



BLANGAH RISE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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2 January 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to a new school year, and a wonderful year of learning ahead!

Learning is an adventure that can be both a struggle and a joy. Oftentimes, the 2 are inseparable. Some struggle to find the joy of learning, whilst others discover joy in the struggle of learning. How do we transform the struggle to joy? To get some insight into this, it will be useful to try and understand what some of the “struggles” of learning can be.

The first struggle is the *struggle of ownership*. “Easy learning” is to expect that the knowledge will be handed to us on a platter, and little effort is required of us. “Why don’t you just tell me the answer?” But to own our learning is to be self-directed and take responsibility for making meaning of what we are learning. This may require us to read further on our own, actively ask questions to clear our doubts, or just to practice the task to get more clarity. Nobody knows what we don’t know better than ourselves. The response to this struggle is to be an **Active Learner**.

The second struggle is the *struggle of failure*. We may fear about learning something new or difficult and worry if we will be able to overcome the challenges, especially if we have been failing in our initial attempts. But if we understand that challenges and failures are just part of the natural process of learning, we focus on our effort and dedication instead. We embrace a growth mindset and believe that if we work hard and persevere, we may learn more and learn it more quickly. Challenges and failures are just opportunities to build our learning muscle! Exercise courage and be a **Bold Learner**.

The third struggle is the *struggle of adaptability*. Like it or not, we are going to have to learn how to learn with others. We will encounter learners different from us, and this will require us to also consider their learning needs besides our own. Without being adaptable to our learning environment, we limit our own and others’ learning. But other learners will bring their own ideas and enrich our learning, provided we have an open mind. It is the active contribution from each one that will help us to learn faster, wider and deeper. Team learning can be a learning multiplier. So, be a **Contributing Learner**.

The fourth struggle is the *struggle of distraction*. With a zillion things to draw our attention away, it can be difficult to stay focus on what needs to be learnt. Our natural curiosity is the cause of this distraction. But this same natural curiosity can be one of our most powerful learning tools, if we harness it in the right direction. Curiosity pushes us out of our comfort zone and is the impetus for discovery learning and creative thinking. How we channel this tremendous force for our good is through the exercise of discipline. We practice routines of behaviour that allow us to control ourselves and focus on what is important, such as being proactive, beginning with the end in mind and putting first things first. We accomplish more by being a **Disciplined Learner**.

Let’s help make our children’s and our own adventure in learning this year a joyful one by becoming an ABCD Learner – active, bold, contributing and disciplined.

1. Upcoming Events in Term 1

Date	Event	Remarks
10 Jan	Temperature-Taking Exercise	
12 Jan 6 Mar	Student Leaders Training	2 pm to 4.30 pm
15, 29 Jan 19 Feb 4 Mar	Junior Reporters Programme	2.30 pm to 4 pm For selected students
15, 22, 29 Jan 5, 19, 26 Feb 4 Mar	After School Enrichment Programme (ASEP): Aesthetics	2.30 pm to 4.30 pm For selected P2 to P6 students
16 and 17 Jan	5S and 5T: Code for Fun	During Curriculum Time
16, 23, 30 Jan 6 Feb 5 Mar	P5 Science Olympiad	2 pm to 3.15 pm
16, 23, 30 Jan 6 Feb 5 Mar	P4 and P6 Math Olympiad	2 pm to 3.30 pm
16, 30 Jan 27 Feb	Delta House Practice	2 pm to 4.45 pm For P3 to P6 students
23, 30 Jan 6, 20, 27 Feb 5 Mar	ASEP: Choir	3.30 pm to 5 pm For selected P2 to P6 students
18, 25 Jan 1, 8, 22, 29 Feb	APEX: Math and Science	2 pm to 3 pm 22 Feb – P4 students will attend Broadcast Journalism instead
18 Jan 1 and 29 Feb	Gillman House Practice	2 pm to 4.45 pm For P3 to P6 students
23 Jan 6 Feb 5 Mar	Keppel House Practice	2 pm to 4.45pm For P3 to P6 students
24 Jan	Parent-Teacher Meeting for Primary 2, 4 and 6	2 pm to 4 pm
25 Jan 8 Feb 7 Mar	Redhill House Practice	2 pm to 4.45 pm For P3 to P6 students
30 Jan	School Smart Card: Photo Taking for P1 and P6 students	
31 Jan	Parent-Teacher Meeting for Primary 1, 3 and 5	2 pm to 4 pm
26 Jan 2, 16, 23 Feb 1, 8 Mar	APEX – EL: Debate	2 pm to 3.30 pm
9 Feb	Chinese New Year Celebrations	School to end at 10 am
10, 11 and 12 Feb	Public Holiday – Chinese New Year	
13 Feb	School Holiday – Chinese New Year	
15 to 27 Feb	P4 Robotics during Math Lessons	
16 Feb 1 Mar	APEX – EL: Writing	2 pm to 3.30 pm
16 Feb 1 Mar	APEX – EL: Scrabble	2 pm to 3.30 pm
17 Feb	Wits & Words Debate Competition Round 1	Timing to be advised
20 Feb	Student Leaders' Investiture	
20, 22, 27 Feb	P4 Broadcast Journalism	2 pm to 4 pm
26 to 29 Feb 1 Mar	P6 Timed Practice	
9 Mar	Wits & Words Debate Competition Round 2	Timing to be advised

