

26 December 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope that you and your family are enjoying a lovely and restful year-end holiday season together.

We are looking forward to welcoming our students – including our new Sec 1 cohort! – to a new year in their journey of learning and growth, towards being curious learners, compassionate contributors, and confident leaders, ready for both the present and the future.

This letter outlines the key areas to note as we get ready to start the new school year.

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(a) School Timetable Updates

As part of our continued efforts to enhance well-being and learning, we are delighted to share that **most timetabled lessons will conclude by 2.40pm on Mondays to Thursdays** and 12.40pm on Fridays, instead of previously concluding after 4pm on longer days, **while maintaining curriculum hours for all subjects**. This anticipated change had been shared with students in September 2025.

Consequently, CCAs will also conclude earlier around 6pm (or 6.30pm for CCAs with venue constraints). These changes will give our students more self-directed time and family time, while continuing to meet all curriculum requirements. As CCAs now conclude earlier and to enable most timetabled lessons to conclude by 2.40pm, **Thursdays will no longer be late start days, and morning assembly will be at 7.30am every school day**. To enable students to frame their minds and prepare themselves to learn in the day ahead, students should be at the respective morning assembly venues by 7.25am.

The school timetable can be accessed via our school website under the “Resources for Students and Parents” section **from Thursday 8 January 2026**, with lessons starting from Monday 12 January 2026 (Term 1 Week 2). Similarly, the timetables for the respective classes can be accessed via <https://go.gov.sg/xmstimetable>. Students and parents/guardians are advised to check the timetables to plan their schedules.

(b) First Week of School (2 January 2026 to 9 January 2026)

The new 2026 school year will begin on **Friday 2 January 2026**.

On the first day of school, **all students will report to the Parade Square for morning assembly by 7.25am**. All students should adhere to the school’s [attire and grooming guidelines](#).

To support our students in starting the new school year well, we have designed a Back-to-School Programme (BTS) in the first week with different activities for each cohort. Kindly refer to the Parents Gateway (PG) message from the Year Head team for your child’s/ward’s cohort, which will be sent early next week, for more details.

If your child/ward has fever and/or flu-like symptoms, please consult a doctor. Your child/ward should refrain from being in school until he/she has fully recovered. Please contact the school via email at xinminss_email@schools.gov.sg or call 6288 9382 if your child/ward is unwell and unable to be in school.

(c) School's Academic Calendar and Schoolwide Protected Time

The school's academic calendar is accessible via <https://go.gov.sg/xmscalendar>. This is also on our website under the "Resources for Students and Parents" section. It is regularly updated with the latest schedule of school events and programmes.

In particular, from the [MOE calendar](#), the year-end school holidays begin on Saturday 21 November, even though the last day of timetabled lessons is Friday 23 October. Between these dates, secondary schools typically continue to have activities such as supplementary lessons, CCAs, Open House, and overseas trips which your child/ward may be involved in. Hence, **you may wish to plan your year-end holiday from Saturday 21 November.**

To ensure the well-being of students and staff, since 2025, while there will still be some activities during parts of the school holidays, there will be **schoolwide protected time where no activities should take place** (except those approved by school management, such as national-level competitions taking place on these days):

School Vacation	Dates of School Vacation	Schoolwide Protected Time
Between Terms 1 & 2	Sat 14 Mar to Sun 22 Mar	Sat 14 Mar to Tue 17 Mar
Between Terms 2 & 3	Sat 30 May to Sun 28 Jun	Mon 8 Jun to Sun 21 Jun
Between Terms 3 & 4	Sat 5 Sep to Sun 13 Sep	Fri 4 Sep (All Staff Day) to Tue 8 Sep
Year-End	Sat 21 Nov to Thu 31 Dec	Mon 23 Nov to Sun 13 Dec

(d) Home-Based Learning (HBL) Days

Since 2025, Home-Based Learning (HBL) Days will follow the schedule outlined below, instead of being fixed on Thursdays. This approach aims to provide greater flexibility in scheduling and optimise curriculum time.

