



HENRY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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1 February 2023

PLTP / 02/ 2023

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Regardless of what the Chinese horoscopes or zodiac sages say about the personality of those born in the year of the rabbit, we can draw interesting lessons from the characteristics of the rabbit as an animal.

The rabbit is a tame, tender animal and swift in move. Rabbits however, rarely make a move or jump into any new situation without first carefully considering all their options. They have massive ears, to hear predators and friends up to 3km away. Their ears are also useful for thermoregulation! Their large surface areas allow them to release their heat and keep cool.

This is a great opportunity to remind our children to think carefully like the rabbit and to act with less impulsivity. In addition, they can also keep their ears (and eyes, mind etc) open to learn to seek to understand any situation before jumping to any conclusions. Lastly, we may not all have physically big ears but everyone can learn to keep their cool. This is useful as we seek to strengthen peer relations among the children in the class especially at the start of this school year.

I am sure many of us are familiar with the story of the hare and the tortoise. There are several interpretations of this famous fable by Aesop, and I particularly like the version which reminds us not to be complacent and overconfident with our skills and competencies. The tale encourages us to regularly improve ourselves and not let hubris set in.

Wishing everyone a healthy and enriching Year of the Rabbit as we discover new learning experiences.

Charles Chan
Principal

1 Character Value for Term 1 - Respect

In line with our school's focus on character education, all students will embark on a structured character education programme. It is founded on the school values of Respect, Integrity, Care and Excellence (RICE). One value will be introduced each term.

The school value for Term 1 is Respect. Please find below a brief outline of the outcomes for the character value for Respect

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|---------|---|
| P1 – P2 | Respect for self and being courteous and polite in manners, actions and speech |
| P3 – P4 | Demonstrating respect for the school, family and society and learning to accept differences in others |
| P5 – P6 | Recognising the value of people, property and demonstrating respect for the environment |

We would like to emphasise the critical role that parents play to instil good values in their children from a young age, and reinforce these as they grow up. A child will pass through many classrooms and learn from different teachers through his/her formative years. Parents remain constant throughout a child's life, and there are many and important lessons to be taught at home as there are in schools. We appreciate the efforts of parents who reinforce these values in the home.

2 Group Personal Accident (GPA) Insurance for Students

The school has procured a Group Personal Accident (GPA) insurance for all students. The 2023 product factsheet for the NTUC Income Group Personal Accident (GPA) Insurance Plan for Students is attached for your reference. Information on claims, FAQs and other details pertaining to the GPA Insurance Plan for Students can be found on NTUC Income's website at <https://www.income.com.sg/studentgpa>.

With effect from 2022, all student accident insurance claims submission are to be submitted electronically. Parents are to submit their claims online and check the claims status through the online portal.

3 Total Defence Day

We will be commemorating Total Defence Day (TDD) on Wednesday, 15 February 2023. The theme for Total Defence Day 2023 - "Together We Keep Singapore Strong" – focuses on the many ways we can put Total Defence into action in our everyday lives. Total Defence remains relevant to deal with the ever-evolving threats and challenges to Singapore. These include misinformation, supply chain disruptions, and food security, which affect communities and Singapore's way of life. Every Singaporean has a part to play in our daily lives to ensure that Singapore is prepared for crises and disruptions and that we remain resilient and united as one people.

We have booth activities planned for the students during recess time. Through these activities the students will gain a better understanding of the different aspects of Total Defence and how they can play a part in each aspect.

4 Healthy Snacks

To cater to the well-being of our students, all students may have daily 10-minutes snack breaks during lessons time as planned by each level's class teachers. We would like to encourage all parents to help our students make healthier choices for their snacks in school and at home. Students should choose snacks that are lower in sugar and salt content. They should also consume snacks in small portions so that their appetite for the main meals will not be affected.

5 Encouraging students to be independent

We would like to seek the assistance of parents to help our student develop good self-management skills and be more independent. Pupils should learn take personal responsibility (For example, doing their homework, packing the school bag and personal belongings) to ensure that they are ready for school the next day. This includes learning materials and devices such as calculators, mathematical sets and dictionaries (including print or e-dictionaries) when needed for pupils' learning during classroom teaching and examinations.

Parents and caregivers should refrain from delivering these items. Exceptions will be made when medication has to be delivered to the pupil.

If your child has forgotten his/her pocket money, he/she may approach the General Office for assistance. Our officers will contact you to confirm the amount that you would like the school to lend your child. Please ensure that the money is returned to the General Office on the next school day.

During examinations, the working condition of the calculator and e-dictionaries is the responsibility of the pupil and a fault in a calculator cannot be used as a reason for seeking special consideration for the user. Calculators, dictionaries, mathematical sets or stationeries should not be borrowed from other pupils in the course of the examination for any reason.

We appreciate your understanding in this matter as well as your partnership and support by reinforcing this with your child to learn responsibility and independence.

6 Punctuality

The school believes in working with the parents to develop positive habits and attitude in our students and that includes being punctual for school. We also believe that punctuality is a virtue and a mark of respect for learning and the teachers. We want to inculcate this habit of being punctual every morning so that our students are better prepared for a day of learning in school. We want our students to immerse in a conducive learning environment the moment they step into our school so as to ensure a great start.

Every morning, the school gathers for assembly by 7.25 am in the classrooms/ Hall or Lower ISH to sing the national anthem and take the pledge. Announcements, reminders and current affairs presentations are sometimes made to all students at assembly and we do not wish for your child to miss them. Hence, we appeal to all parents in partnering the school to instil in our children the importance of punctuality at a young age. Please ensure that there is sufficient travel time in the morning in view of the traffic condition outside the school.

7 Parenting Article

Helping my child discover the world we live in – and how Social Studies paves the way

How do we get children to be interested in the events around them? How do we develop their critical thinking skills, and prepare them for a world that is increasingly interconnected and diverse? MOE Curriculum Resource Development Officer Huang Churu, who has taught Social Studies for 13 years, discusses how these areas are taught in primary school through the subject. The mother of two also shares how she nurtures these skills in her son. You can access the article via this [link](#).

8. Students' Achievement 2023

Starting from 2023, the list of students' achievements will not be sent out together with the PLTP. However, the school will continue to collate and celebrate the achievements of students monthly. Parents can find the monthly Students' Achievement list in the following link on the school website:

<https://henryparkpri.moe.edu.sg/hpps-experience/student-achievements/student-achievements-2023>

Vision
Lead with Character, Serve with Talents

Mission
Nurturing concerned citizens with integrity and a spirit of excellence through holistic education

School Values
Respect, Integrity, Care, Excellence

