



St. James' Church Kindergarten

"...where every child matters."

Rainbow Newsletter

From the Principal's desk

Term 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to St. James' Church Kindergarten and Happy New Year! For those whose children have joined us for the first time this year, we would like to extend you a special welcome.

The purpose of these termly newsletters is to communicate level-specific updates and upcoming school events. It has been interesting for me to observe the confidence displayed by the Rainbow children; they have grown in so many ways from their time in Nursery and Pre-Nursery! We are looking forward to how the Rainbow children will grow this year and sharing these updates with you.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or any of your child's teachers. Do call the office to make an appointment and we will be happy to help in any way.

As part of our continual efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle, many of our letters will now be sent to you via email, so do check your email regularly for updates from us.

God bless!

Jacqueline Chung (Dr)
Senior Principal & Academic Director

Alicia Yah (Mrs)
Vice Principal

Term 1 Announcements

1. First days of school

The first few days of school are an exciting time. As parents, be encouraging and positive so that your child will be able to settle in quickly. If your child is new to the school and needs a familiar adult, one adult is allowed to remain with him/her in the classroom for the first 2 days of school. After that, we advise you to drop your child off and make a quick and cheerful exit. We assure you that your child is in good hands and should we feel that your child needs you, we will definitely contact you.

2. Preschool Practicum Centre (PPC)

St. James' Church Kindergarten Preschool Practicum Centre (PPC) receives student teachers from various early childhood educational institutions at different times of the year. Student teachers may be attached to your child's class to observe good teaching practices and issues related to early childhood education. Each class will have only one student teacher at any one time for between 2 - 8 weeks. These student teachers will have designated mentor supervisors overseeing them and they will take the role of a teacher assistant and interact with the children during their practicum.

3. Extended Lunch Menu

Children in Session 2 will now have a 2-week rotating menu. Please refer to the menu attached to the timetable which your child will receive today.

SAVE THE DATE!

Family Day Carnival

Sat 10 March 2018

@ St. James' Church Kindergarten
(Harding campus)

Open to friends and family members of children
in the Kindergarten and alumni. Look out for
more information!

General Information



Term 1 Fees

Due date : **12 January 2018**

Amount : **\$1,412.40 (inclusive of 7% GST)**

- Make cheque payable to **St. James' Church Kindergarten.**
- Write child's name and class at the back of the cheque.
- Please do not send us post-dated cheque.
- Please make payment by **12 January 2018.**

GIRO/Baby Bonus deduction: **12 January 2018**

- Please ensure that there are sufficient funds in the account.
- For unsuccessful deductions, a bank charge of \$5.00 applies.

A late payment fee of \$30.00 (inclusive of GST) is levied each week for outstanding fee after 12 January 2018. Receipts will be issued upon successful deduction of term fees paid via Giro / CDA a/c in week 4.

Payment

Please do not send in large sums of cash through your child whenever a payment has to be made. Should you choose to do so, the school will not be held responsible for any loss.

School Bag & Name Tag

Children should carry their school bag every day. New children will receive their school bags and iron-on name tags within the first week of school. Letters from the school or notes from the teacher will be inserted in the bag, so please check your child's bag daily. When you receive letters from the Kindergarten which require a reply, we would appreciate a prompt response. If your child's old bag is lost or damaged, please get a replacement at \$15.00 each from the office.

All children are required to have the iron-on name tag on the uniform. Please place an order with the office if you need an extra set of name tags.

General Information



Daily Temperature-taking

- Take your child's temperature BEFORE he/she arrives in school.
- Paste sticker (or masking tape) indicating child's temperature on uniform.
- Children with a fever ($\geq 37.5^{\circ}\text{C}$) are to be kept at home.
- If your child exhibits other symptoms of illness (a persistent cough, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhoea, blisters on hand, foot or mouth, or any other symptoms), please do not send your child to school.



Every Friday is Fruit Day

To encourage children to adopt healthier food choices, we would like all children to bring some fruit to supplement their meals on Fridays. The fruit should be pre-cut (if necessary) and easy to consume.

Student Protection Plan

Your child is automatically covered by the Kindergarten under the NTUC 24 Hours Worldwide Coverage Student Protection Plan. For more information, please visit the Student Protection Plan page at <http://www.income.com.sg/insurance/insurance-for-students-children/junior-protection-plan>



K1 Curriculum

Here is an overview of the K1 Curriculum for Term 1 so that you are aware of what your child is learning and are able to reinforce these concepts through informal ways at home. The emphasis at K1 would be to help the children adjust to a slightly more structured routine, and to learn to make new friends. There will be a greater emphasis on reading and writing skills and we encourage you to read frequently with and to your child. We have also included some extension activities that you can do with your child this term.

I. ENGLISH

If your child has been with us since Nursery, he/she would have had one year of phonics background. If your child is new and has no phonics background, the teachers will be going through the previous sounds on a regular basis.