Students are reminded that homework assigned for/during HBL Days must be completed, just like homework assigned for/during face-to-face school days. Defaulting on HBL Day homework is in non-compliance with the school's homework policy and will be subjected to disciplinary consequences.

Term & Week	Date	Sec 1	Sec 2	Sec 3	Sec 4 & 5
T1W5	Tue 3 Feb	✓	✓	✓	✓
T1W7	Thu 19 Feb	✓	✓	✓	✓
T1W9	Tue 3 Mar	✓	✓	✓	✓
T2W3	Wed 8 Apr	✓	✓	✓	✓
T2W5	Fri 24 Apr	✓	✓	✓	✓
T2W7	Mon 4 May	✓	✓	✓	✓
T2W10	Thu 28 May	✓	✓	✓	

Term & Week	Date	Sec 1	Sec 2	Sec 3	Sec 4 & 5
T3W3	Mon 13 Jul <u>and</u> Fri 17 Jul (2 days) *Tue 14 Jul to Thu 16 Jul are full days for national oral exams				✓
T3W3	Mon 13 Jul <u>to</u> Fri 17 Jul (5 days)	✓	✓	✓	

(e) Updated Rules on Digital Device Usage in Schools

From January 2026, secondary school students will not be allowed to use smartphones and smartwatches during school hours, including lesson time, recess, CCAs, supplementary/enrichment/remedial lessons, etc. The revised guidelines by MOE are part of enhanced measures announced on 30 November 2025 to [promote healthier screen use habits and student well-being in the digital age](#).

The changes had been communicated to students in October 2025. The specific rules for mobile phone usage during different periods are as follows:

Activity	Smartphone/ Smartwatch Usage
Timetabled activities from 7.25am	Not allowed
Recess	Not allowed
Free periods before the last lesson of the day	Not allowed
Timetabled lunch (i.e. there are lessons after lunch)	Allowed in canteen only
Between last lesson of the day and CCA/after-school activities	Allowed
CCA and after-school programmes (e.g. supplementary/enrichment/remedial lessons)	Not allowed

Mobile phones must be locked in students' own lockers during the above periods. Mobile phones are not allowed in the library at all times. Existing consequences for unauthorised possession or misuse of digital devices, such as confiscation and demerit points, will apply for non-compliance.

During lessons, Personal Learning Devices (PLDs) and other digital devices or accessories may only be used when directed by teachers and for purposes authorised by them. Students must sign in using their official MOE iCON student account (@students.edu.sg). Students are responsible for taking care of their PLDs and must lock them in their lockers when not in use. PLDs must be brought home every day and charged at home.

As good digital habits must be cultivated both at home and in school, we look forward to continuing our partnership with you in guiding your child/ward to be a safe and responsible user of digital devices. We recommend resources such as [Health Hub's article](#) and [MOE's Parent Kit](#) for your reference.

(f) Use of Photographs and Videos for School Publications and Collaterals

Our school organises programmes and events designed to enrich the school experience for our students. These initiatives encompass in-class lessons, CCAs, level camps, overseas trips, Values-in-Action activities, sports events, and a host of other engaging activities.

Photographs or video images of you and/or your child/ward may be taken during such school activities and events. The school may use and publish such photographs, video recordings, or live streaming in school publications, the school's website, official social media channels, yearbook, posters, and banners within our premises and on our external wall, or other communication channels. The publications may include the name, class, and/or CCA group of your child/ward. We assure you that we will always portray our parents and students with respect and dignity.

We take your consent as deemed for the abovementioned. If you wish to withdraw your consent for the use of photographs and videos for our school publications and collaterals, please email us at xinminss_email@schools.gov.sg.

(g) Student Insurance Coverage

MOE requires schools to cover their students with the basic Student Protection Plan from NTUC Income. The coverage extends to all school and CCA-related activities and is with immediate effect from January to December. The cost of this insurance plan is fully borne by the school.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that all claims should be submitted to the school **within 1 month of the receipt date**. If you have any queries, please email us at xinminss_email@schools.gov.sg.