2. Year Heads of Junior, Middle and Senior Primaries

Junior Primary (P1 & 2)	Year Head – Mdm Kimberly Koh Yen Ling Assistant Year Head – Mr Chia Si Wei Alex John P1 Level Coordinator – Mdm Tan Guat Khim P2 Level Coordinator – Ms Abigail Ow
Middle Primary (P3 & 4)	Year Head – Mr Patrick Goh Leng Wee Assistant Year Head – Mr Victor Lim Wee Teck P3 Level Coordinator – Mdm Noor Sa'adah P4 Level Coordinator – Ms Ivy Teo
Senior Primary (P5 & 6)	Year Head – Mdm Stephanie Song Peck Ling Assistant Year Head – Ms Munirah Bte Talat Mahmood P5 Level Coordinator – Ms Athena Tang Jingwen P6 Level Coordinator – Mr Mohammed Yousoff Shaik Md

3. i-Discover Programme for P1 & P2

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 and engagement in the school's distinctive programmes. Our Junior Primary students will also have the opportunity to showcase their confidence through Choir and Drama.

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	Creativity	Flexibility	Joyfulness
Activities Planned (non-exhaustive and subject to changes)	P1	Self-Management Skills lessons	Robotics / Engineering Related Learning Activities (ERLA)	Self-Management Skills lessons, ICT Enrichment	Performing Arts: Choir
	P2	Robotics / Engineering Related Learning Activities (ERLA)	Performing Arts: Choir	ICT Enrichment, Young Photographers, CCA Immersion	Performing Arts: Drama

4. Audition for School Choir

The school is forming a school choir for selected P2 – P5 students. Students will learn to sing with strong fundamental vocals in a variety of musical styles and develop the art of harmonious ensemble singing, with an appreciation of a diversity of music.

Choir training sessions will be conducted weekly on Tuesdays (3.30 – 5 pm) as part of the After School Enrichment Programme – Choir. Details of the choir audition will be shared via PG for selected students.

5. English Broadcast Journalism Module for Middle Primary

The EL Broadcast Journalism Programme is a key pillar of the English Language Oracy curriculum for Middle Primary students. The Broadcast Journalism Enrichment Programme aims to provide rich and authentic experiences for students to use language and, in the process, deepen students' oracy and presentation skills. Primary 3 and 4 students will be trained in-curriculum as well as through an after-school enrichment module to speak confidently and present their scripts in front of a recording device. Primary 3 students will focus on the skill of elaboration in speech, introducing a place/area in the school with some interview skills. Primary 3 students will be exposed to a radio broadcasting format. Primary 4 students will focus on the skill of telling their personal stories in speech, interviewing each other on school programmes. Primary 4 students will be exposed to a video broadcasting format.

