



Fairfield Methodist School (Primary)

NewsLink 2024 (Term 1)



Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We warmly welcome your child back to school as we embark on a fresh new school term, ripe with opportunities for learning, innovation, and the acquisition of new knowledge, values, and skills.

The theme for this year is **Laying Strong Foundations**, inspired by the verse from Luke 6:47-48a: *As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.*

In 2023, we commemorated 135 years of God's goodness over Fairfield through momentous events such as the *Oh! It's Fairfield* carnival, *Fairfield! The Musical*, and the combined school Founder's Day service. In 2024, we will seek to continue the good work built over the years.

It is my honour to join the Fairfield Family as I assume the role of principal of this school. I am excited about the opportunities to work with the various stakeholders—teachers, non-teaching staff, parents, alumni, and the board of management, as we strive to elevate the school to greater heights and provide quality education for all Fairsians.

In an increasingly volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) world where change is constant and technology rapidly evolves, revisiting the fundamentals of education becomes pivotal. While Artificial Intelligence (AI) and smart technologies facilitate knowledge acquisition with a 'click,' the ability to discern is a crucial skill for our students. We aspire for our students to develop adaptive thinking, fearlessness in the face of failure, and the courage to explore new solutions—a mindset that fosters creativity, connectivity, and contribution.

To cultivate this mindset, we have revised the Fairsian Outcomes to empower students to:

(1) Master Self, (2) Relate Well to Others, and (3) Serve God and the Community.

(1) Master Self

Every Fairsian is encouraged to take ownership of their learning and apply critical thinking skills across various academic and co-curricular pursuits. Other than promoting skills acquisition and creation through experiential learning in various subjects, our Makerspace programme also enables Fairsians to leverage Design Thinking, fostering the creation of new solutions using ICT tools. This approach encourages students to explore possibilities, diverse perspectives, and relish the creative process.

(2) Relate Well to Others

Every Fairsian is equipped to relate well to others through diverse programs, they learn to appreciate differences, communicate effectively and practise empathy. Our Applied Learning Programme (ALP) in oracy allows students to experience authentic learning in the English Language. Through the ALP, students learn to communicate effectively and express themselves proficiently. Our Learning for Life Programme (LLP) provides opportunities for Fairsians to work in teams through project works and class performances. Through visual and performing arts, students learn to relate to one another, acquire social awareness skills, and values such as empathy, harmony, and care. The LLP also provides opportunities for outreach to special education (SPED) schools, promoting inclusivity in the arts.

(3) Serve God and the Community

Lastly, we endeavour for every Fairsian to serve God and the community. We remind students that loving God includes loving His people. We encourage Fairsians to be self-reflective. Learning journals and Form-Teacher-Guidance Period (FTGP) lessons facilitate such a process. But for Fairsians to truly cultivate a heart of service, they must put into action what they have internalised. As such, collaborations and outreach with various partners are integrated into our Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) and Values-in-Action (VIA) programmes. These initiatives empower our Fairsians to actively serve and contribute to their homes, school, and the community, fostering a stronger sense of identity, attachment to their school, and a sense of pride.

Truly, we dedicate this year to the Lord for His continued guidance and blessings upon Fairfield. May 2024 be a year where we sow seeds, lay strong foundations, and may the Lord bless all involved in this transformative learning journey, marking another significant chapter in Fairfield's history.

Serving with you,

Mrs Soh Mei Foong

Principal



Welcome Back to School

As we welcome the students back for a new school year, please note the reporting date for your child:

Level	Reporting Date
Primary 1	2 Jan 2024 (Tue)
Primary 2 to 6	3 Jan 2024 (Wed)

Morning assembly begins at 7:30am every day. We kindly request parents' assistance in ensuring that your child arrives **by 7.30am** to allow him/her time to settle down before the morning assembly.



