



**BUKIT PANJANG PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
109 Cashew Road, Singapore 679676  
Tel: 67691912 Fax: 67637462  
<http://www.bukitpanjangpri.moe.edu.sg/>

*Future Leaders, Concerned Citizens*

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*From the Principal's Desk...*

**IN TOUCH 01/2016**

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Dear Parents/Guardian

The staff of BPPS would like to take this opportunity to "Welcome students and parents to a new School year." We are excited to see familiar faces as well as meet new students and families! It is a privilege to take over Bukit Panjang Primary school after the many Principals who have built it to its stature today. I am truly excited and looking forward to working with everyone and building upon the many school traditions during my time here at BPPS.

Bearing in mind the rich heritage of BPPS, I will do my best together with the teachers to ensure that BPPS continues to be the choice school in the neighbourhood and beyond.

Building relationships and providing a challenging and engaging education to our pupils will be our focus from the very first day of school. I find great joy in interacting with the children. It keeps me 'young at heart' and attuned to the thoughts young people have today.

Beyond academic, sports and aesthetic achievement, we also want children to pursue their passions and be interested, have empathy and care for others.

In the first assembly talk I had with the children yesterday, I spoke to them about discipline, hard work and our slogan for this year, "Yes, we can" which I adopted from Barrack Obama's presidential campaign in 2008. I also spoke to them about respect for the teachers and how I had no tolerance for disrespect. There was also a portion about bullying and who they could go to if they feel they have been bullied. Please do reinforce these messages. There will be more to come.

I hope to work closely with you to bring out the best in your **child**.

### **Our Direction**

Vision: Future Leaders, Concerned Citizens

Mission : To provide a nurturing and thinking environment so as to develop respectful and responsible pupils who value teamwork and lifelong learning.

Motto : Endeavour

School Values : Respect, Responsibility, Teamwork and Lifelong Learning

Strategic Thrusts :

1. Achieving Academic Excellence
2. Fostering a culture of collaboration for innovation and engagement among staff and parents
3. Nurturing sportsmen and artistes of character
4. Nurturing Character, Leadership Qualities and Citizenship



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### **School Hours**

Please be reminded that the school curriculum hours are as follows:

Monday to Friday: 7.30 a.m. to 1.15 p.m.

All students should attend school punctually and regularly throughout the year. They are expected to be in school by **7.30 a.m.** Absence from school must be supported with a medical certificate or a letter from the child's parent.

Parents can assist your child to be punctual by:

- Helping him/her to understand the importance of punctuality
- Ensuring the necessary transport arrangements are made to ensure your child's safety and that he/she arrives in school on time
- Ensuring that your child has sufficient sleep and has time to eat breakfast before he/she comes to school.

### **School Recess:**

Primary 1 and 4:	9.30 to 10.00 a.m.
Primary 2 and 5:	10.00 to 10.30 a.m.
Primary 3 and 6:	10.30 to 11.00 a.m.

### **Class Rules**

1. Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak
2. Stay in your seat unless you have permission to do otherwise.
3. Do not touch anyone else with your hands, feet, or any object.
4. No cursing and teasing

### **Communication with the School**

Our school communicates with the parents/guardians through:

- Principal's monthly newsletter
- Student's Diary
- School website
- Notification letters
- Dialogue sessions
- Annual Yearbook
- Asknlearn Portal

Parents/Guardians can communicate with the school through:

- Child's Student's Diary
- Teacher's individual email
- Telephone/fax
- Email: [bps@moe.edu.sg](mailto:bps@moe.edu.sg)
- School visits (with prior appointment)
- Dialogue sessions
- Asknlearn Portal



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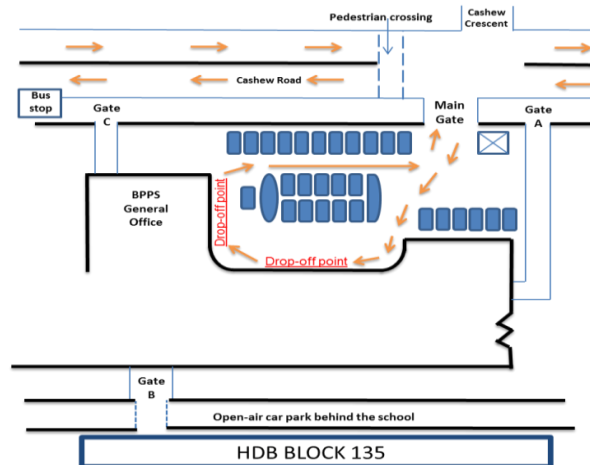
**School Attire**

At BPPS, we believe that proper attire and personal grooming are essential to the educational well-being of our students. Students are to wear the prescribed school uniform as stipulated in our Students' Diary 2016. They are only allowed to wear their PE attire on days when PE lessons are conducted and may wear PE attire throughout the day.

