

01 April 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope that you and your child/ward had a meaningful bonding experience during the March holidays.

With the revised Safe Management Measures (SMMs) announced recently, we would like to provide some updates on our SMMs in school. We would also like to share good news from the Quality School Experience survey (a national survey of our students' school experiences) as well as keep you informed of the events that will be taking place in the coming weeks.

1. **Safe Management Measures (SMMs)**

We would like to thank all of you for your understanding and cooperation in observing the SMMs that have been place in our school thus far.

In line with the national easing of community SMMs, we would like to update you on the following revised measures put in place. These corresponding measures are to ensure that we develop our students holistically and make up for some of the activities that the school was not able to conduct in the past two years.

**Assemblies and Flag Raising Ceremony w.e.f Monday, 4 April 2002 (Term 2, Week 3)**

We will commence our assemblies and flag raising ceremony at the school hall on an alternate week arrangement. This is to facilitate the students the time and space in learning the routines of the flag raising ceremony and adapting to mass assemblies, while keeping to the prevailing SMMs. We will continue to emphasise to our students the habit of coming to school punctually and to be present in the school hall/class **by 7.30 a.m.**

The levels will rotate in this weekly arrangement till further easing of SMM in the near future.

<b>Weeks</b>	<b>Primary 4,5 &amp; 6 students</b>	<b>Primary 1,2 &amp; 3 students</b>
<b>Odd Week of Term</b>	School Hall	Form Classes
<b>Even Week of Term</b>	Form Classes	School Hall

Recess Arrangements

With the revised capacity limit and social distancing regulation, we are now able to allow more students to be at the canteen during our recesses. We will resume our three recesses to the full capacity.

Time	Description	
9.15 a.m. to 9.45 a.m.	P1 & P5 students	Students who purchase their food from the canteen vendors are to consume their food at the canteen.
9.45 a.m. to 10.15 a.m.	P2 & P3 students	Students who brought food from their homes can either remain in class to consume the food or proceed to the canteen.  Students will return to their classes after consuming their food at the canteen.
10.15 a.m. to 10.45 a.m.	P4 & P6 students	

Staggered Dismissal

We will continue with the good practice of dismissing students at staggered timings to prevent over-crowding at the dismissal points. A gentle reminder on the following timings.

Time	Description
1.35 p.m.	Primary 1 & 4 and students with siblings in school
1.45 p.m.	Primary 2 & 5 and students taking school bus
1.55 p.m.	Primary 3 & 6 students

Mask-off Provision for Teachers and Students in Specific Groups during Language/Literacy Lessons

Students who are in Learning Support Programme (LSP), Reading Remediation Programme (RRP), Mother Tongue Support Programme (MTSP) and School-based Dyslexia Remediation (SDR) can have their masks off so as to further the language/literacy support by teachers. Students in the above groups will be informed and guided by the teachers accordingly.

**All other staff and students will remain masked when they are in school.** The school will continue to remain watchful of the developments and will align and update the measures accordingly to ensure a balance between safety and the holistic school experiences of the children.

## 2. **The Quality School Experience (QSE) Survey**

The findings of our QSE survey results were released at the end of Term 1. We are delighted with the results and are proud of the ongoing efforts of our staff and the support from our parents.

Horizon Primary School strives and takes pride in developing our students holistically; imparting knowledge and skills, and inculcating values for lifelong learning. Compared to students in the national cohort, 95% our students affirmed that the school has developed them holistically. A large percentage of our students compared to the national cohort also have a strong sense of confidence and competence in their school work; and very importantly they also have a strong belief that their ability and intelligence can be developed and grown over time.

At Horizon Primary School, we endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming learning environment with teachers who do their best to engage and motivate students. We are pleased that above 90% of our students perceived that the school's disciplinary practices, which are based on our school values, are fair and reasonable. Our students also indicated that the school's programmes and activities helped them bond with their classmates and teachers; and build a sense of belonging to the school. Similarly, almost all our students acknowledged and appreciated our teachers' efforts to engage, motivate and build quality and positive interactions with them. These sentiments were also higher compared to the sentiments of students in the national cohort.

As the school continues to deliver a quality school experience for our students, we are also appreciative of the support from our parents. Let's continue this strong partnership to develop our Horizon Stars.

## 3. **PSLE 2022 On-Screen Marking – Instilling Good Work Habits**

On-Screen Marking (OSM) for national examinations in Singapore started in 2015 with the GCE-level examinations. With OSM carried out for some subjects for the PSLE from 2020. OSM will be rolled out to the remaining PSLE subjects – English, Mathematics and Science in 2022.