Morning Arrival

We kindly request the cooperation of all parents in observing the following guidelines when accompanying your child to school:

Walking into the school

- Students walking to school from the direction of FMS(S) are to enter the school compound via Gate 1 only.
- Students coming from one-north, North Buona Vista Road, across Dover Road, and the bus stop in front of the school are to enter the school compound via Gate 2 only.
- Parents accompanying your children will **not** be allowed to enter the school gates. We kindly ask parents **not** to linger outside the gates to prevent overcrowding.



Via school bus

- Parents whose children will be using the school bus transport should contact your respective bus drivers to confirm the pick-up schedule.

Via private vehicles

- Please note that only drop-offs for FMS(P) students are allowed. Drivers and other passengers are **not** permitted to disembark from the cars.
- Cars should form a single line according to the 10 drop-off points and should **not** overtake.
- Ensure that your child is prepared to disembark safely and promptly; they should carry all their belongings while in the car, open and close the car door independently, and be aware of their safety.

For more information on students' morning arrival, please click the link below:

[Click here to view the video](#)



Recess and Snack Time

The daily recess and snack timings are detailed in the table below. While the school guarantees the provision of healthy meals from the canteen vendors for recess, we strongly encourage parents to pack a nutritious snack for your child's snack time. Students will maintain good hygiene practices, including washing their hands before and after meals and conducting daily wipe-downs.

Level	Recess Time	Snack Time
P1 and P4	9.30am to 10.00am	11.30am
P2 and P3	10.00am to 10.30am	12.00pm
P5 and P6	10.30am to 11.00am	8.30am

Dismissal

To ensure the safety of all students, dismissal during Term 1 Week 1 will be staggered by levels. Please be aware that parents will **not** be permitted to enter the school gates or wait at the school foyer.

Level	Dismissal Time		Gate
	Date	Time	
P1	2 Jan	12.30pm	1
	3 to 5 Jan	1.00pm	
	Week 2 onwards	1.30pm	
P2	1.30pm		1
P3 to P6	1.30pm		2



For parents intending to pick up your children by car within the school compound, entry will be allowed **at approximately 1.45pm**, after the departure of all school buses. This measure aims to prevent traffic congestion. Kindly wait at the nearby car park instead of lining up along the roads, as this might cause traffic issues for other road users.



Security and Car Park Matters

If parents need to meet your child's teacher(s) in person, please schedule an appointment with the teacher(s) in advance. Upon arrival, kindly adhere to the school's security protocol and check in at the security counter.

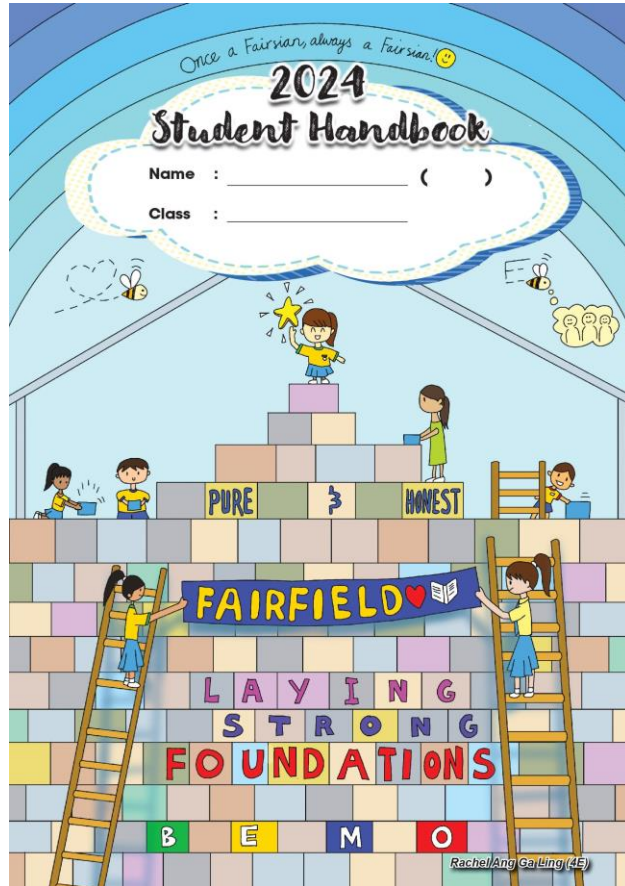
Please be aware that parking within the school compound is designated for FMS(P) staff with season parking. You are encouraged to park your car at one of the nearby public car parks.