**Security and Safety at Bukit Panjang Primary School**

In our continuous effort to ensure the safety of all students, several procedures have been put in place.

- Parents/Guardians who drive into the school compound in the morning to alight their child/ward at the foyer are reminded to observe the speed limit (15km/h) and to strictly follow the directions given by our traffic wardens. Only a single file of cars must be formed to ensure the safety of all students. If yours is the first car, please drive all the way to the front of the general office indicated in the diagram below before dropping off your child (refers to the diagram below). Please drop your child off quickly so that you do not inconvenience others. Getting your child's bag ready rather than putting it in the boot can help to speed up things.
- For dismissal, please park your vehicles at the HDB carpark behind the school and fetch your child/ward via Gate B. LTA stipulates that vehicles are not allowed to stop or wait along Cashew Road near Gate A. Vehicles are also not allowed to make any U-turn at the junction in front of the school.



- Opening hours for school gates are as follows:

Gates	Opening hours
A	645-730am
B	645-800am
C	645-730am

All the gates will be re-opened at 1.15pm for dismissal.



**Temperature Taking Exercise**

The first temperature-taking exercise will be conducted on Thursday, 7 January 2015. Please ensure that your child/ward brings his/her thermometer on that day and that the thermometers are in good working condition. To facilitate temperature-taking, all P1 students have been issued with an Oral Digital Thermometer (ODT).

The ODT and batteries are available for sale at the bookshop.

**Student Protection Plan**

All students of BPPS are covered under the Student Protection Plan. The summary of Policy Coverage & Benefits will be given to parents in January 2016. Should there be a need to make a claim, parents are to complete a claim form that is available in the General Office. Parents are to submit completed form directly to the insurance company.

**Supplementary Lessons**

The teachers conduct Mathematics supplementary lessons for P3 to P6 students to deepen problem solving skills. During the supplementary lessons, the students will learn different heuristics using the Whiz in Maths (WIM) package developed by our teachers. The lessons will start from term 1 week 2. Consent forms with the details will be issued to the students soon.

The teachers conduct Mother Tongue Language supplementary lessons for P5 and P6 students to focus on creative writing skills. The lessons will start from term 1 week 2.

To help our Primary 6 students prepare for the PSLE, supplementary lessons (EMS and MTL) will be carried out on the last week of the June holidays (20<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> June) and the first 2 days of the September holidays (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Sep).

**Assessment**

The school supports holistic education and balances assessment for learning and assessment of learning. Students will be given feedback from the various assessment modes to help in their development.

Level	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4
Primary 1	Formative Assessment Tasks			
	-	(20%)	(30%)	(50%)
Primary 2	Formative Assessment Tasks			End of Year Assessment
	(20%)	(20%)	(20%)	(40%)
Primary 3 to 5	CA1 (10%)	SA1 (20%)	CA2 (10%)	SA2 (60%)
Primary 6	CA (20%)	SA (30%)	Prelim (50%)	PSLE



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There will be no make-up for P2 SA2, CAs and SAs for P3-P6 levels. This is to ensure that results are valid and reliable. If your child would like to take the tests/examinations when they return, they will be allowed to do so. However the marks will not be included in the report book.

**2016 PSLE Calendar (Tentative)**

Oral Examination : Thursday and Friday, 18 and 19 August  
 Listening Comprehension : Friday 19 September  
 Written Examination : Thursday 29 September to Wednesday 05 October  
 Marking Exercise : Monday 17 to Thursday 20 October

Source: [http://www.seab.gov.sg/content/examCalendar/2016\\_ExamCalendar\\_PSLE.pdf](http://www.seab.gov.sg/content/examCalendar/2016_ExamCalendar_PSLE.pdf)

**2015 PSLE Results**

The 2015 Primary 6 students did very well in the 2015 PSLE and made the school proud. We have 99.16% of students eligible for secondary school which is above National Average of 98.28%

17 students succeeded in their application for Direct School Admission (DSA) to secondary schools of their choice.

