



2025/068

10 February 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

1. **Parents' Briefing Session**

The school would like to thank all parents who have attended the virtual Parents' Briefing session(s) to strengthen our home-school partnership for the holistic development of your child. For those who have missed the Parents' Briefing session(s), please note that information presented can be found on the school website.

2. **Student Safety Matters**

In light of the anticipated hot weather over the next few weeks, we continue to remind our students to stay well-hydrated while in school. With intermittent moderate to heavy thundery showers, we also seek your support in ensuring that their footwear and attire remain suitable and comfortable for school, helping to maintain a conducive learning environment.

For the safety and consideration of other road users, we kindly seek your cooperation in refraining from parking along the roadside near the school's main gate or the entrance of Belvia HDB residence during dismissal. Instead, we advise you to use the nearby car parks while waiting for the school gates to open for other vehicles after the school buses depart at approximately 1.45 p.m.

3. **Weighted Assessments and Review Practice for Primary 3, 4, 5 and 6**

To shift the focus away from an overemphasis on academic results, Mid-Year Examinations for all Primary 3, 4, 5, and 6 students have been removed since 2023. This change allows the school to better pace students' learning, deepen their understanding, and cultivate essential 21st-century competencies such as Communication, Civic Literacy, Adaptive and Inventive Thinking.

We would like to remind parents and guardians that the school will continue to conduct weighted assessments and review practices as milestone checks on students' learning progress.

Additionally, non-weighted assessments will be used to support learning, monitor progress, and address any gaps. Parents will receive regular updates on their child's progress through Subject Files, the Holistic Assessment (H.A.) File, and students' daily work. For further inquiries, parents may reach out to teachers via email or phone.

4. **Assessment Policy**

Assessments serve as important milestones in students' learning, providing valuable opportunities to revise, consolidate, and apply their understanding in a formal setting. Overall marks for the year will be calculated based on students' performance, with considerations given for valid absences from examinations or weighted assessments.

The school has shared the Assessment Policy with parents via Parents Gateway. If you have not reviewed it yet, please do so and acknowledge receipt. Your child has also been briefed on the policy by their Form Teacher.



5. Homework Policy

Homework refers to any learning activity assigned by the school for completion outside of curriculum time, regardless of the mode of delivery (e.g., pen-and-paper, virtual, or online). All assigned homework will be purposeful, aligned with curriculum requirements, and tailored to students' learning needs.

Teachers will monitor and coordinate the homework load to ensure it remains manageable. The school seeks to partner with parents in fostering self-discipline and nurturing students to become self-directed learners who take responsibility for their own learning.

The Homework Policy is attached as an annex to this letter and is also available on the school website.

6. Total Defence Day

The theme for this year's Total Defence Day is "Together We Keep Singapore Strong". It focuses on Singapore's readiness and resilience in the face of crises and disruptions. Total Defence underpins our ability to deal with the ever-evolving threats and challenges to Singapore. Everyone plays a part in our daily lives to ensure that Singapore is prepared for crises and disruptions.

The school will commemorate Total Defence Day on Monday, 10 February 2025. Our students will reflect on the importance of TD as Singapore's best all-round response to threats and challenges that confront Singapore.

As part of our commemoration of Total Defence Day, our students will experience an energy disruption simulation in school, during which electricity will be turned off school-wide for at least an hour. This is part of Exercise SG Ready 2025, which aims to prepare students for potential disruptions to our energy supply (e.g. due to supply chain disruptions), given Singapore's reliance on fuel imports.

Students will learn to develop the resilience and adaptability to continue with scheduled lessons when faced with disruptions to power. Through hands-on activities during recess and CCE (FTGP) lessons, they will also learn about the six defence pillars in Total Defence and how to put them into action in their everyday lives.

For more information on Exercise SG Ready 2025, please refer to the notification sent via PG on 6 February 2025.

7. Camp Alpha

Camp Alpha 2025 will be held on Friday, 14 February 2025, from 2 to 5 pm. With an earlier start this year, our selected student leaders from Primary 3 to Primary 6 will be better prepared to take on their roles as engaged leaders.

The programme integrates emerging 21st-Century Competencies (e21CC), Socio-Emotional Learning (SEL), and The Leadership Challenge (TLC), focusing on communication, teamwork, and adaptability. Participants will gain essential skills to lead with empathy, collaborate effectively, and tackle challenges confidently.

Camp Alpha reflects our dedication to nurturing impactful student leaders who embody our school values.



8. Perfect 10

When students enjoy the learning process, they develop a positive outlook toward school and academic challenges, enhancing their overall learning experience. Building on the success of last year's Perfect 10 programme, which enriched students' learning with joyful and engaging experiences, the school is excited to continue its implementation this year.

Perfect 10, to be held during the last week of Terms 1 and 2, will dedicate curriculum time to experiential learning beyond the classroom. Students across all levels will participate in engaging activities tailored to their developmental stages:

Lower Primary: Musical Theatre and Speech & Drama

Middle Primary: Storytelling through Technology and Public Speaking

Upper Primary: Vlog Creation and Broadcast Journalism

These activities are designed to cultivate a love for exploration and discovery while equipping students with future-ready skills. Through Perfect 10, we aim to nurture *Confident Communicators, Thinking Learners, and Engaged Leaders*.