Student Matters

Student Handbook 2024

Your child will receive a copy of the Student Handbook 2024. We encourage you to review the handbook together with your child to become familiar with its contents. The handbook serves as the primary means of communication between you and the teachers.

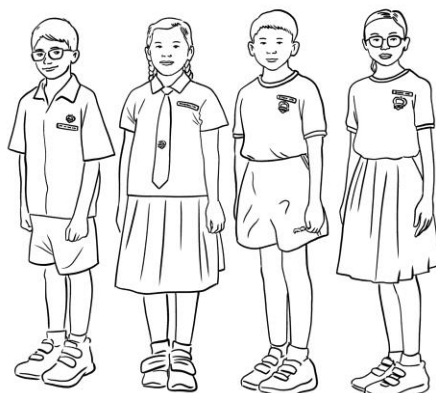


Attire and Appearance

Please be reminded of the following guidelines for your child:

- Students are to wear the prescribed school uniform. Modification to the uniform is **not** permitted.
- On days with Physical Education lessons, students may come in their school t-shirts and shorts/skirts.
- Only school t-shirts and approved CCA t-shirts are allowed to be worn during school activities.
- Only plain blue or black jackets/sweaters are allowed as outerwear.
- If students wear spectacles, they should be plain-framed and non-tinted, unless otherwise recommended by a doctor or optometrist.

Detailed guidelines on school attire and hairstyles are outlined in the Student Handbook (pages 10 to 13). If you require clarification, feel free to contact your child's form teachers.



Sale of School Uniform, PE Attire, Textbooks and Workbooks

For the purchase of school uniforms, PE T-shirts, and books, Yangtze Kiang Tailor and Pacific Bookstores will be open on the following dates in school:

	Yangtze Kiang Tailor	Pacific Bookstores
27 Jan 2024 (Sat)	9.00am to 12.00pm	
24 Feb 2024 (Sat)		
30 Mar 2024 (Sat)		

Parents may also choose to order school uniforms and PE attire online via the following link:

<https://www.yangtzekiang.com.sg/eshop/>

Price Revision for School Canteen Meals [effective 2 Jan 2024]

In the past 1 to 2 years, there has been a significant inflationary trend in food prices according to the Department of Statistics (DOS) and NEA's hawker price survey. Due to inflation and an increase in GST, our canteen stallholders are facing rising costs of food supplies. As a result, there will be a price revision for canteen meals in 2024, ensuring that the food provided continues to meet the nutritional needs of our students and remains economically viable for our school's canteen stallholders.

The maximum increase in the cost of canteen meals, excluding fruits, will be 20 cents. Fruits will be sold separately at prices ranging between 30 to 40 cents. These adjustments fall within the revised MOE food pricing guidelines for primary schools, which stipulate a range of \$2.00 to \$2.50 per meal (excluding fruits). Students under the Financial Assistance Scheme will continue to receive support reflecting the new prices.

[Primary 1 and 6 Students only] Photo-taking for School Smart Card (SSC)

There will be a photo-taking session for all P1 and P6 students for the Student Smart Card (SSC) on 31 Jan and 1 Feb 2024 (Wed and Thurs). On these days, all P1 and P6 students must wear their school uniform and bring their own comb. In case of absence, parents are requested to submit a softcopy photo to the school or to Transit Link's website (*link will be given directly to applicable parents*) within 7 days.

P1 students can expect to receive their SSCs by the end of March 2024, while P6 students will receive their SSCs at their new secondary schools in 2025.