**Co-curricular activities**

The range of CCAs offered to P3-P6 students in 2016 are as follows:

Type	CCA	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6
Sports	Badminton	N.A.		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Basketball			✓	✓	✓	✓
	Football			✓	✓	✓	✓
	Hockey			✓	✓	✓	✓
	Wushu			✓	✓	✓	✓
Uniformed Groups	Red Cross			✓	✓	✓	✓
	Scouts			✓	✓	✓	✓
Performing Arts	Chinese Dance / Mirage Dance Troupe			✓	✓	✓	✓
	Malay Dance / Aspirasi Dancers			✓	✓	✓	✓
	Indian Dance / Vasantham Dancers			✓	✓	✓	✓
	Modern Dance			✓	✓	✓	✓
	Choir			✓	✓	✓	✓
	Concert Band			✓	✓	✓	✓
	Festive Drums			✓	✓	✓	✓
Clubs and Societies	Art Club	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	Chinese Painting	✓	✓	✓	✓		
	InfoComm Club	N.A.	✓	✓	✓		

Students who participate in sports and games that are recognised by SPSSC or the Primary Schools Sports Council outside school on their own may be invited to represent the school for SPSSC zonal/national competitions. Kindly refer to the SPSSC link for the list of sports and games:



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<http://www.spssc.sg/>. Please inform the school if your child/ward falls under this category and is keen to represent the school in SPSSC zonal/national competitions.

**Swimming Programme for all Primary 3 students**

The programme aims to teach swimming proficiency and water survival skills to children to improve water safety. SwimSafer Programmes are conducted by professional SwimSafer Instructors and each instructor is qualified to provide a positive contribution to your child's progress in water competency. All SwimSafer Instructors are accredited. The programme will be conducted after school and students will be accompanied by the teachers in charge. There will be a maximum of 8 sessions of 2 hours each.

The details of this programme will be given to the students in due course.

**P5 Adventure Camp**

At this 3 days 2 nights camp, all P5 students will be involved in a wide range of outdoor activities, such as Simulated Caving, Team Building Games, Orienteering and Rock Climbing that will maximise their potential and enable them to learn valuable lessons on teamwork, character building and social and emotional learning.

The experience from this camp will also allow students to recognise and manage their emotions, make responsible decisions, establish and maintain positive relations and handle challenging situations effectively.

Dates: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016  
Venue: MOE Labrador Adventure Centre  
Target Group: Primary 5 students

**Parent-Teacher Dialogue**

We will be arranging our Teacher-Parent Dialogue on a weekday in term 2. Do take the opportunity to attend the session. This will allow you to meet up with your child's teachers and gather feedback about your child. During the session, you may raise any concern, ask questions and acquaint yourself with what is expected of your child.

The Principal's talk for P6 parents is scheduled on 23 Jan 2016 (Saturday) from 930-1130am. More details will be given to parents/guardians nearer the date.

**MOE Financial Assistance Scheme**

The Ministry of Education (MOE) provides financial assistance to needy Singaporean students. The income criterion is \$2,500 or below (Gross Household Income) and \$625 or below (Per Capita Income). Application Forms are available from the school General Office.

**Mendaki- Collaboration Tuition Programme (CTP)**

The CTP centres offer quality and affordable tuition to primary school students of all races and religion. CTP will commence in the middle of January at our school. For parents/guardians who are interested to enrol your child/ward in this programme, please approach the office for more information.

**Family Matters @ School**

As part of our continuing efforts to bring about family education to you, parenting workshops are organised throughout the year. Notification letters on upcoming workshops will be sent to you through



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your child/ward. For further queries, you may contact the FMS co-ordinator, Ms Irene Heng, via email [ireneheng77@yahoo.com.sg](mailto:ireneheng77@yahoo.com.sg) or phone 91540154 (Weekdays, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

**Photo-Taking for Primary 1 and Primary 6 students for the School Smart Cards (SSC)**

The Ministry of Education (MOE) will be conducting the yearly photo-taking exercise for all students in P1 and P6 for the issue of the School Smart Card (SSC). Please note that this photo-taking exercise is strictly for P1 and P6 students only.

While P1 students will get their SSCs by end Mar 2016, the photo-images captured for P6 will be used for the printing of Secondary SSCs when they are promoted to Secondary One in 2017.

The tentative date for the photo-taking exercise will be in mid Feb 2016. Your child's form teacher will inform your child of the exact date of the exercise in due course.

