



27 December 2024

# Principal's Letter to Parents

## *Term 1, 2025*

Dear Parents/Guardians

A new school year will start next week! I am looking forward to a new year of learning, adventure and growth with my colleagues, friends, and most importantly, our PL-Lites and their families. And to the parents/guardians of our new Secondary 1 cohort, a very warm welcome to our PL family!

For the first few days of school, we will be spending time getting to know each other, developing a routine, and working on building trust. This is in line with our 2025 Year Theme "A Friend Of All". All relationships take time and effort. Good relationships will help our girls feel a greater sense of belonging and connection to the school. When our girls feel they are part of a community at school, they are more likely to engage in positive ways at school and learning.

At the start and end of each term, you will receive a letter from me which highlights key announcements, school programmes and initiatives.

### **1. Thanksgiving**

We are very thankful that our 2024 N-Level PL-Lites have been blessed with excellent outcomes once again. The girls attained good improvement. We thank our parents/guardians for their unwavering support and the teachers who journeyed alongside the girls. Do refer to the school website for a breakdown of the N-Level achievements. We continue to pray that our graduated girls will choose their post-secondary pathways wisely and move on confidently to pursue their aspirations.

PL(Sec) 2024 N-Level results

URL: <https://www.plmgss.moe.edu.sg/accolades/national-examinations/gce-n-level-2024/>

### **2. 2025 Year and Term Themes**

Our 2025 Year Theme 'A Friend Of All' is inspired by our School Creed,

#### Stanza 2

I would be friend of all, the foe, the friendless  
I would be giving and forget the gift  
I would be humble for I know my weakness  
I would look up and love and laugh and lift.

We also have a Theme verse to support and anchor our Theme for the year:

*“A friend loves at all times.”*

Proverbs 17:17a [NIV]

Our school and assembly programmes are also anchored on the following term themes and monthly focus. They seek to inspire our girls to build positive character in their pursuit of a purposeful life, making a difference for themselves and others.

Term Theme	Month	Focus for the Month
A friend who grows in wisdom and stature	January	I can be my best self because I am fearfully and wonderfully made!
	February	Grow in wisdom and stature
	March	Grow in favour with God and Man
A friend who loves all	April	Love with <b>H.E.A.R.T.</b> (Honouring one another, encouraging one another to pursue Excellence)
	May/June	Love with <b>H.E.A.R.T.</b> (Adapting to differences, Respecting one another and giving Thanks for one another)
A friend who serves	July	Serve in every way
	August	Serve faithfully
	September	Serve and be a beacon
A friend who will “Look up, Lift up”	October	Look up to God
	November/December	Lift up our praises

### 3. 2025 School Terms and Holidays

Please refer to the following URL for 2024 School Terms and Holidays:

<https://www.moe.gov.sg/news/press-releases/20240812-school-terms-and-holidays-for-2025>

### 4. Highlights of Key School Events

The following are highlights of our school’s key programmes in Term 1, 2025.

Term Theme	Month Focus	Dates	Key Events
A friend who grows in wisdom and stature	I can be my best self because I am fearfully and wonderfully made!	2 – 7 Jan (Thur – Tue)	START Right Programme Highlights include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sec 1 iDiscover Orientation Programme</li> <li>• Sec 2 Learning Journeys to URA, HDB, LTA; Aspiring to Lead &amp; Make a Difference Workshop</li> <li>• Sec 3 Building Bridges &amp; Friendship; Lead, Serve &amp; Influence Workshop</li> <li>• Sec 4/5 Happiness Initiative Workshop, Knowing Me &amp; Striving to Grow / Goals in Action</li> </ul>