Forgotten Items

We kindly request parents' support to refrain from bringing forgotten items for your child. Additionally, we ask for your understanding that our security officers will **not** relay students' forgotten personal belongings (such as textbooks, homework, pocket money, uniforms, water bottles, etc.) from the school gate to the students. This practice aligns with the school's efforts to nurture a sense of personal responsibility among our students for themselves and their possessions.

Exceptions will only be made for students' medication and spectacles.



Students Who Are Unwell

If your child is unwell and exhibits symptoms of an infectious disease (such as influenza) or shows any COVID-19 related symptoms, kindly keep him/her at home. It is advised to consult a doctor to assess his/her fitness to attend school. Upon the return to school, please provide a medical certificate to your child's form teachers.



School Health Visit

Parents will receive notifications via Parents Gateway (PG) once the dates for the schoolwide health screening and immunisation sessions are confirmed.

Upon confirmation, parents of P1 and P5 students will receive notification to submit your child's medical information and immunisation consent using the online Child Consent Portal. The submission deadline for health booklets of P1 and P5 students to their form teachers will also be communicated in the notification. Parents of students from other levels may also receive notifications if there is a requirement to submit your child's medical information, immunisation consent, and/or health booklets.



Use of Mobile Phones and Other Electronic Devices within the School Compound

In accordance with the National Examination rules, students are prohibited from bringing mobile phones or any image-capturing electronic devices during examination periods.

- Students who bring mobile phones or any other electronic devices to school at other times have to be responsible for their devices. The school will **not** be liable for any loss or damage to their electronic devices.
- For the safety and privacy of all staff and students, the unauthorised use of the camera/video recording function of these devices is **strictly prohibited** within the school compound.
- Smart devices such as mobile phones must be switched off in school during curriculum time so as not to disrupt any lessons.

The school reserves the right to check these devices. Inappropriate use of these devices may result in confiscation of the devices. All confiscated devices will be handed over to the HOD/Student Management for safekeeping and will only be returned to parents in school.



ICT Accounts

Throughout 2024, students will continue using their existing Microsoft Teams and SLS accounts for their learning needs. At the commencement of the academic year, students will log into these accounts to acquaint themselves with the process.

We encourage parents to set up recovery email addresses and/or mobile numbers for these accounts. This will facilitate easy retrieval of forgotten passwords. Additional details regarding these accounts will be communicated separately for P1 students.



Featuring FMS(P) Students in Approved School Media and Publications

As we celebrate the achievements and milestones of our students, we capture these moments for remembrance and acknowledgment. Please note that photographs and/or videos of your child may be taken by FMS(P) staff or authorised third-party photographers and/or videographers during school events and activities. These visuals may be used in our NewsLink, print publications, the school's official website, approved social media platforms, and communication channels.

If you prefer that your child **not** be featured in photographs and/or videos, please formally inform us via email at fmsp@moe.edu.sg **by 5 Jan 2024 (Fri)**. The school will process your opt-out request accordingly. Photos of students who have not opted out may be used by the school at our discretion.

Moreover, in alignment with the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) and for student safety, we kindly ask for your cooperation in refraining from posting photographs of Fairfield students, excluding your own children, on personal social media platforms.

We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support as we collaborate to create Fairfield as a dynamic learning environment for your child's growth and development.



Supporting Students' Needs - Submission of Documents

In our school, we recognise the importance of providing timely and appropriate support to every child to ensure they can reach their full potential. To achieve this, we greatly value the partnership between the school and parents. If you have recently received a document from a doctor or medical professional regarding your child's needs, please submit the document via this FormSG link: <https://go.gov.sg/fmsp-submission>.

Rest assured that all submitted documents will be reviewed by the appropriate school personnel. Following the review, your child's form teachers will reach out to you for further discussions. For any queries, you may wish to contact us at FMSP_SENTeam@schools.gov.sg.



Student Curriculum Matters

Meet-the-Parents (MTP) Sessions

The in-person MTP sessions will occur in the school hall and classrooms from 17 to 19 Jan 2024 (Wed to Fri). These sessions are conducted at the beginning of the year to provide comprehensive information about our school's plans and programs for 2024.

