



2023/303

9 November 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

1. Appreciation

As we approach the end of another academic year, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible support you have provided throughout the year. Your unwavering commitment to your child's education has been an integral part of our journey. I am delighted to share that we have seen remarkable growth and achievements among our students this year, and this would not have been possible without your support. Your trust in our school and your involvement in your child's education have made all the difference.

2. Promotion Day

Promotion Day will take place on **14 November, Tuesday**. Teachers will inform students the class they have been assigned to for 2024 as well as items to bring on the first day of school. Teachers will also go through the booklist with students to confirm the items that they have to purchase for the new academic year, after which students will be taken to their 2024 classrooms so they know where their new class is located.

3. Parent-Teacher Meeting

The Term 4 Parent-Teacher Meeting (PTM) for selected students from Primary 1 to 5 will be held on **16 November, Thursday**. Form Teachers will engage parents on their children's holistic growth and development. Respective Form Teachers would have informed the parents of the selected students on the date and mode of discussion. The school hopes that the PTM will be a fruitful session for parents. Please note that students will not be required to attend school on that day.

4. Prize Giving Day

Prize-Giving Day will take place on **17 November, Friday**, which is the last day of the academic year.

Only prize recipients need to attend Prize-Giving Day. Students who are prize recipients will be notified by their Form Teachers. Parents of prize recipients will be cordially invited to attend the ceremony.

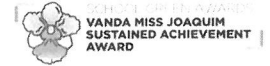
Students who are performing in the concert and student leaders who are assisting their teachers will also need to be present. (These selected students will have their stipulated reporting time as specified by their teachers.)

Reporting Time of Prize Recipients & Parents	8.15 a.m.
Estimated Time of Completion of Prize Presentation Ceremony	11.00 a.m.

The Student Care Centre (SCC) will operate from 7.30 a.m. for SCC students who need school care arrangement on both days - 16 November, Thursday, and 17 November, Friday.

5. Primary 1 Orientation

Parents with children joining Damai Primary School in 2024 are reminded to attend the Primary 1 Orientation on 17 November, Friday, at 2.30 p.m. You will have the opportunity to meet the teachers, ask questions, and connect with other parents. There is also a classroom experience prepared especially for you and your child. We look forward to seeing you there.



6. 2024 School Timetable & Mealtimes

The school timetable & mealtimes in 2024 will be as follows:

	Primary 1 and Primary 2	Primary 3 to Primary 6
Morning Assembly	7.30 a.m. (All students are to be in class/school hall for attendance-taking and morning assembly)	
Curriculum Time	7.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday 7.30 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Wednesday to Friday	7.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. Monday to Friday
Recess	P1: 8.30 a.m. – 9.00 a.m. P2: 9.00 a.m. – 9.30 a.m.	P3: 9.30 a.m. – 10.00 a.m. P4: 10.30 a.m. – 11.00 a.m. P5 & P6: 10.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.
Snack Break	P1: 11.20 a.m. P2: 11.20 a.m.	P3: 11.20 a.m. P4, P5 & P6: 8.50 a.m.

Students are to report at the hall (Mondays only) / their classrooms for attendance taking and morning assembly by 7.30 a.m. Curriculum time will start at 7.30 a.m.

Students who are not in school for morning assembly will be considered late.

Students in Primary 3 to 6 will be dismissed at 1.30 p.m. on all days. Students in Primary 1 and 2 will be dismissed at 1.30 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays, and at 1.00 p.m. from Wednesdays to Fridays.

7. First Day of School for 2024 Primary 2 to 6 students on 3 January 2023 (Wednesday)

Reporting Time	By 7.20 a.m.
Venue	All students will report to the school hall
Attire	Damai Primary School P.E Attire (Primary 2 to 6)
Dismissal Time	Primary 2 – 1.00 p.m. Primary 3, 4, 5, 6 – 1.30 p.m.

Do refer to **Annex A** for the list of items to bring for the first week of school in 2024.

In addition, students must bring along:

- A notebook, a storybook, a water bottle, and stationery
- A working thermometer
- An A4 file to keep letters/worksheets.

8. 2024 Start it Right

Damaians can look forward to attending three days of Start it Right programme when they return to school in 2024. The programme is designed to ensure a smooth transition into the new academic year and set the stage for a successful and productive experience. The Start it Right programme will include various activities and resources aimed at helping students begin the school year on the right foot.



9. Student Safety

For the upcoming school holidays, the Singapore Police Force (SPF), Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) and National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) have jointly provided an advisory to remind students to stay home and stay safe, as well as to take measures to prevent themselves from becoming victims of crime, especially through online platforms. Please refer to **Annex B** for more information.

