



4 May 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Information about the end of FHBL and the Upcoming May School Holidays

Today, on 4 May 2020, we conclude Term 2 and the Full Home-based Learning (FHBL). We had an average of 96% virtual attendance. We also loaned out 54 computing devices to those in need. Through the generous assistance of MOE, the community and our School Advisory Board, we have been able to help many students financially and in meals support in this period. At different times during the FHBL, we also supported some students who needed to come to school to learn while their parents contributed to COVID-19 fight providing essential services. Others came because they needed a more conducive learning environment.

So, thank you for helping your child to adjust to learning from home. We know it must have been as challenging for our students as it has been for our teachers. Certainly the pace of work was very intense, although it was done at home. Thus, we welcome the move to bring forward the June Holidays to May. It will give everyone a chance to recharge and refresh for Semester 2. We hope this will be a meaningful and timely break from routine for your child and the whole family.

A. New dates for the Mid-Year School Holidays (MYSH)

The MYSH starts on 5 May and ends on 1 June 2020. This means Term 3 will begin on 2 June (Tuesday). The details of what this looks like will depend on how well the Circuit Breaker is able to improve the COVID-19 situation in Singapore.

B. Back-to-School Transition Plan for Graduating Students – Sec 4s and 5s during the MYSH

The support plan described here will be implemented based on the assumption that there is a drop in community infections and gradual loosening of the Circuit Breaker. If there is a need to change the plans, we will update you by 17 May 2020, Sunday.

Every year, during the MYSH (which usually took place in June), graduating students return to school for consultations and coaching in Coursework Subjects (e.g. Art, D&T, F&N etc). This year, although the school break is happening in the midst of the Circuit Breaker, we are fortunate to be permitted to invite a small group of Sec 4/5 students to return for additional coaching and consultations with our teachers as they prepare for their national examinations. This is specifically for students who need to use specialised school facilities and equipment for subjects with coursework and practical components (e.g. Science practicals, CPA, ESS and SET). Please note that these special small group sessions are for remediation and coaching, not to learn new content. **(See Annex 1 for the Updated National Exams information)**

Strict Measures

We will continue to observe very strict safe distancing measures as we schedule the selected group of students and staff to come to school during the last two weeks of the Circuit Breaker period. These include:

- Lessons are in well ventilated spaces.
- Everyone wears a mask outside their homes, including during the time anywhere in the school.
- Temperature screening at the gates and temperatures are taken before the start of every lesson.
- Students bring their personal ODTs to take their temperature in school.
- Practice of Wipe Down routine after a space is used.
- Reminders for all to observe high standards of personal hygiene.
- Safe distancing will be enforced throughout the time of students and staff in school.
- There is a fixed schedule to limit the time of all in school and each group is no larger than 20.
- Only students and staff who are well will be allowed to report to school.
- Anyone who has been placed on HQO, LOA, SHN or AA is not allowed to leave home. This group is not allowed in school.

Your Support Is Needed

Note that the teachers will contact you to inform you that your child will be invited to participate in these face-to-face sessions in school. Do give the teachers the support.

C. Advice to Sec 1s to Sec 3s

Our teachers may be setting some homework for your child during the holidays. In planning the tasks to be completed during this period, teachers are sensitive to give a reasonable quantity and that the level of challenge is suitable. The work is expected to be submitted in Term 3, after the school holidays.

During this holidays, we highly encourage your child to reduce screen time on the computer or mobile device. We hope your child will explore other healthy and fun leisure activities, keep active and bond with the family in creative ways.

Our Student Development Team (SDT) has been actively engaging some students through virtual live sessions and remote interactive games and activities.

- Some of these are the Virtual GEARUP Living Room, the YioloYio Live!, the YCKSS Stay Active Challenges, the YCKSS Upbeat Challenge. Parents can find information about these in our Facebook and Instagram postings.
- The school library has also been active in loaning out digital books and materials to students to read.

These have been fun and helped divert the energies of the students. The School will continue to find ways to engage your child through optional activities.

We heard wonderful stories of students who expressed gratitude to their teachers and concern for the teachers' families. We also know about the caring heart of our students through their expressions of gratitude for the unceasing work of the frontline healthcare staff. Not to be outdone, our students who make up the Peer Support Ambassadors have been finding time to post amazing information to guide their peers to take care of themselves. The Student Leaders were also very busy coordinating the virtual Presidential Elections.

We hope our students continue to support one another and reach out to others in the community in wonderfully positive ways. During this period, we also received offers from parents who wondered how they could be of help to other students. We are touched by the role modelling and values you live by.

D. Re-opening Schools in Term 3

The MYSH will end on 1 June and coincides with the last day of the Extended Circuit Breaker. National Development Minister Lawrence Wong, who co-chairs the task force, stressed that it does not mean the entire school system is opening up. He explained that this will be done in a gradual manner from the month of May. Depending on the situation from June, the task force will review how much further schools can open up, and how many more students can return. Schools will be advised by MOE at a later date.

Therefore, we encourage you to stay in touch with the news through official sources. We will continue to post information via Parents Gateway, our School Official Website, and on social media platforms such as our Facebook and Instagram.

E. Financial Assistance (FAS) and Meals Subsidies

MOE has extended the meals subsidies in that the form of School Smartcard top-ups to all Primary and Secondary students from low income families during the school holidays. Secondary students will be receiving \$120 respectively via two top-ups to their School Smartcard, which they can use to purchase food and essential groceries at selected hawker centres, food courts, minimarts, convenience stores and supermarkets. Stalls that accept payment using the School Smartcard will display the EZ-Link logo. **(See attached Annex 2)**

- **MOE FAS students** can redeem the first top up from 5 May to 10 June 2020, while **non-MOE FAS students** can redeem the first top up from 7 May to 10 June 2020.
- **All students on MOE FAS and non-MOE FAS** can redeem the second top-up from 18 May to 10 June 2020. The meal provision must be redeemed by 10 June 2020. There will be no extension of redemption period. **(See the attached Annex 3 for FAQs about redemption of Meals Subsidies.)**

F. If you need further help

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or need to apply for financial assistance or meals subsidies. We will be glad to explore how we can help you.

If you would like to speak to your child's Form Teacher, a subject teacher or any of us, you can reach us at 64560669. Alternatively, you can email us at yckss@moe.edu.sg.

Amidst this dynamic, changing situation, we hope you and your loved ones stay healthy and positive. Please keep safe and stay in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carol Lim', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs Carol Lim, Principal