



Woodlands Ring Secondary School

Responsibility. Respect. Resilience

Our Ref: Parents Comms/2021_01

06 January 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians (Secondary One)

Warm greetings from Woodlands Ring Secondary School once again! 2021, holds much Hope and Possibilities for all of us and we wish the year ahead will be an exciting one for your child/ward as they navigate the new challenge of a new curriculum and school. With us being new to one another, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself briefly and share the school's key areas of focus.

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY

Teaching as a career is by choice and to me, a calling. I see myself as a teacher, a teacher of teachers and students. I therefore strive to help as many students possible to realise their full potential. This is very much aligned with our school's philosophy, "**We believe that each student is unique and whose potential can be maximised so as to contribute selflessly to society.**" I see it as my mission to help our students be the best that he or she can be. And this, I cannot do alone; I will do it with the help of all our teachers.

SCHOOL PRIORITIES FOR 2021

With all the disruptions we faced in 2020, we have also learnt much and there has been much positive outcomes in building resilience, human spirit, connectedness, self-discipline and creative innovation. "Change is the only constant" – Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher said many centuries ago, and this is something that we now have to take in our stride.

This year is a special one for your child/ward as they progress into secondary school and as the school prepares to move to its holding campus. The positive traits that they have learnt thus far, would help them achieve and make more positive outcomes we hope, for the next few years.

We continue to **review and further strengthen our processes and academic programme to maximise the potential** of each WRS student to **learn and achieve**. Since last year, we give an hour for recess and 45 mins for lunch. The purpose of these longer breaks is to provide greater opportunities for students to gain more self-direction and responsibility for their learning. Students can use these breaks to collaborate with peers and consult teachers on curriculum and co-curriculum matters. Curriculum and co-curriculum units will also use the breaks to showcase student talents and develop greater buzz and interest for holistic development. The school assesses students' learning throughout the year with weighted assessment. To check for understanding, teachers conduct class tests during lessons after certain units or modules are taught. More information will be provided later.

We allocate Mondays and Fridays to be CCA days. Wednesdays and Thursdays are specially set aside for teachers to conduct supplementary programmes where necessary. At Woodlands Ring Secondary School, we believe that every student can learn, and can fulfil their academic potential. We are always reflecting on how to engage students purposefully.

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This year is also a special year, as the school prepares to move to its holding campus at the end of this year, while the current campus is refurbished from Year 2022 to 2023 to allow for better learning.

I hope you will work closely with our teachers to monitor your child's/ward's learning progress closely, to ensure that they develop strong study habits, and are coping well with the pace of study. To facilitate our cooperation and for closer partnership, we have included a set of important information for your attention.

The school firmly believes that character education is the cornerstone of an all-embracing education. With our strong culture of **care for students**, **teamwork** and **quality relationships**, we nurture our students to be good persons of character. We build up our students' **confidence, resilience and sense of purpose**. We communicate and set expectations for all staff and students through the school values, the 3As (Attendance, Attire and Attitude) practices and the school tagline 'Through the gates of WRSS, We Walk the BEST'.

To facilitate our cooperation and for closer partnership, we have included a set of important information for your attention.

A. STUDENT HANDBOOK

All students would be issued with the WRS student handbook, in the second week of school. Information such as our school vision, mission, code of conduct, criteria for student progression and CCA grading are available in the handbook.

B. ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMES

Your child/ward will be undergoing various enrichment programmes this year. The key ones are listed below.

1. READING PROGRAMME

Both the English and Mother Tongue departments would be selecting reading materials, especially the reading of newspapers, for the reading programme as part of whole-school approach to raising literacy skills. Cultivating the reading habit is important to the growth of your child/ward, and we hope that parents/guardians would reinforce the message. The language teachers will develop love for reading during lessons.

2. VOYAGE OF THE MIND – CONNECT, COLLABORATE, CREATE

This year, our Secondary 1 students will be involved in an innovative programme that would give them the opportunity to connect concepts that they would be learning in the various subject disciplines, in an authentic setting. To enable them to learn well, we would be doing a profiling, that would help them understand their thinking and behavioural attributes. Do ask them about this when we drop you a message through Parents Gateway and when you meet the teachers.



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Every week for 1 hour, your child/ward would go on an exploration of various challenges and apply what they have learnt.

We look forward to your support in this voyage and we hope that you have great conversations in the evening as they share what they have done!

3. EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING WEEK [Term 2 Week 1]

The school would be running its signature programme of experiential learning (Week X) in Term 2 Week 1 this year. This programme involves leadership development, sports education, cyber wellness awareness and subject-based learning journeys.

C. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. SAFETY MANAGEMENT MEASURES 2021

Even as Singapore moves into phase 3 of the re-opening measures due to the Covid-19 pandemic, vigilance and safe management measures will continue to be vital in 2021. As such, we remain committed to providing a safe environment for learning, and we look forward to continued cooperation of students and parents to keep our school Covid-safe. Please ensure that your child/ward:

- a. Brings a working oral digital thermometer (ODT) with him/her and wears a face mask to school each day. If they do not have a working ODT, they may purchase one from the school bookshop. Secondary 1 students will receive an ODT each from the school in the first week of school.
- b. Practises good personal hygiene e.g. regular hand washing, not touching the face.
- c. Does not come to school if he/she or any adult household member has fever or other flulike symptoms such as cough or sore throat, or if she or any household member is on Quarantine Order/Stay Home Notice/ LOA. [Your child/ward will be asked to return home if they turn up in school despite this.]

The majority of our safe management measures remain unchanged, except that groups of up to 8 are now allowed for activities and during meals, and Co-Curricular Activities can resume their normal schedules. Students will continue to report directly to their classrooms for morning assembly. Staggered dismissal times will continue.

2. CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct for the students is reflected in the **Student Handbook** from **pages 17 - 22**. All students are required to familiarise themselves with this information and adhere to them.



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3. STUDENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

MOE requires schools to cover their students with the basic Student Protection plan. The coverage extends to all school and CCA-related activities and is with immediate effect from Jan – Dec. The cost of this insurance plan is fully borne by the school. The brochure spelling out the details of the policy coverage and benefits as well as the claim procedures is available on our website at <http://www.woodlandsringsec.moe.edu.sg/>. We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that all claims should be submitted to the school **within 1 month of the receipt date**.

Should you have any queries, you might wish to contact our Administration Manager, Mdm Norasheedah, at Tel: 63643712.

4. NATIONAL DIGITAL LITERACY PROGRAMME (NDLP)

As part of the Smart Nation initiative, the National Digital Literacy Programme (NDLP) for our schools and Institutes of Higher Learning, was launched last year. One of the components of the NDLP is the introduction of the Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDLP) for all secondary school students, whereby every secondary school student will own a school-prescribed Personal Learning Device (PLD) by end-2021, to help students strengthen their digital literacy. More information on this will be coming your way via Parents Gateway.

5. COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS / GUARDIANS

To leverage technology, we would like to share relevant school information with parents/guardians through the school website [<http://www.woodlandsringsec.moe.edu.sg/>]. School activities, letters to parents/guardians, test and exam schedules will be available on the website, once we have sent them to you through Parent's Gateway.

If parents/guardians have not updated the school regarding change of address or your contact numbers, you would have to inform us of the change through your child/ward or by sending an email to our school's email address: wrss@moe.edu.sg.

6. SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2021

The key dates in our school calendar, which are of importance to your child/ward, are pencilled in the table in Annex A for your easy reference and planning. The various school events for Semester 1 2021, are correct as of today. You may refer to the school website for any updates.

Finally, my staff and I will do our best to care for every child, and to make their time here a rewarding one. I look forward to working with you to ensure that your child/ward has a successful and enriching year ahead, full of learning, growing and exploring new frontiers.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Ng Siew Bee
Principal



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Annex A

Sec 1 Calendar

Date	Event Description
TERM 1	
Monday, 4 January -Thursday, 7 January	Sec 1 Orientation: Teach The Child Programme
Tuesday, 5 January- Thursday, 7 January	Sec 1 Day Camp and e-CCA Bazaar
Friday, 8 January	Evening with Parents [Online]
Thursday, 11 February	Community Morning- early dismissal at 10.30am
Friday & Saturday, 12-13 February	Chinese New Year Holidays
Monday, 15 February	Chinese New Year School Holidays
Saturday, 13 - Sunday, 21 March	March School Vacation
TERM 2	
Monday, 22 - Friday, 26 March	Experiential Learning Week [Week X]
Friday, 2 April	Good Friday Public Holiday
Monday, 5 April –Friday, 16 April	Weighted Assessment 1
Saturday, 1 May	Labour Day Public Holiday
Monday, 3 May	Labour Day School Holiday
Thursday, 13 May	Hari Raya Haji Public Holiday
Wednesday, 26 May	Vesak Day Public Holiday
Friday, 28 May	Parent Teacher Meeting
Saturday, 29 May – Sunday, 27 June	June School Vacation
TERM 3	
Friday, 02 July	Sports Day
Sunday, 4 July	Youth Day
Monday, 5 July	Youth Day School Holiday
Tuesday, 20 July	Hari Raya Haji Public Holiday
Friday, 6 August	National Day Celebrations - early dismissal at 10.30am
Monday, 9 August	National Day Public Holiday
Tuesday, 10 August	National Day School Holiday
Thursday, 2 September	TASAD Celebrations - early dismissal at 10.30am
Friday, 3 September	Teachers' Day School Holiday
Saturday, 4 – Sunday, 12 September	September School Vacation
TERM 4	
Monday, 27 September – Thursday, 14 October	End-of-year Exams