**School Contact**

Here are some contact numbers that you might find useful:

Office	Name	Telephone Number
School Fax No.		67637462
School General Office		67691912
Principal	Mr Bucktha Seelan	
Vice Principal (Acad)	Mrs Jenny Kam	
Vice Principal (Admin)	Mr Tan Seng Chuan	
Operations Manager	Mr Chia Hee Thom	
Admin Manager	Mrs Toh-Neo Hwee Koon	67695321
Heads of Department		67650960
Staff Room		67600981 / 67663832
Allied Educator (Learning & Behavioural Support)	Ms Siti Fadhilah Atkha Ms Yeo Li Jing	67641931

School Services	Operating Day and Hours in the school	Telephone / Fax
<u>School Bookshop</u> Pacific Bookstores P/L	<u>Monday, Tuesday, Thursday &amp; Friday</u> 8.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. <u>Wednesday</u> 8.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. <u>Lunch Time</u> 12.00 noon to 1.00 p.m.	Tel : 68975511 Fax : 68971515
<u>School Dental Clinic</u> Dental Therapist : Mr Tan Soon Lee	Details to be confirmed in 2016.	Tel : 67667417
<u>School Uniform Supplier*</u> Yangtzekiang Tailor Blk 26, Teck Whye Lane #01-180/182 Singapore 680026	Not Applicable	Tel : 6769 1260 Fax : 6532 0736



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<u>Monday to Friday</u> 8.30 a.m. to 5.30p.m. <u>Saturday</u> 8.30 a.m. to 4.30p.m. * Uniform is also available for sale at the bookshop. Do note that not all sizes are available in the bookshop.		
<u>School Transport Service</u> Woodlands Transport Service Pte Ltd, 8, Gul Circle Singapore 62956	Not Applicable	Tel : 6559 8988 Fax : 6898 2395

**Welcoming New Staff Members to BPPS**

We would like to warmly welcome 5 staff members to our BPPS family. They are;

- Mdm Eismawati Bte Bisri, teacher
- Mr Hasyim Tan Abdullah, teacher
- Ms Ng Li Xuan, teacher
- Mr Sim Yongle Mattathias, teacher
- Mdm Salina Bte Mohd Salleh, AED (T&L)

**Thanking outgoing Staff Members**

We would like to thank the following staff members for their dedicated service and wish them all the best in their future endeavours;

- Mdm Ng Soh Hua, our former Principal
- Ms Felicia Toh Sze Hui, SH Aesthetics
- Mdm Hazlina Bte Atbi, teacher
- Mr Chiang Hock Leng, teacher

**Sharing**

Does Your Child Challenge Authority? 4 Things Parents Can Do  
 by Kim Abraham LMSW and Marney Studaker-Cordner LMSW  
*Empowering Parents (Free weekly Parenting Newsletter)*

**Keep the focus on your child when communicating with the school.**

When a child defies authority, teachers and principals may try to hold you accountable for her behaviour. Why? Because your child doesn't care (or is acting like she doesn't). School staff will look to someone who *does* care, in order to change the behaviour. Often, that turns out to be the parent. If you find that happening, redirect the focus back to holding your child accountable as much as possible. In general, when it comes to not following the rules or completing classwork, remind school staff that you want your child to learn these life lessons now. You are all on the same page – working toward teaching your child to be a productive member of society. What will his consequence be for certain behaviour? Detention? Suspension? Staying in from recess? Even though it may be hard to see your child uncomfortable, that's the only way he will make the choice to change his behaviour.

**"Why do some kids fight so hard against authority, as if giving up control is equal to drowning?" What's Your Child's Style of Defiance?**

On the other hand, defiance may be hard to pinpoint. Your daughter *appears* to follow your rules initially, but then goes behind your back and does something completely different. The fight doesn't





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come when the directive or rule is given but instead it comes later, after she's been caught disobeying. Whatever a child's *style of defiance* may be, it can leave parents, teachers and other authority figures feeling frustrated, angry and unsure how to respond.

Why do some kids fight so hard against authority, as if giving up control is equal to drowning? Possibly because that's exactly how it feels to them. We often look to the *why* in order to figure out how to change the behaviour. Personality can certainly play a role – some people hate rules and authority their whole lives. Other factors can include depression, anxiety, ADHD or other conditions that may contribute to a child struggling with behaviour.

In some cases, we may never be able to determine exactly *why* a child is making certain choices or behaving a certain way. Adults often spend a great deal of time trying to identify potential *triggers* to a child's defiance. In fact, there may be multiple triggers: being told "no," facing a limit or rule, or feeling jealous or uncomfortable can certainly contribute to defiant behaviour. Professionals use the term Oppositional Defiant Disorder (O.D.D.) to describe a child whose defiant behaviour has escalated to the point that it has become a pattern.

It can be helpful to identify triggers to educate and support your child so she might change her behaviour. But the fact is, the world and society aren't going to go out of their way to avoid "triggering" your child during the course of her life. Regardless of the reasons we struggle, society has expectations. As parents, it's our job to prepare our kids for life in the Real World. And the Real World often doesn't take kindly to individuals who constantly challenge and defy authority.