Grow in wisdom and stature	8 Jan (Wed)	2025 CCA Fair (for Sec 1) (Note: early dismissal for Sec 2-4/5 students who are not involved in CCA Fair.)  Sec 1 Meet-The-Parents Session / Finale Night
	10 – 13 Jan (Fri – Mon)	Exchange Programme and Visit by Kyung Hee Girls' High School (South Korea)
	10 - 14 Jan (Fri – Tue)	(Tentative) Release of GCE O Level Results
	17 Jan (Fri)	Sec 3 and 4/5 Meet-The-Parents Session
	20 Jan (Mon)	Start of Sec 1 & 2 HPV Vaccination
	22 Jan (Wed)	National School Games 2025 Opening Ceremony
	23 Jan (Thur)	Sec 4 Biology / Physics Practical Session (PM)
	23 Jan (Thur)	Sec 5 Science Practical Bridging (PM)
	28 Jan (Tue)	Chinese New Year Concert and Celebrations (Note: school dismissal between 10-10.30am to be coordinated with PL (Pri) for staggered dismissal.)
	<b>29 – 30 Jan (Wed – Thur)</b>	<b>Chinese New Year Day 1 and 2 Public Holidays</b>
	5 Feb (Wed)	Start of PL21 2.0 Programme for Sec 1  PL21 2.0 Programme for Sec 1s will take place on Wednesday afternoons from 2.45pm – 4.45pm in Semester 1. Further details will be provided nearer the date.
	5 Feb (Wed)	Sec 4/5 Rehearsal for CNY Carnival for the elderly (PM)
	6 Feb (Thur)	Sec 4 Chemistry Practical Session (PM)
	6 Feb (Thur)	Sec 5 Science Practical Bridging (PM)
	6 Feb (Thur)	Class Committee Leaders' Training – Leadership 601 Module  House Leaders' Training
	6 Feb (Thu)	CNY Carnival
	12 Feb (Wed)	<b>Home-Based Learning (Sec 1 – 3)<sup>1</sup></b>  CNY Carnival for the elderly (Sec 4/5 Faithful-In-Service initiative)
	13 Feb (Thur)	Tea with Year Heads  Start of Active Youth Programme for selected students
	14 Feb (Fri)	Total Defence Day / Friendship Day  CCA commences for Sec 1
	17 Feb (Mon)	Class Committee Appointment Ceremony
	19 – 20 Feb (Wed – Thur)	GCE O Level Nutrition & Food Science Coursework Practical Examination (Part 1)
	24 Feb (Mon)	Start of Mother-Tongue Fortnight Programme

<sup>1</sup> HBL Day is integral of MOE's initiative to nurture self-directed and independent learners as well as develop passionate and intrinsically-motivated learners through a Blended Learning approach. See <https://www.moe.gov.sg/-/media/files/parent-kit/experiencing-blended-learning.pdf> for details. Remaining HBL Day dates for the rest of the year are reflected in the Student Handbook.

Grow in favour with God and Man	26 Feb (Wed)	<b>Home-Based Learning (Sec 2 – 5)</b> Sec 1 – Issuance of Personal Learning Devices in school
	27 Feb (Thur)	Start of GCE N & O Level Examination Registration
	3 Mar (Mon)	Sec 3 NRIC Registration
	6 Mar (Thur)	<b>Home-Based Learning (Sec 1 – 5)</b>
	10 Mar (Mon)	Start of Sec 1 & 2 Health Screening
	13 Mar (Thur)	End-of-Term 1 Thanksgiving Assembly
	14 Mar (Fri)	Combined PL Sports Day with PL Pri (Pri 5 & 6)
	<b>17 – 21 Mar (Mon – Fri)</b>	<b>Term 1 School Holidays</b> (Note: some CCAs may still function on 17 - 21 Mar in order to prepare the girls for national competitions.)

Every Mon morning, 7.30am at SFE Room or 8am via Zoom (starts 6 Jan 2025)	<i>PrayingParents@PL</i> meets every Monday morning either in school (SFE Room) or via Zoom, for a time of prayer and fellowship. If you are interested to join in, please email Mrs Yolanda Gooi at <a href="mailto:yolagooi@gmail.com">yolagooi@gmail.com</a> .
Once a term (likely a Wednesday)	<i>Fathers@School</i> holds its termly bonding session for fathers and their daughters, when possible. Parents will be informed via Parents Gateway (PG) closer to the date of the event. Please sign up for the sessions via PG then.

Please check the school website (<http://plmgss.moe.edu.sg>) for regular updates on the school programmes and other administrative matters. Do also follow us on our Facebook page for the happenings in and around the school (<https://www.facebook.com/PAYALEBARMGS>).