During these sessions, you will have the opportunity to meet your child's form teachers. Slides prepared by the subject teachers will be sent to you in advance for your review before the meeting.

Date	Levels (Timing)
17 Jan 2024 (Wed)	P1 and P2 (2.30pm to 4.00pm)
18 Jan 2024 (Thu)	P3 and P4 (2.30pm to 4.00pm)
19 Jan 2024 (Fri)	P5 and P6 (2.30pm to 4.00pm)



Remedial and Supplementary Programme

As part of the school's review process, remedials will only be offered to a select group of students in Primary 4 and 5 in 2024. These students are identified to need more support to build on foundational concepts and understanding.

For Primary 6 students, supplementary classes may be arranged in Semester 1 based on assessment of class needs conducted by the subject teachers. Following this, a more targeted approach may be adopted in Semester 2 to support smaller groups of students as needed.

Given that Primary 3 students are encouraged to participate in CCAs and will stay back in the afternoons for the first time, remedial classes will **not** be offered to facilitate their adjustment to this change.

[Primary 3 Students only] Gifted Education Programme (GEP) Screening & Selection Exercises

Please take note of the tentative schedule for the 2024 GEP Screening and Selection Exercises:

Stage	Date	Participants
GEP Screening Exercise	15 Aug 2024 (Thu)	Primary 3 students enrolled in government and government-aided schools
GEP Selection Exercise	15 and 16 Oct 2024* (Tue & Wed) *Week of PSLE Marking Exercise	Primary 3 students shortlisted after the GEP Screening Exercise



[Primary 1 and 2 Students only] Home-based Learning (HBL) on PSLE Days

To ensure the smooth operation during PSLE Exam Days, Primary 1 and 2 students will engage in Home-Based Learning (HBL) for 3 days, as outlined below:

	26 Sep (Thu)	27 Sep (Fri)	30 Sep (Mon)	1 Oct (Tue)	2 Oct (Wed)
PSLE (Exam Days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HBL for Primary 1 and 2 students • Primary 3, 4 and 5 students report to school as usual 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary 1 to 5 students report to school as usual 	

[Primary 3 to 6 Students only] Commencement and Resumption of CCAs

CCAs will commence in Term 1. Teacher I/Cs of the respective CCAs will notify parents of the CCA schedule.

School Teams and Clubs	Start Date
Chinese Dance, Choir, Concert Band and Handbell Ensemble	P3: 11 Jan 2024 (Thu) P4 to P6: 4 Jan 2024 (Thu)
Visual Arts Club	P3 to P6: 8 Jan 2024 (Mon)
Badminton, Basketball, Football and Volleyball	P3: Semester 2 P4 to P6: 4 Jan 2024 (Thu)
Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) Club	P3: Semester 2 P4 to P6: 22 Jan 2024 (Mon)
Uniform Groups	Start Date
Red Cross	P3 to P6: 22 Jan 2024 (Mon)
Boys' Brigade	P3: 21 Mar 2024 (Thu) P4 to P6: 25 Jan 2024 (Thu)
Girls' Brigade	P3 to P6: 25 Jan 2024 (Thu)
CCA Modules	Start Date
All modules	P3 & P4: 25 Jan 2024 (Thu) P5: 18 Jan 2024 (Thu) P6: 1 Feb 2024 (Thu)

CCA Communication Channels

Updates regarding CCA programs will be disseminated to all students through respective Teacher I/Cs and notifications posted on the CCA notice boards, Microsoft Teams, and Parents Gateway (PG). Kindly remind your child to stay updated by regularly checking the CCA notice boards and Microsoft Teams for any new information. Information concerning your child's CCA will be communicated to you via PG.



School-wide Programme Highlights

Chinese New Year Celebration

The school will be celebrating Chinese New Year on 9 Feb 2024 (Fri). Students are encouraged to dress in bright-coloured tops with school skirts (girls) and school/PE shorts (boys) with school shoes. The celebration will feature performances by our staff and students, along with engaging classroom activities. All students will be dismissed at 10.30am that day.