10. Cyber Wellness @ Damai – Cyber Security

As we approach the upcoming school holidays, I would like to highlight the importance of cyber wellness for our students during this break. In today's digital age, the internet has become an integral part of our lives, offering both opportunities and challenges. Ensuring our children's safety and well-being in the online world is a shared responsibility, and it is important that we prioritise cyber wellness during this time. We seek parents'/guardians' support to read the tips provided in **Annex C**. Your active involvement in your child's/ward's online activities is an essential step in nurturing their well-being and ensuring a positive digital experience.

11. Photographs of Student for Non-Commercial Use

Photographs that include your child's/ward's image may be used in displays, presentations, publications, or other related materials, in any format (print, electronic, web or other media), for the purposes of documentation or non-commercial use. Please write to the school if you do not wish the photographs that include your child's/ward's image to be used in 2024.

12. Purchase of books and school uniforms for 2024

Your child/ward will be receiving a booklist/uniform list together with the instructions for the purchase of books. Please refer to the list for the opening hours of the school bookshop. It is strongly encouraged that only one parent/guardian accompany your child/ward to purchase the books and school uniforms.

13. Nomination for Teaching Awards

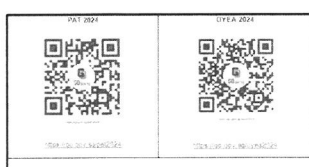
2024 President's Awards for Teachers [PAT] and Outstanding Youth in Education Award [OYEA]

The **President's Award for Teachers (PAT)** recognises excellent and experienced educators who are role models for the teaching profession. These educators constantly adopt innovative approaches in their lessons and are lifelong learners and mentors to their peers. They personify deep passion for teaching and inspire their students and peers through words and deeds.

On the other hand, the **Outstanding Youth in Education Award (OYEA)** recognises young teachers, aged 35 and below, who are inspiring role models for the teaching profession. These teachers have shown admirable passion for teaching, commitment to inspire and nurture their students, and personify youthful idealism, enthusiasm, and energy. Teachers who are eligible are those born on or after 30 June 1989 (35 years old and below).

Nominations for both awards are now open and will close on **10 January 2024 (Wednesday)**. Do take the opportunity to nominate the teacher who has supported your child in his/her educational journey.

Express your appreciation to the teachers by submitting the nominations **online** via the QR-codes available below or the given links:





Caring Teacher Awards (CTA) 2024

You can also take time to show your appreciation to the teachers of your child/ward by nominating them for the **Caring Teacher Awards (CTA) 2024**. Organised by National Institute of Education (NIE), this award aims to acknowledge teachers who go beyond the call of duty to nurture the holistic development of their students.

You can go to <https://www.cta.nie.edu.sg/nominate> to submit your nomination online. The closing date is **12 January 2024 (Friday)**. More details can also be found on the CTA website (www.cta.nie.edu.sg).

14. Travel Declaration

We require parents/guardians to make a travel declaration for your child/ward **if he/she will be travelling** for the holidays. You may do the declaration via the Parents' Gateway (PG) app (refer to <https://pg.moe.edu.sg>). If you do not have access to the PG, you may do so by submitting an online form via the weblink/QR code below. Please indicate clearly both the country and city of travel. Only one parent is required to make the declaration. If your child/ward is **not travelling** during the holidays, **no action is required**.

You should refer to <https://ica.gov.sg/enter-transit-depart> for more information and updates. If there is a change in travel plan(s) after declaration, please inform the school as soon as possible.



<https://go.gov.sg/dpstraveldeclaration1>

On behalf of the school, I would like to extend a warm festive greeting to students and parents celebrating Deepavali. I would also like to wish you and your family a restful and safe school holidays. We look forward to welcoming 2024 Primary 2 to 6 students back on 3 January 2024, Wednesday. Lastly, wishing you and your family a joyous Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Jenny Leong
Principal



Annex A

First Day of School, 3 January 2024 (Wednesday)

Reporting Time	By 7.20 a.m. (P2 – P6 students only)
Venue	All students will report to the 2024 Classrooms
Attire	Damai Primary School P.E Attire
Dismissal Time	Primary 2 – 1.00 p.m. Primary 3, 4, 5, 6 – 1.30 p.m.

