

**Responses to Parent's Queries/Feedback during P1 Parent Engagement Talk held on 4 January 2022**

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**English Language**

**STELLAR 2.0 English Curriculum**

- *How many STELLAR units will be covered?*
- *My child has only been given the STELLAR handwriting book, what other units and books are there in the English curriculum?*

A total of 13 titles will be covered in Primary 1. Students will learn and complete 3 or 4 English units related to the titles per term. The learning sheets were included in the booklist. Your child will bring home each unit for signature upon completion.

**Storybooks**

- *There are no English story books included in the booklist. What books does my child bring for daily silent reading? Does my child bring his own story book?*

Students are encouraged to bring a storybook for silent reading. However, we have storybooks in our class library as well and students are welcomed to borrow them.

**Homework**

- *How extensive will daily homework be?*
- *Will homework be given?*

For lower primary, most of the written work will be completed during school hours. You may expect a reasonable amount of homework for your child on some days.

**After-school Classes**

- *Will there be any extra class / remedial for P1 students after school?*

There will be no after-school classes for Primary 1 students. In-curriculum support will be given to students with learning gaps. Only a small group of students with relatively greater learning gaps is identified for Reading Remediation Programme.

**Library Membership and KidsREAD Programme**

**NLB Library Membership**

- *Is NLB membership compulsory?*
- *Do we apply for NLB membership ourselves or will the school arrange for this?*

Your child does not require membership to borrow from Bedok Green Primary School library. However, he/she would require NLB membership to borrow books from any of our community libraries in Singapore.

At the moment, parents are required to apply NLB membership for your child through National Library Board. Our school strongly encourages you to apply for a NLB membership for your child so that he/she can have access to a wider variety of books for leisure reading.

### **Bedok Green Primary School Library**

- *How will my child borrow books from the school library? Will the borrowing be done via school portal or directly from NLB?*
- *Are there any reading lists recommended for P1?*
- *Will the teachers take students to the school library and educate them on how to borrow ebooks?*

Our school conducts the Library Education Programme during English periods. Your child's English teacher or school librarian will guide him/her to borrow books from our school library.

From time to time, NLB will provide lists of recommended reads by age groups to our students. Your child would require an electronic membership account in order for him/her to borrow e-books.

### **KidsREAD Programme**

- *Could you talk more about the NLB programme? Is this facilitated by the school?*
- *What are the criteria?*

Bedok Green Primary collaborates with NLB to run the KidsREAD Programme for selected Primary 1 and 2 students. KidsREAD is a nationwide reading programme aimed at cultivating the love of reading among children. Selection of students is based on NLB's criteria and one of them includes the household income. Only Singapore citizens and Permanent Residents are eligible for this programme.

### **Additional Support**

- *My child can read and speak English well. However, I am concerned as she cannot write sentences.*
- *If the child is not coping well with learning English Language, will the Form Teacher arrange for 1 to 1 guidance or expect my child to be at the same pace as others in her class?*
- *How can we help our children to learn English Language if we parents are not good at it?*
- *Are there chances to guide the child based upon their level of English Language skills? For example, my child is very good at reading as a P1 kid, but is not good at speaking.*

We would like to reiterate that STELLAR curriculum is very comprehensive. STELLAR is an interactive literacy programme that fosters confidence in learning English using children's literature. It integrates all the language skills and these skills require time to be enhanced through daily practice.

Parents can help by activating your child's interest and love in reading by providing them with a variety of English reading materials and be a reading companion to your child.

## **Mathematics**

### **Learning Mathematics**

- *I learned that once we grasp Mathematical concepts, Mathematics becomes easy. How can students grasp concepts with ease which may result in them loving Mathematics?*
- *Mathematics is about repetition (learning) and building self-confidence.*

Students are taught Mathematics through learning experiences. They level up their problem-solving competencies by attaining conceptual understanding, practicing to be proficient in carrying out mathematical operations and algorithms skills, applying concepts, and developing a positive attitude towards Mathematics.

### **Online assignments**

- *Will my child be required to submit tasks/assignments via online on top of the written work in class?*

There may be online assignments depending on the topics being taught. These online assignments are part of the curriculum and they complement written assignments. The overall workload will be calibrated and distributed over time such that both online and written class assignments will not be overwhelming for students. Students will also be taught explicitly how they will do online learning and assignments independently.

