

**MERIDIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

20 Pasir Ris Street 71
Singapore 518798
Tel: 6583 2125 Fax: 6583 4993
Email: meridian_ps@moe.edu.sg
Website: <http://www.meridianpri.moe.edu.sg/>

Our Ref: MPS/SM/2024/11

11 March 2024

Dear Parents / Guardians,

We are pleased that our students have settled into the school routines and enjoyed the learning process under the guidance of our teachers. This is especially so for our Primary 1 students who have grown more confident in performing different tasks independently and making new friends. We seek your continued support so that school remains to be a joyful and safe learning environment for our students.

As we take a short break during the March school holidays and prepare for Term 2, please refer to the following information:

1. Key Events in Term 2

Event	Date	Remarks
Class Photo-Taking	27 and 28 March (Wed and Thu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During school hours• Students are to be in full school uniform
Good Friday	29 March (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public holiday
P6 EL Oral Communications Practice	1 Apr (Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After school hours• More details will be given later
P6 MTL Oral Communications Practice	2 Apr (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After school hours• More details will be given later
International Friendship Day Celebrations	2 April (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During school hours• More details will be given later
Eve of Hari Raya Puasa:	09 Apr (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Muslim students celebrating Hari Raya Puasa may leave school early on the eve of Hari Raya Puasa, at 10.30am• More details will be given later
Hari Raya Puasa	10 April (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public holiday
P5 EL Oral Communications Practice	15 Apr (Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After school hours• More details will be given later
P5 MTL Oral Communications Practice	16 Apr (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After school hours• More details will be given later
NAPFA Test (5 stations)	22 Apr (Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During curriculum time
P4 EL Oral Communication	29 Apr (Mon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After school hours• More details will be given later
P4 MTL Oral Communication	30 Apr (Tue)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After school hours• More details will be given later
Labour Day	1 May (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public holiday
Meridian Games Day	15 to 17 May (Wed to Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During curriculum time

Step Out Step Up Learning Week	20, 21 and 23 May (Mon, Tue and Thu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During school hours • More details will be given later
Vesak Day	22 May (Wed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Holiday
P1 to P6 Parent-Teacher Meetings (virtual)	24 May (Fri)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No lessons for all students • More details will be given later

2. Travel Declaration for March School Holidays

We request parents/guardians to submit the travel declarations for your child/ward if you intend to take him/her overseas during the March school holidays.

Please submit the travel declaration for your child/ward via Parents' Gateway (PG) [i.e. SERVICE > DECLARE TRAVELS].

- For travel during March school holidays, please declare your child/ward's travel plan(s), indicating both the country and city of travel, and any city of transit, by **Monday, 11 March 2024**. Only one parent is required to make the declaration.
- If your child/ward is not travelling during the holidays, no action is required.

When planning for your travel, please refer to <https://www.ica.gov.sg/enter-transit-depart> for the latest information and updates. If there is a change of travel plan(s) after you have made the declaration, please submit a new travel declaration for the updated travel destination via PG or inform the school of changes to your travel plan(s).

3. Safety Reminders for the March School Holidays

Children are generally more prone to be victims of crime and easily influenced by peers to commit offences such as vaping. Students should always take care of their personal belongings, stay alert, and avoid uncomfortable situations with strangers. They are advised to avoid walking through dimly lit and secluded places or taking the lift with a stranger.

Cyber Wellness

Students have been advised to be very careful of who they befriend online. They should be cautious when corresponding with and meeting online friends, even if a friendship has already been established. Scammers have been known to impersonate victim's friends on social networking sites by creating fake accounts using their friends' profile pictures and details. These fake accounts closely resemble the actual accounts of their friends and are used to obtain personal information from unsuspecting victims.

Scams

Students should be wary especially of people who ask for money, personal information, or compromising photos/videos. They should be aware that personal information, such as phone numbers, can be used to make online purchases without their consent. They should approach a trusted adult family member or teacher to obtain advice, seek assistance, and report any suspicious activities.

Road Safety

Students should practise the correct road safety behaviours such as using the pedestrian crossing and avoid jaywalking or not using their handphones while crossing. They are reminded to practise the kerb drill before crossing – "Look right, look left, look right again, ensure all vehicles have stopped, raise their hand high up and cross the road briskly". If they are cycling, please ensure that your child/ward knows the cycling rules and is a competent cyclist.

We seek parents/guardians' assistance to go through the above safety reminders with your children/wards so that they can take good care of themselves during this term break.

Vaping

E-vaporisers are illegal in Singapore. Under the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act, the possession, use or purchase of e-vaporisers carries a maximum fine of \$2,000. It is also an offence to import, distribute, sell or offer for sale e-vaporisers and their components. Any person convicted of such offences is liable to a fine of up to \$10,000, or imprisonment of up to six months or both for the first offence, and a fine of up to \$20,000, or imprisonment of up to 12 months or both for the second or subsequent offence. All prohibited items will be seized and confiscated.

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 school will report the offender to HSA 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>.

Source: MOH-HSA press release on 'Multi-Agency Effort to Step up Vaping Enforcement and Education', dated 19 Dec 2023

5. Removal of Mid-Year Examination (MYE)

All primary schools have removed Mid-Year Examination for P4 and P6 students. The main intent of removing MYE is to create more time and space for students to cultivate greater curiosity and enhance development of key competencies required for the future. Teachers will continue to leverage different modes of assessment to monitor students' learning progress and provide timely feedback to improve their learning.

In view of the removal of MYE, the school has in place the school-based assessment plans. For more information of the school-based assessment plans, please refer to letter sent via PG to parents/guardians dated 9 February 2024 for P1 to P6 students. Parents are to acknowledge the PG notification.

In Meridian Primary, our teachers will optimise the freed-up time and space by continuing to use varied and engaging pedagogies in teaching and learning, promote student-initiated learning and enhance development of 21CC such as inventive thinking, adaptability, and cross-cultural skills. It also signals our effort to reduce the excessive focus on testing and academic results, and to place greater emphasis on learning, nurturing confident and resilient learners.

I wish you and your child/ward a wonderful break during the March school holidays.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Lim-Chew Siang Jiun
Principal