

UNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

21 Choa Chu Kang Crescent Singapore 688268 Tel: 67676750 Fax: 67676751 Email: unity_ps@moe.edu.sg Website: www.unitypri.moe.edu.sg

5 March 2024

Dear Parents

As we approach the end of Term 1 and look forward to the holiday break, the following are some information that you may want to pay attention to:

1. School Calendar of Events & Term 2 Key Activities

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Day / Date	School Holidays / Celebrations
Fri, 8 Mar 24	Eat with Your Family Day (EWYFD)
Sat, 9 Mar 24 – Sun, 17 Mar 24	Term 1 Break (School Holidays)
Fri, 29 Mar 24	Good Friday (Public Holiday)
Wed, 10 Apr 24	Hari Raya Puasa (Public Holiday)
Wed, 1 May 24	Labour Day (Public Holiday)
Tue, 21 May 24	Home-Based Learning (HBL) (No School for P1 – P6)
	e-Parent-Teacher Conference (PTC) 2
Wed, 22 May 24	Vesak Day (Public Holiday)
Fri, 24 May 24	Eat with Your Family Day (EWYFD)
Sat, 25 May 24 – Sun, 23 Jun 24	Term 2 Break (School Holidays)
Mon, 24 Jun 24	Commencement of Term 3

2. School Calendar

Please refer to this link <u>School Calendar (moe.edu.sg)</u> to access live and updated information on the school website. Do also take note of the dates for weighted assessments for the level your child is in.

You may click on this link https://calendar.google.com/coe_ups and add the school's COE to your personal google account for ease of retrieval.

3. Eat With Your Family Day (EWYFD)

Eat With Your Family Day (EWYFD) is a nation-wide initiative led by the Centre for Fathering and supported by the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF), to encourage all Singaporeans to consciously set aside time that day to bond with their families. Through the simple practice of having a family meal, this initiative serves as a reminder for families to eat and spend time together regularly.

MOE supports all four EWYFD on the last Friday of each of the school term. Parents are encouraged to set aside time to eat and bond with their families. Parents are also encouraged to pick up their children earlier from the childcare/ student care centres to have a family meal together.

4. Student Well-Being & Safety

We appeal to parents to continue exercising social responsibility and not send your child to school should he/she be unwell or experience any flu-like or infectious symptoms (even mild ones). You are advised to take your child to seek medical attention and he/she should only return to school when he/she has fully recovered.

5. Student Health Matters

E-vaporisers are illegal in Singapore. Under the Tobacco (Control of Advertisements and Sale) Act, the possession, use or purchase of e-vaporisers carries a maximum fine of \$2,000. It is also an offence to import, distribute, sell or offer for sale e-vaporisers and their components. Any person convicted of such offences is liable to a fine of up to \$10,000, or imprisonment of up to six months or both for the first offence, and a fine of up to \$20,000, or imprisonment of up to 12 months or both for the second or subsequent offence. All prohibited tobacco items will be seized and confiscated.

MOE takes a firm stand against vaping. Vaping is categorised as a serious offence. When students are caught using or in possession of e-vaporisers, the prohibited product will be confiscated, and their parents will be informed. The school will report the offender to HSA and also manage vaping-related offences through existing disciplinary frameworks. These include taking school-based disciplinary actions such as suspension or caning (for boys). Students caught vaping will also be placed on cessation support programmes where counsellors will guide them through their cessation journey to effect long-term behavioural change.

Parents have an important part to play in your child's education. There are resources and relevant information that parents can access on Parent Hub. Parents are encouraged to have a serious conversation with your child about vaping to prevent it from becoming a life-long habit. More information about the harms of vaping is available on Parent Hub at https://go.gov.sg/parent-hub-vaping.

Source:

MOH-HSA press release on 'Multi-Agency Effort to Step up Vaping Enforcement and Education'. dated 19 Dec 2023

6. Parents Gateway (PG)

This is a reminder that Parents Gateway (PG) is a one-stop portal and channel for school-home communication. To download PG or for its FAQ, visit https://pg.moe.edu.sg/. Kindly turn on the PG notification in your phone setting so that you can be alerted to PG updates from the school and MOE in a timely manner.

With the PG App, parents can access all school announcements and consent forms, give consent for your child's activities anytime and anywhere. Please read and retain such information so that you can keep abreast of the details such as date, duration, dismissal time, venue of your child's school activities, etc. To avoid inconveniences, we seek your co-operation to convey such pertinent information within your household so that the caregivers/ helpers do not have to call our staff/ teachers to enquire unnecessarily.

7. Semesterly Emergency Relay with Parents

The school conducts Test of the Emergency Relay System with Parents via PG semesterly. The next emergency relay system test will be conducted in Term 2. As it is crucial for school to be able to reach all its stakeholders especially parents in emergency situations, we appreciate everyone's timely co-operation and consideration to read all the notifications sent out and take the necessary actions.

8. Cyber Wellness (CW)

In today's digital age, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have become increasingly ubiquitous. While the internet offers vast resources of information and opinions, its unrestricted access can expose children to inappropriate content and influences. This underscores the importance of Cyber Wellness (CW) education.

UPS has implemented the Cyber Wellness Awareness Initiative (CWAI), aligned with the latest MOE CW Framework, to equip students with the skills to safeguard themselves and take responsibility for their well-being online. Our approach involves a range of events and activities held throughout the academic year. For instance, during the observance of Safer Internet Day, students engaged in learning about Cyber Wellness principles and processes.

Parents are integral to the success of our CW efforts. When home and school environments are aligned, students benefit the most. To ensure your child's safety and positive experiences online, we encourage you to:

- Activate parental controls on household devices.
- Demonstrate good digital habits as a role model.
- Establish clear rules for internet usage.
- Explore the internet together with your child to better understand their online activities.

Together, we can foster a safer and more responsible online environment for our children. Learn more about how to keep your child safe online and how to manage their screen time through these resources:

- https://go.gov.sg/moe-raising-a-digitally-smart-child
- https://go.gov.sg/screentimeadvisory-7to12

Thank you for your kind attention. We wish you a very fulfilling and rejuvenating break this March holiday.

Yours sincerely Mrs Lee-Koh SC Principal