



Official (Open) / Non-Sensitive

## SEMBAWANG PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Innovative Learners, Rooted in Values*

SBPS/21/054

25 March 2021

### Open Letter from School Leaders 3/2021

Dear Parents,

1. Warm greetings from Sembawang Primary School! Thank you for journeying with us through the first term of 2021. As we welcome back our students after the March holidays, we hope that your child is looking forward to the start of Term 2.
2. In Term 2, the pace in school will pick up in terms of intensity and vigor. Fret not, the teachers and support staff are here to ensure that your child is able to cope and most importantly, enjoy the learning.
3. On the safety front, the school will continue to ensure a safe learning environment for your child. Whilst the population is subject to vaccination against COVID-19, we cannot let our guard down and all Safe Management Measures (SMMs) in school will continue to remain in force until advised otherwise.
4. The school is thankful to parents for building good values in your child. Attending school and being punctual on all school days are essential to ensure our students are accomplished in their studies and enjoy their schooling experience. Thank you, parents!

#### ***Important Information...***

#### **Update on COVID-19 SMMs**

5. TraceTogether (TT) Token. The TT token/app is an essential component of the national contact tracing effort. This will be critical especially when we resume more activities both within and across schools, as the TT token/app will help us identify close contacts quickly and efficiently.
6. As part of the nationwide effort to distribute TT tokens for the purposes of contact tracing, MOE facilitated the distribution of tokens to students who have not collected theirs from the Community Centres/Clubs (CCs) earlier during the national distribution exercise. Specifically, our school facilitated the distribution of 257 TT tokens to our students through this exercise. Parents are reminded that any replacement of existing/lost tokens after this school-facilitated distribution exercise can only be done at the CCs.
7. COVID-19 Vaccination Exercise. Vaccination for personnel in the education sector has begun on 10 March. This exercise is in line with the Ministry of Health's efforts to extend vaccination to personnel who offer essential services. It complements existing efforts to keep our educational institutions safe, as children and the majority of our students are not yet medically eligible for vaccination<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Currently, the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine have been authorised for use in Singapore in individuals aged 18 years and above, and aged 16 years and above respectively.

## **Security and Safety**

8. **Creating a Safe Environment.** The school has installed anti-slip strips at the immediate front of the washbasin in the canteen. (see [Figure 1](#)). This is to enhance the safety of our students as the location is susceptible to wet surfaces, given its proximity to the washbasins.

**Figure 1 – Anti-Slip Strips**



9. **Road Safety.** The school cares for the safety of your child. Staff on duty at the traffic light crossings in front of the school main gate have been briefed to monitor students using the crossings, and to remind our students on the proper conduct at these traffic crossings. Hence, we seek your support to educate your child to practise the Kerb Drills when crossing the road – “*look right, look left, look right again; ensure all vehicles have stopped; raise your right hand high up and cross the road briskly*”.

10. **Cyber-Wellness (CW) and Resilience.** CW focuses on the well-being of our students as they navigate cyberspace. In our school, CW education is conducted during curriculum time through our Form Teacher Guidance Period (FTGP) and Character & Citizenship Education (CCE) lessons, as well as during assembly programmes and Positive Minutes sessions. Our curriculum aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills to harness the power of ICT for educational purposes, maintain a positive presence in cyberspace and be safe and responsible users of ICT. To help your child stay safe and have positive experiences online, parents can:

- Activate parental controls on your home devices.
- Set ground rules for internet use.
- Model good digital habits for your child.
- Navigate the internet together to understand their usage.
- Organise more outdoor activities together.

## **Celebration of Successes...**

11. **Long Service Award (LSA).** It gives us great pleasure to share with you a group of staff who has received their LSA from MOE (see [Table 1](#)). They have given excellent service to the nation through their dedication and commitment to molding the future of our nation. Congratulations to all the recipients!

**Table 1 – LSA Recipients**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Name of Staff</b>	<b>Award Title (No. of Years in service)</b>
1	Ms Chua Mei Xi Shermeine	5
2	Ms Lee Weiqin	5
3	Mdm Lian Wei Qi Jenell	5
4	Mr Xie Menghui	10
5	Ms M. Buvaneswari	10
6	Mdm Lim Peck Joo Hazel	10
7	Ms Mahalakshmi D/O Panneerselvam	10
8	Ms Ruhaida Bte Hashim	20
9	Mr Lim Jeen Perng	20

12. **Experiential Learning Week (ELW).** The students had a fun-filled and meaningful learning experience during the ELW held on Week 10 of Term 1. The students were given the opportunity to engage in authentic learning activities that allowed them to explore, discuss and

apply the concepts acquired in their various subjects to real-world problems, e.g. coding using micro:bits, financial literacy and creating visual text poster (see [Figure 2](#)).