6. CCA Mentorship Programmes

To support our students in their holistic development through CCAs, we are introducing CCA Mentorship Programmes with partnering secondary schools. As a start, we are pleased have ACS (I) as a partnering secondary school to mentor our badminton boys through regular training and coaching sessions. Further information on other partnering schools will be provided later.

7. Rescheduling House Practices with Remedial Days

This year we will be aligning the House Practices with the Remedial Days, ie. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This is to provide students an opportunity to participate in healthy physical activities after their remedial lessons or completing their homework under supervision. We hope this will help inculcate a healthy routine towards being an active and disciplined learner. Students who do not wish to participate in the House Practices after their remedial lessons will be dismissed at 3.15 pm. Further information on this will be provided later.

8. Updates on Physical and Learning Environment

The Last Garden

Alongside the current green spaces within the school, we are thrilled to announce the development of a new garden situated in front of the Primary 2 classrooms. This garden will not only feature a diverse array of resilient plants, exemplifying the innate tenacity of nature, but will also serve as a platform to inspire students to adopt a growth mindset in the face of challenges. Adding to its eco-friendly features, the garden will operate as a net-zero-energy facility, utilizing solar energy to power an automated irrigation system. Furthermore, we hope to integrate rainwater harvesting system in the garden, aligning with our dedication to environmentally sustainable practices.

In addition, teachers will be able to utilize the garden as a venue for wellness activities with their classes, establishing an environment that nurtures both physical and mental well-being.

Apple Learning Lab

Technology can be a powerful enabler for learning, such as enhancing engagement in learning and providing differentiated learning opportunities. Last year, we did a pilot project with Apple on the use of assistive technologies on the iPad and the outcomes were very encouraging. As such, we will be refurbishing the Teaching Lab into an Apple Learning Lab so that classes can benefit from accessing the technology for learning as seamlessly as possible.

We would be exploring the creation of more new learning spaces in the school and will keep you updated.

Facilities Upgrading

We have other upgrading works this year which may cause a bit of inconvenience but would help enhance the physical environment. The outside school signage wall is currently being relocated to be next to the main gate as its previous location was disrupted by the roots of a nearby tree. The toilets for P1 classes will be upgraded in Term 1, with P2 toilets being planned for upgrading later in the year. The toilets for the other levels will be upgraded in subsequent years.

9. 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.

10. School Safety & Security Measures

School safety is the collective responsibility of everyone. The safety and security arrangements are outlined in **Annex A**.

11. 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**.

12. School Meals Subscription Programme

Since 2017, the school has collaborated 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 P5 students are automatically-enrolled in the School Meals Subscription Programme (SMSP) for recess (Monday – Friday) and lunch (on Mondays only).

Parents would be billed termly via the MOE School Bill (Mar 24, May 24, Sep 24 and Nov 24). This bill would be sent to you via your child. Students on MOE and school-based Financial Assistance (FAS) are fully subsidised.

In 2024, the school meal subscription cost per meal is as follows:

Level	Rates in 2024 (per meal)	Rates in 2024 (Allergen meal)
P1-3	\$2.35	\$2.75
P4-6	\$3.00	\$3.00

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.

13. Parent-Teacher Meetings on 24 January and 31 January

We extend an invitation to all parents to join us for the Parent-Teacher Meeting on 24 January for students in Primary 2, 4, and 6, and on 31 January for students in Primary 1, 3, and 5. Further information about the meeting will be communicated by your child's Year Head at a later time.

14. 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 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: Ms Fionn Ling (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

Wishing you and your family a wonderful new year ahead!

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

We seek parents' support to keep schools a safe environment for students.

If your child is unwell, please ensure that he/she stays at home and seeks medical attention if necessary. If your child is recovering from respiratory-related illnesses, please encourage him/her to exercise social responsibility (e.g., by wearing a mask, minimising social interactions with big groups).

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.

We appreciate your support and will continue to work with you closely. Let us all do our part to exercise personal and social responsibility and stay safe.

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.