



Ref No.: MPS/2024/T1/001

2 January 2024

Dear Parents,

Re: Warm Welcome and Happy New Year

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope this letter finds you well-rested and ready for an exciting school year. As we embark on a new academic year in 2024, we extend warm greetings to our returning families and extend an especially warm welcome to our new P1 cohort and transfer-in students and their parents. We are excited to have each and every one of you with us, and we look forward to getting to know you better throughout the coming months.

At Marsiling Primary School, we believe in fostering a positive and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Our dedicated team of educators is committed to providing a nurturing atmosphere that encourages curiosity, creativity, and a love for learning.

To our returning students, welcome back! We are excited to continue the journey with you and witness your growth and achievements. To our new students, we are delighted to have you join the MPS family. We hope that you will quickly feel at home and be able to make lasting connections with your classmates and teachers.

As we embark on this new school year together, we would like to share our best wishes for a year filled with discovery, success, and joy. May each student find inspiration in their studies, build lasting friendships, and discover new interests and talents.

(A) Introduction of New Staff Members

It is with great pleasure that we introduce our newest staff members to the MPS family. Each one brings a wealth of experience, passion, and dedication to their roles, enhancing our commitment to providing an exceptional learning environment for our students. I am happy to share that we have four new staff members joining the school in 2024. The staff members are:

- 1) Miss Jasmine Lam Yen Fong – Music Teacher
- 2) Mr Nathanael Teo Yi Jie – PE and Mathematics Teacher
- 3) Ms Caroline Tan Poh Lin – Senior Student Welfare Officer (SSWO)
- 4) Ms Rohani Binte Aziz – Adjunct Corporate Support Officer (CSO)

(B) School Directions

At MPS, we are driven by a shared vision, guided by a strong mission, and anchored in core values that shape our educational philosophy.

School Vision	Learners and Leaders of Tomorrow
School Mission	Nurturing Resilient Learners who are Future Ready Growing Confident Leaders who are Values Driven
School Values	R ³ ICE: Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Integrity, Care, Excellence
School Strategic Thrusts	1. Every Marsilian, Our Pride 2. Every Staff, A G.E.M (Growth, Engagement, Motivation) 3. Every Stakeholder, A Partner

At MPS, our vision is centered on cultivating **Learners and Leaders of Tomorrow**. We envision a dynamic educational environment that not only imparts knowledge but also fosters the development of critical skills and qualities essential for the future. We aspire to empower our students to become lifelong learners, equipped with the adaptability and resilience to thrive in an ever-changing world. As we nurture positive learning dispositions, we concurrently instill leadership qualities, encouraging our students to think innovatively, collaborate effectively, and contribute meaningfully to their communities. Leaders of tomorrow are leaders who are forward looking, confident, values driven and they are able to lead self and others. Our commitment lies in shaping well-rounded individuals who, armed with knowledge, empathy, and a sense of social responsibility, are poised to become the trailblazers and change-makers of the future.

As for school mission, we are dedicated in nurturing resilient learners who are not only prepared for the challenges of the future but also committed to becoming confident leaders guided by strong values. Our mission is to nurture learners who will pursue their aspirations with tenacity and have the *Growth Mindset* to embrace change and overcome challenges to adapt to an ever-evolving world. We are also equipping our Marsilians with the knowledge and 21CC skills such as critical thinking and effective communication skills. Simultaneously, we strive to instill leadership qualities grounded in values. Confident leaders mean being able to lead self & others; and being leaders who are driven by values. We would like our Marsilians to be confident of themselves, confident in articulating their views, confident to act with moral courage and help others. Our commitment is to provide an education that not only imparts knowledge but also shapes character, empowering students to be future-ready, adaptable, and confident leaders.

Embedded in our daily practices are the school values that define who we are as a school community. Our school values of **R3.I.C.E (Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Integrity, Care and Excellence)** serve as the pillars of our educational philosophy as they guide our interactions, decision-making processes, and the overall ethos of MPS. Character and values education has always been an integral part of our students' learning in MPS.

