



Official (Open) / Non-Sensitive

SEMBAWANG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Innovative Learners, Rooted in Values

SBPS/22/017

14 February 2022

Open Letter from School Leaders 2/2022

Dear Parents,

1. Mid-Term 1 greetings! Enlivened by the presence of our students, the school is once again buzzing with activities. We must say that the P1 students have adapted very well to the school environment, not forgetting our MOE Kindergarten (MK) K1 students who have also added to the vibrancy of the school.
2. As the nation gradually restores towards normalcy, more activities are permissible for your child's learning in schools. The school will ensure the activities are carried out with the appropriate Safe Management Measures (SMM) in place for the safety of your child. The respective teachers-in-charge would have provided the necessary information or will be doing so in due course.

Important Information

Safety and Security

3. Keeping School Safe. Parents are reminded to seek medical attention for your unwell child. Please update the Form Teachers (FTs) should your child is unwell, tested positive for COVID-19 or issued with a Health Risk Warning (HRW) by MOH, at the earliest opportunity.
4. Shift in MOH Health Protocol. As Singapore transits towards the endemic stage, right sitting care towards primary care and self-responsibility will become the new default mode of recovery. The new health protocol took effect from 21 Jan 2022 and you may visit <https://www.covid.gov.sg/> for more information.
5. Vaccination Exercise for Children Aged 5 – 11 years. Vaccination is a key measure to protect our children against COVID-19 infection and especially against severe outcomes. With the rise in primary school cases, it is advisable to get your child fully vaccinated as soon as possible. From 25 January 2022, children aged 5 to 11 years will be able to walk in with their parents/guardians to any paediatric vaccination centre (VC) to receive their first dose of vaccination without a prior appointment. More details are available in the Parents Gateway (PG) message sent on 24 Jan 2022.
6. Fire Evacuation Drill. It is important that our students understand the objectives of a fire evacuation drill as well as the evacuation procedure in the event of a fire or fire-related incident in the school. All students (including our MK students) have completed class-based fire evacuation drills as of 20 Jan 2022.

7. IT Security. There has been a rise in phishing scams recently. Phishing is a form of cyberattack where fraudulent communication seemingly from legitimate sources is being sent via SMS or email to con victims into revealing sensitive information or installing malware. In phishing scams, cybercriminals intend to trick cyber users to reveal passwords, financial information, personal information and even transfer money. See Table 1 for tips to protect your family from phishing scams.

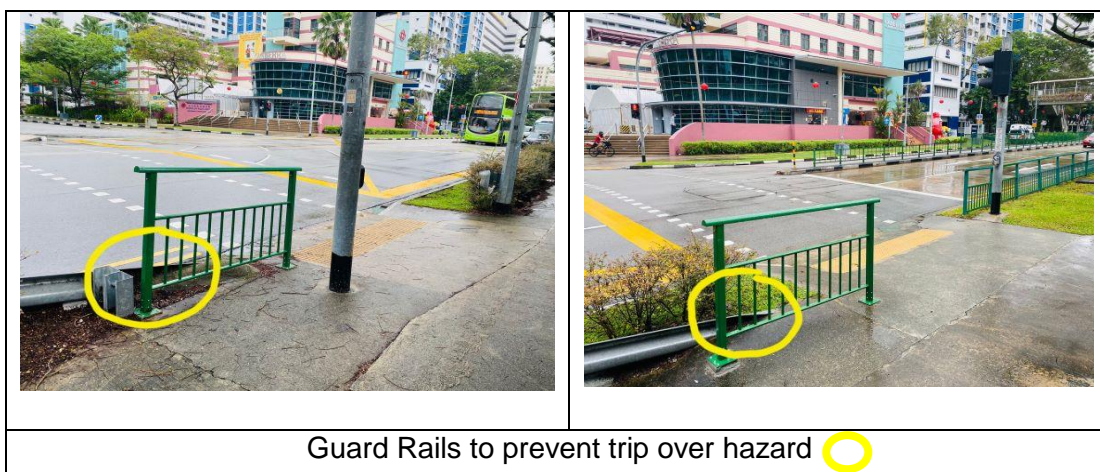
Table 1 – IT Security Tips

Tip	What to do
Beware of Imposters	DO NOT follow any instructions given. Contact the government agency or business based on their publicly listed information to confirm the request.
Never Share Sensitive Information	Personal information such as credentials, one-time passwords (OTPs) and banking details should never be shared over email, SMS or phone call.
Block Unsolicited Calls / Messages	Apps such as ScamShield can be installed on mobile phones to block phishing scam calls and messages. Find out more at https://www.scamshield.org.sg
For the latest scam information, you can also visit https://www.scamalert.sg/	

8. Anti-drug Resources. In December 2021, youth as young as 17 years old were arrested for drug-related activities. With the increase in the number of Singaporeans being arrested for drug-related activities, it is time for schools, parents and community to work together to keep Singapore a drug-free country. We have appended relevant Preventive Drug Education (PDE) resources below for your reference and information.

