



St. James' Church Kindergarten

"...where every child matters."

Dew Drops 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 4 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

School Uniform & Footwear

The Dew Drops children should wear the school uniform and any sandals/shoes every day. Children should be able to wear his/her own footwear independently.

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 \$13.00 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.

Communication Book & Notices

Each child will have a communication book which will be used for communication between the parent and the teacher. Please check the communication book daily for any information the teacher may wish to pass on to you. Kindly initial in the book after reading.

In addition, letters from the school will be put into your child's bag, so please check it daily. When you receive notices from the Kindergarten which requires a reply, we would appreciate a prompt response before the stated deadline.

General Information

School Hours (for the month of January only)

	Session 1	Session 2
Arrival	8.15 – 8.45 am	11.30 – 12.00 pm
Dismissal	10.45 -11.15 am	2.00 -2.30 pm

For private arrangements, please drop off and pick up your child from his/her classroom. To help your child adjust to school, please keep to the arrival and dismissal times for the first few weeks of school until further notice.



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.

General Information



Water Play

As part of the water play activities, there will be pool water play starting in February. On the days when there is water play, please pack your child's swim suit and towel (labeled with name) in a plastic bag.

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>



Pre-Nursery Curriculum

The emphasis at the Pre-Nursery level is on learning through creative play and on developing the whole child in the following areas:

- Personal awareness
- Emotional well-being
- Socialisation skills
- Communication skills
- Cognitive skills
- Perceptive motor skills



Pre-Nursery Curriculum

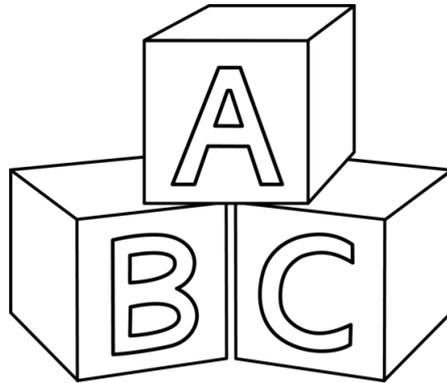
I. KEY TO LEARNING VYGOTSKIAN APPROACH

(www.keytolearning.com)

We will use activities from *Key to Learning*, an early childhood programme based on the educational and developmental theories of Vygotsky. 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.
	Expressive Movement	Develops emotional intelligence, non-verbal communication skills, creativity and productive imagination through body movement, gestures, facial expressions and music.
	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.
	You-Me-World	Offers young children the opportunity to learn about themselves as physical, emotional and social beings. They learn about the natural and material world, about living things and inanimate objects, and about relationships between people. They are encouraged to explore, to empathise and help others learn.

II. LANGUAGE PLAY EXPERIENCES IN ENGLISH



The English teachers will introduce the children to the letters of the alphabet throughout the year. The children will also be given opportunities to explore their environment and to discover some of the things in this big and beautiful world. In term 1, they will cover letters *a*, *b*, *c* and *d* through stories, songs, rhymes and craftwork.



To help develop your child's language proficiency, do read a variety of books to your child regularly to help him/her develop a love for reading and stories.

Pre-Nursery Curriculum

III. LANGUAGE PLAY EXPERIENCES IN CHINESE

This term, the Chinese teacher will use stories, songs, rhymes and fun activities that revolve around the themes, **My Body (我的身体)** and **Colours (颜色)**. The children will learn the names of different parts of the body and know what the different parts are used for.



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.

To help your child develop a love for Chinese, we encourage you to expose your child to Mandarin in fun and non-threatening ways so that he/she will develop a love for the language from young.

Pre-Nursery Curriculum

IV. Motor Skills

In children's early years, motor skills are very fundamental skills. To help your child develop his/her motor skills, here are some suggestions.

For gross motor development, place a huge mat on the ground. Allow your child to roll, crawl, creep, hop, jump and slide, etc. on the mat.



For fine motor development, allow your child to help you with some household chores like scooping rice into the rice cooker, folding or pegging clothes, etc.



Enjoy this bonding time with your child!

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