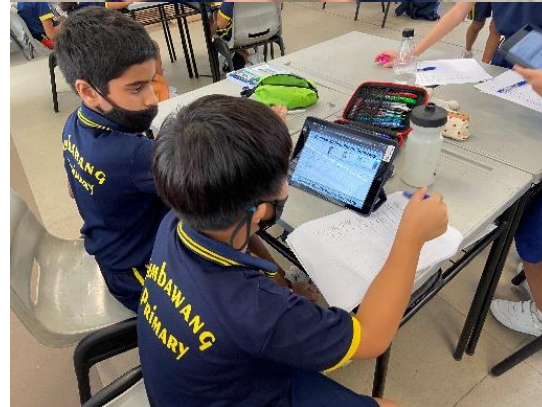
**Figure 2 – ELW Activities**



*Students experiencing coding using micro:bits*



*Students learning about Financial Literacy*



13. **Head Prefect Selection and Prefects' Investiture.** Our annual Head Prefect Election, held on 10 February, was a platform to empower students to vote for their Head Prefect. The three candidates - Rameshkumar Tejashwini (6 Resilience), Tivsha Ng Yi Jun (6 Resilience) and Quek Seng Ee (6 Respect) delivered their campaign speeches via Zoom, and students casted their votes in their respective classrooms. Seng Ee was announced as the Head Prefect for 2021, with Tivsha and Tejashiwini as the Vice-Head Prefects (see [Figure 3](#)).

**Figure 3 – Head Prefect Election**



*Students casting their votes in the classrooms*



*The 3 Head Prefect candidates*



14. In view of the SMMs, the Prefects' Investiture was pre-recorded and screened to the students during assembly on 24 February. The e-Prefects' Investiture featured the appointment of new P3 prefects and re-appointment of P4 and P5 prefects. The event culminated with the Head Prefect leading the prefects in the recital of the Prefects' Pledge (see [Figure 4](#))

Figure 4 – Recital of the Prefects' Pledge led by the elected Head Prefect



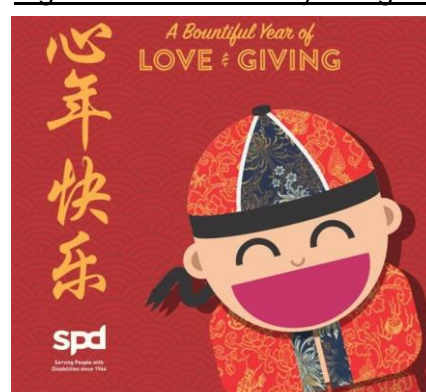
15. Tamil General Knowledge Competition (Karkka Kasadara). Last year, five of our P5 students participated in a Tamil General Knowledge Competition (Karkka Kasadara) organised by Vasantham Central. Our students did well in the selection and qualifying rounds and made it to the quarterfinals. Congratulations to the team! The members are Daulath Begam Binte Najib (6 Empathy), Sanjana Selvakumar (6 Respect), Chokkakula Satvik, Manikandan Akshaya and Rameshkumar Tejashwini (6 Resilience) (see [Figure 5](#)). Do look out for the telecast of the quarterfinals on Vasantham Central. You may catch a glimpse of the quarterfinals trailer via this link.



16. Global English Olympiad. A group of our P5 students took part in the Global English Olympiad that was organised by KGL & International Testing Authority (ITA). Five of our students qualified for Stage 2 of the competition, after having secured a spot in the top 10% of all candidates during Stage 1 of the competition. They are Johana Shaji, Oh Kai Xiang and Wong Sheng Ze from 5 Resilience, and Chan Zi Leng and Tee Bing Han from 5 Respect. We would like to thank all our students who had participated in the competition. We would also like to congratulate the five students for making it to the next round and wish them all the best for Stage 2 of the competition.

