



BLANGAH RISE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Guardians

A Happy New Year to you!

Someone once said that the *Purpose of Life is to Grow*. That makes sense, doesn't it, as all living beings grow. Children grow very quickly in the early stages of their life in many dimensions – physically, mentally, socially, and emotionally. That is why the early stages of a child's life is important for his/her growth. It is at these early stages that we want to ensure a strong foundation is built to sustain further growth ahead. This means having a healthy awareness of self and the environment. We want children to grow deep roots of character and effective habits, learn to be flexible, comfortable with being different from others, and understand that they can always change to grow.

Now, if the Purpose of Life is to Grow, do you know what the Adventure of Life is? The *Adventure of Life is to Learn*. With a brand-new year ahead, we want to encourage our children to have boldness to face the challenges. If you ask me what are 2 qualities that will give a child confidence in this adventure of learning, I will say

1. Nurture his/her curiosity – because curiosity will give him/her the intrinsic motivation to discover and learn, and
2. Teach him/her to learn and work well with others – because a large part of effective learning is learning in a social setting.

The Adventure of Life will bring with it the Opportunity of Life. This *Opportunity of Life is to Serve*. No one is an island, and it is important that we help our children understand that we all need a community to thrive. In the community, you can always be of service to others, and when everyone synergizes by bringing their contribution or service to the community, the community grows, and so do you personally. There are advantages that the community can give you that you can't give yourself, such as division of effort, timely encouragement, and differing perspectives. These strengths of the community are borne from the contributions of its individuals. The opportunity to serve is an opportunity to do something worthwhile beyond yourself.

This year will bring with it its own challenges and uncertainties, but may you also discover with your child the purpose, adventure, and opportunity that comes along with it.

Wishing you and your family a good year of growth ahead!

1. Upcoming Events in Term 1

Depending on the current Covid-19 situation and/or changes to safe management measures, some of the upcoming events may be cancelled, modified or postponed to a later date. We will keep you informed of any changes.

Date	Event	Remarks
11 Jan	Delta House Practice (P3-P6)	2pm to 4.30pm
13 and 27 Jan 3, 10, 17, 24 Feb 3 and 10 Mar	P4 SwimSafer	During Curriculum Time
11 Jan	Temperature-Taking Exercise	
13 Jan	Gillman House Practice (P3-P6)	2pm to 4.30pm
16 Jan, 6, 20 Feb	Junior Reporters Programme	2.30pm to 4pm
20 Jan	Chinese New Year Celebrations	
23 Jan	Chinese New Year Holiday	
24 Jan	Public Holiday	
25 Jan	Keppel House Practice (P3-P6)	2pm to 4.30pm
25, 30 Jan 1, 8, 15, 22 Feb 1, 8 Mar	APEX – EL: Debate Training	2pm to 3.30pm
27 Jan	Redhill House Practice (P3-P6)	2pm to 4.30pm
27 Jan 3, 10, 17 Feb 3 Mar	P4 and P6 Math Olympiad, P5 Science Olympiad	2pm to 3.30pm
30 Jan, 1 Feb	APEX – EL Debate Training (W&W Online Workshop)	3.30pm to 6pm
31 Jan	Mother Tongue Support Programme (MTSP) Briefing (only for selected parents)	2pm to 2.30pm
	Parent-Teacher Meeting (Middle Primary)	2.30pm to 4pm
1 Feb	Parent-Teacher Meeting (Junior Primary)	2.30pm to 4pm
	Delta House Practice (P3-P6)	
1, 8, 22 Feb 1 Mar	APEX – EL: Scrabble	2pm to 3.30pm
1, 8, 15, 22 Feb 1, 8 Mar	APEX – EL: Writing	2pm to 3.30pm
2 Feb	Parent-Teacher Meeting (Senior Primary)	2.30pm to 4pm
3 Feb	Gillman House Practice (P3-P6)	2pm to 4.30pm
6 – 17 Feb	ALP – P4 Robotics (during Maths Lessons)	
7 Feb	Student Leaders' Investiture	
7 Feb	School Smart Card: Remote Photo Taking for P1 and P6 students	
8 Feb	Keppel House Practice (P3-P6)	2pm to 4.30pm
10 Feb	Redhill House Practice (P3-P6)	2pm to 4.30pm
15 Feb	Commemoration of Total Defence Day	
	Delta House Practice (P3-P6)	2pm to 4.30pm
17 Feb	P5 Learning Journey: Indian Heritage Centre	12pm to 2.30pm
	Gillman House Practice (P3-P6)	2pm to 4.30pm
18 Feb 4 Mar	APEX-EL: Wits & Words Debate Round 1	Timing to be advised
24 Feb	P2 Learning Journey: Hay Dairies	During curriculum time
27 Feb – 3 Mar	P6 Timed Practice	
1 Mar	Keppel House Practice (P3-P6)	2pm to 4.30pm
3 Mar	Redhill House Practice (P3-P6)	2pm to 4.30pm
10 Mar	Inter-House Games	To be confirmed