9. Mother Tongue Fortnight

As part of our efforts to promote the learning and appreciation of Mother Tongue Languages (MTLs), our school will be organising MT Fortnight towards the end of Term 1. During this event, students will take part in a variety of language and cultural activities designed to create a rich MTL learning environment. These activities provide meaningful opportunities for students to use their MTLs in engaging and authentic ways while deepening their understanding of their own cultural heritage. We look forward to an enriching and enjoyable experience for all students!

10. Promoting a Reading Culture

The importance of reading for children cannot be overstated. Reading for pleasure enhances a child's education, cognitive and social development, well-being, and mental health. At Damai Primary, we actively encourage students to read for both enjoyment and learning. To support this, the school subscribes to various newspapers and magazines and provides a wide selection of English and Mother Tongue storybooks for classroom reading. Additionally, students are encouraged to borrow books from the school library to further enrich their reading experience.

Level	EL	CL	ML	TL
Primary 1 and 2			Nabil & Nabila series	
Primary 3		Thumbs Up (Junior) Magazine		
Primary 4		Thumbs Up Magazine		Tamil Murasu Newspaper
Primary 5 and 6	What's Up Newspapers for Kids		Rona (P6 ML only)	
Online for all levels	https://www.getepic.com/			



11. KooBits

The school subscribes to a KooBits (a Mathematics e-portal) account for every student and encourages them to log in at least 20 minutes a day to practise Mathematics skills daily. Awards such as “Champion Class”, “Most Improved Class”, “Top Brain Student” and “Most Improved Student” are given out termly to motivate usage of the portals for learning as individuals and as a class. Parents are encouraged to watch [KooBits Student Introduction Video](#) (scan the QR code) for a firsthand understanding of how to optimise learning via KooBits. For technical support, parents can contact the KooBits Team by emailing support@koobits.com.



12. Social Studies Cohort Learning Journeys

Cohort Learning Journeys are planned and designed for Primary 3 to Primary 6 students, allowing them to have opportunities to take part in common experiences which include the Primary 5 NE Show and Museum-Based Learning (MBL). The MBL is one of the core learning experiences in the Art syllabus. Together with the other learning journeys, these experiences also complement the learning of Social Studies and Character and Citizenship education.

More details and information of the learning journeys will be shared via letters and acknowledgement forms sent through Parents Gateway (PG) nearer the dates of the learning journeys.

Upcoming Cohort Learning Journeys in February:

Class	Venue	Date
Primary 6 Passion	Asian Civilisation Museum	Wednesday, 12 February 2025
Primary 4 Sincerity	Kreta Ayer Heritage Gallery	Friday, 28 February 2025
Primary 4 Passion	Kreta Ayer Heritage Gallery	Friday, 28 February 2025

13. Vaping and Consumption of Chewing Gum

MOE takes a firm stand against vaping. Vaping is categorised as a serious offence. When students are caught using or in possession of e-vaporisers, the prohibited product will be confiscated, and their parents will be informed. The schools will report the offender to Health Sciences Authority and manage vaping-related offences through existing disciplinary frameworks. These include taking school-based disciplinary actions, such as suspension or caning (for boys). Students caught vaping will also be placed on cessation support programmes where counsellors will guide them through their cessation journey to effect long-term behavioural change.

Parents have an important part to play in their children’s education. There are resources and relevant information that parents can access on Parent Hub. Parents are encouraged to have a serious conversation with their children about vaping to prevent it from becoming a life-long habit. More information about the harms of vaping is available on Parent Hub at <https://go.gov.sg/parent-hub-vaping>.

Students are not allowed to bring chewing gum to school for consumption, sale, or distribution. Students found in possession of chewing gum in school will face disciplinary actions, which may include a warning letter, detention, suspension, or other consequences deemed appropriate by the school.



We are on Instagram! @damaiprimaryig

We would like to invite you to follow our school's Instagram account (@damaiprimaryig) to stay connected and get a firsthand look at the exciting events and activities happening in our school. Through our posts, you can catch glimpses of your child's learning experiences, school celebrations and events. Stay connected and be a part of our school community by following us today!

Appended to this letter are the following:

1. Homework Policy
2. Cyber Wellness@Damai (Term 1)

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Jenny Leong
Principal





Damai Primary School Homework Policy

Annex

Definition of Homework

Homework refers to any learning activity that schools require students to complete outside of curriculum time, regardless of the mode of delivery (i.e. pen-and-paper, virtual/ online). This includes assignments and projects but not revision of schoolwork or studying for tests and examinations.