So what can we do, as parents trying to raise a child into a productive member of society—a person who thinks for themselves, yet isn't always fighting authority or refusing to comply with rules?

**1. Don't fall into the trap of excuses and blame.** When an issue comes up with your child, stay focused on the topic – your child's behaviour and the potential consequences. For example, your child might say, "I didn't do my homework because the teacher didn't explain what we were supposed to do." He blames his refusal to do homework on his teacher, and says the teacher doesn't treat him fairly in class. Our advice to his parent: Try not to get caught up in the idea that Johnny's teacher "isn't fair."

There's lots of injustice in the world and Johnny will encounter it frequently - as we all do. Stay focused on the behaviour (Johnny's refusal to do his work) and the potential consequences (failing his class). You can say, "It sounds like you're blaming your teacher for the fact that you didn't do your homework...but it's your responsibility."

**2. Don't fall into emotional traps.** It's easy to get caught up in the emotion of your child's defiance. They're upset, you're upset and sometimes teachers or other adults are upset. Again, it takes the focus off the topic at hand. Don't personalize what your child is saying or doing—just stay as objective as you can and focus on the matter at hand.

**3. Teach your child to think.** Kids who defy authority are often *reacting* to adults and rules, rather than making conscious, deliberate choices. They don't take time to think their actions through to what the potential consequences might be for their behaviour. Weighing decisions and consequences, creating a list of pros and cons and then making a well thought-out choice is one of the most valuable skills your child can learn. It's never too early to start teaching your child how to evaluate situations. So the next time she makes a comment like, "I'm not going to study for the test," instead of getting caught up in emotion (which is natural for parents), ask her questions instead: "What might happen if you choose not to study?" If she responds with, "*Nothing*," try to stay calm and continue with questions



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rather launching into a lecture or fight. You might ask, “Could you get a lower score, or even fail the test—or the class?” The point of the questions is not to interrogate, but to teach your child to think rather than react.

**4. Remember that consequences are a part of life.** Whether they are natural consequences – something that occur naturally as a direct result of your child’s actions – or consequences that you provide, it’s how your child will learn about life. Allow them to occur even when your instincts shout out to save your child from being uncomfortable.

**Back to School Note:** School offers daily opportunities for conflict when a child defies authority. You might think of school as a preparation for the future workplace environment your child will potentially encounter. There are principals, teachers (bosses) and peers (co-workers). There are rules, expectations and rewards. You may be dreading the start of school, anticipating phone calls home about your child’s behaviour.

Here are a few suggestions to keep in mind for the upcoming year:

**Remember: school is your child’s job, not yours.**

Whenever possible, allow your child to remain responsible for his or her behaviour and performance. As a parent, you can encourage and support your child. If he asks for help because he’s struggling, you may provide assistance or arrange tutoring. But it’s your child’s job to remain motivated. We’ve known well-intentioned parents who completed a child’s homework so she would receive credit or lied and said a child spent time reading when he didn’t. Remember, your child is learning habits for a lifetime. In fifteen years, his co-worker won’t write his reports for him!

**Keep the focus on your child when communicating with the school.**

When a child defies authority, teachers and principals may try to hold you accountable for her behaviour. Why? Because your child doesn’t care (or is acting like she doesn’t). School staff will look to someone who *does* care, in order to change the behaviour. Often, that turns out to be the parent. If you find that happening, redirect the focus back to holding your child accountable as much as possible. In general, when it comes to not following the rules or completing classwork, remind school staff that you want your child to learn these life lessons now. You are all on the same page – working toward teaching your child to be a productive member of society. What will his consequence be for certain behaviour? Detention? Suspension? Staying in from recess? Even though it may be hard to see your child uncomfortable, that’s the only way he will make the choice to change his behaviour.

**Make sure you are doing your part.**

Yes, your child is responsible for her behaviour and choices. But make sure you’re also meeting your responsibilities as a parent. This means ensuring your child has the tools necessary to do her “job” as a student: materials, support and encouragement. If your child is younger or struggles to remember things, you may need to prompt her by asking if she’s completed homework. There’s a difference between prompting in order to support her education and rescuing from having to do the work by doing it for her.

**One final note:** On the surface, it might sound like a great idea to teach our kids how to comply with authority all the time, without questioning it. But in doing so, we would be losing many of our “rebels,” the individuals who challenge society’s status quo and teach us about ourselves and our own values. We *want* our children to learn to be “critical thinkers.” The key is to encourage that independent thinking while also teaching our kids to be respectful and think through the consequences before they act.



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Thank you.

Bucktha Seelan  
Principal

*Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference. ~Winston Churchill*