Meeting with Form Teachers	P3 & P4 Classrooms
	5.30pm – 6.30pm		Principal's Briefing	Hall
18 Jan, Thu	5.00pm – 5.30pm	Parents of P1 & P2 pupils	Meeting with Form Teachers	P1 & P2 Classrooms
	5.30pm – 6.30pm		Principal's Briefing	Hall

b) Learning Festival for Parents

We would like to invite all parents to our annual Learning Festival for Parents. The Learning Festival series originated from parents' feedback that they wanted to learn more about teaching and learning in a primary classroom. They also wanted to be updated on essential strategies so that they could better support their child at home. We strongly encourage all parents to attend the Learning Festival. It is a session conducted for parents by our teachers. More details and the synopses of the workshops will be provided in a letter at a later date. Do mark the relevant date(s) on your calendar and join us in a morning of fun and learning.

Level	Date	Venue / Time
Parents of P1 – P2 Pupils	27 Jan, Sat	Various Venues 8.00am – 1.00pm
Parents of P3 – P6 Pupils	2 Feb, Sat	

6) **P5 Leadership Camp**

As part of the school's holistic development efforts, our Primary 5 pupils will be having a 3-day, 2-night residential camp in MOE Outdoor Adventure Learning Centre@Changi Coast, from 18 – 20 January, Thursday – Saturday.

In this Leadership Camp, the pupils will develop their leadership skills through the process of working in teams in an outdoor setting. Through the process of collaborative learning, pupils will improve on their self-

management, confidence, problem-solving and communication skills. More details have been given in a separate letter. The camp briefing for parents will be held on 8 January, Monday, 4.30pm – 5.30pm, in the AVA Room.

7) P3 Swimming Programme

The school will be conducting a swimming programme for all P3 pupils. This is a compulsory programme that is part of MOE’s effort to ensure that every pupil is equipped with basic water survival skills. The 12-week programme will commence on Term 1 Week 4, in the week starting 22 January, Monday. For parents whose child is in P3, a separate letter is appended for your information.

8) Nurturing a Reading Culture @ Jing Shan

a) Mass Registration of National Library Board for P1 Pupils

Jing Shan Primary School will be conducting a mass registration of National Library Board (NLB) membership for P1 children. Interested parents whose child is in P1 may fill in the form and attach the necessary documents. Please have your child submit them to his/her class form teacher by 19 January, Friday.

b) WOW MUM/DAD

WOW MUM/DAD (WOW stands for Words Of Wisdom) is a programme spearheaded by the Parent Support Group. The parent volunteers conduct storytelling and drama sessions and in-depth discussions with pupils. Through these interactions, the parent volunteers seek to connect the moral of the stories to real life experiences, and impart important values to the pupils through stories and drama. The details for WOW MUM/DAD:

Day / Time / Venue	Dates
Thursday during the 3 Recesses @ Ligerbrary	25 January
	8 & 22 February
	8 & 22 March

9) P5 & P6 Internationalisation Programmes

The P5 and P6 Internationalisation Programmes aim to develop in our pupils the 21st century competency of global awareness and develop cross-cultural skills and sensitivities. Pupils will learn more about Asia and the world and be sensitized to the place of Singapore in the world. Pupils’ learning will be enriched as they deepen their commitment and rootedness to Singapore.

P5 pupils will be invited to sign up for the programme to Suzhou & Shanghai (7 – 12 Mar, Wed – Mon) and will be subjected to a selection process as there will be a cap on the maximum number of pupils selected for this trip. The P6 Malacca trip (5 - 6 Mar, Mon - Tue for Group 1; 7 - 8 Mar, Wed - Thu for Group 2) is a cohort event and is open to all P6 pupils. More details of the P5 and P6 overseas trips will be given in a separate letter at a later date.

