



KUO CHUAN PRESBYTERIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL

10, Bishan St 13, Singapore 579795

Tel: 62593811 Fax: 63536535

29 December 2023

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Rooted in Faith, Enduring for Good

We give thanks to the Lord for an exciting year ahead for KCPSS. The wider KCP community will gather in Thanksgiving and celebration, as we mark 100 years of God's faithfulness in our KCP schools, and open a fresh chapter in our mission and history. The Centennial theme of Rooted in Faith, Enduring for Good, is a call to our community to rally around #TeamKCP and for us to shine our light, as a School on a Hill, for all.



As parents, I am sure you are keen to learn more about how our KCPSS curriculum will bring out the best in your child. One of the most visible ways this will happen is through a rejuvenated House system, where each KCPian will have a chance to play, learn and grow with schoolmates in one of 5 Houses: **Atherton**, **Dryburgh**, **Richardson**, **Lee** and **Sirkett**. These Houses are grounded in history and heritage, as they are named after iconic Principals of our school, and are aligned with the Houses in KCPSS, allowing for a seamless experience for our KCPians who join us through affiliation. From January, we will weave House experiences into your child's learning, and we look forward to the official launch of the House system at our Founders' Day in May.

Beyond a strong sense of identity, opportunities for peer relationships and learning, we are also anchoring our curriculum in strong fundamentals for teaching, learning and student well-being. From the start of the year, we will be strengthening school and learning routines to deepen consistency and clarity in the way students are expected to engage in learning at all times, including during Blended Learning. We seek your support to encourage your child to have a clear **focus** in their learning tasks, to exercise **compassion** in all their relationships, and to seek to **do good** in all their experiences and opportunities in school. When we speak with one voice in support of their healthy and sustained learning, we provide for our students the gift of a conducive and safe learning environment.



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In addition, the smooth implementation of FSBB has been made possible with the strong support of stakeholders like yourself. Thank you for your strong commitment to providing the best for your child, and for your patience and understanding as we transit into a more holistic and inclusive approach for our national curriculum. It is with God's provision and grace that our students have had a positive experience, with good academic and learning outcomes, and nourished by the deep family and spiritual support from you and our Chaplaincy.

As a school, we also look forward to a renewal of a number of partnerships and programmes that will provide a variety of learning opportunities for your child. We were blessed to commence our internationalisation trips in 2023 with a BB/GB trip to Cambodia, and we look forward to embarking on more trips this year. Our Centennial celebrations will also bring together generations of KCPians, connecting our current KCPians to their alumni, through a combined Centennial Sports Day for both KCP schools, a Founders' Day gala dinner, and a Centennial Musical. Brief details are in this letter, and more will be shared about these celebrations in the weeks to come. I am certain that you will find great joy at being able to be present at, and to participate in, these events.

With God at the centre of our all that we do in KCPSS, and with your presence and support in all aspects of our school and curriculum, I am certain that we will lack for nothing, as in Psalm 23:1: "The Lord is my shepherd; I lack nothing."

Enjoy this blessed Christmas season, and a Happy New Year to one and all. To God be the Glory!

Mr Justin Tan
Principal

justin_tan@schools.gov.sg





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School calendar updates

1. The key dates and details for Term 1 are as follows.

Date	Level	Event	Remarks
Tue 2 Jan	Sec 1-5	First Day of School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students are to report to school in their School Blue Polo T-shirt and school bottoms. Flag raising will start at 7.30am. Dismissal for all levels will be at 1pm.
Tue 2 Jan to Fri 5 Jan	Sec 1	Orientation Programme	Parents can refer to details in the letter sent out via Parents Gateway (PG) on 21 Dec 23.
Wed 3 Jan	Sec 2	Orientation Programme	Details will be sent separately to Sec 2 parents via PG.
Thu 4 Jan	Sec 3	Orientation Programme	Details will be sent separately to Sec 3 parents via PG.
Thu 4 Jan	Sec 4&5	Poly Open House	Details will be sent separately to Sec 4&5 parents via PG.
Fri 5 Jan	Sec 1	CCA Open House Parent Engagement Session	Please refer to details in the letter sent out via PG on 21 Dec 23.
Tue 9 Jan Fri 12 Jan	Sec 1	CCA Try Out Sessions	Students get to experience the CCA of their interests to help them make an informed CCA choice. Details will be shared with Sec 1 students at the CCA Open House.
Wed 10 Jan	All students	Temperature Taking Exercise	All students are expected to bring along their thermometer for this exercise
Thu 11 Jan to Mon 15 Jan	2023 Sec 4&5	2023 GCE O Level Results Release	Details will be provided when the date is announced.
Mon 15 Jan to Wed 17 Jan	Sec 1	Sec 1 Outdoor Adventure and Leadership Camp	Webinar for Parents on Sec 1 Camp Briefing is on Mon, 8 Jan 24, 6-7pm. Details will be sent separately to Sec 1 parents via PG.
Thu 18 Jan	All	Commencement of Blended Learning (BL)	Details and schedule of BL is provided below.
Fri 9 Feb	All students	CNY Concert Celebration	School will be dismissed at 1030am.
Mon 12 Feb to Tue 13 Feb	All students	Chinese New Year (Public/Sch Holiday)	School resumes on Wed 14 Feb.
Thu 15 Feb	All students	Commemoration of Total Defence Day (TDD)	Activities in Commemoration of TDD will be conducted during curriculum time.