Phonics

- Revision of all 26 letter sounds of the alphabet
- short vowel sounds

Readers

- My Breakfast
- They All Ran Away

Mini Projects

The children will embark on a mini project entitled “From Me to We” where they will brainstorm and discuss issues of self and social awareness, interacting within a community, and interpersonal relationships. They will engage in activities related to making friends, working together in small groups and even conflict resolution.

K1 Curriculum

Extension Activities

For each of the letters of the alphabet learned in Term 1, you can fix a fun snack and/or do a fun activity with your child.

- **LETTER SEARCH:** Sit with your child and look for letters in newspapers or magazines. Name the letters. Have him point to any letter he finds and circle them as he finds them.
- **DOUGH LETTERS:** Give your child some play dough. Using rolled dough, encourage him to create a chosen letter. If your child is unfamiliar with the shape of the letter, write the letter for him on a piece of paper.
- **LETTER BASKETS:** When introducing a new letter to your child, set out a basket with a letter card attached to the front. Help your child find items in your home that begin with the sound of the featured letter.

K1 Curriculum

II. MATHEMATICS

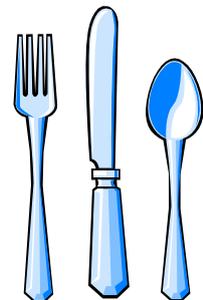
The Mathematics curriculum focuses on these concepts:

- Visual recognition and matching of quantity
- One-to-one correspondence
- Meaning of Mathematical language (as many as, one less than, more than, fewer than, less than, equal number of)
- Measuring length
- Comparing height
- Comparing length

One of the most fundamental Mathematical concepts for this age group is *one-to-one correspondence*. In one-to-one correspondence, the child learns that he must recognise, say and think one word for each object. This concept also forces a child not to just rattle off numbers but instead concentrate and focus to match one word with one object. Children who do not know the one-to-one correspondence concept will say words faster or slower. In this process, they may skip or may recount an object.

Examples of one-to-one correspondence include:

- one spoon to one fork
- one sock to one foot
- one foot to one shoe
- one hat to one head



K1 Curriculum

You can help your child to be aware of his environment using the one-to-one concept. Other ways of reinforcing the rest of the concepts are through an assortment of things around the house (e.g. child-safe utensils, laundry, toys). You can encourage your child to match or sort the items by using the concepts taught during the term.

Extension Activities

- **COUNTING:** Let your child make necklaces with Froot Loops (or something similar) and count the Froot Loops as he eats them.
- **ONE-TO-ONE CORRESPONDENCE:** Have your child choose one cheese slice for each cracker he has. At the supermarket, have your child pick out how many fruit you will need for everyone in the family to have a fruit each.

III. MATAL

MATAL is an early childhood programme from Israel. We hope to stretch your child's creativity through meaningful and enjoyable activities and also to develop his/her critical thinking skills.

This term, they will observe the world around us and look at some of the properties of objects:

- colour
- opaque/transparent



Extension Activities

Identify some of the colours in nature. Get your child to notice the various shades and hues of colours. Discuss how the colour makes you/your child feel. Take photographs of objects with different colours and sort them accordingly. You may want to make a little journal/collage with the information collected.

K1 Curriculum

IV. CHINESE

The emphasis is on listening, speaking and recognising Chinese characters through meaningful activities. We do hope that you will encourage your child to speak more Mandarin at home as this will help him/her gain more confidence in the subject. The topics covered this term are:

- **Things I can do** 我可以做...
- **I love my family** 我爱我家

Extension Activities

Spend a day doing an activity with the whole family, be it a trip to the beach, the park, or the supermarket. Take photographs of the outing and let your child bring the photographs for Show-and-Tell.

V. MUSIC AND MOVEMENT

The children will have music and movement sessions based on the “佳美音符” (Jia Mei Yin Fu) programme. Jia Mei Yin Fu’s curricula is based on a SONG STRETCHER™ approach where songs/ chants/ rhymes/ music are ‘s-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-d’ through vocals, body percussion, instrument play, and movement. Jia Mei Yin Fu is conducted in Mandarin and utilises music & movement as a vehicle for language development and music appreciation. Children will be involved in singing, movement, musical games, body percussion and appreciation of classical and multicultural songs. Elements of music such as beat, rhythm, dynamics, form and tempo will be embedded into the lessons.

K1 Curriculum

VI. KEY TO LEARNING VYGOTSKIAN APPROACH

(www.keytolearning.com)

We will continue to use activities from *Key to Learning*, an early childhood programme based on the educational and developmental theories of Vygotsky. The modules covered are:

	Construction	Develops mathematical language and goal directed behavior. Children analyse the structure of objects, plan, articulate their plans and execute them using building blocks.
	Story Grammar	This module follows a specific set of procedures (Visual-Spatial Modelling) for helping young children develop a love of story, ownership of story language and a profound understanding of story structure.

