



BLANGAH RISE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Guardians

A Happy New Year to you!

We are all certainly hoping for a fresh and liberating new year where our children can have more enriching learning experiences to grow further from, with less worries about the restrictive management measures. Looking back positively however, the disruption from Covid-19 has caused us to explore new ways of learning with technology, and also heightened our sense for mental wellness and the need to help our children to continue growing their character strength.

Nevertheless, having been through the pandemic for the past 2 years, we may begin to wonder if we are ever going to see a positive change and whether all the sacrifices we have made will be rewarded.

I hope the story of the bamboo tree will encourage us.

Like any plant, growth of the bamboo tree requires regular nurturing – water, fertile soil, sunshine. In its first year, we see no visible signs of activity. In the second year, again, no growth above the soil. The third, the fourth, still nothing. And finally in the fifth year – behold, a miracle! We experience growth. And what a growth it is! The bamboo tree grows 80 feet in just six weeks!

Does this mean that within the first four years, nothing has happened to the bamboo? Not at all, in fact, the bamboo tree has been growing ... underground, but you can't see it. Had the bamboo tree not grown its unseen root system for a strong foundation in the first few years, it would not have been able to sustain its miraculous growth when it was time to grow outward.

There are 4 lessons we can glean from the bamboo tree:

- 1) Success doesn't come immediately
 - **Growing takes time.** Give your goals and dreams time – the big or important ones usually take longer
- 2) You need a strong foundation
 - You can't grow high if you don't grow deep. **Virtues** are the roots that give you your character strengths for success
- 3) You have to be consistent
 - It is what you do every day that matters, not what you do once in a while. Make your positive efforts your habits – exercise the **7 Habits** regularly
- 4) Have faith in your efforts
 - Patience and persistence will pay off. If you give up before the change happens, you won't see growth. Have a **Growth Mindset** – believe that your efforts will make a difference.

Nurturing the unseen stage of growth may not be the most rewarding action to take, but it can be the most important one.

Wishing you and your family a good year of growth 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)	
20 Jan	Parent-Teacher Meeting (Middle Primary) Mother Tongue Support Programme (MTSP) Briefing (only for selected parents)	
21 Jan	Parent-Teacher Meeting (Junior Primary)	
31 Jan	Chinese New Year Celebration	Staggered dismissal starting from 10 am
1 and 2 Feb	Public Holiday: Chinese New Year	
8 Feb	Student Leaders' Investiture	
14 Feb	School Smart Card: Photo Taking for P1 and P6 students	
15 Feb	Commemoration of Total Defence Day	
7 to 11 Feb 14 to 18 Feb	ALP: P2 Robotics during PAL Lessons	
22 and 24 Feb 2 Mar	P4 Broadcast Journalism	2pm to 4pm
28 Feb 1 to 4 Mar	P6 CA	
28 Feb to 4 Mar 7 to 11 Mar	ALP: P5 Robotics during Math Lessons	
11 Mar	Inter-House Games	TBC

2. Year Heads of Junior, Middle and Senior Primaries

Junior Primary (P1 & 2)	Year Head – Mdm Kimberly Koh Yen Ling Assistant Year Head – Mr John Chia Si Wei P1 Level Coordinator – Mdm Tan Guat Khim P2 Level Coordinator – Miss Abigail Ow
Middle Primary (P3 & 4)	Year Head – Mr Patrick Goh Leng Wee Assistant Year Head – Mr Victor Lim Wee Teck P3 Level Coordinator – Ms Ivy Teo Siok Cheng P4 Level Coordinator – Mr Marcus Chan Si Khuen
Senior Primary (P5 & 6)	Year Head – Mdm Stephanie Song Peck Ling Assistant Year Head – Mr Leow Qinjin P5 Level Coordinator – Ms Munirah Bte Talat Mahmood P6 Level Coordinator – Mr Zaini Bin Daud

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 temperature taking and visual screening of students and staff, observance of high standards of hygiene and safe distancing. Students and staff who are unwell with flu-like symptoms such as fever/cough or have a positive ART result should not report to school and should follow MOH's Protocols 1 and 2 respectively. Students and staff placed on Health Risk Warning (HRW) should follow MOH's Protocol 3 and ensure they have a valid negative ART result before going to 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.

Please ensure that your child has a TraceTogether token with him/her personally (not in the school bag) when he/she comes to school. This will facilitate any contact tracing if necessary. At the same time, if your child is eligible for the Covid-19 vaccination, we strongly encourage you to have your child vaccinated.

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

We have been enhancing our physical environment in the school over the years to engage our students in their learning beyond the classroom, and we will continue to do so this year.

As you are aware, we have enlarged our animal enclosures last year to include display areas for various animals and insects such as a rabbits, stick insects, tadpoles and guppies. We even have open air bird feeders to attract birds and appropriate plants to attract butterflies into our eco-garden. As these displays have been very well received by our students, we will be extending the display areas further so that we can introduce more varied animals and insects. To enhance the learning of Science and other subjects, we may also bring these live creatures into the classrooms for more hands-on and engaging experiences.

We have already enhanced our canteen area with an audio system for the playing of relaxing music during recess, a mini-library to encourage self-directed browsing and borrowing of books, and visuals such as artificial trees and banners for the display of student works and key messages. To enhance the area around our canteen further as well as enlarge our school's green spaces, we are exploring creating a new garden above the canteen where students can be involved in helping to maintain it, as well as to use it in partnership with our community.

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 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.

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

Since 2017, the school has worked with SATS to provide nutritional and healthy recess meals for our students. These meals are also designed in accordance to HPB's Healthy Meals in School Programme guidelines. In our 2021 school meals survey with students, they have shared that they especially enjoyed SATS's *Mini Pancakes, Ham and Cheese Sandwich, Char Siew Noodles and Roti Prata*.

In 2022, we would be adjusting the menu to cater to the growing needs of our students (especially our upper primary students). As such, there would also be an increase in subscription cost as follows:

Level	Rates since 2017 (per meal)	Rates from 2022 (per meal)
P1-3	\$2.00	\$2.10
P4-6	\$2.00	\$2.50

Parents would be billed termly via the MOE School Bill (Mar 22, May 22, Sep 22 and Nov 22). This bill would be sent to you via your child. Students on MOE and school-based Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) are fully subsidised.

All P1-3 students are automatically enrolled in the programme. We encourage P4-6 parents who are not on board to join in the programme as well. Parents can visit the school website to find out more (<https://blangahrisepri.moe.edu.sg/parent-support-group/sats-school-meals-programme>). Do call us at 62717387 or email us at brps@moe.edu.sg should you have any queries.

9. Parent-Teacher Meeting on 14 January, 20 January and 21 January

We would like to invite all parents to attend our Parent-Teacher Meeting on 14 Jan for Senior Primary, 20 Jan for Middle Primary and 21 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 29 January (Saturday)

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.

11. Modular CCAs Under House System

12. Other Matters

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. Recess/Lunch Arrangements

Parents are encouraged to place ad-hoc lunch orders for students 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. 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

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

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.