2. Year Heads of Junior, Middle and Senior Primaries

Junior Primary (P1 & 2)	Year Head – Mdm Kimberly Koh Yen Ling Assistant Year Head – Mr John Chia Si Wei P1 Level Coordinator – Ms Abigail Ow P2 Level Coordinator – Mdm Tan Guat Khim
Middle Primary (P3 & 4)	Year Head – Mr Patrick Goh Leng Wee Assistant Year Head – Mr Victor Lim Wee Teck P3 Level Coordinator – Ms Athena Tang Jingwen P4 Level Coordinator – Mdm Junaidah Begam
Senior Primary (P5 & 6)	Year Head – Mdm Stephanie Song Peck Ling Assistant Year Head (Covering) – Ms Munirah Bte Talat Mahmood P5 Level Coordinator – Ms Genevieve Thong Minh Lynn P6 Level Coordinator – Ms Munirah Bte Talat Mahmood

3. Extended Curriculum Hours on Mondays

This year, curriculum hours on Monday will be extended to 2.30pm for all students, with a lunch break scheduled in as well. This is in view of the refresh of MOE CCE curriculum to place greater emphasis on teaching of moral values in Primary Schools. The Form Teacher Guidance Period (FTGP) will be broadened to include topics related to National Education and Citizenship, which are better taught in a multi-cultural setting. For more information on the refreshing of the CCE curriculum, you can refer to this link: <https://www.moe.gov.sg/microsites/cos2020/refreshing-our-curriculum/cce2021.html>

4. i-Discover Programme for P1 & P2 (New)

As a 7-Habits school, we strive to grow our students progressively in the maturity continuum where interdependency can be achieved over time through our school's programmes. Thus, in our mission to develop students holistically and to provide more meaningful and engaging learning opportunities, all our P1 & P2 students will be involved in a i-Discover programme unique to the school. The programme will be carried out on Monday.

Together with an identified virtue for each term, our students will also be nurtured in values and basic qualities they need to be successful throughout their lives. i-Discover will provide opportunities such as CCA experiences, social skills learning, engagement in the school's distinctive programmes and learning journeys.

The following are further details on the programme:

		Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
7 Habits		Private Victory		Public Victory	
		Habit 1: Be proactive		Habit 4: Think win-win	
		Habit 2: Begin with the end in mind		Habit 5: Seek first to understand then to be understood	
		Habit 3: Put first things first		Habit 6: Synergise	
Identified Virtue (I discover...)		Confidence	Flexibility	Creativity	Joyfulness
Activities Planned (non-exhaustive and subject to changes)	P1	Self-Management Skills lessons	Robotics, ICT touch-typing	Learning Journey, Performing Arts: Choir	
	P2	Learning Journey, Performing Arts: Choir	Young Photographers, Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) Immersion, Engineering ReLated Activities (ERLA)	Performing Arts: Drama	

5. Updates on Physical and Learning Environment

As part of our continuing efforts to enhance the physical and learning environment in the school for our students, we are pleased to inform you that a Tranquil Garden has been added to the school's Biodiversity Corridor next to the Primary 1 classrooms. The Tranquil Garden provides a calming and serene space to promote students' wellness. Within the garden, students will be able to explore under the canopy of the Auracaria Pine Trees. This garden is designed with seating areas for personal or small group contemplation as it is divided into sections by bamboo lattices and boulders. The tables & seats are customised to blend in with the natural environment. Teachers and students may utilize the space in the garden to engage in wellness activities.

The Tranquil Garden is built to engage students through a multi-sensory approach. From the moment students step into the garden, they will be greeted by a wide variety of plants visually. One of the special features is the Tamarind Tree. The living tree is repositioned almost horizontally to house a wide variety of epiphytes and orchids. Beneath its trunk, the moist and shaded environment provides a conducive habitat for other organisms like moss to thrive. The garden also has a cascading water fountain and built-in outdoor speakers which allow for recorded music or storytelling to be played in certain parts of the garden. We are sure our staff and students will love the garden!

Next, we will be exploring to enhance another green area near the Primary 2 classrooms. Do keep a look out for it.

6. School Safety & Security Measures

School safety is the collective responsibility of everyone. The safety and security arrangements are outlined in [Annex A](#).

7. Homework Policy and E-Learning

Homework

Homework is an essential part of our students' holistic development. Homework can be an effective tool for intellectual development and academic learning as well as for forming good study habits. For more information about our homework policy, please refer to your child's **Student Diary**.