To complement our school's vision, mission and values, I introduced the 'ABCs' to our Marsilians since 2022 to encourage them to:

- **A**spire & aim high
- **B**elieve in themselves
- **C**ourage to give their best each time

As we embark on another school year, we invite you to join us in embracing and living out these principles. Together, as a united community, we will create an environment that not only meets the academic needs of our students but also instills in them the values and skills necessary for success in an ever-evolving world.

(C) Choose a Growth Mindset!

MPS embarked on our Growth Mindset (GM) journey in 2017 and have since developed a very comprehensive GM curriculum to complement our values and character education. For our innovative efforts in developing positive mindsets in our Marsilians, our school was awarded a Silver Award for MOE's Innergy (Schools) Awards in 2020. We will continue to strengthen our efforts to promote a **Growth Mindset** among our students and help them to internalise and practise the **6 Growth Mindset messages** in all aspects of their school life:

1. Effort is Important
2. Intelligence can be Developed
3. Be Inspired by Others
4. Learn from Mistakes
5. Embrace Challenges
6. Never Give Up

(D) Curriculum Matters

Curriculum Hours 2024

The school's curriculum hours remain the same as 2023 to support the delivery of an engaging total curriculum and to promote student and staff well-being. The hours are shown below.

School Hours for Academic Year 2024		
Day	Reporting Time	Dismissal Time
Mon to Fri	7.30 am	1.30 pm

Learning can only take place with regular attendance. We seek your kind co-operation that your child attends school every day so that he/she will have opportunities to learn and grow. Absence from school must be supported by a medical certificate or other valid official documents.

Morning Reporting Venues

During the first week of school, all students will gather in the school hall every morning for singing of National anthem and pledge-taking. From second week onwards, all students will gather in the school hall from Mondays to Wednesdays and report directly to their classrooms on Thursdays and Fridays. As such, students who enter the school via Gate 1 (main gate) should walk towards the canteen area and proceed to the hall in level 2. They should not be walking through the carpark area.

Day	Morning Reporting Venue (T1W2 onwards)
Monday Tuesday Wednesday	School Hall
Thursday Friday	Respective classrooms

Only students who require breakfast from canteen are allowed to be in the canteen to have their breakfast before 7.30am. All other students should proceed to the hall/classrooms for their silent reading. Kindly ensure that your child brings a storybook for silent reading every morning.

Meal Breaks in 2024

School recess time for 2024 are as follows:

Levels	Recess Time
P1 and P4	8.45 am to 9.15 am
P2 and P5	9.30 am to 10 am
P3 and P6	10.15 am to 10.45 am

The pairing of students across the various levels is deliberately implemented as part of the peer support structure we have put in place for our students. The Seniors in the school would

have the opportunity to lead the way and guide their Juniors in displaying desirable behaviours of the school values and GM mindset. It is with the aim that this positive role modelling by the Seniors would encourage our Juniors to develop their dispositions of a Resilient Learner and a Confident Leader.

Take 5! - Students are allowed to eat healthy snacks in the form of dry finger food during lessons between 12.00pm and 12.15pm to promote the well-being of students. Some examples of healthy snacks include sandwiches, wholemeal biscuits, muesli bars and fruits like apples or bananas. Having regular healthy snacks throughout the day helps students develop healthy eating habits and they may also benefit in terms of their cognitive, physical and socio-emotional development. Having a snack break before they go home can help to ensure that students do not go hungry for an extended period of time. Our Marsilians will be taught how to choose healthy snacks during their Physical Health Education (PHE) lessons.

