



# Welcome to BGPS!

**P4 Subject-Based Banding Briefing  
and  
Parent-Child-Teacher Conference  
14 April 2018**



**Empowered Learners,  
Persons of Strength and Character**

# Agenda



- Principal's Address
- Briefing on Subject-Based Banding (SBB)



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# Principal's Address

## Mrs Celine Ng



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# Special Programmes for P4



- P4 Camp (in July)
- Education and Career Guidance Learning Journey
- English Literature – Charlotte’s Web Play
- Learning Journey to NEWater Scientist
- Curriculum Experience and Speech and Award Day
- Project Work – Introduction to Micro:Bit Coding

Details on these activities will be disseminated in due course.





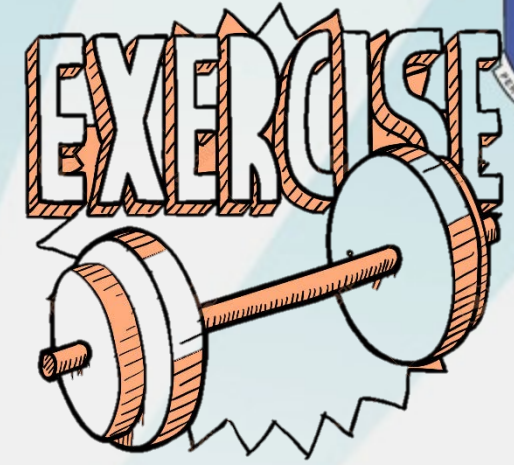
# How can Parents Help?



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# How can Parents Help?

- Healthy Lifestyle
  - ✓ Eat Right
  - ✓ Exercise
  - ✓ Enough Rest



- Healthy Pursuits
  - ✓ Develop hobbies
  - ✓ Develop Good Habits



# How can Parents Help?



- Regular School Attendance
- Good Breakfast Daily
- Conducive Place to Study
- Monitor Your Child's Homework, Revision and Progress
- Monitor Your Child's After School Activities
- Reasonable Internet and Mobile Device Use
- Encouragement



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# How can Parents Help?

## Close Home-School Partnership

- ✓ Communicate via Student Handbook, Email, Face-to-face
- ✓ Connect with what your child is learning







# Briefing for P4 Parents 2018

## Subject-Based Banding (SBB)



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# Outline of Briefing



- ✓ Introduction to SBB

- ✓ Rationale of SBB

- ✓ What SBB means for your child

- Foundation vs Standard Subjects

- SBB Process

- SBB Subject Combinations

- Impact on Progression to Sec School

- Timeline

- Frequently Asked Questions



# Introduction to SBB

✓ First introduced in 2008 to the then-P5 students.

Catering to Your Child's Abilities

**SUBJECT-BASED BANDING**

For Primary Schools

✓ Aims to help each child realise his potential, based on the child's needs and strengths

✓ Refinement to the streaming process (Merged/ EM3 streams)

✓ Instead of being put into the Merged/ EM3 streams, your child can now offer a combination of standard and foundation subjects



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# Rationale of SBB



- ✓ **Every child is unique**, and has different aptitudes, capabilities and talents.
  - Provide balanced education that caters to the different abilities of each child.
  - Help each child realise his potential, based on his strengths and needs.