Online Interactive E-Learning for Students through Student Learning Space (SLS)

To equip our students with 21st century competencies, students will need to be familiar with the use of online resources to acquire knowledge, communicate and develop their creativity. SLS is an online learning platform that contains curriculum-aligned resources and learning tools. P1 students will be receiving a separate letter on SLS by Term 1 Week 3, when their accounts are ready.

8. Regular Attendance

With the intention to give every child the same head start in life and be taught the foundational knowledge, missing school would sometimes mean having a gap in the learning and disadvantaging the child. Hence we would like to reiterate that the school takes a very serious view of children not coming to school without valid reason. **We would like to remind all parents that when your child is absent from school, it is mandatory that you either provide a medical certificate or a letter from you explaining the reason for absence.** If there are none of these, we will treat it as absence without valid reason and follow up action will be taken, which might include the reporting of such cases to the Compulsory Education Unit in MOE. **Attendance will also be taken into consideration when students apply for bursaries and various awards. For more details of our Attendance Policy, please refer to [Annex B](#).**

9. School Meals Subscription Programme

Since 2017, the school has worked with SATS to provide nutritional and healthy recess meals for our students. These meals are also designed in accordance with HPB's Healthy Meals in School Programme guidelines. All P1 to P4 students are auto-enrolled in the School Meals Subscription Programme (SMSP) for recess (Monday – Friday) and lunch (on Mondays only).

Parents would be billed termly via MOE School Bill (Mar 23, May 23, Sep 23 and Nov 23). This bill would be sent to you via your child. Students on MOE and school-based Financial Assistance (FAS) are fully subsidised.

In 2023, the school meal subscription cost per meal is as follows:

Level	Rates in 2023 (per meal)
P1-3	\$2.20
P4-6	\$2.60

For students who are not on the SMSP, parents can place ad hoc recess and lunch orders for your child by signing up for an account. Parents can visit the school website to find out more about our school meals programme via the link below;

<https://blangahrisepri.moe.edu.sg/parent-support-group/sats-school-meals-programme>).

For clarifications or to check if your child is on SMSP, please email or contact us at 6271 7387.

10. Parent-Teacher Meetings on 31 January, 1 February and 2 February

We would like to invite all parents to attend our Parent-Teacher Meeting on 31 Jan for Middle Primary, 1 Feb for Junior Primary and 2 Feb for Senior Primary. The details of the meeting will be shared by your child's Year Head at a later date.

11. MOE Kindergarten Virtual Open House on Sat 11 February

If you are looking for a quality and affordable kindergarten programme for your pre-school child, we warmly welcome you to visit our MOE Kindergarten Open House on the above tentative date. For the updated details on registration for this session, please refer to the central webpage on MOE Kindergarten website (moe.gov.sg/mk).

At MOE Kindergarten, we believe that children are curious, active and competent learners. We nurture children holistically, so that they are confident, demonstrate strong social skills and have a good foundation in literacy and numeracy.

Our curriculum is developed by MOE's curriculum specialists and trained educators with knowledge and experience in early childhood education and who are familiar with the primary school curriculum. Your child will embark on an exciting learning journey at MOE Kindergarten through our two flagship programmes – the HI-Light Programme and the Starlight Literacy Programme.

12. Other Matters

School Service Providers	
School Bus Services	DKJ Transport Service Contact Person: Mr Leo Bai Ming (Manager) Contact No.: 97723370 Email: leodkj@yahoo.com.sg

School Service Providers	
School Uniform Supplier	Beau Voix Uniform Address: 2 Sims Close #03-08 Gemini@Sims Singapore 387298 Contact Person: Mr Tony Ng Contact No.: 6743 6645 / 6744 7084 / 9637 6598
Bookshop Services	HB Book Centre Contact Person: Mr Jason Loh (Manager) Contact No.: 6270 1060 Email: hb.bk.ctr@gmail.com
Student Care Centre	NASCANS@Blangah Rise Student Care Centre Contact Person: Mr Dickson Ng (Centre Head) Contact No.: 94596376 Email: brscc@nascans.com
School Dental Clinic	School Roving Dental Clinic Please refer to school website or contact the school office for more information

Yours sincerely



Francis Foo
Principal

Safety & Security Measures

Arrival and Dismissal Arrangements

During Dry Weather	During Wet Weather
<p><u>Arrival</u></p> <p>Students can enter through the Main Gate and Side Gate E that is the sheltered walkway next to the school canteen. All other gates will be closed.</p> <p>Parents/Guardians who wish to enter the school will need to enter by the Main Gate.</p> <p>For those driving, please alight the child at the Main Gate or Side Gate E.</p>	<p><u>Arrival</u></p> <p>Students can enter through the Main Gate and Side Gate E that is the sheltered walkway next to the school canteen. All other gates will be closed.</p> <p>Parents/Guardians who wish to enter the school will need to enter by the Main Gate.</p> <p>For those driving, you may enter the school and alight the child at the foyer. Please prepare your child to alight quickly and safely so as not to hold up the traffic.</p>
<p><u>Dismissal</u></p> <p>Students can exit through the Main Gate and Side Gate E.</p> <p>For those driving, you may pick your child at the Main Gate or Side Gate E.</p>	<p><u>Dismissal</u></p> <p>Students can exit through the Main Gate and Side Gate E.</p> <p>For those driving, there is a sheltered car park next to Blk 72 and you can fetch your child at the sheltered walkway from Side Gate E.</p>

Other Arrangements

1. Daily Necessities

We would like to reinforce the importance of being prepared and organized. Please help us to train your child to pack his/her bag daily according to the timetable given. It is equally important to ensure that your child is not carrying extra weight unnecessarily.