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Date	Level	Event	Remarks
Fri 8 Mar	All students	Centennial Celebration 2024: KCPS Centennial Sports Day	Details are provided below.

KCPS Centennial 2024: Rooted in Faith, Enduring for Good

2. 2024 marks a special year for Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Schools. Both schools (KCPPS and KCPSS) will be commemorating our Centennial Celebration with the theme of **Rooted in Faith, Enduring for Good**. In honouring the school's strong heritage for the past 100 years in nurturing generations of KCPians, we will be organizing the Centennial Celebration events for students and parents as follows.

Date	Celebration Event	Description of events
Fri 8 Mar	KCPS Centennial Sports Day	In honouring our past, the event will kickstart with a relay from the school's original site of Katong Girls' School in Joo Chiat, culminating to the ceremonial lighting of a flame in KCPS at the Bishan site. This will be followed by concurrent sports day activities for students and parents of KCPSS and KCPPS.
Fri 17 May	Centennial Founders' Day Gala Dinner	The school will be celebrating our 100 th Founders' Day at the Shangri-La Hotel, with Minister for Education, Mr Chan Chun Sing, as our Guest of Honour.
Sat 13 July	Centennial Musical	As part of celebrating the diverse talents of our students, this event will be a production involving the student performing groups and the talented KCPians. It will be held at the St Andrew's Cultural Centre. More details on ticketing will be released later. Please look out for the details.



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In Conversation with the Principal

3. Our annual engagement sessions with parents/guardians are an opportunity for you to better understand our school curriculum and key learning experiences planned for your child/ward through the conversation with the Principal and the staff. You are invited to attend these "In Conversation with Principal" sessions for each level as shown in the table below.

Date	Invitation to	Remarks
Fri 5 Jan	Sec 1 parents/guardians	For Sec 1 parents who have yet to register your attendance, you may wish to do so via this link : https://go.gov.sg/s1-parentengagement-5jan24
Fri 2 Feb	Sec 4 & 5 parents/guardians	The registration link will be sent closer to date via PG.
Fri 16 Feb	Sec 2 parents/guardians	
Fri 23 Feb	Sec 3 parents/guardians	

Timetable 2024

4. With FSBB and in response to feedback, we have enhanced our school calendar for 2024 to allow for a better spread of curriculum time for subjects across the year. Improvements for 2024 include

- a. An odd and even week timetable with 30 min periods, so that there will be less uneven curriculum time across the year
- b. A 40 min recess break for all students; for students with a recess/lunch break at 11:20am, snack breaks between lessons will be allowed as needed.
- c. Introduction of curriculum whitespaces for some classes, to allow students time to rest and engage in self-directed learning

5. We will continue to have a late day on Tuesday, with students reporting at 8:30am, unless otherwise specified. The timetable will be disseminated by your child/ward's form teacher via PG.



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Blended Learning

6. Since 2022, Blended Learning (BL) has become an integral part of the school's curriculum. On these days, students are to be self-directed in their learning through the home-based activities in alignment to their timetable. In monitoring student wellbeing and progress, form teachers will check in with students online at the start of Blended Learning Day before the students proceed into their self-directed learning activities.

7. BL will commence on designated dates in each term. For Term 1, there will be 4 designated dates for BL as shown in the table below.