17. SPD Charity Hongbao 2021. As part of inculcating the value of caring and sharing, our school participated in the SPD Charity Hongbao, an annual fundraising campaign held over the Lunar New Year period, to support people with disabilities who are undergoing rehabilitation. Students were encouraged to share the blessings that they had received during the festive season by contributing to the hongbaos (see Figure 6). Our students had responded generously in their personal contributions and learnt that through this simple gesture, they have made a difference to people with disabilities. Thank you parents, for supporting this donation drive and your partnership in nurturing our students to be caring and compassionate citizens.

Figure 6 – SPD Charity Hongbao



18. Sree Narayana Mission “Never Fear” Video Production. On 12 Sep 1965, Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew visited Sree Narayana Mission where he delivered the clarion call for all Singaporeans to ‘Never Fear’. To document this historical event, Sree Narayana Mission is producing a corporate video featuring MM Lee’s famous speech. We are proud to share that four of our students – Mehar Chadha (3 Integrity), Muhammad Irfan Bin Mohamed Nasir (5 Resilience), Quek Seng Ee (6 Respect) and Rameshkumar Tejashwini (6 Resilience) – are also featured in this video to share their dreams and aspirations for the future of Singapore. The school will provide more details when available.

19. North West Outstanding All Rounder Student (OARS) Award 2020. The OARS Award recognises students in schools within the North West District who have achieved good academic results, and are active in CCA, community service and student leadership. The school is proud to share that Soh Kim Hwee Gerlene of 2020 Class 6 Responsibility has received the OARS award (see Figure 7). Congratulations, Gerlene!

Figure 7 – OARS Award Recipient: Soh Kim Hwee Gerlene (6 Responsibility, 2020)



Photo from North West CDC Facebook page

**Up-coming and Ongoing School Events...**

20. National School Games (NSG). Considering the need to ensure limited contact and intermingling between participants as part of SMMs, only selected sports will be convened at the NSG, which is scheduled from 29 March to 27 May. Teachers-in-charge of the selected sports will provide more information to parents concerned.

21. National Physical Fitness Award (NAPFA) Test. The NAPFA test remains a relevant education tool in the Physical Health and Fitness component of the PE syllabus. In view of the prevailing safe distancing measures to prevent intermingling across classes, the NAPFA test will be conducted at the individual class format during PE lessons instead of the usual level format. The results will not be recorded for this year.

22. International Friendship Day. Singapore commemorates International Friendship Day annually on 12 April to celebrate the friendship between peoples, countries, cultures and individuals. More than ever, COVID-19 has brought both challenges and opportunities for Singapore, and has reminded us on the importance of international collaboration and cooperation. Our school will be commemorating International Friendship Day during school assembly on 14 April. Students are strongly encouraged to come dressed in international / ethnic costumes but with white socks and shoes. There will be activities planned for students to learn about Singapore's relations with neighbouring countries and beyond, nurturing in them the spirit of friendship and partnership among different countries and people.

23. P4 and P6 Mid-Year Oral Examinations. The P4 and P6 students will be having their Mid-Year English and Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) oral examinations in Term 2. Please refer to Table 2 for the oral examinations schedule. As students will be dismissed immediately after being tested, please ensure the necessary transport arrangement is made for your child to go home. Students who are absent on the day of the examination must be covered with a Medical Certificates. Otherwise, he/she will not be allowed to sit for the make-up oral examination. More details will be sent out closer to the examination dates.

Table 2 – Mid-Year Oral Examinations Schedule

Level	Class	Subject	Day & Date	Estimated Time
P4	Integrity, Resilience & Gratitude	EL	Mon, 26 April	2.15 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.
	Care, Empathy	MTL	Mon, 26 April	
	Care, Empathy	EL	Tue, 27 April	
	Integrity, Resilience & Gratitude	MTL	Tue, 27 April	
P6	Empathy, Resilience, Integrity	EL	Wed, 28 April	2.15 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.
	Respect, Care, Gratitude	MTL	Wed, 28 April	
	Respect, Care, Gratitude	EL	Thur, 29 April	
	Empathy, Resilience, Integrity	MTL	Thur, 29 April	
P4 & P6	All classes <i>(make-up oral examination for students who were absent on the actual examination day)</i>	EL / MTL	Fri, 30 April	During curriculum time (7.45 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.)

**Concluding remarks...**

*“Strength does not come from physical capacity.  
It comes from an indomitable will.”  
~Mahatma Gandhi~*

24. The journey henceforth can only get more exciting for our students. We are excited to be part of this journey with your child.

25. The school wishes all our students a safe and rewarding Term 2.

Warmest regards

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