Below is the list of items your child should have in his/her bag every day.

- Student's Timetable
- Student's Diary (you will be able to leave notes/messages for your child's/wards' form/subject teacher in this book)
- Pencil Box (with at least 2 pencils sharpened, an eraser and a ruler)
- Colour Pencils (a basic set will do)
- A new or recycled folder/file for keeping of homework and letters neatly in the bag
- A suitable storybook for silent reading
- A working thermometer

2. Lunch Arrangements for After-School Activities

You are encouraged to place ad-hoc lunch orders for your child with after-school activities via the SATS Online Portal. You can register for an account via this link

(<https://go.gov.sg/schoolmeal>). Do visit our school website for more information on ad-hoc lunch orders. If your child is on the SATS subscription plan for recess and lunch on Mondays, lunch will be catered for on Mondays. For students on MOE and school-based FAS with after-school activities, lunch would be automatically catered and is fully subsidised.

Students who have lunch brought to them can receive the lunches at the Main Gate or Side Gate E.

3. Entrance for Parents/Guardians or Visitors

Any parents/guardians or visitors who wish to enter the school would need to enter by the **Main Gate** where there will be security clearance and an issue of visitor passes.

4. Waiting Areas for Parents/Guardians

The waiting area for parents/guardians is just outside the Main Gate, where some benches are provided.

There is also another waiting area at the void deck of Blk 72 outside Side Gate E.

5. Students Who Fall Sick

Students who are sick or hurt while in school must inform their form/subject teachers. When there is a need for a student to see a doctor or go home early, the form/subject teacher will assist the student to make a telephone call to the parent/guardian to come to school to fetch the student home. Parent/guardian must co-operate by coming to school as soon as possible.

The teacher has to record the necessary information in the “Early Dismissal” book and the parent/guardian must sign in the book before the child/ward can be taken home.

6. Remedial Class Schedules

In order to provide additional academic support for your child/ward, the level (P3 onwards) will be conducting remedial classes for selected children. Please refer to the remedial class schedule in the school’s termly letters.

7. Making Appointments via Phone

Call our General Office at 62717387 and leave a message for your child’s/ward’s form/subject teacher to call back OR set a day/time for an appointment with his/her form/subject teacher.

8. Making Appointments via Email

Contact your child’s/ward’s form teacher at brps@moe.edu.sg

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Expectations of Attendance

School provides opportunities to learn and grow, hence we expect all students to be regular and punctual for school. The following are the expectations we have as a school community:

- a. All students should attend school on **ALL** school days except for medical or valid reasons.
- b. A valid medical certificate must be submitted to the class teacher upon return from medical leave.
- c. For other reasons (e.g. death in family), a signed letter giving details and the specific dates is required. All such letters will be accepted on a case by case basis. **The school only permits up to six letters per semester to explain the student's absence from school.**
- d. For non-valid reasons, the student will be deemed as Absent Without Valid Reason.

Benefits of Regular Attendance

The community-at-large values education and often links bursaries and financial assistance to attendance. The school reviews the following subsidies and will take into consideration students' attendance during the approval process:

- a. Transport Subsidy (EZ-link top-up concessions) and Bus Transport;
- b. Recommendation for public bursary application by family/guardian (eg: Community Centres, Buddhist Lodge, etc);
- c. The Straits Times School Pocket Money Fund (STSPMF); and
- d. Participation in sponsored activities (e.g. concerts at the Esplanade)

Failure to Attend School Regularly

The Compulsory Education Act has provided clear directions that **all Singaporean children between the age of 6 and 15 must attend school**. It may be an offence when a child fails to attend school regularly. If found guilty, the penalties provided in the Act are a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or to both.

The school will inform the Compulsory Education Unit (CEU) of Ministry of Education if a child fails to attend school regularly. Some of the follow-up actions by CEU may include:

- (i) A home visit by officers from MOE
- (ii) referral to Singapore Children's Society who will have intervention programmes with close monitoring
- (iii) referral to other external agencies e.g. family service centres, child protection
- (iv) Summon to court to face charges that may lead to a fine, for the parent / guardian, not exceeding \$5000.00, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or to both.