SJCK (Gilstead) Calendar for 2018

Term	1	2	3	4
School Term	3 Jan to 9 Mar	19 Mar to 25 May	25 Jun to 31 Aug	10 Sep to 16 Nov
Term Break	10 Mar to 18 Mar	26 May to 24 Jun	1 Sep to 9 Sep	17 Nov to 31 Dec

Public & School Holidays, School Events

Updated 11 December 2017

Date	Day	Event	Remarks
3 Jan	Wed	First day of K1 & K2	Regular school hours
4 & 5 Jan	Thu & Fri	1 st two days for Nursery	Day 1 & 2 – 1 hour
8 – 11 Jan	Mon – Thu	1 st four days for PN	Days 1 & 2 – 1 hour / Days 3 & 4 – 2 hours
15 – 19 Feb	Thu – Mon	Chinese New Year Holidays	School & public holidays
9 Mar	Fri	'Dress up' Day	Regular school hours/Theme to be advised
10 Mar	Sat	Family Day Carnival	9.00 to 3.00 @ Harding
30 Mar	Fri	Good Friday	Public holiday
18 & 19 Apr	Wed & Thu	Excursions	Day 1 – Session 1 children Day 2 – Session 2 children 8.10 to 2.45 (Nursery, K1, K2) / 8.30 to 1.30 (PN)
1 May	Tue	Labour Day holiday	Public holiday
7 – 10 May	Mon – Thu	Parent-Teacher Conferences	Regular school hours Parents sign up for appointment to meet teachers
11 May	Fri	Parent-Teacher Conferences	No classes for children Parents sign up for appointment to meet teachers
25 May	Fri	K1 & K2 Camp	K1 & K2 only – 8.10 to 2.30 No classes for PN & Nursery
28 May – 8 Jun	Weekdays	Optional holiday enrichment camps	Nursery, K1 & K2 children only 2-day or 3-day camps from 8.30 to 11.30
29 May	Tue	Vesak Day holiday	Public holiday
15 Jun	Fri	Hari Raya Puasa	Public holiday
2 Jul	Mon	Youth Day	School holiday
11 & 12 Jul	Wed & Thu	Excursion for PN Field trips for Nursery, K1, K2	Day 1 – Session 1 children Day 2 – Session 2 children 8.10 to 2.45 (Nursery, K1, K2) / 8.30 to 1.30 (PN)
20 Jul	Fri	Racial Harmony Day Celebrations	Regular school hours Children wear ethnic clothes
8 Aug	Wed	National Day Celebrations	8.10 to 9.40 (Session 1) / 10.15 to 11.45 (Session 2) Children wear red and white clothes
9 & 10 Aug	Thu & Fri	National Day holidays	Public holiday & School Holiday
11 Aug	Sat	Project Work Open House (Nursery & K1, K2)	Parents sign up for preferred 40-minute timeslot to view child's project work
13 Aug	Mon	Staff Professional Development Day	No classes for children
22 Aug	Wed	Hari Raya Haji	Public holiday
29 Aug	Wed	Teachers' Day Celebration	8.10 to 9.40 (Session 1) / 10.15 to 11.45 (Session 2)
30 Aug	Thu	Kindergarten Anniversary	School holiday
31 Aug	Fri	Teachers' Day	School holiday
4 Oct	Thu	Children's Day Celebrations	Regular school hours
5 Oct	Fri	Children's Day	School holiday
25 & 26 Oct	Thu & Fri	Excursions	Day 1 – Session 1 children Day 2 – Session 2 children 8.10 to 2.45 (Nursery, K1) / 8.30 to 1.30 (PN)
25 – 27 Oct	Thu – Sat	Full-dress Rehearsals & Annual Concert @ UCC for K2	Thu – Session 1 children only, 8.10 to 2.30 Fri – Session 2 children only, 8.10 to 2.30 Sat – Session 1 concert: 10.00 to 12.00 Sat – Session 2 concert: 2.00 to 4.00
6 Nov	Tue	Deepavali	Public holiday
5, 7 & 8 Nov	Mon, Wed & Thu	Parent-Teacher Conferences	Regular school hours Parents sign up for appointment to meet teachers
9 Nov	Fri	Parent-Teacher Conferences	No classes for children Parents sign up for appointment to meet teachers
14 Nov	Wed	Class Party & last day of school	Regular school hours
15 & 16 Nov	Thu & Fri	K2 Graduation Camp	8.30 – 3.30 No classes for PN, Nursery & K1 children
26 Nov – 7 Dec	Weekdays	Optional holiday enrichment camps	Nursery, K1 & K2 children only 2-day or 3-day camps from 8.30 to 11.30

st. James' CHURCH



Kindergarten

".....where every child matters."

Our Vision

A preschool where every child experiences high quality education, is developed into a well-rounded individual, and demonstrates godly character

Our Mission

To provide an environment that offers high quality and holistic early education and to nurture values based on Christian principles

Our Core Values

Respect
Nurture
Godly character