



St. James' Church Kindergarten

"...where every child matters."

Sunshine Newsletter

From the Principal's desk

Term 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome to St. James' Church Kindergarten and Happy New Year! We are excited to have you and your child onboard at our school.

The purpose of these termly newsletters is to communicate level-specific updates and upcoming school events. 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.

We look forward to seeing you around!

God bless!

Jacqueline Chung (Dr)
Senior Principal & Academic Director

Joanna Koh (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. One adult will be allowed to remain with the child in the classroom for the first 2 days of school. After that, we advise you to just 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 only have 1 student teacher at any one time, for a duration of 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 Fee

Due date : **12 January 2018**

Amount : **\$1,524.75 (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. The 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>)



Nursery Curriculum

Here is an overview of the Nursery 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 the Nursery level is also on the development of gross and fine motor skills as well as in laying the foundation for reading readiness.

I. ENGLISH

The English curriculum has been designed to develop early literacy skills in children so that they start learning to read simple 2-letter and 3-letter words. In the phonics component, the children will learn the letter names (e.g. 'a'), keywords (e.g. ant), letter sounds (e.g. /a/) and shape of the letters (correct letter formation). The letters and sounds to be covered this term are:

- s - as in sun
- a - as in ant
- t - as in tap
- p - as in pen
- i - as in itch
- n - as in nut
- m - as in man
- d - as in dog



The children will also cover the following readers:

- Look at Me!
- Washing the Elephant

Nursery Curriculum

Learning how to recite the ABC's does not equip children to recognise letters. Research has shown that children need to learn the letter and the sound through their eyes, ears and muscular movement. Therefore, you can:

- Get your child to make the shape of the letter by drawing it in the air using his/her whole arm, or writing it with his finger on the table. At this age, it is not critical that he/she is able to write the letters beautifully on lined paper using a regular pencil.
- Play a game of 'I SPY' of objects starting with the letter sound he is learning for the week. E.g. "I spy with my eye something that begins with the /a/ sound. (e.g. apple) "
- Read stories to your child to cultivate a life-long love for reading.

Mini Projects

During the term, we will be embarking on a mini project entitled "Kids on the Move". The children will brainstorm and engage in a variety of activities. This may include games, sensorial experiences etc. conducted in both small and large groups.

Nursery Curriculum

II. MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics curriculum focuses on 3 main sensory standards this term: colour, shape and size.

- Colour recognition and shades
- Comparing geometric 2D shapes and 3D shapes
- Categorisation by colour, shape, size
- Height
- Length
- Width

III. CHINESE

The emphasis is on listening, speaking and recognising Chinese characters through meaningful activities. The topics covered this term are:



- **My Body** 我的身体
- **My Family** 我的家庭

The best way to help your child pick up Chinese is to immerse him/her in the language daily. Ideally, you should speak the language and use the language in the daily routines with your child. One way to do this is to introduce the familiar items around the house in Chinese. You can also let your child listen to Chinese songs and rhymes.

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 percussions, musical instruments, and movements. 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, movements, musical games, body percussions, and appreciation of classical and multicultural songs. Elements of music such as beat, rhythm, dynamics, form and tempo will be embedded into the lessons.

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 focus on the BODY - face, hair, teeth, neck, hands, legs, and their functions.

Encourage awareness of each important part of the body through conversations, during bath time, reading related books to the child about the particular body part, etc.



Nursery 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 activities will be conducted largely during Learning Centre Activity time and the modules covered include:

	Artographics	Cultivates the essential skills required both for writing and creative artistic expression. Develops “art vision” and introduces different symbolic tools – composition, rhythm and colour.
	Construction	Develops mathematical language and goal directed behavior. Children analyse the structure of objects, plan, articulate their plans and execute them using building blocks.
	Sensory Mathematics	Develops the ability to analyse the external, visual qualities of objects using sensory standards such as colour, shape and size. It builds the foundation for the development of mental abilities.
	Developmental Games	Conducted in large and small groups, it develops children’s productive imagination, symbolic literacy, language and communication skills, flexible thinking, creative problem-solving, self-regulation and self-esteem.

SJCK (Harding) 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 & 2 nd days for Nursery	Day 1 – 1 hour / Day 2 – 2 hours
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
11 & 12 Apr	Wed & Thu	Excursions	Day 1 – Session 1 children Day 2 – Session 2 children 8.15 to 2.30 (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 – 8.30 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 8.15 to 2.30 (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	8.15 to 9.45 (Session 1) / 10.00 to 11.30 (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	8.15 to 9.45 (Session 1) / 10.00 to 11.30 (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 8.15 to 2.30 (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, 8.15 to 2.30 Fri – Session 2 children only, 8.15 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