*Please keep yourself posted on any updates through Parents Gateway or school website

In addition, students must also bring along:

- a notebook, a storybook, a water bottle, and a pencil case with colour pencils and stationery
- a working thermometer
- an empty A4 plastic file to keep letters/materials that will be issued on Day 1

Things to bring on the first week of school

Day 1/ Wed, 03 Jan 2024	Day 2/ Thu, 04 Jan 2024
<p>English (EL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stellar Handwriting Book (for P2 only) • 2 A5 broad-lined exercise book (for P2 only) • 3 A5 single-lined exercise book (for P3 – P6) • 1 Blue Ring File (EL) <p>Mathematics (MA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook (Part A) • Workbook (Part A) • 1 A5 single-lined exercise book (P3-P6) • 1 Red Ring File (Foundation Math) or 2 Red Ring Files (Standard Math) <p>Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character and Citizenship Education (Form Teacher Guidance Period) • A4 Button plastic clear file – Card case, Duster and 2 markers 	<p>Science (SC) – (for P3 – P6 only)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science teachers will be informing the students on relevant books to bring for Semester 1. (Refer to Student's Handbook) • 1 Orange Ring File (SC) <p>Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Black Ring File (with 10 coloured plastic dividers, 10 pieces of sheet protector) <p>Art</p> <p>A3 Drawing Block A3 Clear Folder 40 pockets (P1 to P6)</p>
<p>Day 3/ Fri, 05 Jan 2024</p> <p>Mother Tongue (MT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Textbook (Part A) • Activity Book (Part A) • Small Readers (Chinese Language) – P3 and P4 • Small Readers (Malay Language) – P2 to P4 • Small Readers (Tamil Language) – P2 to P6 • Writing Exercise Book (Part A) – P2 and P3 students taking Chinese Language • Penmanship Book – P2 students taking Tamil Language • Character and Citizenship Education Activity Book – P2 • 1 Green Ring File (MT) • Character and Citizenship Education Journal – P3 to P6 <p>Others</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Studies Activity Book • An Active and Healthy Me 	



JOINT YEAR-END SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ADVISORY

Stay safe during the school holidays by following these tips.

STAY AWAY FROM CRIME

Shop theft is a crime



Always pay for your items before you leave the store.

High rise littering is a crime



Do not throw things as it could injure others.

Theft of Bicycle is a crime



Do not take a bicycle that does not belong to you, even for just a joy-ride.

BE AWARE AND BE SAFE

Beware of strangers



Do not speak to or follow strangers when approached. Inform your family and teachers immediately if this happens.

Do not give in to peer-pressure



Learn to say 'No' when you know it is wrong.

Say 'No' if anyone tries to offer you drugs or anything strange



Inform your family and teachers.

REAL LIFE STORIES

STORY 1
Bicycle Theft is a Crime



SCAN ME TO READ

STORY 2
A Tale of Temptation and Trust



SCAN ME TO READ

OUR HELPLINES:

CRIME PREVENTION

Call the Police hotline at **1800 255 0000** or submit information online at www.police.gov.sg/iwitness

'**999**' is for emergencies only. Please dial if you require urgent Police assistance.

For more information, visit: www.police.gov.sg, [SPF Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/SPF) or www.ncpc.org.sg.



DRUGS PREVENTION

For more information on the harms of drug and inhalant abuse, visit: www.cnb.gov.sg.

Please call the Police or the CNB hotline at **1800 325 6666** to report suspected drug and inhalant abuse.



Dear Parents and Students,

ADVISORY ON VAPING

The Health Promotion Board (HPB) and Health Sciences Authority (HSA) would like to remind you of the following:

VAPING IS ILLEGAL, REGARDLESS OF AGE.

Under the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act:

- **It is an offence to purchase, use or possess e-cigarettes and/or their components. Offenders can be fined up to \$2,000.**
- **It is also an offence to advertise, import, distribute, sell, offer for sale or possess for sale these products in Singapore. Offenders can be fined up to \$20,000 or face imprisonment of up to 12 months or both.**

Disciplinary actions will be taken against anyone caught for the above offences. Refer to Annex for more information on the penalties imposed on the offences.

VAPING IS HARMFUL AND CAN BE A GATEWAY TO CIGARETTE SMOKING.

Vaping, just like smoking cigarettes, is harmful and can lead to lifelong addiction. E-cigarettes contain many harmful substances such as nicotine. These substances can negatively impact brain development, especially to parts of the brain that control attention, learning and memory. E-cigarettes also contain benzene and formaldehyde which can cause cancer and infertility. Studies have also shown that individuals who vape are more likely to pick up cigarette smoking later in life¹.

If you know of someone who vapes or owns an e-cigarette, please inform the school so that timely cessation support can be offered to them. Alternatively, please call QuitLine at 1800 438 2000 for vaping/smoking cessation support.