10) Chinese New Year Celebration

School hours on the eve of Chinese New Year, 15 February, Thursday, will be from 7.30am – 10.00am. The pupils will engage in a classroom activity in the first hour and view a Chinese New Year concert from 8.45am – 10.00am. Parents are cordially invited to the concert. Please be seated in the Hall Gallery by 8.30am if you wish to attend the event. Due to space constraints in the Hall, only 2 members from each family are invited.

All pupils are encouraged to wear traditional ethnic costume to school on that day. Alternatively, they may choose to wear their school uniform. For footwear, all pupils are to wear their black school shoes. They should not come to school in slippers, sandals or party shoes. Dismissal time on that day will be at 10.00am. The school bus service and Alphajoy have been informed of the early dismissal.

11) Photo-Taking for Smartcard for P1 and P6 Pupils

All P1 and P6 pupils will have their photographs taken for their Smartcard. Pupils are to be in their full school uniform on 31 January, Wednesday. Pupils should be neat and smart-looking for this photo-taking exercise.

12) Refinements made to Continual Assessments (CAs) & Semestral Assessments (SAs)

The school has reviewed the assessment plan for the year and in the spirit of enhancing holistic assessment for P3-5 pupils, only Semestral Assessments will be weighted. The weighting will be 40% for SA1 and 60% for SA2 for the year. In place of Continual Assessments, there will be formative assessments, which will not be weighted, conducted throughout each semester to provide feedback on the pupils’ learning. Subject teachers will inform pupils of the dates for formative assessments at least one week in advance. Pupils will

be prepared in class for the various assessment components. A separate letter on assessments will be issued to all by next week.

13) Remedial Programme

The school has reviewed and made refinements to our supplementary and remedial programme in 2018. In place of supplementary lessons for the whole class after school hours, the school will be conducting remedial lessons after school hours to better cater to the needs of specific pupils. The remedial lessons will be conducted by the pupils' subject teacher and class size will be capped at 10 per class. Criteria for selection will be for pupils who need extra support to strengthen their fundamentals in the subject matter, and to allow teachers more opportunities and time to check on pupils' understanding and close learning gaps. Remedial lessons will start in the week of 22 January, Monday. The duration for each remedial will be an hour (2pm – 3pm). Letters with more details will be given to selected pupils by their subject teachers.

14) Safety and Security of Pupils

a) Arrival Procedures

Only pupils are allowed to enter the school premises, when they arrive at school. This is in order to ensure the safety and security of all pupils.

Pupils would need to be dropped off outside the school premises except for those arriving in school buses. Pupils could enter the school via the side gate (next to the bus stop on Ang Mo Kio Street 52) or the back gate (located opposite Blk 585).