ALP & LLP @ MPS

Through our school programmes and activities, we will continue to provide our students with meaningful experiences, a positive learning environment to learn, grow and thrive; and opportunities to explore their interests and pursue their talents. We do this through our curriculum across all subjects, a spectrum of learning experiences and school-based programmes. In addition, our **Applied Learning Programme (ALP) – SPARKS@MPS [Spark Ideas, Spark Interest, Spark Action: Igniting A Passion for Purposeful Storytelling]** aims to nurture critical thinkers and confident communicators who listen actively and demonstrate the ability to articulate their ideas. SPARKS@MPS also aims to develop active contributors who rally others to action through the use of engaging narratives. Our **Learning for Life Programme (LLP) – ‘LEAD (Learn, Engage, Absorb, Demonstrate) to Serve @ MPS’** focuses on leading self and others, as well as service leadership. The aim is to provide leadership opportunities for all students to ‘Learn, Lead and Serve’ using a 3-tiered approach to LEAD to Serve @MPS, bringing together student leadership development and leveraging the VIA platforms within the Green Citizenship (GC)@MPS curriculum. Through these platforms, we aim to instill in every Marsilian our school values and nurture responsible active citizenship through service leadership.

(E) Home-School Partnership

At MPS, we recognize the invaluable role that parents play in the educational journey of their children. We believe that a strong partnership between the school and parents is crucial for the holistic development of our students. Your involvement and support are integral to creating a positive and enriching learning environment. We encourage parents to actively engage in their child's education by attending parent-teacher conferences, parent briefings, participating in school events, and staying informed about your child's progress. Our Form Teachers will also be sending out a ‘welcome and introduction’ letter to you within the first 2 weeks of school.

We encourage all parents to check their child's **Student Handbook 2024** regularly and to use it to communicate with our teachers. We seek your understanding if our teachers are not available during curriculum time to respond to your queries and may only be able to do so after curriculum hours. Please stay connected with us and get the latest updates on our school events and programmes on our official Facebook page: www.facebook.com/MarsilingPri.

To further strengthen this partnership, we invite you to join our Parents' Support Group (PSG). This group serves as a platform for parents to collaborate, share experiences, and actively contribute to the school community. By joining the PSG, you not only have the opportunity to connect with other parents but also play a vital role in shaping the overall educational experience for our students. Your insights, enthusiasm, and involvement make a significant difference.

If you are interested in joining the Parents' Support Group or learning more about how you can contribute, please approach our staff at the General Office to find out more about the work of our PSG. You can click on this link <https://go.gov.sg/mps-psg-registration-form> to submit the Parent Volunteer Registration Form. Our Year Head/ Lower Primary, Mr Chan Hong Wei will contact you soon. We look forward to building a strong and collaborative partnership with you for the benefit of our students and the entire MPS community. It takes the whole community to raise our Marsilians.

(F) Well-being of Staff and Students

The well-being of our students and staff is of utmost priority. To ensure that our school remains a safe place for all our students and staff, we seek your support in the following:

Attendance and Temperature-taking Exercise (ATTEx)

The ATTEx is conducted twice yearly and aims to:

- a. maintain schools' preparedness to re-activate the attendance and temperature-taking regime should the need arises; and
- b. educate students on taking personal responsibility for their own health and practising social responsibility.

The ATTEx for Term 1, 2024 will be conducted on **Wed, 10 Jan 2024**. Please ensure that your child brings a **working** thermometer on this day.

Updating of health status of students

We would like to seek your support to remind your child/ward to practise good hygiene at home. If your child/ward is unwell, please bring your child/ward to see a doctor and let him/her rest at home. Update the Form Teacher about your child's illness/absence and then submit the medical certificate to the Form Teacher when your child returns to school.

On this note, I would like to thank all parents for your unwavering support and understanding especially during the pandemic years. Your active involvement in your child's education and continual support for the school will be helpful for his/her development. We encourage all parents to journey with our team of caring staff as we bring out the best in each child.

We are confident that this school year will be a rewarding and memorable experience for all. Let's make it a fantastic year filled with growth, learning, and positive moments. To all our Marsilians and parents, wishing you all a successful and joyful school year!

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Heather Thio
Principal