



# BLANGAH RISE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Guardians

A Happy New Year to you!

We are starting this new year with more retrospection than usual, especially since we just ended a year where COVID-19 upended almost everything that we were used to. The pandemic is not over yet, but the outlook is beginning to change with Phase 3 having started and the arrival of vaccines in various countries. There is still a long waiting period for things to return to normal (or a new normal). In the meantime however, we have to exercise patience and continue our work diligently with the necessary constraints.

Farmers know the importance of patience better than anyone else. When a farmer plants his seeds, he understands his harvest is subjected to the environment. He can't control it, but he knows what his seeds need and will find ways to provide for it, eg. irrigating the soil, keeping the seeds and young plants safe from insects and birds, etc. He knows that despite the challenges he cannot control, there are still natural laws he has to abide by so that he will have a harvest. Some of these laws are:

- Law 1: We reap only what we sow
- Law 2: We reap in proportion to what we sow
- Law 3: We reap in a different season than we sow
- Law 4: We reap the full harvest only if we persevere

It is not surprising that these laws of the harvest also apply to our own growth as well. The difference is that we plant seeds (acts) of virtues instead. If we want our children to grow well socially and emotionally, we should encourage them to sow virtues such as respect, empathy, helpfulness and courage. If to grow in their learning, sow diligence, discipline, determination and excellence. However, remember Laws 3 and 4 – we will reap later, and only if we persevere. In the interim, there may be failures or setbacks, but that is part of the learning and growing. If our children continue to sow in the challenging times, they will have more successes than failures when it is time to harvest.

Let's together make this year a good year, by encouraging our children to sow the seeds of virtues which will help them reap a rewarding harvest personally and with others.

Wishing you and your family a good year 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
14 Jan	Parent-Teacher Meeting (Senior Primary)	
21 Jan	Parent-Teacher Meeting (Middle Primary)	
28 Jan	Parent-Teacher Meeting (Junior Primary)	

Date	Event	Remarks
2 Feb	P6 Level Camp	2 pm - 4.30 pm
4 Feb	Prefects' Investiture	
	P6 Level Camp	2 pm - 4.30 pm
8 Feb	School Smart Card: Photo Taking	
11 Feb	Chinese New Year Celebration	Staggered dismissal starting from 10 am
12 and 13 Feb	Public Holiday: Chinese New Year	
15 Feb	School Holiday: Chinese New Year	
16 Feb	Commemoration of Total Defence Day	
17 to 19 Feb	P5 Camp	
22 Feb - 5 Mar	ALP: P4 and P5 Robotics	
1 - 5 Mar	P6 CA	
9 Mar	P4 Discovery Camp	1.30 pm - 4.30 pm
11 Mar	P4 Discovery Camp	1.30 pm - 4.30 pm
12 Mar	Inter-House Games	

## 2. Year Heads of Junior, Middle and Senior Primaries

Junior Primary (P1 & 2)	<b>Acting Year Head</b> – Ms Kimberly Koh <b>Assistant Year Head</b> – Mr John Chia <b>P1 Level Coordinator</b> – Ms Maddie Wong <b>P2 Level Coordinator</b> – Mdm Siti Rahmah
Middle Primary (P3 & 4)	<b>Year Head</b> – Mr Patrick Goh <b>Assistant Year Head</b> – Mr Victor Lim <b>P3 Level Coordinator</b> – Mdm Tan Guat Khim <b>P4 Level Coordinator</b> – Ms Munirah
Senior Primary (P5 & 6)	<b>Year Head</b> – Mdm Stephanie Song <b>Assistant Year Head</b> – Mr Leow Qinjin <b>P5 Level Coordinator</b> – Ms Genevieve Thong <b>P6 Level Coordinator</b> – Ms Ivy Teo

## 3. Precautionary Measures

To ensure that the school remains a safe place for teaching and learning, Safe Management Measures (SMMs) will continue to be observed. These include twice-daily temperature taking and visual screening of students and staff, observance of high standards of hygiene and safe distancing. Students who are unwell with flu-like symptoms such as fever or cough are reminded to seek medical attention and stay away from school.

Please note the following staggered recess and dismissal timings.

Monday to Friday			
National Anthem and Pledge Taking		7.30 a.m.	
Lessons Start (immediately after pledge taking)			
Level	Recess	Snack	Dismissal
P1	9.30 a.m.	12.15 p.m.	1.20 p.m.
P2	8.30 a.m.	12.00 p.m.	1.25 p.m.
P3	9.00 a.m.	12.00 p.m.	1.30 p.m.
P4	9.30 a.m.	12.00 p.m.	1.35 p.m.
P5	10.30 a.m.	9.00 a.m.	1.40 p.m.
P6	10.00 a.m.	9.00 a.m.	1.45 p.m.

It is currently not mandatory for students to have a TraceTogether token when schools re-open. We will monitor the situation and review our plans in tandem with the national posture.

Let's continue to practise good personal hygiene, exercise social responsibility and abide by SMMS, at all times.