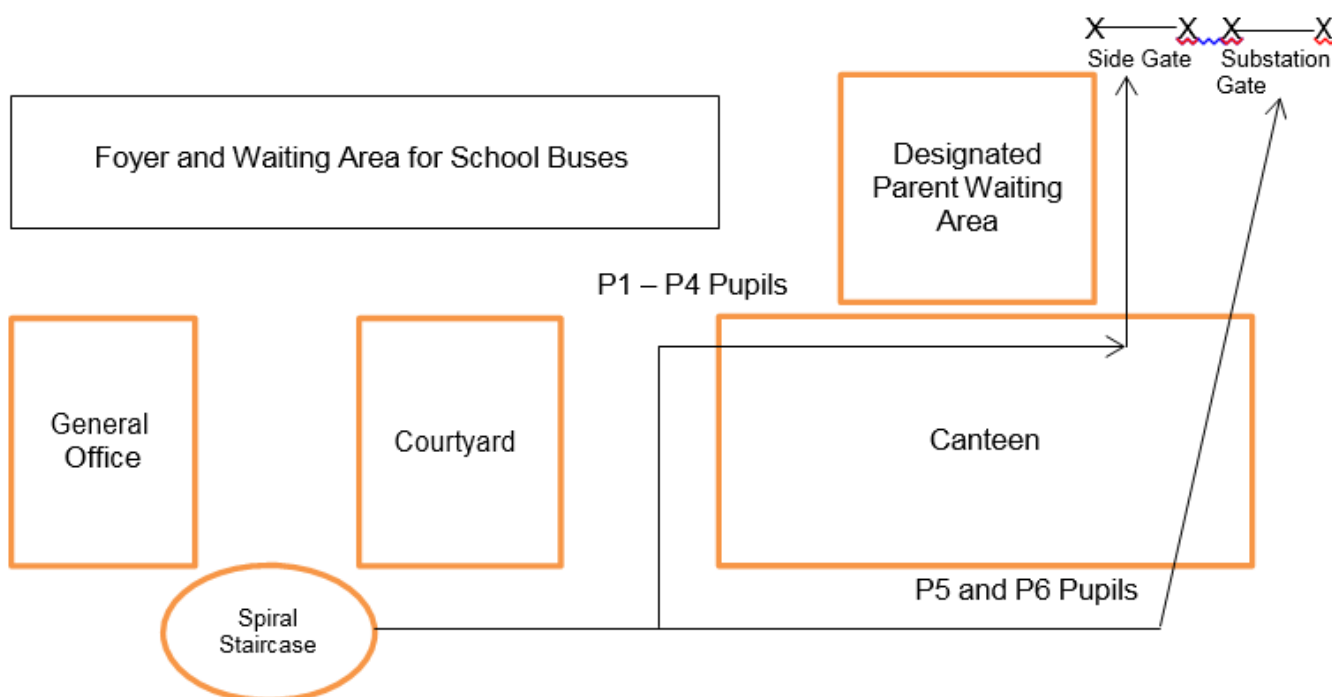
Provision would only be made to allow parents/guardians to drop off their child/ward within school premises when it rains. In the interest of safety, please note that any vehicle exiting the school's main gate on a school day will not be allowed to make a right turn onto Ang Mo Kio Street 52 between 7.00am – 7.30am on school days.

Please assist to reinforce road safety rules to your child/ward. Your child/ward is to cross the road only at designated pedestrian crossings.

b) Dismissal Procedures

The school has cordoned a section of the walkway (marked by barricades and yellow lines on the floor) outside the canteen and designated it as Parents' Waiting Area for parents/guardians picking up your child/ward leaving by the side gate. We seek the understanding and patience of all parents/guardians who are picking up your child/ward to wait at the cordoned area or outside the school premises and to refrain from blocking the way at key dismissal points.

Parents who drive should utilise the nearby carparks at Blk 596, 588 and 590 during the school dismissal hours while waiting for your child to be dismissed from school.



c) Information for Drivers

The school would like to remind drivers not to park your vehicle within 9m of the bus stop. Drivers are reminded to stay out of the bus bay and the red box just before the bus stop. When dropping off a passenger, drivers should stop their vehicle before the red box marked on the road and the passenger should disembark briskly, to avoid the obstruction of traffic.

We strongly encourage all parents/guardians to have your child/ward ready with their school bag seated on the left passenger side to facilitate a quick drop off and to arrange for an appropriate time to pick your child/ward up **without having to park along the road** to wait for them.

The school recommends two alternative drop-off/pick-up points in the interest of road safety for everyone. The first one is located at Blk 522. There is a driveway and a porch that is located at the block. The pupils can then use the pedestrian crossing at the traffic lights located on Street 52, in front of the school and enter via the side gate. Parents are reminded not to park your car at the driveway as it would obstruct other cars behind which are waiting to drop-off.



The second one is located at Blk 588. There is a driveway and porch that is located at the block. The pupils can then use the sheltered walkway that leads to the school's side gate.



d) Visitor Registration

We would like to highlight and remind you of our Visitor Registration procedure as communicated on pages 10 and 13 in the Pupil Handbook. All visitors, including our pupils' parents/guardians, will have to register themselves with the Security Officer at the Guardhouse (located at the main gate) if they are visiting the school for specific official matters.