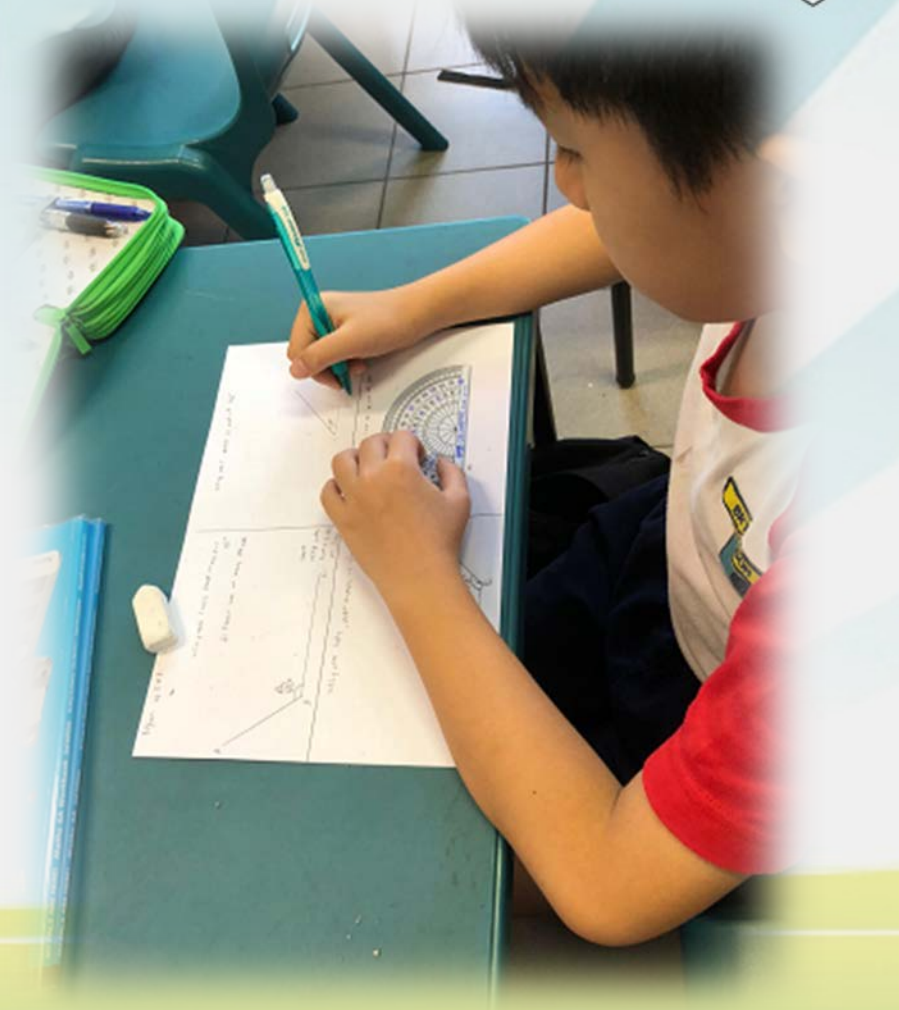


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# What It Means for Your Child

## ✓ Greater flexibility

- option of a combination of **standard and foundation subjects**, based on their strengths.
- ✓ **Allow your child to focus on and stretch potential in the subjects that he/ she is strong in** while building up the fundamentals in the subjects that your child needs more support in.

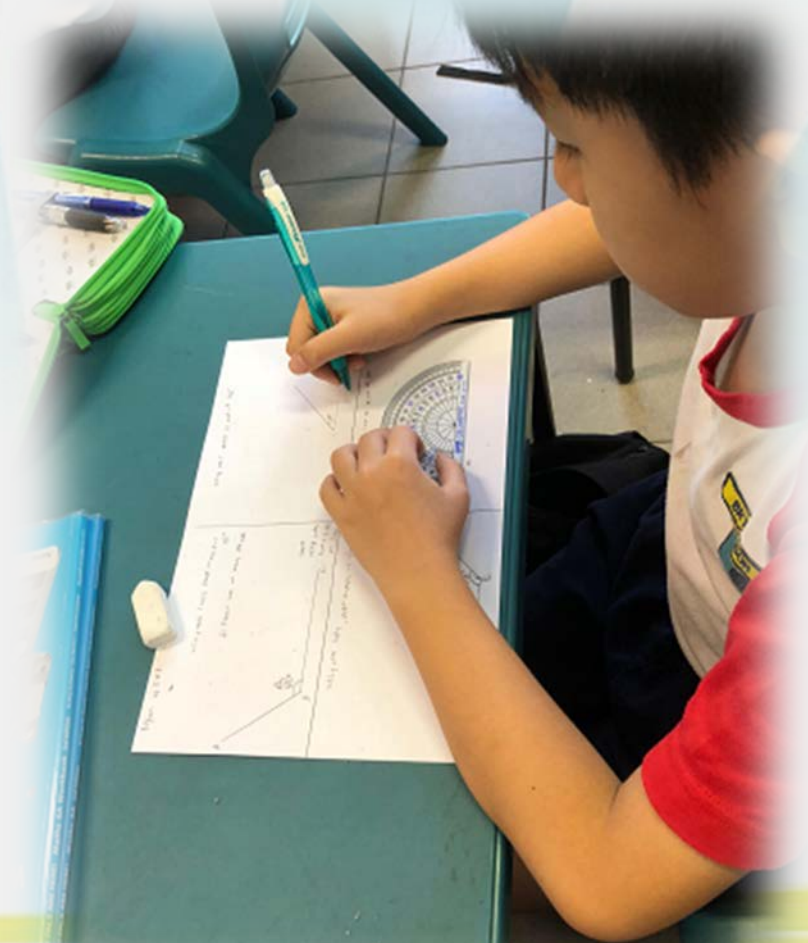


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# What It Means for Your Child



- E.g. If your child excels in English, Mother Tongue and Mathematics, but needs more support in Science, he/ she may choose to take the first three subjects at the **standard** and the other at the **foundation**.



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# Foundation- vs Standard-level Subjects

Foundation-level subjects cover **lesser content** than Standard-level subjects.