Objectives of Homework

Effective use of Homework can help students to:

- reinforce learning and deepen understanding of lessons taught
- allow students to regularly practise, and apply skills and concepts taught
- develop good study skills and habits
- encourage greater ownership and responsibility for independent/self-directed learning

Students' Role

Students should:

- understand the purpose of homework and what is expected of them
- keep track of homework instructions and deadlines
- manage time well to ensure that homework is completed and submitted on time
- organise their school materials: study notes, assignments, books, papers, etc. for revision
- give his/ her best effort in completing homework
- seek help from teachers, classmates or friends when they face difficulty
- review feedback from teachers on homework submitted
- complete corrections independently to reinforce learning after explanation by teachers

Develop Good Study Habits

- write down homework/assignment updates in student's handbook
- have a home study timetable
- have a study area, away from household distractions
- have sufficient study materials to do their homework



Long Term Benefits

With regular revision through Homework, students will:

- practise self-discipline and time management
- be more inquisitive
- be more independent
- be better problem solvers
- All the above will result in good study habits and skills as well as improve students' attitude towards school.

Objectives of Homework

Monitoring of Homework can provide parents with:

- timely information on the learning progress of the child
- opportunities to be involved in their child's learning

Parents' Role

Parents can do the following to supervise their children homework:

- to create a home environment conducive for studying and completion of homework
- to guide and reinforce good study habits and attitudes
- to refer to the student's handbook daily for updates on homework/assignment/feedback
- to spend time to go through the child's schoolwork
- to help the child to learn through homework assignments
- to consult teachers on the child's progress
- to be mindful of the stresses arising from school homework and out-of-school activities, and help the child to prioritise his/her time among these activities
- to ensure that homework is done before their tuition work

Parents are reminded not to do the homework for their children. They should also help their children to ensure that homework is done before their tuition work.



General Guidelines on Homework



Primary 1 & Primary 2:

- Daily reading for enjoyment
- Either English, Mathematics and/or Mother Tongue homework

Primary 3 - Primary 6:

- Daily reading for enjoyment
- English, Mathematics, Science and Mother Tongue homework

End





Cyber Wellness @Damai (Term 1 – Cyber Use and Cyber Identity)

In today's digital world, children are spending more time online for learning, entertainment, and socializing. As parents, it is important to understand cyber use and cyber identity to help guide them safely.

What is Cyber Use?

Cyber use refers to how children interact with digital devices such as smartphones, tablets, and computers. This includes:

- ✓ Watching videos and playing online games
- ✓ Using social media and messaging apps
- ✓ Searching for information and doing schoolwork
- ✓ Communicating with friends online

What is Cyber Identity?

Cyber identity is a child's online presence and how they present themselves on the internet. This includes:

- ✓ The usernames, profile pictures, and bios they use
- ✓ The way they communicate in chats, posts, and comments
- ✓ The type of content they share and engage with

Why Does It Matter?

Children may not always understand the risks of being online. Overuse of digital devices can lead to unhealthy habits, while careless online behaviour can affect their privacy and safety.

Screen use guidelines from MOH

On January 21, the Ministry of Health (MOH) introduced an updated guidelines to assist parents in managing their children's screen time, aiming to foster healthier digital habits from an early age.

Key Recommendations for children aged 7 to 12 Years

Screen use should be capped at less than two hours daily, excluding school-related activities. It is recommended to establish a screen use plan or timetable, prohibit screens during meals and before bedtime, and ensure content is age-appropriate through parental controls. Notably, children in this age group should not have access to social media services or devices with unrestricted internet access.



These guidelines are part of the broader "Grow Well SG" initiative, which aims to support families in cultivating healthy habits in children. The initiative emphasizes the importance of balancing screen use with other activities, such as physical exercise, sleep, and face-to-face interactions, to promote overall well-being.

By adhering to these updated recommendations, parents can play a pivotal role in ensuring their children's healthy development in an increasingly digital world.

More information about screentime guideline can be found in Appendix A.



Appendix A

New MOH guidelines on screen use for children under 12



BELOW 18 MONTHS



- No screen use unless for interactive video chatting
- Do not leave screens on in the background when child is engaged in other activities

18 MONTHS TO 6 YEARS



- Limit screen use to less than an hour a day outside school
- Passive screen use not recommended
- View media together with children where possible
- Do not use screens to occupy or distract child
- Carefully choose age-appropriate educational content
- Do not leave screens on in the background
- No screens during meals and 1 hour before bedtime

7 TO 12 YEARS



- Limit screen use to less than 2 hours a day, unless related to schoolwork
- Develop a screen use plan or timetable
- Have regular conversations with children to find out their online activities
- Do not give children mobile devices with unrestricted access
- Use parental control settings to ensure children access age-appropriate content and apps
- Do not give children access to social media services
- No screens during meals and 1 hour before bedtime

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF HEALTH





References

1. Ministry of Health (MOH)
 - Guide on screen time: <https://www.moh.gov.sg/others/resources-and-statistics/guidance-on-screen-use>
 - Grow Well SG: <https://www.moh.gov.sg/newsroom/opening-remarks-by-mr-ong-ye-kung--minister-for-health--at-the-press-conference-on-grow-well-sg--21-january-2025>
2. The Straits Times
 - Screen use guidelines: <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/no-devices-for-kids-at-meals-and-turn-off-the-tv-spore-issues-stricter-screen-use-guidelines>
 - Too much screen time: <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/concerned-about-your-children-getting-too-much-screen-time-heres-how-to-dial-back>