(h) Temperature-Taking Exercise

With effect from 2026, the temperature-taking exercise in schools will be carried out once yearly. The exercise for 2026 will be conducted on Wednesday 1 April 2026.

(i) Student Concession Pass (for Sec 1 Students Only)

All Sec 1 students will be issued with a new secondary level School Smart Card (SSC). While waiting for their secondary level SSCs to be ready, Sec 1 students can continue to use their primary level SSCs for concessionary travel till end-April 2026. Students can still purchase the Bus Concession Pass (BCP) using their primary level SSCs, but they would need to purchase the BCP for secondary school students.

Upcoming Events

(a) Parent Engagement Sessions

The Parent Engagement Sessions enable you to connect with our school and be updated on pertinent matters about the cohort. The sessions will be held on the dates below. We hope that parents/guardians will set aside time to join us for these sessions to understand more about the rich learning experiences planned for your child/ward for this year.

For parents/guardians of Sec 2 to 5 students, there will be a subsequent PG message for each cohort closer to the date with more details about registration and for parents/guardians to share their questions/feedback prior to the session. For parents/guardians of Sec 1 students, thank you for registering through the e-form on our [Sec 1 Posting microsite](#)!

Level	Date	Time
Sec 1	Tuesday 6 January 2026	2pm to 6pm
Sec 4 & 5	Friday 9 January 2026	6.30pm to 9pm
Sec 2	Friday 16 January 2026	6.30pm to 9pm
Sec 3	Friday 30 January 2026	6.30pm to 9pm

Let's Recognise Our Teachers!

(a) President's Award for Teachers (PAT) and Outstanding Youth in Education Award (OYEA) 2026

Every year, two categories of national awards are given out to teachers in Singapore to recognise their professional excellence. They are the PAT and the OYEA.

The **PAT** gives national recognition to experienced teachers who are role models for the teaching profession. These teachers personify deep passion for teaching, and inspire both their students and peers through their words and deeds.

The **OYEA** gives national recognition to young teachers who are role models for the teaching profession. These teachers personify youthful idealism, energy, and enthusiasm, and inspire both their students and peers through their words and deeds. Educators who are 35 years and younger are eligible for the award. Hence, OYEA 2026 is open to educators who are born on or after 30 June 1991.

Nominations for PAT 2026 and OYEA 2026 are now open and will close on Friday 9 January 2026 at 12pm.

In support of MOE's sustainability and digital efforts, nominations for both awards can be submitted online (<https://go.gov.sg/pat2026> and <https://go.gov.sg/oyea2026>). We would like to invite you and your child/ward to submit your nomination(s) by accessing the URLs. Thank you for your support in recognising the good work of our teachers!

Thank you for a strong and close partnership in your child's/ward's education journey. We wish everyone an enriching and fulfilling year of learning and growth in 2026!

Yours in education,



Mr Tan Soon Hui
Principal

Annex: Key Dates in 2026 Term 1

Date	Event	Sec 1	Sec 2	Sec 3	Sec 4 & 5	Remarks
Fri 2 Jan – Fri 9 Jan	Back-to-School (BTS) Programme	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tue 6 Jan	Sec 1 Parent Engagement Session	✓				
Fri 9 Jan	Sec 4 & 5 Parent Engagement Session				✓	
Fri 16 Jan	Sec 2 Parent Engagement Session		✓			
Thu 22 Jan	Sec 3 NRIC Registration			✓		
Fri 30 Jan	Sec 3 Parent Engagement Session			✓		
Mon 2 Feb – Fri 13 Mar	Weighted Assessment 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tue 3 Feb	HBL Day 1	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mon 9 Feb – Fri 13 Feb	Total Defence Day Commemoration	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mon 16 Feb	Chinese New Year Celebrations	✓	✓	✓	✓	School ends at 10.30am
Thu 19 Feb	HBL Day 2	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Tue 3 Mar	HBL Day 3	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sat 14 Mar – Sun 22 Mar	Mar School Vacation	✓	✓	✓	✓	Sat 14 Mar to Tue 17 Mar is protected time for students and staff