### **Online Resources**

- *Are there any recommended online resources for Mathematics?*

The main resource platform for Mathematics is the MOE Student Learning Space (SLS). Students will be given their individual accounts and their teachers will guide them to use the digital platform for their learning.

### **Use of Mathematical Tools**

- *Do students need to bring any Mathematical tools such as scientific calculators to school for calculation during lessons*

Students are not required to bring any special mathematical tools for Mathematics lessons. The school provides mathematical manipulatives/ tools needed for the learning of Mathematics. It is only at P5 and P6 when each student will be required to have a scientific calculator to solve written problems in Mathematics Paper 2.

### **School and Home Support**

- *How can we bridge the gap in Mathematical understanding in children? At which stage should we involve a tutor for them? P1 or P2?*

At lower primary, we want to help students learn Mathematics by deepening their conceptual understanding thereby strengthening them in their foundational skills. This will help to build their interest and confidence in learning Mathematics at a more challenging level.

Teachers will observe and monitor learning of students closely and provide the necessary scaffolding in a timely manner to address their learning gaps. The school has Learning Support

- Mathematics (LSM) for selected students who need extra support in smaller groups during curriculum time.

Communicate with your child's Mathematics teacher to address your concerns and understand the progress of your child. At home, engage your child in seeing the applications of Mathematical concepts in everyday activities, show interest in your child's learning experiences, and encourage him/her to share them with you.

## **Mother Tongue Languages**

### **Learning Mother Tongue Languages**

#### **Online Resources**


- *Are there any recommended online resources for students to learn their MTL?*

Students can access MTL online resources via MOE SLS. Additional online resources for Chinese and Tamil Languages are shown below.

#### **Chinese Language**

School will arrange mass ezhishi subscriptions for Chinese language students. Details will be sent out to parents at a later time. <http://www.ezhishi.net>

#### **Tamil Language**

Kani Mani Bk 1 App		This app contains stories and fun activities that help children to learn Tamil in fun way.	✓	✓	Primary 1-2
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#### **Use of Dictionaries**

- *Will the school teach students how to use a dictionary?*

Use of dictionary will be introduced in P3. MTL teacher will guide students in the use of a conventional Dictionary or e-Dictionary.

#### **Spelling**

- *When will spelling list be given?*
- *How often is spelling conducted?*

Spelling is conducted only for CL. The spelling list will be given out by CL teachers in week 3 and spelling exercises are conducted bi-weekly.

#### **MTL Enrichment Programmes**

- *Is there any Chinese MT enrichment class?*

Yes, the school organizes Speech and Drama Enrichment Programme for P1 students. It will be carried out during school hours.

- *Is there enrichment for all Malay Language students or only for those who are interested? Are there criteria?*

Yes, the enrichment programme is conducted in the form of embedding enriched content in the curriculum with greater emphasis placed on spoken and written interaction skills. Its purpose is to provide extended learning opportunities and challenges to students who have already mastered, or can quickly master, the basic curriculum through the provision of authentic contexts.

- *What is MTL Fortnight Programme?*

The MTL Fortnight Programme is a two-week school-based programme to create an immersive environment for students to learn and appreciate MTL and cultures. Learning activities expose students to a wide range of authentic cultural contexts for students to apply their language knowledge and skills.

### **Higher Mother Tongue Languages**

- *现在 P1 的孩子读的是高级华语吗? Do P1 students learn Higher Mother Tongue Language (HMTL)?*

不是。低年级学生修读的是华文课本。学生在小三时，学校会根据学生的兴趣、成绩和老师的推荐修读高级华文。

As it is important to help lower primary students settle well in formal schooling, build greater confidence and nurture a stronger intrinsic motivation in learning before stretching them with a more demanding curriculum, P1 students do not learn HMTL. They learn MTL based on the MOE MTL syllabuses. HMTL is offered from P3 onwards based on students' academic performance and teachers' recommendations.

### **Others**

- *At which level will 大楷小楷 be taught?*
- *At which level, 成语(Chinese idioms) will be taught?*

大楷小楷 and calligraphy are not included in the school's CL curriculum, which is aligned with the MOE Chinese Language (CL) syllabus. Chinese idioms will be introduced from P3 onwards in accordance to MOE CL syllabus. You may refer to P3 Chinese textbook for more details on the Chinese idioms taught.

