



2024/064

5 February 2024

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**

### **Driving in and out the school**

To maintain a smooth flow of traffic during arrival and dismissal times, parents are reminded NOT TO DISEMBARK from the vehicle when dropping off and picking up their children at the school foyer. We would like to appeal to parents to play their part to avoid creating congestion at the drop-off/pick-up point. We would also like to urge all drivers to exercise due care and patience when entering and exiting the school premises. Do observe the 15km/h speed limit within the school premises.

When leaving the school, do keep a look out for other road users as you approach the school's main gate. Please also note the yellow box and pedestrian crossings outside the school. The school will deploy staff at the school gates and nearby pedestrian crossing to ensure the safety of students and parents at both arrival and dismissal times.

### **Safety Activities and Emergency Exercises**

The school has completed the annual safety walk and termly safety brief to heighten the safety awareness for all students. The annual safety walk helps familiarise students with the traffic conditions around the vicinity of the school neighbourhood and educate them on the safety precautions to take when crossing the road.

As part of the emergency preparations, the school conducts periodic emergency exercises and activities to familiarise the students and staff with the actions to adopt in the event of an emergency.

### **Meals for after-school activities**

The school canteen will continue to operate on days when students are required to attend after-school activities in view that they are not permitted to leave school to have lunch.

Alternatively, parents/guardians are allowed to hand over packed lunch to their child/ward at Gate A or B during the dismissal time. We strongly encourage parents to provide healthy packed lunch for their children should they wish to deliver food to them at lunch break. Please work with your child for the collection of lunch at the gate.

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

To move away from an over-emphasis on academic results, Mid-Year examinations for all Primary 3, 4, 5 and 6 students have been removed since 2023. The time freed up from the removal of Mid-Year Examination allows the school to better pace and deepen students' learning and help students develop 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies such as self-directed learning.



We wish to remind parents and guardians that the school will continue to conduct weighted assessments and timed practices scheduled for your child as milestone checks on their learning progress. In addition, the school will continue to use non-weighted assessments to support your child's learning, gauge his/her learning progress, and address learning gaps. Parents will be notified of your child's learning progress regularly through the Subject Files, Holistic Assessment (H.A) File as well as the daily work of the students. In addition, you can email or call the teachers for any information pertaining to your child's learning progress if needed.

#### 4. Assessment Policy

Assessments are important milestones for the students. It provides an invaluable opportunity for students to revise, consolidate and apply their understanding in a formal setting. Overall marks for the year for each subject will be computed accordingly, taking into consideration the absence from examination or weighted assessments with a valid reason. The school has already sent the Assessment Policy to parents via Parents Gateway or via the issuance of the hard copy of the policy through your child. Please read through the policy and acknowledge the receipt of the document if you have not already done so. Your child has been briefed on the Assessment Policy by the Form Teachers.

#### 5. Homework Policy

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). Homework assigned will be purposeful and relevant to the curriculum requirements of each subject as well as the learning needs of our students. Homework load will be monitored and coordinated by teachers to ensure that it is manageable for students. The school hopes to work in partnership with you to instil self-discipline in our students and nurture them to become self-directed learners who take responsibility for their own learning.

The Homework Policy is appended in this letter for your reference. It is also found on the school website.

#### 6. Safer Internet Day 2024 [Screen-Free Weekend]

Safer Internet Day (SID) is an annual global initiative which aims to promote safer and more responsible use of online technology and mobile devices among children and young people. In Singapore, the Safer Internet Day 2024 theme is "**Digital Wellbeing and having a Healthy and Balanced relationship with Technology**". Students will be participating in recess activities to commemorate this special day in February.

Remember that technology will always be a part of our lives but using technology excessively can also be problematic. Balancing our technology use and taking the time to unplug from technology use can be a useful way of ensuring equilibrium.

#### **Commit to a screen-free family weekend in February!**

Commit to **one** of the following screen-free options for one weekend as a family:

- Not using mobile devices;
- Not engaging in recreational screen time;
- Not playing video games;

Replace the time you would normally spend online with something that you want to do offline. See the following activities for ideas that you can do.

- Playing a sport/ board games
- Outdoor activities such as hiking/cycling etc.
- Spending time with friends in a face-to-face setting.

Have an enjoyable screen-free weekend together!



**7. Total Defence Day [TDD]**

The school will commemorate 40 years of Total Defence (TD) on 15 February, Thursday. 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 TD40, 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 TD40 Exercise 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 the TD40 exercise, please refer to the notification sent via PG on 31 January, Wednesday.

