



SN/2021/P01

4 Jan 2021

Dear Parents / Guardians

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! An especially warm welcome, too, to our new pupils and parents / guardians. We look forward to journeying with you on another enriching year at St Nicks.

2. As we usher in 2021, we will also joyfully commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of our Founder Blessed Nicolas Barré and the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Catholic Church in Singapore. We participate in this double celebration with a grateful heart, thankful for the abundant blessings that we have received. And in the footsteps of Blessed Nicolas Barré, we will continue to remain faithful to God's call to uplift and touch the lives of those around us, living our vocation to love, dignify, serve and lead.

3. We are also excited to announce the launch of our new Applied Learning Programme in STEM - "Maker's Fantasy - Innovations in Math and Science for a Sustainable Earth". This programme aims to equip our pupils with a robust range of creative and critical thinking skills, as well as deep disciplinary in mathematics and science, to make a positive impact on the world that they live in. As a start, our Primary 3 and 4 pupils will be introduced to Maker's Education, leveraging Design Thinking principles and ICT to work on authentic real world problems.

### **Staff Movement**

4. As we usher in 2021, we would like to welcome to our St Nicks Family our new teachers Mdm Chia Yi Ling, Mrs Cheryl Tay, Mdm Denise Jung, Miss Eileen Low, Mrs Lee Pei Ting, Miss Fiona Koh and Mr Kwan Hoi Soon. We also bid farewell to the following teachers, Mdm Chen Pei Jin, Miss Sylvia Seah, Mrs Linda Tan and Mr Victor Lim. We thank them for their contributions to the school and wish them all the best.

### **Safe Management Measures**

5. Please be informed that Safe Management Measures (SMMs) will remain in place. These include temperature taking; visual screening of students, and reducing congestion where possible. While most Co-Curricular Activities (CCA) and school activities will resume, higher-risk activities will remain suspended or limited to a smaller group. Parents are reminded not to send your child to school if they are unwell or have flu-like symptoms. Pupils are also to remain at home if they have an adult household member (> 18 years) who is unwell.

6. We will monitor the situation and review our plans in tandem with the national posture. Please remind the pupils to continue to practise good personal hygiene, exercise social responsibility and abide by SMMs, at all times. Let us work together to provide a safe learning environment for all our pupils.

## **General School and Administrative Matters**

7. We would like to share with you some important items and their rationale to facilitate your planning and follow-up with your daughter / ward. We hope this will facilitate your daughter's / ward's transition into the new school year, and that she will have an enriching year ahead.

### **School Terms for 2021**

8. The school terms for 2021 are as follows:

<b>Semester I</b>	
<b>Term 1</b>	Monday 4 Jan to Friday 12 March (Primary 1) Tuesday 5 Jan to Friday 12 March (Primary 2 to 6)
<b>Term 2</b>	Monday 22 March to Friday 28 May
<b>Semester II</b>	
<b>Term 3</b>	Monday 28 Jun to Friday 3 September
<b>Term 4</b>	Monday 13 September to Friday 19 November

### **School hours**

9. School will start at 7.30 am and end at 1.30 pm daily. Snack time, scheduled at mid-day remains unchanged, so please do continue to ensure that your children bring healthy snacks for consumption.

10. After-school programmes, including supplementary lessons and enrichment activities, will generally be from 2 pm to 4 pm unless otherwise informed.

### **School Attendance and Punctuality**

11. School attendance is important and compulsory. The school curriculum comprising academic and co-curriculum programmes are planned to develop our pupils holistically. It is important for pupils to be present and fully involved during lessons, enrichment programmes, CCAs or any school activity.

12. Pupils who are not well and hence unable to be in school must be covered by a medical certificate or parent's / guardian's letter (not more than 3 per semester). Family vacations **should not** be arranged during term time, even if pupils have completed the PSLE or school examinations as post-exam activities will be planned for each cohort.

13. Pupils are reminded to be in school punctually. To ensure that learning is not compromised, pupils must be on time for their lessons, tests, examinations and any other school-based activities.

## ***Birthday Celebrations***

14. We would like to remind parents / guardians not to organise birthday parties for your daughters / wards within the school. These gatherings invariably involve food and in some cases goodie bags are also distributed. These give rise to concerns with regard to food allergies and comparisons amongst the pupils.

15. Instead, pupils can celebrate their birthdays with their classmates and teachers during the Form Teacher Guidance Periods (FTGP) in their classrooms. Classmates will also pen well-wishes to the birthday girl as part of the celebration. Such occasions are excellent opportunities for enhancing class bonding and strengthening relationships within the class. This is also aligned to our school motto of being **Simple in Virtue**.

## ***Curriculum Matters***

### ***I. Higher Chinese Lessons for Primary 5 and 6 pupils***

16. Higher Chinese lessons for P5 and P6 pupils will be held every Monday, from 2 pm to 4 pm. Please note that these lessons are part of the formal Higher Chinese curriculum and are compulsory for all pupils who have opted for the subject.

### ***II. After School Programmes for 2021***

17. Supplementary lessons will be conducted only for P5 and P6 pupils on Thursdays from 2 pm to 4 pm. P6 supplementary lessons (Term 1 and Term 2) will focus on Math and Science, targeted to help our pupils revise and consolidate concepts that they have learned from P3 to P6, as well as to deepen their higher-order thinking skills. P5 supplementary lessons (Term 3) will focus on Math only and will take on a differentiated approach to support pupils with different learning needs.

