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2 January 2025

Dear Parents,

Re: Welcome Back to School

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope you are feeling refreshed and ready for an exciting and inspiring school year ahead. As we kick off 2025, we are thrilled to greet our returning families and extend a heartfelt welcome to our new P1 cohort, transfer-in students, and their families. It is a joy to have each of you join our vibrant Marsiling Primary School community, and we cannot wait to embark on this journey with you. To our returning students, welcome back—we are eager to continue supporting you as you grow, learn, and achieve new milestones!

At Marsiling Primary School, we are passionate about creating a positive, inclusive environment where every student can flourish academically, socially, and emotionally. With our dedicated team of educators by your side, we're committed to sparking curiosity, nurturing creativity, and inspiring a lifelong love for learning. Let's make this year, one to remember!

(A) PSLE Results 2024

First and foremost, my warmest congratulations to our 2024 P6 cohort on their exceptional PSLE results! Achieving an impressive 99.3% overall pass rate is the highest in our school's history and above the national average of 98.5%, is a testament to their hard work, resilience, and determination to reach their full potential. Our Marsilians have truly outdone themselves, proving that resilience and effort lead to success.

I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated teachers, whose unwavering commitment and care have been instrumental in guiding our students through this significant milestone in their primary school journey. As our 2024 P6 graduates step into the next chapter of their education, we wish them every success and hope they continue to thrive and shine in their respective secondary schools.

(B) Change in School Leadership & Introduction of New Staff Members

It is with a mix of gratitude and best wishes that I share the news that Mdm Felicia Foo Huey Ying, our Vice-Principal (Admin), has been posted to New Town Primary School, effective 15 December 2024. Mdm Foo has been a cornerstone of leadership at Marsiling Primary School for over a decade. Her contributions have been pivotal in numerous areas, including overseeing the PERI upgrading project, implementing safe distancing measures and contact tracing during the pandemic, and establishing robust systems for finance and administrative processes.

Beyond her official role, Mdm Foo has gone above and beyond to support partnerships with the Parent Support Group (PSG) and School Advisory Committee (SAC), as well as initiatives for staff well-being and student matters. Her unwavering dedication and big heart for our Marsilians have ensured that our students always receive the best resources and care. We wish Mdm Foo every success in her new role at New Town Primary School, where we are certain she will continue to make a meaningful impact.

At the same time, we are delighted to warmly welcome Mr Christopher Koh Teik Huat, an experienced Vice-Principal (Admin) from Anchor Green Primary School, who joined us on 15

December 2024. We look forward to the wealth of expertise and enthusiasm he brings to our school.

Additionally, I am excited to introduce our newest staff members who are joining the MPS family in 2025. This includes five new teachers who bring a wealth of experience, passion, and dedication to their roles. Together, they will strengthen our commitment to providing an exceptional learning environment for every Marsilian. They are:

- 1) Miss Lee Fui Ling – Head of Department, Mathematics
- 2) Ms Sujatha d/o Narayana Pillai – Physical Education and Mathematics Teacher
- 3) Mdm Esther Teng Yuan Yi – Mathematics and Science Teacher
- 4) Mr Teo Yuanzhong – Physical Education and Mathematics Teacher
- 5) Mr Tham Hou Cheong Aloysius – Physical Education and English Language Teacher

(C) 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 Marsiling Primary School, our vision is to nurture *Learners and Leaders of Tomorrow*. We aim to create a vibrant educational environment that goes beyond imparting knowledge to cultivate the critical skills and dispositions needed for the future. Our goal is to empower students as lifelong learners, equipping them with adaptability and resilience to thrive in a constantly changing world. By fostering positive learning attitudes, we also instill leadership qualities, encouraging our students to think creatively, collaborate effectively, and make meaningful contributions to their communities. Leaders of tomorrow are forward-looking, confident, and values-driven individuals who can lead themselves and others with purpose and integrity.

Our mission is to nurture resilient learners and confident leaders guided by strong values. We are committed to developing students who pursue their aspirations with tenacity and possess a *Growth Mindset* to embrace challenges and adapt to change. By equipping our Marsilians with knowledge and 21st-century competencies like adaptive thinking and effective communication, we prepare them to navigate the complexities of the modern world. At the same time, we emphasize leadership grounded in moral courage and empathy, inspiring our students to articulate their views confidently, act with integrity, and support others in need.

