



# St. James' Church Kindergarten

"...where every child matters."

# Starlight Newsletter

From the Principal's desk

Term 1

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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. For Starlight children in particular, we hope to share with you what we would like to do to help your child get ready for Primary One. Thank you in advance for taking an active interest during this special school year.

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

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## **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!***

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# **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

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## Term 1 Fee

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

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### ***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>



## K2 Curriculum

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Here is an overview of the K2 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 K2 would be to prepare our children to be emotionally, socially and academically ready for Primary One. We have also included some extension activities that you can do with your child this term.

### ***I. ENGLISH***

By now, your child should be able to read and identify letters of the alphabet, and write these out from memory and hopefully in the correct sequence!

If your child has been with us since Nursery, he/she would have had two years of phonics background. This would mean that your child would be able to read simple words by sounding out the letters. Even if your child is new or has no phonics background, he/she would be able to catch up as we go through the previous sounds on a regular basis.

#### Phonics

- 21 consonants
- 5 short vowel sounds
- 5 long vowel sounds
- ck, ff, ll, ss, zz, tt
- ch, sh, th, ng – digraphs
- ar, or, ur
- ar, or, ur
- oi, ow

#### Readers

- Answer The Phone, Fiona!
- Stop The Car!

## K2 Curriculum

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### Creative Writing

Your child will be introduced to simple creative writing exercises, based on children's literature and the readers covered within the term. We would encourage you to allow your child to practice as much phonetic spelling as possible, as it will help with his/her writing skills throughout the year.

### Mini Projects

During the term, we will also be embarking on a mini project entitled "From Me to We". The children will brainstorm and discuss issues pertaining to self and social awareness, interacting within a community and interpersonal relationships. They will work on integrated activities focusing on the topic.

### Extension Activities

Make a trip to a nearby shopping mall. Shop for things with the alphabet, e.g. alphabet pasta, alphabet blocks, etc. Use them to form 3-letter words that follow the phonics rules (consonant-vowel-consonant e.g. bat, pet, got). Do encourage your child to say the sounds of the letters and identify the beginning, medial and ending sounds. You may also use alphabet cards to play around with different 3-letter words. Make a word list of all the possible words your child can come up with!

### II. MATHEMATICS



- Seriation by increasing and decreasing size
- Ordinal numbers
- Number composition 1-10 (basic number bonds)
- Mathematical language (small, medium, large, equal, not equal, less than, greater than)
- Mathematical symbols
- Constructing Math equations
- Using visual models to represent number relationships
- Mathematical symbols ( $=$ ,  $\neq$ ,  $<$ ,  $>$ )

#### Extension Activities

Measure different objects you can find at home. Record the length and weight of these objects using simple non-standard instruments such as pencils, erasers, paperclips, etc. and make comparisons. Identify the longest/shortest object and the heaviest/lightest object.

Have a 'race' with some toy cars or any other possible materials and identify the positions of each object in relation to ordinal numbers e.g. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>.

## K2 Curriculum

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### **III. 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 language.

The topics covered this term are:

- 单元名称一. 《健康的身体》  
包括：食物的名称、食物的种类、良好的生活习惯； 组词、造句、句子重组、续编故事、唐诗、成语、反义词。
- 单元名称二. 《快乐的家庭》  
包括：家人、职业、时间、量词、续编故事、反义词、唐诗、成语。

### **IV. 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 and 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 are embedded in the lessons.

## K2 Curriculum

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### V. *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, the children will look at linear shapes:

- straight lines
- curved lines
- angular lines



#### Extension Activities

Take a walk in a park or garden. Identify the straight and curved lines in the nature around us. Take photographs of the objects with different lines and sort them accordingly. You may want to make a little nature journal with the information collected.

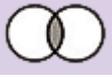
## K2 Curriculum

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### VI. KEY TO LEARNING VYGOTSKIAN APPROACH

([www.keytolearning.com](http://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.
	Logic	The Logic programme helps children develop the ability to analyse objects and events, see their "invisible" sides, identify their most essential characteristics', think sequentially, draw conclusions, classify and systematize information.
	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
<b>School Term</b>	3 Jan to 9 Mar	19 Mar to 25 May	25 Jun to 31 Aug	10 Sep to 16 Nov
<b>Term Break</b>	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 <sup>st</sup> two days for Nursery	Day 1 & 2 – 1 hour
8 – 11 Jan	Mon – Thu	1 <sup>st</sup> four days for PN	Days 1 & 2 – 1 hour / Days 3 & 4 – 2 hours
<b>15 – 19 Feb</b>	<b>Thu – Mon</b>	<b>Chinese New Year Holidays</b>	<b>School &amp; public holidays</b>
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
<b>30 Mar</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>Public holiday</b>
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)
<b>1 May</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Labour Day holiday</b>	<b>Public holiday</b>
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	<b>No classes for children</b> 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
<b>29 May</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Vesak Day holiday</b>	<b>Public holiday</b>
<b>15 Jun</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Hari Raya Puasa</b>	<b>Public holiday</b>
<b>2 Jul</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Youth Day</b>	<b>School holiday</b>
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
<b>9 &amp; 10 Aug</b>	<b>Thu &amp; Fri</b>	<b>National Day holidays</b>	<b>Public holiday &amp; School Holiday</b>
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	<b>No classes for children</b>
<b>22 Aug</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Hari Raya Haji</b>	<b>Public holiday</b>
29 Aug	Wed	Teachers' Day Celebration	8.10 to 9.40 (Session 1) / 10.15 to 11.45 (Session 2)
<b>30 Aug</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Kindergarten Anniversary</b>	<b>School holiday</b>
<b>31 Aug</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Teachers' Day</b>	<b>School holiday</b>
4 Oct	Thu	Children's Day Celebrations	Regular school hours
<b>5 Oct</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Children's Day</b>	<b>School holiday</b>
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
<b>6 Nov</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Deepavali</b>	<b>Public holiday</b>
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	<b>No classes for children</b> 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