- *My child will be taking Hindi Language as his MTL. Can he also learn another MTL during the MTL lessons in class?*

Yes, NTIL students are allowed to apply to learn a MTL language, such as Chinese Language during MTL periods as a non-examinable subject. Parents can obtain the application form from the school's General Office. The application is subject to the school's approval.

- *Can my child's Mother Tongue Language (MTL) be changed to different language he/she is taking currently? If yes, can it be done at P1 and/or P2?*

No, your child's MTL cannot be changed. Please read on to find out the requirements for MTL

- Students of Chinese, Malay and Indian ethnicities will study their own MTLs.
- Students who are Eurasian, of mixed parentage and whose mother tongue is not one of the official MTLs can request to study any of them subject to MOE's approval.

Non-Tamil speaking students of Indian ethnicity can apply to study Non-Tamil Indian Language (Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi or Urdu). These language classes are not provided by MOE

and are usually conducted outside of school premises and hours. Find out more information from the [Board for the Teaching and Testing of South Asian Languages' website.](#)

- *Do students have MTL lessons with other classes?*

Yes, students from different classes will be regrouped for MTL lessons.

- *Are students allowed to take more than 1 MTL?*

No, students are only allowed to offer one MTL.

### **Home Support**

- *We are parents who are not proficient in the MTL that our child is taking, we would like to know how we can support our child in learning the MTL.*
- *How do I know if my child needs additional support from private tuition?*

Please communicate with your child's MTL teacher to share your concerns and understand your child's learning needs in learning MTL. At the same time, we encourage you to:

- create supportive learning environment at home. Show interest in your child's learning experiences and encourage him/ her to share with them with you. Encourage your child to use the language with you whenever possible.
- cultivate the love for reading. Provide reading opportunities.
- create opportunities for your child to listen to stories and watch educational programmes in the Mother Tongue Language
- make use of learning resources around you to engage your child in conversation if you can.

The school does not recommend private tuition for students as there are support programmes/ activities designed during lessons to help students to bridge their learning gaps.

<b>Programme for Active Learning (PAL) / Physical &amp; Health Education (PHE) / Co-Curricular Activities (CCA)</b>	
- <i>Is Cyber safety taught in PAL?</i>	Cyber Wellness (CW) is embedded within the Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) curriculum instead of PAL as CW focuses on the well-being of our students as they navigate cyberspace. It aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills to harness the power of ICT for positive purposes, maintain a positive presence in cyberspace and be safe and responsible users of ICT.
- <i>Is gamification part of the teaching pedagogy for PAL?</i>	No, gamification is not part of PAL. PAL is a programme designed with mainly experiential-based activities. Students are engaged in 'game-like' activities depending on the nature of the theme/ topic in focus.
- <i>Does P1 go for compulsory swimming lessons?</i>	Swimming lessons are part of Physical and Health Education (PHE) at P3 and not at P1. They are held during curriculum time i.e. PHE periods. This is in line with MOE's latest directive regarding water safety and survival. However, in view of the COVID-19 situation, swimming lessons are currently suspended till further notice.
- <i>What time does the CCA start and end?</i>	There is no CCA for P1 students. CCA is held for P3 to P6 students only. It is conducted on Fridays during curriculum time from 7.30 – 9 a.m.
- <i>Which are the days students will wear PE attire / school uniform?</i>	Students are allowed to be in PE attire on days when they have PHE and PAL lessons.

### **Assessment Matters**

- *Are there any tests / assessments / exams for P1?*

At P1 and P2, the school uses a variety of non-weighted tests and formative assessments such as bite-sized tasks and daily work. Bite-sized tasks and daily work may include class quizzes, short writing and reading assignments, show and tell, class presentations and discussions, in-class work, homework etc. Teachers will diagnose each student's learning progress from these tests, tasks and daily work.

- *How often are assessments carried out?*

Assessment is part and parcel of teaching and learning. Teachers carry out formative assessments by asking questions, conducting meaningful tasks to observe and assess students' performance and progress. Multiple data points are used to give teachers a deeper understanding of students' progress so that they are able to find out students' learning gaps more accurately. Other non-weighted assessments such as written tests are not conducted very often especially in Semester 1 as more time is used for students to learn concepts and skills through more hands-on experiences.