Through a holistic education, we aspire to shape well-rounded individuals who are future-ready, adaptable, and poised to lead with character and purpose in an ever-evolving society. 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 in 2022 to inspire them to:

- **Aspire** & aim high
- **Believe** in themselves
- **Courage** to give their best each time

As we step into a new school year, we invite you to embrace and live out these principles with us. Together, as a united community, we can create an environment that not only nurtures academic excellence but also instills the values, resilience, and skills essential for thriving in an ever-changing world. Let's continue to empower our Marsilians to reach new heights and make a positive impact on their journey ahead.

(D) 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

(E) Curriculum Matters

ALP & LLP @ MPS

Through our school programmes and activities, we strive to provide our students with meaningful experiences, a positive learning environment where they can learn, grow, and thrive, and opportunities to explore their interests and develop their talents. This is achieved through a well-rounded curriculum across all subjects, a diverse range of learning experiences, and school-based programmes designed to nurture every student's potential.

Our **Applied Learning Programme (ALP)**—*SPARKS@MPS (Spark Ideas, Spark Interest, Spark Action: Igniting a Passion for Purposeful Storytelling)*—is dedicated to cultivating critical thinkers and confident communicators. Students are encouraged to actively listen, articulate their ideas effectively, and inspire others to action through compelling narratives. SPARKS@MPS empowers our students to become thoughtful contributors who use storytelling as a tool for meaningful impact.

In addition, our **Learning for Life Programme (LLP)**—*LEAD (Learn, Engage, Absorb, Demonstrate) to Serve @ MPS*—focuses on leadership development and service to others. This programme provides leadership opportunities for every student to *Learn, Lead, and Serve* through a structured 3-tiered approach. By integrating student leadership development with Values-in-Action (VIA) initiatives under our *Green Citizenship (GC)@MPS* curriculum, we aim to instill our school values and nurture responsible, active citizens who embody service leadership.

Through these platforms, we are committed to shaping Marsilians into confident leaders, compassionate contributors, and lifelong learners who make a positive impact in their communities.

Curriculum Hours 2025

The school's curriculum hours remain the same as 2024 as shown below.

| School Hours for Academic Year 2025 | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 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 (6 Jan 2025 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 2025

School recess time for 2025 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 12.00 pm and 12.15 pm 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.

(F) School-Home Partnership

At MPS, we deeply value the pivotal role parents play in their children's educational journey. We believe that a strong partnership between school and home is essential for the holistic development of our students. Your involvement and support are key to fostering a positive and enriching learning environment where our Marsilians can thrive.

We warmly encourage parents to actively participate in their child's education by attending parent-teacher conferences, parent briefings, and school events, as well as staying informed about your child's progress. To further strengthen this connection, our Form Teachers will be sending out a 'Welcome and Introduction' letter within the first two weeks of school to initiate meaningful communication and collaboration. Together, as partners in education, we can empower our students to reach their fullest potential.

We encourage all parents to check their child's **Student Handbook 2025** 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 school website: <https://www.marsilingpri.moe.edu.sg/>, official Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MarsilingPri> and official Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/marsilingprimaryschool/>.

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 or send an email to our Year Head/ Lower Primary, Mr Chan Hong Wei (chan_hong_wei@schools.gov.sg). 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.

(G) 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, 2025 will be conducted on **Wed, 15 Jan 2025**. 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 express my heartfelt gratitude to all parents for your unwavering support and understanding, especially during the challenging pandemic years. Your active involvement in your child's education and steadfast support for the school have been invaluable in shaping their development. We encourage all parents to continue this journey with our dedicated and caring staff as we work together to bring out the best in every child.

We are confident that this school year will be a meaningful and rewarding experience for all. Let's make it a fantastic year filled with growth, learning, and memorable moments. As we embark on this new chapter together, we extend our best wishes for a year brimming with discovery, success, and joy. May every Marsilian find inspiration in their studies, build lasting friendships, and uncover new interests and talents!

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Heather Thio
Principal