- **Less demanding** than Standard-level subjects
  - In terms of duration of paper, total marks of paper, format of exam paper, level of difficulty of questions
  - For e.g. Foundation Science – 70marks, 1h 15min  
Standard Science – 100 marks, 1h 45 min
- For more details, please visit the SEAB website:
  - <https://www.seab.gov.sg/pages/nationalExaminations/PSLE/syllabuses>



# SBB Process

## @ Primary 4

- Your child sits for school-based examinations
- School recommends a subject combination based on your child's results
- **Parents** complete an option form indicating preferred combination

## @ Primary 5

- Your child takes subject combination chosen
- **School** assesses child's ability to cope with the combination at the end of the P5 year.
- Adjustments to be made, if necessary

## @ Primary 6

- Your child takes subject combination **decided by the school** and sits for the PSLE at the end of P6



# SBB Subject Combination

## Weightage for CA1, SA1, CA2, SA2

- CA1 – 10%
- SA1 – 20%
- CA2 – 20%
- SA2 – 50%



- Overall – 100%

# SBB Subject Combination

## Selection Criteria (based on P4 Overall Results)

- Pass all 4 subjects and performs very well in Mother Tongue Language

Your child may be recommended to take

## 4 Standard Subjects + Higher Mother Tongue Language

- Standard English
- Standard Mathematics
- Standard Science
- Standard Mother Tongue
- Higher Mother Tongue



# SBB Subject Combinations

## Selection Criteria (based on P4 Overall Results)

- Pass all 4 subjects
- Pass 3 subjects
- Pass 2 subjects or less\*

## Your child may be recommended to take

### 4 Standard Subjects

- Standard English
- Standard Mathematics
- Standard Science
- Standard Mother Tongue



# SBB Process

## @ Primary 4

- Your child sits for school-based examinations
- School recommends a subject combination based on child's results
- **Parents** complete an option form indicating preferred combination

## @ Primary 5

- Your child takes subject combination chosen
- **School** assesses child's ability to cope with the combination at the end of the P5 year.
- Adjustments to be made, if necessary

## @ Primary 6

- Your child takes subject combi **decided by the school** and sits for the PSLE at the end of P6

# At the End of P5 Year..

**Student takes a subject combination determined by the school**  
**End of P5**

Students who do very well



- Continue with the same subject combination in P6



Students who do not meet expectations



- Switch some subjects to foundation level in P6
- Drop Higher Mother Tongue subject in P6



All other students



- Continue with the same subject combination in P6



Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE)

# Impact on Progression to Secondary School

- Progression to Secondary Level is dependent on the **aggregate PSLE T-Score**.
  - The different expectations of standard and foundation subjects will be taken into account when the PSLE Score is calculated.
  - If your child excels in his subjects, he/ she will have the opportunity to pursue higher-level options at the secondary level.
- Offering subjects at the foundation level is **not** a disadvantage, as he/ she will be able to **focus** and **build on areas of strengths** while working on the foundation of the weaker subjects.

# Timeline to Note



Dates	Activity/ Event to Note	Remarks
8 Oct – 11 Oct	SA2 Oral / Listening Comprehension Exams	Letter will be issued to parents
22 Oct - 26 Oct	SA2 Main Papers	
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Week of Nov (estimated)	Exercise of Option	Dates to be confirmed. Parents will be updated in due course.



# Frequently Asked Questions

1. How does the school decide which subject combination to offer a child?

- Feedback is sought from all subject teachers before the Form Teacher makes a recommendation, taking into account your child's **aptitudes and abilities**. Following which, the Year Head and Schools Leaders would endorse the recommended subject combination.





# Frequently Asked Questions



2. Is the selection criteria for the various different subject combinations standard across all schools?

- Yes, the selection criteria is similar across all primary schools.



# Frequently Asked Questions

3. Will my child be disadvantaged if he/ she offers Foundation subject(s)?

- Offering subjects at the foundation level is not a disadvantage to your child.
- Your child will be able to focus on building up strong fundamentals in these subjects and better prepare him for progression to secondary school.
- If your child excels in the subject(s), he/ she will have the opportunity to pursue higher-level options in the secondary school.



# Frequently Asked Questions



4. How can my child qualify for Higher Mother Tongue in P5?

- Your child must achieve at least 80% for MTL and the other 3 subjects. Qualification is also based on teacher's recommendation.



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# Frequently Asked Questions

5. Can I choose to change the subject combination after SA1 in P5?

No. Any changes can only be made on the school's recommendation at the end of P5 year, but not after SA1.

One semester is too short a time to determine if the child can or cannot manage a particular subject combination. Parents will be engaged in conversations to ensure that the child is taking a combination best suited for him/ her.



# Frequently Asked Questions

6. Does it mean that my child would not be able to progress to the Express stream if he/ she offers one or more foundation subjects?

- No. Progression to secondary school and the various streams is dependent on the PSLE aggregate T-score, not the subject combination the student offers.



# Frequently Asked Questions

7. Are all schools required to offer all permutations of subject combinations? Why is BGPS's list of combinations different from another primary schools?

- Schools may exercise some flexibility in the subject combinations offered, according to the needs of the students and the constraints of the school.
- It may not be viable to offer all permutations of the subject combinations, as demand for them may vary.



# For further information..

For further information on SBB, please:

- Visit the MOE Website at –  
[www.moe.gov.sg/education/primary](http://www.moe.gov.sg/education/primary)
- Contact your child's Form Teacher, or the Year Head for further clarification.





# Thank you



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