Term 1	Date
Week 3	Thu 18 Jan
Week 5	Thu 1 Feb
Week 8	Thu 22 Feb
Week 10	Thu 7 Mar

8. The schedules for the other terms will be provided via PG to parents/guardians at later date. School will remain open for students who need the additional support to return to utilize the learning space for their learning during BL days.

Handphone Locker Policy

9. In developing our students towards positive learning habits and to facilitate a conducive learning environment during curriculum time, the school will be implementing a Handphone Locker Policy in 2024. The policy is drawn up based on the feedback provided by the parents and students during the pilot period in 2023.

10. The policy includes the following guidelines.

- (a) All handphones would be kept in secured lockers within the classroom at the start of each school day until the last curriculum period. Students are discouraged from wearing smart watches, as this policy will also apply to such devices and they will be kept in the locker. Approved step trackers or watches used for contactless payment are excluded. Please consult your child's FT.
- (b) Students will continue to use their Personal Learning Devices (i.e. iPads) for learning (see 'Use of Digital Devices for Learning'), and are expected to bring the fully-charged device to school each day.
- (c) KCPIans who are found in possession of or have misused their handphones or smart watches during curriculum hours will have their devices confiscated. Parents/Guardians will be notified, and the devices will be securely stored in the General Office. More information on return of confiscated handphones may be found in the Student Handbook, which will be available in a digital form online and via your child's iPad.



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11. Parents/Guardians may call the General Office at 6259 3811 to contact their child/ward during curriculum hours.

Use of Digital Devices for Learning

12. The iPad is a key digital device for learning in KCPSS, it is important that clear boundaries and expectations be set for the use of their iPad for learning, both in and out of school. Within school, teachers will guide students to be responsible and balanced in their use of their iPad, with an emphasis on accountability and a focus on meaningful learning.

13. Specifically, students are to keep their iPads in their bags except for use in educational activities, or at designated areas during breaks or after school hours. The school will support students by reinforcing such habits through progressive measures, which may include limiting access to digital apps, or safekeeping devices where appropriate.

14. We seek your support to reinforce these expectations with your child. Our student handbook, which will be distributed to students digitally in the coming week, has a section on the acceptable use of digital devices. Do have a conversation with your child about such use, especially out of school. If you wish to clarify any of our expectations or need support, please do not hesitate to reach out your child's Form Teachers.

Safe Environment for Learning

15. We seek parents' support to keep schools a safe environment for students.

16. If your child is unwell, please ensure that he/she stays at home and seeks medical attention if necessary. If your child is recovering from respiratory-related illnesses, please encourage him/her to exercise social responsibility (e.g., by wearing a mask, minimizing social interactions with big groups).

17. We appreciate your support and will continue to work with you closely. Let us all do our part to exercise personal and social responsibility and stay safe.

Traffic Safety

18. For parents who are fetching your children to school, please observe traffic safety rules as you drop off your child. At the foyer, do ensure that your child alights from the vehicle on the left side to allow for a safer and smoother traffic flow. Please refrain from overtaking any stationary cars.

19. Please do not stop along the road outside of school in both directions, as this poses an accident risk and creates congestion. There are also many cyclists, joggers, staff and students in our school vicinity, so please be observant and mindful of their presence. We appreciate your cooperation with our staff, who work tirelessly at directing traffic to ensure our children's safety.



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Revised pricing of canteen food

20. Every year, KCPSS reviews our canteen menu to ensure that the food is nutritious, tasty and meets student needs. We are pleased to announce that in Jan 2024, there will be an improvement in the range of items available in the canteen, with at least one affordable item on the menu. We will continue to provide the halal sandwich vending machine in addition to the existing canteen stalls.

21. Given the rising cost of ingredients, utilities and business costs (e.g. 9% GST) and in ensuring our canteen vendors can run their business sustainably, we have allowed an increase in canteen food prices in Jan 2024, with the average cost of a meal rising from \$3.20 to \$3.40.

22. We thank you for your support to ensure that our school community can continue to be blessed with a variety of good food during school days.

Group Personal Accident (GPA) Insurance

23. As part of our duty of care, students in Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School are covered under the Group Personal Accident (GPA) Insurance for accidents, should there be any. Please see the attached 2024 factsheet for the MOE GPA Insurance Plan for Students. This factsheet provides key details about coverage, benefits and the process for making claims. Please read it carefully and keep a copy accessible as a reference.