## 5. Student Learning and Development Updates

- i. START Right Programme in Weeks 0-1, Term 1. We begin the new school year with our uniquely-PL START Right Programme in the first few days of school. During this period, we will focus on nurturing positive relationships and establishing positive expectations and routines to support our girls' learning and growth for the rest of the year. Please refer to the START Right Programme PG notification for more details.
- ii. Learning and Assessment. The purpose of schooling is beyond performance and grades alone. We would like to emphasise on learning and personal mastery. On this note, please refer to <https://www.plmgss.moe.edu.sg/instructional-programmes/ip-overview/> for an overview of our instructional programmes, which could help you in your conversations on learning in school with your daughters. Highlights include:
  - Teaching & Learning (T&L) Approach – Curriculum Learning content Assessment Pedagogy Staff, denoted by the acronym **CLAPS**;
  - Homework and Assessment Policies; and
  - Students' Learning Dispositions, or **PEARLS**

**P**resent in body and mind  
**E**njoy the moment  
**A**sk good questions  
**R**eflect  
**L**isten attentively  
**S**omething I learnt today

## 6. Supporting Your Daughter During Transitions and Change

The Sec 1 and Sec 3 years are transitional years that our PL-Lites need to adapt to new schooling experiences, make new friends and explore new leadership opportunities. Our Sec 2 and Sec 4/5 PL-Lites will also experience change and new challenges. We want to inculcate within all our girls the ability to thrive despite challenges.

*Coming back to school after a long break* will not be easy. Some tips from <https://www.healthhub.sg/live-healthy/school-is-back-are-you-ready> and <https://www.moe.gov.sg/-/media/files/parent-kit/parent-kit---a-new-school-season.pdf> are:

- Re-adjust your sleep cycle, e.g. going to bed at a fixed time each night can help child get accustomed to morning routines
- Have a plan/schedule for the next day
- Take time to talk about their concerns over the next few days

*Transition and change for our Sec 1 PL-Lites* will be significant. This resource <https://file.go.gov.sg/pk-readysecondarygo.pdf> suggests how parents can journey alongside our girls as they learn to manage longer days, new friendships, and expect changes in the way they wish adults communicate with them.

*The role of technology and use of personal devices is another challenge* parents face when their daughter/ward progress to secondary school. With the growing role of technology in communication, learning and recreation, how can we support our girls to be 'digitally smart'? This resource <https://www.moe.gov.sg/-/media/files/parent-kit/parent-kit---raising-a-digitally-smart-child.pdf> shows how you can help her practise appropriate device usage, manage over-reliance on devices etc.

## 7. Other Admin Matters

- i. **NEW Time-Table from 2025** – Snack & Lunch Break / CCA Start & End Timings. In August 2024, we shared with the school, including our girls and parents/guardians, our plans for a new time-table structure in 2025. The main benefits of this change include earlier dismissal timings (e.g. by 1.50pm for most lower secondary classes) and longer lunch breaks (from current 35 to at least 40 minutes from 2025).

From 2025, the whole school will have a 20-minute break from 9.50am – 10.10am. Besides taking the opportunity to recharge, PL-Lites can consume dried snacks, simple items from home, or items purchased from the canteen at the start of the day during this break time. The longer lunch break will take place for different classes from 10.50am.

Parents/guardians are advised to review your child/ward's time-table from 3 Jan 2025 to have sight of her school dismissal timing. Majority of CCAs will also end 30 minutes earlier than the current practice (i.e. CCAs to end by 5.30pm from 2025).

- ii. School's Traffic Safety and School Security Arrangement. Our girls' safety is our priority. Please see **Annex – Traffic Safety & School Security Arrangements**, a useful reminder for our current parents/guardians. New parents to PL (Sec) must familiarise yourselves with these practices to ensure safety of all our girls.

On a related note, we seek parents' support to keep schools a safe environment for all our girls. If your child is unwell, please ensure that she stays at home and seeks medical attention if necessary. If your child is recovering from respiratory-related illnesses, please encourage her to exercise personal and social responsibility (e.g. by wearing a mask, minimising social interactions with big groups).

- iii. Guidelines on Parents' Communication with the School. Please see Guidelines on Parents' Communication with the School in our website at <https://www.plmgss.moe.edu.sg/articles/guidelines-on-parents-communication-with-the-school>. Some parents may have received Whatsapp messages from the school. The Whatsapp account was attained to disseminate urgent messages at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. We appeal to parents to call or email the school with your queries, and not expect immediate responses through Whatsapp.

A strong partnership with you will make a significant difference in our PL-Lites' learning and growth. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and I would like you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities. We must also remind and help our PL-Lites learn to take responsibility for their own learning and growth.

I feel privileged to be part of this PL family. Thank you for your continuous support and partnership.

Yours faithfully



Ms Amy Ng  
Principal