**8. Promoting a Reading Culture**

The importance of reading for children cannot be underestimated. Reading for pleasure can benefit a child’s education, social and cognitive development, their wellbeing, and their mental health. At Damai Primary, we strongly encourage our students to engage in and read for pleasure and learning. As such, the school subscribes to a variety of newspapers and magazines for our students. We also provide storybooks in English Language and all Mother Tongue Languages for extended reading in the classrooms. Additionally, students are encouraged to loan storybooks from the school library.

| Level                        | EL  | CL                 | ML                    | TL                     |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Primary 1 and 2              |   | Hao Peng You       | Nabil & Nabila series |                        |
| Primary 3                    |   | Thumbs Up Magazine | Mari Membaca Magazine |                        |
| Primary 4                    | What’s Up Newspapers for Kids                                   |                    |                       | Tamil Murasu Newspaper |
| Primary 5 and 6              |   |                    | Rona [P6FML]          |                        |
| <b>Online for all levels</b> | <a href="https://www.getepic.com/">https://www.getepic.com/</a> | JoyReader Pro      |                       |                        |

**9. 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](mailto:support@koobits.com).





### 10. Perfect 10

Joyful learning experiences are often memorable. When students enjoy the learning process, they are more likely to view school and academic challenges in a positive light. This positive attitude can enhance their overall learning experience. With that in mind, the school will be implementing a new programme – Perfect 10. During the last week of Terms 1 and 2, curriculum time will be set aside for learning experientially beyond the classroom. Students across the levels will get to engage in exciting activities such as ‘Musical Theatre’ and ‘Speech & Drama’ for the Lower Primary, ‘Story Telling through the use of Technology’ and ‘Public Speaking’ for the Middle Primary, and ‘Creation of Vlog’ and ‘Broadcast Journalism’ for the Upper Primary. These activities aim to nurture our students’ love for exploration and discovery as well as promote the development of future-ready skills to be confident communicators, critical learners and engaged leaders.

### 11. Cohort Learning Journeys

Cohort Learning Journeys are planned and designed for Primary 4 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.

| Level | Venue                               | Class           | Date            |
|-------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| P4    | Kreta Ayer Heritage Gallery         | 4C, 4D and 4E   | 30 January      |
|       |                                     | 4A and 4B       | 20 February     |
|       | National Gallery of Singapore (MBL) | 4A              | 11 April        |
|       |                                     | 4B              | 12 April        |
|       |                                     | 4C              | 15 April        |
|       |                                     | 4D              | 16 April        |
| P5    | Indian Heritage Centre              | 4E              | 17 April        |
|       |                                     | 5A              | 28 March        |
|       | NE Show                             | 5B, 5C and 5D   | 4 April         |
|       |                                     | All P5 students | To be confirmed |
|       |                                     | 6A              | 25 June         |
| P6    | Asian Civilisation Museum           | 6B, 6C and 6D   | 27 June         |

### 12. Partnership Programmes

#### **NUS Teach SG**

Teach Singapore (Teach SG) – an initiative by National University of Singapore (NUS) - aims to uplift students from disadvantaged backgrounds by providing them with positive role-models via the NUS mentors. Our school has partnered NUS to run “NUS Teach SG” programme to benefit 25 Primary 6 students. Over 16 Friday afternoons starting September 2023, seven NUS mentors have been planning and running enrichment activities to help these students in Mathematics revision and have built a bond with them through team-building activities.

#### **Art Outreach**

The Aesthetics Department initiated an art outreach programme with Little Skool House last year to forge a positive and creative partnership within the Bedok/Tampines community. It was an



opportunity for our students to put their S.P.A.R.K. values into action. They worked closely with the pre-schoolers to create an artwork inspired by Japanese artist, Yayoi Kusama. In the process, our students learned to interact with young children, guide them through each stage of the project, as well as learn new and fun ways to engage with others. This collaboration gave our students a thoroughly enjoyable and unique learning experience as they led with confidence and inspired others through the art-making process.

Given the positive feedback from both our students and the pre-schoolers, our art outreach programme will be continued this year. A selected group of enthusiastic and passionate art students will once again volunteer to collaborate with the pre-schoolers at the Little Skool House to work on a new art project on two separate days, 1 March and 6 March 2024.

### **13. Lunar New Year Celebrations**

Our school will be holding the Lunar New Year Celebrations on 9 February, Friday. Students will be dismissed at 10.30 a.m. on that day.

Students are encouraged to report to school in red tops with school shorts/skorts and school shoes as this will add to the festive cheer. Primary 1 and 2 students may choose to wear traditional Chinese costumes with school shoes. Please note that the wearing of sleeveless tops is discouraged.

Primary 3 to 6 students who intend to wear red tops on that day are advised to report to school in red tops with school shorts to allow for ease of movement during CCA in the morning.

The school would like to wish all our parents, students and staff celebrating Lunar New Year,  
**愿您新年龙腾虎跃，身体安康，学业进步，步步高升!**

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Jenny Leong  
Principal





## **Damai Primary School Homework Policy 2024**

### 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 school work 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 improving their 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 school work
- 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