Ms Vasuki Utravathy
Director, School Health & Outreach Division
Health Promotion Board

Mr Norman Chong
Director, Tobacco Regulation Branch
Health Sciences Authority

¹ Chien Y et al. Electronic Cigarette Use and Smoking Initiation in Taiwan: Evidence from the First Prospective Study in Asia. *Int J Environ Res Public Health* 2019. Apr; 16(7):1145.
Conner M et al. Evidence that an intervention weakens the relationship between adolescent electronic cigarette use and tobacco smoking: a 24-month prospective study. *Tob Control* 2019.
Hammond D et al. Electronic cigarette use and smoking initiation among youth: a longitudinal cohort study. *CMAJ* 2017.
Soneji S, Barrington-Trimis J, Willis T.A, et al. Association between initial use of e-cigarettes and subsequent cigarette smoking among adolescents and young adults. *JAMA Pediatrics* 2017.

Annex

Examples of scenarios of possessing, using or purchasing of e-cigarettes:

Scenario A	Scenario B	Scenario C
"I bought an e-cigarette online, but I did not use it."	"I bought 2 e-cigarettes, 1 for me and 1 for my friend, who paid me for his share."	"I post vape content on my Tiktok and Instagram account."
This is considered as a purchase .	This is considered as a sale .	This is considered as an advertisement .
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penalty imposed for possessing, using, or purchasing e-cigarettes. All offences, fine up to \$2,000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penalty imposed for selling or advertising e-cigarettes. 1st offence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fine up to \$10,000 Imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months; or Both fine & imprisonment 2nd & subsequent offences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fine up to \$20,000 Imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months; or Both fine & imprisonment 	

EDM on Vaping from HPB (Primary)

**AT ANY AGE
VAPING IS ILLEGAL**

HARMFUL EFFECTS OF VAPING

E-CIGARETTES CONTAIN MANY CANCER-CAUSING SUBSTANCES LIKE FORMALDEHYDE AND BENZENE

NICOTINE IN E-CIGARETTES REDUCES THE ABILITY TO LEARN, MEMORISE AND CONCENTRATE

NICOTINE CAN CAUSE SYMPTOMS LIKE DIZZINESS, HEADACHES AND DIARRHOEA

"I BOUGHT AN E-CIGARETTE ONLINE BUT I DID NOT USE IT."

It is still a purchase. You may be fined up to \$2000.

"I BOUGHT 2 E-CIGARETTES, 1 FOR MYSELF AND 1 FOR MY FRIEND."

"I POST VAPE CONTENT ON MY TIKTOK AND INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT."

It is still a sale / an advertisement.

For the 1st Offence, you may be fined up to \$10,000 and/or jailed for up to 6 months.
For the 2nd Offence, you may be fined up to \$20,000 and/or jailed for up to 12 months.

If you know of someone who vapes or owns an e-cigarette, please inform your teacher so that timely cessation support can be offered.



Annex C

Cyber Wellness @ Damai – Cyber Security

As the year-end holiday approaches, many children will be more spending time on the internet. Hence, the risk of them accessing inappropriate contents that are unsafe, violent, or inappropriate for their age will also greatly increase. In addition, children will also be prone to excessive screentime and increased exposure to online risks. To protect them from such dangers, we recommend that your child/ward pays special attention to the following;

Create a strong password

Educating our children to create a strong password is one of the ways to prevent hackers from accessing your child’s email and retrieving their information for malicious intents.

- At least 12 characters long but 14 or more is better.
- A combination of uppercase letters, lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols (*,@,<,#).

Potential online risks

Many parents already have a good understanding of your children’s online activities, yet many children do not recognise the importance of sharing their online activities with us. Hence, it is important for parents to be aware of potential online risks that may affect our children physically and/or emotionally.





- Receiving hateful and hurtful online comments
- Chatting and meeting with online strangers
- Exposure to inappropriate online content

Excessive screen time

Research is uncovering evidence that excessive screen time impairs learning, causes physical problems, and also leads to mental health disorders. Some of these problems includes;

- Posture and body aches
- Eye and vision-related problems
- Mental health issues

Explore and discover more tips and upcoming events on Cyber Wellness in the attached links and follow our parenting links below;

	Instagram:	@parentingwith.moesg
	Facebook:	@Ministry of Education
	Telegram:	Contact@Schoolbag_edu_sg
	YouTube	https://www.youtube.com/@CyberSecurityAgencyofSingapore



DAMAI PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Check out the following link for more information:

1.	ActiveSG	https://www.activesgcircle.gov.sg/activehealth/read/screen-time/how-too-much-screen-time-is-affecting-you-and-your-childs-mental-and-physical-health
2.	Cyber Security Agency Singapore	https://www.csa.gov.sg
3.	Media Literacy Council	https://www.betterinternet.sg