18. Enrichment modules to nurture 21<sup>st</sup> century skills for P1 to P6 will be conducted. These comprise short compulsory modules (e.g. cohort milestone leadership training, IT workshop and Values-In-Action learning journeys) and optional modules (e.g. Modular Sports and Arts). Such enrichment modules will be conducted on Mondays for P1 to P3 and Thursdays for P4 and P5, unless stated otherwise.

19. As part of our Talent Development Programme, selected P4 to P6 pupils who have shown a strong aptitude for English, Math and/or Science and have consistently displayed positive learning attitudes will have the opportunity to take part in English training, Math Olympiad workshops and/or Science E2K programme. A letter of invitation will be given to these pupils in January to opt in to the specified programmes, which will be held after school on selected Mondays, Tuesdays or Thursdays from Term 1 to Term 3. As the schedules for these programmes may overlap, each pupil should only take part in one programme and be committed to the entire training.

20. Please refer to the school's website for the schedule of the after school programmes.

## **Communication with Parents**

### **I. Modes of communication**

21. As in the previous year, communication channels with you would include circulars, Parents Gateway, the school website, SMS system, the Class Dojo as well as the use of the School Diary.

22. School events will be uploaded and changes updated in the calendar on our school website. We will also upload all our school-wide circulars onto our school website. Please visit our website regularly for any new updates in the calendar or new circulars. We will use the Parents Gateway, SMS system / teachers' notes in the School Diary to inform you to check for new circulars. Do check your daughter's / ward's School Diary and the Class Dojo regularly and inform her Form Teacher if you have changed your handphone number.

### **II. Pupil Profile Form (for P2 – P6 parents only)**

23. To facilitate and ensure that we are able to see to your daughter's / ward's well-being as well as to communicate with you in a timely manner, we would appreciate it if you access the link (<https://go.gov.sg/2021ppf>) or scan the following QR Code to update your information. Please submit the e-form by **Sunday 10 January**.



### **III. Meet-the-Parents (MTP) Session and Parent-Teacher / Parent-Teacher-Child Conferences (PTCs/PTCCs)**

24. An MTP session and two Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled for 2021. The MTP session includes briefings by School Leaders and Form Teachers while the PTCs / PTCCs refer to a face-to-face session with Form or Co-Form Teachers.

25. During the MTP sessions, we will share the curriculum focus, programmes and important information specific to the level your daughter / ward is studying in. It will also be the first touchpoint between the parents and the Form and Co-Form Teachers. The sessions will be via Zoom and link will be sent nearer the date.

26. The MTP sessions for the different levels are as follows:

<b>Level</b>	<b>MTP</b>	<b>Time</b>
<b>P5 &amp; P6</b>	15 Jan 2021	5 pm to 7 pm
<b>P3 &amp; P4</b>	22 Jan 2021	5 pm to 7 pm
<b>P1 &amp; P2</b>	29 Jan 2021	5 pm to 7 pm

27. The two PTCs / PTCCs are scheduled at mid-year and at the end of the year. During the PTCs / PTCCs, you will have the opportunity to discuss the progress of your daughter / ward and areas of collaboration with her Form or Co-Form Teacher to better support your daughter / ward in her learning. Details on the PTCs / PTCCs will be given at a later date.

***Traffic in the Morning and during Dismissal***

28. For parents / guardians who drive your daughters / wards to school in the morning, you may enter the school via Gate 1 along Ang Mo Kio Street 13 from 6.15 am to 7.25 am daily. You may alight your daughter / ward at the bus bay or the drop-off point outside the General Office (where Father Barre’s statue is located). However, please note that the drop-off point will only be opened after 6.40 am daily, in order not to disturb our neighbours whose houses are beside our internal road.

29. While you can use Gate 1, we strongly encourage you to alight your daughter / ward at Carpark 26 (accessible from Ang Mo Kio Ave 4) where she can walk into the school using Gate 3 instead. We have staff stationed at the gate to guide their crossing within the school. Using Gate 3 will minimise the number of vehicles entering the school and you are less likely to experience traffic jam.

30. Vehicles will not be allowed to drive into the school at dismissal times. Parents / guardians who wish to fetch their daughters / wards during dismissal can wait for them at HDB Carpark 81 if they are picking up their daughters / wards from Gate 1 or HDB Carpark 26 if they are picking up their daughters / wards from Gate 3. Gate 3 will be opened for pupils to leave the school.

31. To avoid congestion, please note that the staggered dismissal times for the different levels will be as follows:

Level	Dismissal Times
P1 & P4	1.30 pm
P2 & P5	1.35 pm
P3 & P6	1.40 pm

32. For those residing at the Panorama Condominium situated opposite the school along Ang Mo Kio Street 13, we would like to advise that parents accompanying pupils as well as the pupils walking to school on their own use the traffic junction to cross and enter the school through Gate 1A. Alternatively, you can use the zebra crossing in front of Gate 1. For safety reasons, crossing from Panorama’s rear gate and entering via Gate 1A directly is **strongly discouraged**.

33. In closing, we would like to express our appreciation and thanks to all parents. We are keen to work in closer partnership with you to develop your daughters / wards to their fullest potential. We look forward to your strong support in giving our girls another year of enriching experience with us. Wishing you and your family a blessed 2021 ahead!

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Fiona Tan  
Principal