- Be a volunteer with the A3 Network
[https://www.mha.gov.sg/volunteers/home-team-volunteer-scheme/detail/Details/anti-drug-abuse-advocacy-\(A3\)-network-volunteers](https://www.mha.gov.sg/volunteers/home-team-volunteer-scheme/detail/Details/anti-drug-abuse-advocacy-(A3)-network-volunteers)
- Educational Resources (PDE) found in CNB's website
<https://www.cnb.gov.sg/educational-resources>
- Monthly PDE newsletter and interactive game for parents and children in our school's website
<https://sembawangpri.moe.edu.sg/programmes/departments/student-management/preventive-anti-drug-education-programme>

9. Guard Rail at Traffic Light Junction. In our effort to continuously enhance the safety of our students, we have liaised with Land Transport Authority (LTA) to install guardrails to prevent tripping over a road safety hazard. Please refer to the photographs for the full illustration.



Student Matters

10. **School-based Assessment.** Assessment plays an integral role in supporting children's learning. Throughout the academic year, P3-P5 students will undergo both formative and summative assessments. In line with MOE's emphasis to enable students to enjoy learning, our P1 and P2 children will not have weighted assessment. Instead, they will sit for non-weighted assessments to help teachers ascertain if they are able to understand the topics taught. We have sent out notifications on school-based assessment for the various levels via PG on 18 January 2022.

11. **Mathematics and Science Webinar for Parents.** The school will be conducting a webinar for parents to share how you can guide your child in the learning of Mathematics and Science. The webinar will be conducted via Zoom according to the schedule in Table 2. We have sent out notifications on the webinar, including the link to sign up for the various levels, via PG on 28 January 2022. We look forward to seeing you at the webinar.

Table 2 – Schedule for Mathematics and Science Webinar for Parents

Date	Time	Target Audience
18 Feb 2022 (Friday)	6.00 pm to 7.30 pm	P3 & P4 parents
25 Feb 2022 (Friday)	6.00 pm to 7.30 pm	P5 & P6 parents

12. **CCA.** All CCAs, except Choir where most of the session are online, have commenced face-to-face sessions with adherence to SMMs, much to the delight of our students especially after a long hiatus. To meet SMM requirements, CCAs with a larger enrolment are further streamlined by levels for training on alternate/separate CCA days. Do look out for the notifications sent by the respective teachers-in-charge via PG.

13. **Growth Mindset.** As part of the school's Learning for Life Programme (LLP) in developing self-leadership in students, the school has introduced growth mindset through a series of lessons. Students with growth mindset are willing to put in effort to take on challenges and learn from their mistakes, thereby improving their abilities and achievement. We have conducted our first growth mindset lesson and students learnt

that their abilities and skills can be improved over time with effort and practice. We would like to encourage all parents to support the school's effort in cultivating a growth mindset in our students. Here are some tips on how you can encourage your child at home:

- a. Give growth-oriented praises by praising your child's effort, not solely on outcomes.
- b. Emphasise that skills and achievements come through commitment and effort.
- c. In responding to your child's mistakes, teach them to face challenges positively, learn from their mistakes, seek new strategies and encourage them to keep on learning.

Celebration of Successes...

14. 2021 GCE N-Level Examinations. Our ex-student, Chier Wi Yang (Class 6D 2017) who attended Yishun Secondary School, has achieved 3 distinctions in the 2021 GCE 'N'-level examinations. Wi Yang's sterling performance is a testament to the strong foundations that he has built up during his study in our school. We are very proud of his success and wish him all the best as he continues with his Secondary 5 education.

15. Prefects' Investiture. Given the need to adhere to SMM measures, the 2022 Prefects' Investiture was pre-recorded and screened for our students during assembly on 26 January 2022. The e-Prefects' Investiture featured the appointment of the new P3 & 4 prefects, culminating with the Head Prefect leading the prefects in the recital of the prefects pledge (see Figure 1.)

Figure 1 – Recital of Prefects Pledge led by the Elected Head Prefect



Up-coming School Events...

16. Total Defence Day. The school will commemorate Total Defence Day (TDD) on 15 February 2022. The theme for this year's TDD is "Together We Keep Singapore Strong", primarily to encourage students to play a greater role in Total Defence and to highlight the different ways of contributions. On that day, our canteen vendors will be selling wartime food such as plain porridge, sweet potatoes, eggs & corn during recess. The objective is to help our students understand the types of food our ancestors had during wartime and to appreciate the sacrifices they had made.

17. Experiential Learning Week (ELW). As part of the school's efforts to engage our students in exploring authentic learning experiences, the school has planned an ELW with a variety of activities that extend learning beyond textbooks and classrooms. This will be carried out during the last week of Term 1 (7-11 March 2022). Designed to broaden and maximize the competencies of our students, the activities seek to achieve the following objectives:

- a. Reinforce, practise and develop mastery of key skills in an authentic situation;
- b. Apply ideas, skills and knowledge learnt through problem solving; and
- c. Provide opportunities for deep learning through reflection.

18. Book Drive. As part of our efforts to build a school-wide reading culture, the school library will be organising a book drive to solicit donation of books. Through this book drive, we hope to increase the volume of reading materials available to our students for browsing and reading during recess. More information is available in the poster (See Figure 2). We sincerely look forward to your generous support.

Figure 2 – SPBS Book Drive



Concluding Remarks...

*“Success isn’t overnight. It’s when every day you get a little better than the day before. It all adds up.”
~Dwayne Johnson~*

19. Thank you parents for working with the school to support your child’s learning during this pandemic period. We are committed to providing joy and rigour of learning for your child at Sembawang Primary School.

20. In the year of the tiger, we wish all 虎虎生威 (forge ahead with the vigour and vitality of the tiger) and 身体健康 (Good Health).

21. Stay safe and healthy!

Warmest regards.

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