Visitors to the school will only be allowed to enter through the Main Gate as multiple points of entry into the school may compromise the safety and security of the school premises and your child. All visitors will only be allowed to wait at the General Office to meet with staff of the school. Movement within the school compound beyond the General Office **MUST** be accompanied by designated school staff.

Parents who wish to see any staff after school dismissal are to follow the same procedures as above. They are advised to avoid the peak dismissal hours and to make appointments to see the staff so as to minimise disruption of school dismissal procedures. In the case of parents/guardians coming to pick up or to pass food items to their child/ward during dismissal, please stay within the Waiting Area marked by barricades along the boundary next to the Canteen or the Waiting Area under the shelter at the Back

Gate. For parents/guardians coming to pick up their child/ward from Alphajoy, please stay within the Waiting Area at the Security Counter in the foyer. The school would like to advise parents/guardians that you will only be allowed to come into the school to buy books from the bookshop between 8.00am – 9.00am, 11.00am – 1.00pm and 2.00pm – 3.00pm from Monday to Friday.

e) Absence from School

For safety reasons, for the day(s) of your child's/ward's absence, we expect him/her to submit the following upon your child's/ward's return to school. Please do not send your child/ward to school if he/she is not well.

- A medical certificate covering the period of absence or
- A letter from the parent/guardian to explain the reason for absence (**not more than 5 such letters in a semester**)

f) Punctuality for School

The school curriculum hours are from 7.30am – 1.30pm. The flag-raising ceremony will start at 7.30am sharp. All pupils are to be punctual, to attend the morning assembly and flag raising ceremony in the Hall.

15) Collated Activities for Term 1

Please refer to attached for the collated activities in Term 1. We hope the detailed collation will provide all parents with a good idea of what your child is experiencing across all subjects in the ten weeks this term, and that you can better support your child at home. We will inform by letter if there are any changes due to unforeseen circumstances.

16) Gifted Education Programme (GEP) Selection Exercise 2018

We would like you to inform all parents of the 2018 Primary 3 cohort about the tentative dates for the GEP Screening and Selection Exercises. They are:

- GEP Screening Exercise - 24 August, Friday
- GEP Selection Exercise - 16 - 17 October, Tuesday - Wednesday

17) Modes of Communication

You should have received a letter from your child's form teacher. If you have any enquiries for any of your child's teachers, you may use the Student Handbook as a platform to provide feedback to the teachers. Alternatively, you may email the school at jsps@moe.edu.sg or call the school office at 6456 6305. The school hours are from 7.30am – 6.00pm, Monday – Fridays. We seek your understanding not to contact teachers after 6.00pm on weekdays and on weekends and appeal to your understanding when teachers do not respond to your phone/email beyond their regular work hours.

The school's latest announcements, briefing slides and school calendar will be updated on the school website at www.jingshanpri.moe.edu.sg. Photographs of school events will be shared with you via the school's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/jingshanpri.

The school will also utilize the *Remind: School Communication App* to allow school to announce timely reminders to parents when appropriate. Kindly download the app in your mobile device. Please enter the class code that is printed on the form teacher's letter to access class information and school reminders.

18) Parent Support Group (PSG)

Parents play a vital role in the development and education of your children. Research has shown that the greater the support that families provide for their children's learning, the more likely their children will do well in school and beyond. Both school and parents will benefit from working closely with one another. In fact, research shows that a tight partnership between schools and parents boosts student achievement, reduces absenteeism, increases positive student behaviour, and gives parents confidence in supporting their children's schooling. As such, the school would like to invite parents to join the PSG. For parents who wish to do so, kindly complete the attached application form and drop it in the PSG Box located outside the General Office.

19) Nomination for PAT Awards for Teachers

Nominations for the President's Award for Teachers (PAT) began on 16 October, Monday. These awards are given out to teachers in our fraternity to recognise their professional excellence. We strongly encourage parents and pupils to nominate deserving teachers for these awards. Nominations can be submitted online via <http://tinyurl.com/2018pat> by 15 January.