

Primary 4 to 6 Parents' Connection Session – Question & Answer Segment

We would like to thank all parents for your participation in the Primary Four to Six Parents' Connection Session on 17 February 2023. Please refer to the responses for the questions that were surfaced by parents during the session. The questions are categorized by topics for ease of reference.

A. P4 to P6 Level Matters

Q: What is/are the safety measures for water activity like kayaking for the P5 camp?

There is a comprehensive safety measure by MOE where the school needs to follow closely on the compliance checklist in order for us to carry out the programme/activity. For kayaking, some of the basic guidelines are all participants must wear a personal floatation devices, participants are to pass the water confidence test and the ratio is 10 participants to 1 qualified instructor.

The school will take into consideration all factors including weather before we proceed with the different activities in the camp. The camp runs on the principle of Challenge by Choice. In the event, if any student is uncomfortable with any activity, he/she can inform any teacher/instructor and they will have a dialogue with the student about his/her concerns, empowering the student to choose whether to participate in the activity.

Q: How will the class allocation be done from P4 to P5?

Class allocation at the end of P4 is done based on the following criteria:

- (1) Subject combination - foundation or standard subjects offered
- (2) Non-academic considerations such as dynamics of students
- (3) Learning pace of the students.

The school also considers the gender composition of the classes to ensure a good balance and distribution in each class.

Q: How does JSA (Junior Sports Academy) contribute to a student's P4 and P5 result? Will this contribute and be part of CCA?

The JSA programme is part of our provision for primary school students with higher abilities in the physical domain. It provides opportunities for these students to participate and learn about various sports while discovering their sporting strength and interests.

You can assess the following link for more information <https://www.moe.gov.sg/education-in-sg/our-programmes/junior-sports-academy>

B. Curriculum Matters

Q: What is the sequence of the topics taught for Mathematics and Science? This information will help me to support my child at home. Since there is no Mid-Year examination, is there a schedule for topical tests or weighted assessments? If yes, can we get the schedule so that we can support them at home?

For Primary 5, the schedule and topics for weighted assessments were sent out via Parents Gateway (PG) on 19 January 2023.

For Primary 6, there are no weighted examinations except preliminary examination. Information were sent out on Parents Gateway (PG) on 3 Feb 2023.

Q: Is there CA1 exam for P5 students?

Aligned with MOE on the removal of exam, the school will have more time to design and provide a variety of learning experiences for the students. Students enjoy more opportunities to discover their interests and strengths, as well as to act on teachers' feedback. Hence inculcating a joy of learning in our students.

There is no formal CA for the P5. However, there will be termly review conducted to monitor students' learning. Details of the termly reviews for Term 1 has been disseminated via Parents Gateway. Parents can also check in with the FT if you have not received the information.

Q: How can we help our child improve in English Language?

The specific strategies that can be used to improve one's English can be summarised with 2 As - Acquire and Apply.

Acquire refers to obtaining the necessary knowledge and skills required to manage the language. Vocabulary can be acquired through reading more. Parents can provide their child with opportunities to read widely. Thinking skills need to be acquired so that the child has the appropriate tools to use when reading a text.

Apply will require the parents to play a bigger role in their child's learning. First, parents can remind your child to apply the strategies they have learnt in school. If they are completing a piece of work, ask them to make their thinking visible through annotation, as you are monitoring their work. For speaking, provide them with opportunities to share their thoughts and also encourage them to elaborate on them. It is important that the children are not afraid of making mistakes when it comes to using the language. If they are fearful of making errors, they will not want to practise and it is less

likely for them to show improvement. It is important to help the students develop the willingness to try and learn from their mistakes, be it speaking or writing.

Q: How can parents help their children to learn better with challenging topics in Science?

Challenging topics in Science are usually topics that include abstract concepts that the children cannot see. Matter, Light and Heat are some examples of abstract topics that the children may find more challenging than the others. For example, children cannot see heat but can see the effects or are able to experience it. Hence explaining these concepts is more challenging for the children.

Common strategies that parents can use at home to help their children master the concepts include the following:

- 1) Encourage children to read widely. Start with the textbook and progressively read beyond the textbook. Read non-fiction books on the topics that children find difficult to understand.
- 2) Engage children in conversations about concepts they have learnt. Encourage them to explain the concepts using the correct scientific terms.
- 3) Create opportunities for them to try simple science experiments at home and use authentic contexts to learn about concepts. For example, get them to create big shadows and ask them to explain how they have done it. When cooking, parents can ask their children to explain science concepts on heat loss and heat gain.
- 4) Children can watch documentaries and experiments related to abstract concepts on online videos.