Commemoration of Total Defence Day

The school will be commemorating Total Defence Day on 16 Feb 2024 (Fri). The theme for this year is 'Together We Keep Singapore Strong'. Students will delve into the significance of the six pillars of Total Defence – Military Defence, Economic Defence, Civil Defence, Social Defence, Psychological Defence, and Digital Defence.

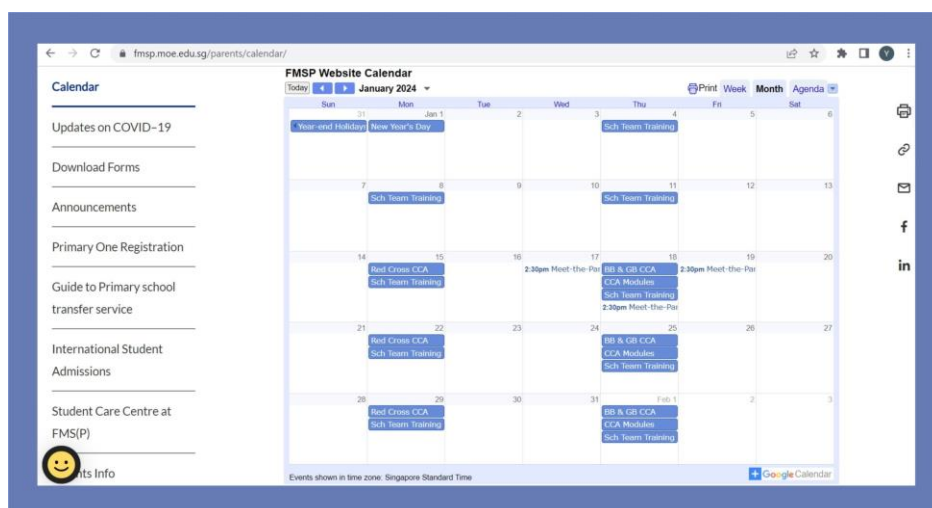
Throughout the day, students will partake in various activities such as an assembly program, classroom discussions during their Form Teacher Guidance Period (FTGP) and Social Studies lessons. Additionally, they will engage in school-wide and classroom-specific activities aimed at understanding their role in contributing to Total Defence Day and safeguarding Singapore.





The school calendar for Term 1 is available on the school's website.

Click [here](#) to view it!



Overview of Term 1 Key Dates

Public Holidays	
New Year's Day	1 Jan 2024 (Mon)
Chinese New Year	10 Feb 2024 (Sat)* 11 Feb 2024 (Sun)** *12 Feb 2024 (Mon) will be a public holiday **13 Feb 2024 (Tue) will be a school holiday
Early Dismissal for All Levels	
Chinese New Year Celebration	9 Feb 2024 (Fri) All students will be dismissed at 10.30am
School-wide Events (All Levels)	
Meet-the-Parents	P1 & P2: 17 Jan 2024 (Wed) P3 & P4: 18 Jan 2024 (Thu) P5 & P6: 19 Jan 2024 (Fri)
Commemoration of Total Defence Day	16 Feb 2024 (Fri)
Level Events	
P1 Initiation Service	5 Jan 2024 (Fri)
P5 Camp @ Changi OALC	21 to 23 Feb 2024 (Wed to Fri)
School Vacation	
March Holidays	9 to 17 Mar 2024 (Sat to Sun)

School Terms

The school terms for 2024 will be as follows:

Semester I	
Term I	2 Jan 2024 (Tue)* to 8 Mar 2024 (Fri) *P2 to P6 students will start school on 3 Jan 2024 (Wed)
Term II	18 Mar 2024 (Mon) to 24 May 2024 (Fri)
Semester II	
Term III	24 Jun 2024 (Mon)* to 30 Aug 2024 (Fri)
Term IV	9 Sep 2024 (Mon) to 15 Nov 2024 (Fri)