### **Student well being**

- *Is there counselling service available for students at school?*
- *How would the school handle bullying cases?*

The school has two in-house School Counsellors and three Teacher Counsellors. They provide support to students' mental health and social-emotional development.

The school takes a serious view of bullying and sends a clear message to all students that any form of bullying is not acceptable. Briefings to students to raise awareness of bullying are conducted on a regular basis. Appropriate disciplinary action is taken to guide offenders while restoring relationships with those whom they have hurt. Counselling support is also provided to victims. Parents are involved to reinforce the same values and expectations of their children's behaviour.

### Communication with Teachers

- *I need to communicate with the teacher about my child's medical condition and informed him/ her about the medication my child has to take and if my child should take the medication by himself/herself? How do I reach the teacher?*
- *If we want to express concerns or check on child development / progress, can we email/ call / personal message to the form teacher?? What platforms are available for us to communicate with the teachers?*
- *What are the communication modes to inform the school if my child is unwell and is unable to report to school?*
- *How often will Parents' Session with Teachers be conducted?*
- *If my child did not write in his Student Handbook clearly, how can I ask for help?*
- *Will there be a groupchat formed for parents??*
- *Can we see the respective MTL teachers today in the zoom?*

The school seeks to work closely with parents for the holistic development of all students. Our teachers' workload in partnering parents will need to be managed in balance with our core professional duties, particularly in teaching and learning. Parents are strongly encouraged to communicate and engage with teachers during school hours (7.30 a.m.– 5 p.m.) on working weekdays and during school terms. Teachers are not expected to respond to parents' queries after school hours. Urgent messages to teachers may be directed to the General Office, should teachers be in class and are uncontactable during school hours. Teachers are not expected to provide their personal mobile numbers to parents/students. Appointments for face-to-face meetings with teachers should be made in advance. Parents should email the teachers or contact the General Office at least 3 days in advance, to minimise disruption to their teaching duties.

There are two school-organised sessions for P1 parents to meet with teachers. They are the Introductory Briefing for Parents and Parent-Child-Teacher Conference (PCTC), which will be held at the end of January and August respectively.

You may make other arrangements to meet with the teacher(s) of your child when needed. Other ways of communicating with the teachers include:

1. Writing notes to teachers directly in your child's Student Handbook
2. Any other ways as discussed with your child's teachers

**Administrative matters**

- *Will the timetable be given to parents?*
- *Will the student handbook be given today?*

The class timetable and Student Handbook were issued on 4 January 2022.

**Others**

- *Would like to confirm that two recess breaks at 8.30 am for 30 minutes and at 11.00 am for 15 minutes daily.*

Students have a recess break from 8.30 am to 9.00 am at the canteen and snack time from 11.00 am to 11.15 am in the classroom daily.

- *Will there be any field trips/ excursions for the class during this pandemic period?*

Currently, no physical field trips/ learning journeys are conducted during the pandemic period. In order not to compromise students' learning, virtual learning journeys were conducted instead. The school will continue to adhere to the MOE Safety Management Measures (SMM) to keep our students safe and healthy during the COVID-19 situation and bring back physical trips once SMMs are relaxed.

- *What are the hygiene measures taken to the classrooms especially considering students put their bags on the floor?*

All classrooms are swept and mopped by school cleaners daily. Students also learn to take care of their belongings and keep their work areas clean by performing daily class cleanliness duties. Regular handwashing and wiping down are carried out as students are taught to observe their personal hygiene.

- *I am disappointed and concerned about the poor condition of the toilet at level 3. Measures should be taken to maintain it to ensure hygiene and cleanliness.*

The school toilets are cleaned very regularly and at least twice a day. In addition, the school cleaners attend to any spillage or hygiene-related issues immediately. All the four toilets at level 3 were inspected immediately after the above feedback was provided and while three of the toilets are old, their hygiene and cleanliness were not compromised. The fourth toilet was newly renovated in 2021.

The school's toilet renovation plan will be completed in phases over 5 years. The level 1 canteen toilets and two stacks of 8 toilets in the classroom blocks were renovated in 2019 and 2021 respectively. Subsequent stacks of toilets will be renovated from 2022 to 2024.