Q: With the removal of all the Mid-Year Examinations, how is assessment done in the school?

Assessment is an on-going process which is integral to teaching and learning. Our teachers provide both qualitative and quantitative feedback to children on the learning progress throughout the year, based on daily work as well as weighted assessments.

Building on the national level efforts to move away from an over-emphasis on academic results, our school has done away with the Mid-Year Examination for all levels. Instead, there will be Termly reviews and the school-based assessment will free up time and space which the school will leverage to deepen pupils' learning and strengthen holistic development.

Do check your Parents Gateway for more details on the assessment plans and topics covered for each review in 2023.

Q: For assessment, what is the difference between Termly Review and End-of-Year Examination?

Termly review and End-of-Year Examination serve similar purposes which is to find out how the child has progress in his / her learning. We can identify the strengths and learning gaps of the students through the Termly review and End-of-Year Examination. This is to better allow the teachers to support our students in their learning.

For Termly Review, it is a bite-sized practice that comprises one or a few components. But for End-of-Year Examination, the child will be tested on concepts and skills that they have learnt the for whole year and some may even include previous years' topics too.

Q: Can my child drop Higher Mother Tongue at P5 or P6?

Do note that your child is taking HMT because teachers at P4 level have seen your child's potential to cope or even do well in the subject. However, if your child is struggling in the subject, please work closely with the subject teacher to find out the weak areas. We should be able to support your child by sharing strategies with you. After discussing the matter with your child and should you still decide to drop HMT, you can write in officially to your child's MT teacher to request for a drop in the HMT and we will advise you accordingly.

Q: How does the school decide when to offer Higher Mother Tongue to the P4 students at the end of the year?

At the end of P4, the school will recommend the subject combination that is most suitable for the students. Higher Mother Tongue is recommended if the student is performing very well in the Mother Tongue Language and maintaining a good performance for all other subjects as well.

C. PSLE

Q: Can Prelim Exam serve as a benchmark and prediction of the students' PSLE result? How should we use the result from Prelim Exam as an estimate of students PSLE?

Prelim exam provides a platform for students to apply skills and concepts learnt.

Prelim exam can be served as a benchmark to a certain extent. But, it does not mean how a student fared the prelim exam will definitely be how he/she will perform in the PSLE. We have had students who did better for the PSLE and also those who did worse. Parents should note that there are many contributing factors that will affect a child's performance during PSLE itself.

The purpose of the prelim exam is to allow your child to understand where he/she is at and what else he/she needs to work on. Regardless of the outcome of the prelim exam, it is important for your child to continue to put in effort to prepare for the PSLE. At the same time, help your child to also see PSLE as a positive experience so that he/she can be in the best mental state during the PSLE.

Q: What happens if the child is Covid positive during one of PSLE papers? Will the child be allowed to retake the paper?

Similar to previous years, candidates who miss any national examination paper(s) with valid reasons (including COVID-19, medical leave or compassionate reasons) can apply for special consideration. There is no arrangement for a make-up PSLE paper except for PSLE oral. Special consideration is a well-established procedure which awards candidates with projected grades through a fair and rigorous evidence-based methodology. In awarding a grade for these affected candidates, Singapore Examination Assessment Board (SEAB) will consider multiple sources of data, such as the candidate's performance in the other papers for that affected subject in national and school-based examinations as well as the school cohort's performance in national and school-based examinations, to ensure a fair assessment for all candidates.

Q: For Mother Tongue Language exempted students. How does the PSLE MT score calculated?

For students exempted from MT, a projected score of 6, 7 or 8 will be given to the student by SEAB. Schools do not have control over the outcome.

D. Direct School Admission (DSA)

Q: How can I help my child prepare for the DSA interview?

Direct School Admission refers to P6 students seeking admission to certain secondary schools based on their talent in sports, CCAs, leadership and specific academic areas. DSA usually open for registration during May/June. You can find out more details from MOE DSA website.

Regarding preparation for DSA interview, we do provide the students with pointers and tips on what to look out for. Encourage your child to read up on the school he/she is applying for. Generate some interview questions and prepare your child in answering them. Make sure your child is relaxed and well rested the night before the interview.

The school also invites alumni or ex-students who have gone through DSA to share their experiences, success factors and tips with their juniors. Parents are encouraged to go for open houses by the secondary school to find out more about the school and the DSA area that they are applying for.

The school will be organizing a e-DSA briefing for parents on 28 April. More details will be sent out on a later date via Parents Gateway.