#### 4. Updates on Physical and Learning Environment

During the December holidays last year, we took the opportunity to renovate and improve our physical and learning environment. You will have noticed that the school buildings have been repainted with colours more aligned with our School and MK colours, as compared with the primary colours we had before. This will provide a refreshing look and identity to the School and MK, which we have collectively call "Blangah Rise Learning Campus" with our tagline of "where we grow deep and grow together".

The front wall of the general office in the foyer has also been transformed to one that complements the various galleries there. It will provide a space for children to showcase their creative works in Lego bricks as well as a community space for murals and other creative expressions. Within the office, we have made use of the extended walls to showcase the artworks of students who participated in our inaugural HeART competition last year. This will be an annual art competition that all students in the school and MK can participate in. Do look out for the competition details later this year!

You may already be aware that we have a very popular rabbits' cage where students like to visit and sometimes will be given the opportunity to interact with the rabbits under supervision. You will be happy to know that we have plans to enhance our eco-garden area further with more display areas for various animals and insects. When completed, the enhanced eco-garden will help make the learning of Science and other subjects, a more hands-on and engaging one.

Currently, our canteen area has been equipped with an audio system where appropriate relaxing music can be played during recess. There is also a mini-library situated within the canteen where students can browse and borrow books and where school staff and/or PSG members can conduct various activities during recess, such as book reading and games. We intend to renovate the canteen further so that it will continue to be a relaxing and fun place for students to look forward to as part of their free and unstructured time in school.

#### 5. School Safety & Security Measures

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

#### 6. 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 2, when their accounts are ready.

## 7. 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.**

## 8. School Recess Meals Subscription Programme

P3 – P6 Students (who missed out on subscribing to the plan before the start of the term)

Since 2017, the school has embarked on the SATS School Meal Programme, in conjunction with the School Healthy Meal Programme. To ensure that your child has a healthy intake of food in school, we would like to urge you to consider ordering his/her recess meals through the SATS School Meals Programme. The subscription programme aims to provide greater convenience and value for money for bulk ordering of healthy meals for your child. Please see details of the programme below:

Subscription Period: 18 Jan to 12 Mar 2021 (Mon to Fri, excluding school and public holidays)  
Subscription Cost: **\$74** (Deduction through GIRO/Payment by Cash or Cheque)

If you have yet to subscribe to the SATS School Meal Programme for Term 1 recesses and are interested to sign up now, please refer to Annex C, and complete and return the reply slip to your child's Form Teacher by **12 Jan 2021**. The subscription programme for your child will **commence from 18 Jan 2021**.

Alternatively, you may place your meal order online using *My Meal Card*, via [www.school-meals.sg](http://www.school-meals.sg) if you wish to arrange ad-hoc recess/lunch meals for your child.

All P1 and P2 students will be automatically enrolled in the "Be Bright, Eat Right" Subscription Programme by SATS. The programme is also integrated with the P1 Health Education Syllabus. If you have any queries, please call the school general office at 62717387 or email [brps@moe.edu.sg](mailto:brps@moe.edu.sg).

## 9. Parent-Teacher Meeting on 14 January, 21 January and 28 January (Thursdays)

We would like to invite all parents to attend our Parent-Teacher Meeting on 14 Jan for Senior Primary, 21 Jan for Middle Primary and 28 Jan for Junior Primary. The details of the meeting will be shared by your child's Year Head at a later date.

## 10. MOE Kindergarten Virtual Open House on 30 January (Saturday)

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 virtual Open House session 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](http://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.



## Safety & Security Measures

### ***Arrival and Dismissal Arrangements***

<b>During Dry Weather</b>	<b>During Wet Weather</b>
<p><u>Arrival</u></p> <p>Students can enter through the <b>Main Gate</b> and <b>Side Gate E</b> 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 <b>Main Gate</b> and <b>Side Gate E</b> 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 <b>Main Gate</b> and <b>Side Gate E</b>.</p> <p>For those driving, you may pick your child at the <b>Main Gate</b> or <b>Side Gate E</b>.</p>	<p><u>Dismissal</u></p> <p>Students can exit through the <b>Main Gate</b> and <b>Side Gate E</b>.</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 <b>Side Gate E</b>.</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

#### **2. Recess/Lunch Arrangements**

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](mailto: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. 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: CC, 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.



***For P3 – P6 Students Only***

**CONFIRMATION OF SCHOOL RECESS MEAL SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAMME  
18 JANUARY TO 12 MARCH 2021**

*(Monday to Friday, excluding school and public holidays)*

Name of Student : \_\_\_\_\_

Class : \_\_\_\_\_

I AGREE to participate in the recess meal subscription programme for my child/ward and allow the school to deduct the amount of **\$74** through GIRO. If the available balance in my bank account is insufficient for the deduction, I will pay in cash/cheque.

Notes:

- i) Please complete and return this reply form to your child's Form Teacher or General Office by **12 January 2021**
- ii) For food collection at the canteen stall, student is to produce *My Meal Card* as verification.
- iii) Prevailing charges for issuance of new *My Meal Card* @ \$2 each and replacement of lost *My Meal Card* @ \$5 each may apply.
- iv) **Opting out of the programme during the subscription period is not allowed.**



Sample of *My Meal Card*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parent/Guardian                      Signature                      Date

Contact Number : \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address : \_\_\_\_\_