

FAQs for Primary 2 Principal's Briefing 2021

Holistic Curriculum:

1. The new education system has no examination for Primary 1 and 2. Does this mean that no specific preparation is needed? Without exams, how do we know if our child is doing well academically and ready for Primary 3 onwards?

A variety of methods (e.g. self-checklist, rubrics, activity sheets/books, group work and class discussions) will be used to monitor students' learning progress in the various skills during lessons. These will help our teachers in providing the qualitative feedback through the Holistic Development Profile (HDP) at the end of semester 1 and 2. Since this is on-going, parents need not prepare our students for these activities. Parents can support our students' learning by monitoring the completion of assignments given while giving them their own learning pace and seeking improvement from the teachers' feedback. It is our hope that our students develop intrinsic motivation to enjoy learning and look forward to coming to school.

2. Are the students going to start writing Chinese composition in Primary 2?

Primary 2 students will not start writing Chinese composition. They will only do 看图写句子 (look at pictures and write sentences).

3. Will the school participate in international competitions such as ICAS?

No, we will not.

4. What is the criteria for defining Accomplished, Achieving, etc?

It depends on the learning outcomes by different subjects. For more details, you can check with your child's form teacher during the Parent-Child-Teacher conference.

Promotion Criteria:

1. How are the students grouped in Primary 3? Are they based on results?

Students will be randomly placed into the Primary 3 classes. We do not look at academic achievement for the promotion to Primary 3.

2. When is the next streaming after Primary 3?

There is no streaming at Primary 2. There will be a Subject Based Banding at the end of Primary 4.

3. If no streaming will be done, why is there a need to regroup the students in different classes in Primary 3?

There are 10 Primary 2 classes and 8 Primary 3 classes. We will need to sort and place them into 8 Primary 3 classes next year. Each Primary 2 class has 30 students and each Primary 3 class has 40 students. It will also be good for our children to know more peers in their level and expand their social circle.

4. For random sorting, will it cause more pressure for weaker students if they happen to be placed to a class with higher ability students? Would sorting the students with stronger learning ability in the same class help facilitate their learning progress? Will sufficient support for the weaker students be given without compromising the learning for the other kids?

There will be learning support provided for our students at the different levels. To segregate them at such a young age can be detrimental for them. We are moving away from certain constraining mindset of students should they feel that “I am in this class and this is all I can achieve” which may dampen their morale to learn and socialise with the others. In the long run, we want students to be more confident, to discover, explore and develop their individual talent and interest.

Co-Curricular Activities (CCA):

1. How is the school preparing the Primary 2 students for their CCA selection in Primary 3?

Primary 2 students interested in joining a CCA in Primary 3 will have a chance to explore and discover the various CCA options available via a CCA carnival held at the end of each year.

2. Will the CCA carnival be too late? Will the school be giving the students opportunity to try out the CCAs (e.g. to choose 3) during PE sessions for at least 3 sessions for students to get some experience?

The CCA fair is conducted at the end of the year as it allows the school to conduct the CCA allocation during the end of the year. Students who wish to know more about the CCA will be given the opportunity to get more information about the CCA they are interested in during the fair by interacting with students and CCA teachers-in-charge. Currently, no trial session is available for Primary 2 students.

3. Do students submit their options immediately after the CCA fair or can they discuss with parents before submission?

Yes, there will be time. The submission will be done online.

4. Can a student take more than one CCA?

The student is strongly encouraged to only take up only 1 CCA.

5. Is swimming class compulsory for students in Primary 3? Is there any exemption for kids who are already learning it?

Primary 3 students in NCPS will be participating in the Swimsafer Programme as part of their PE syllabus for the term. For students who are already learning swimming externally, we will still encourage these students to attend as the qualified instructors engaged for the programme will be focusing on aspects of Water Safety, which is one of the main objectives of this programme.

In the event that a student has already attained certain levels of swimming proficiency (Stage 3, Bronze, Silver, etc), the student will be going for lessons for the next higher stage. As an example, if Student A already possesses Swimming Certification Stage 4 (Bronze), the student will be put into the Silver Stage swimming group.

6. Are the swimming lessons conducted during school hours?

Swimming lessons will be conducted within curriculum hours and during their 5 periods of weekly PE lessons.

7. Our child had received a list of Sat/Sun programmes. Will it affect the chances of not getting into their ideal CCA if they are not signed up for any of the programmes now?

The list you would have received contains the activities conducted by the school Alumni during the weekends and is in no way connected to any of the school CCAs. As such, any participation by your child in the weekend alumni programmes might provide a head start for the activity but it does not fully guarantee their chances of getting into their CCA of their choice.

8. Will the submission of the achieved swimming certification be communicated with the engaged swim coach? My elder child's certification submitted previously was not "recognised" by the coach.

The student's current swimming certification and other relevant information will be collated by the school prior to the start of your child's Swimsafer Programme and communicated to our engaged swimming vendor.

Others:

1. What is the schedule for the semester?

You can refer to the letter titled, "2021 Term 1 Student Matters". It was sent via Parents' Gateway. A termly schedule was included in the letter.

2. What are some support does the school have in assisting SEN students (e.g. Dyslexic)?

The school provides Learning Support Programme for students in Primary 1 and 2. School-based Dyslexia Remediation Programme is available for students with dyslexia in Primary 3 and 4.

For more information, you can visit <https://beta.moe.gov.sg/special-educational-needs/>

3. Are there any activities provided in school?

Yes, there are many activities provided in different platforms. You can refer to the briefing slides.

4. Is there any change to the timings for parents who drive in to pick up their children? Why were parents not allowed in today to do so, and why was there no communication prior?

Drive ins are only allowed from 4.20 pm onwards. We encourage all parents to park at the nearby car parks if you need to wait or pick up your child.

5. Will there be possibilities for School to allow in-school drop off in the mornings to ease the traffic congestion instead of only during wet weather?

The school has considered this but for the safety of the students and logistics planning, in-school drop off is not a viable option. Students' safety is of utmost importance. Besides Gate C, parents can consider parking at nearby car parks and walk your child to school.