To prevent markers from having difficulties understanding students' scanned responses, students are informed of the following:

- to use only 2B pencil for shading on the Optical Answer Sheet (OAS)
- to use only dark blue or black ballpoint pens with 0.5 mm tip size
- do not use correction tape/fluid and highlighters on their answer scripts
- where responses are made in the Answer Booklet as in EL/FEL Paper 1, **begin every new answer on a fresh page** and **write the question number at the top of the page**. Students can write on both sides of the paper.

At Horizon Primary School, we want to instill the habit of making corrections through neat cancellation instead of using correction tape/fluid, especially when the Primary 3 and 4 students transit to using pen in their written work. As such, we seek parents' support to ensure that your child does not carry any correct tape/fluid in their pencil

cases.

We understand that highlighters are useful for students to bring attention to important information. We will teach our students the correct and relevant use of highlighters in their written work so that their answers will not be compromised when scanned.

We urge parents to synergise with the school to help our students develop good working habits in alignment with the new requirements.

Please visit the SEAB Website (<https://www.seab.gov.sg/home/examinations/psle>) for more details about the PSLE.

#### 4. **Commemorating International Friendship Day**

International Friendship Day (IFD) will be commemorated on Monday, 4 April 2022. The theme for IFD is ***Singapore in Asia***. As Asia remains as one of the fastest-growing region in the world, it is crucial for Singapore to synergise and seek win-win outcomes with ASEAN partners and other nations in Asia. Through this year's IFD programmes, students will deepen their understanding about national languages used by different ASEAN countries.

#### 5. **Primary 4 and Primary 6 Mid-Year Oral Examinations**

The Primary 6 Mid-Year Oral Examination will be conducted from Tuesday, 12 April 2022, to Thursday, 14 April 2022. Primary 6 students will only be required to stay back after school on one of the three days.

The Primary 4 Mid-Year Oral Examination will be conducted on Tuesday, 19 April 2022, and Wednesday, 20 April 2022. Primary 4 students will only need to stay back on one of the days.

Details will be given out to parents of Primary 6 and Primary 4 students nearer to the dates of the oral examinations. Please take note of the following guidelines, as stated in the Assessment Information 2022 given out in the beginning of the year, help to ensure the smooth administration of the school assessments.

- a. Students who are unable to take their oral examinations because of valid reasons will take both their English/Foundation English and Mother Tongue/Foundation Mother Tongue oral examinations on the following day of the oral examination.
- b. Students who have missed the make-up oral examination due to valid reasons will need to produce the medical certificate on the day of return to school. Students will be given a 'VR' status for the subject that they have missed. Students with no valid reasons will be awarded a "0" (i.e. zero mark) for the assessment.

6. **Primary 6 PSLE Oral 2022**

The Primary 6 students will be sitting for their PSLE Oral on Monday, 15 August 2022 and Tuesday 16 August 2022. More details will be furnished nearer to the date of examination. You may wish to visit the SEAB Website to check for the PSLE Examination Timetable at <https://www.seab.gov.sg/home/examinations/psle>.

7. **Primary 4 Virtual Museum-based Learning (MBL)**

Since 2018, all primary school students visit a museum as part of a refreshed art education syllabus aimed at making learning more authentic and for exposure to Singaporean art. National Gallery Singapore is one of the museums nominated by the Ministry of Education for the museum-based learning programme.

A recommended list of 32 artworks by local and international artists has also been included in the new art syllabus so that the students can develop an awareness of Singaporean art. The gallery has specially curated 12 trails for the students, with artworks that depict different themes such as landscapes, portraits and history.

Due to SMM, we will be collaborating with National Gallery Singapore to bring the students on the tour virtually in school. The virtual experience has a greater focus on visual inquiry skills – observation and interpretation – and reflecting on artwork through activities and discussions facilitated by a National Gallery Singapore education facilitator.

8. **Primary 5 Virtual Immersion Programme to Indonesia**

The P5 students will have the opportunity to go on a virtual immersion trip to Indonesia as part of the Trip for Internationalisation Experience (TIE). This virtual experience would offer students the next best alternative to have an internationalisation experience in light of travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the virtual immersion, we hope to:

- a. deepen in our students the 21CC of global awareness and cross-cultural skills and sensitivities;
- b. expose students to Asia and sensitise them to the place of Singapore in the World; and
- c. strengthen students' commitment and rootedness to Singapore.

The virtual immersion to Indonesia will be taking place on 26 April 2022 during the time slot for supplementary lesson. More details on this immersion programme will be shared with parents of the P5 students via PG message.

Thank you for your partnership and let's continue to keep safe and be healthy.

**Your partner-in-education,  
Mrs Grace Leong  
Principal**