



9 Jan 2023

Ref: BBSS23-005 rev

Dear Parent/Guardian

**WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR AT BBSS!**

1. My warmest greetings to you. It is heartening to see our students coming to school all energised and ready to start the new academic year. On behalf of the school, I would like to thank all parents/guardians for your support during the 3 years of Covid in ensuring that the school is safe for your child/ward and students in school. I would also like to thank all Sec 1 parents/guardians for entrusting your children/wards with us.

2. **Celebrating Achievements** – We have accolades to share from the last quarter of 2022 (**Annex A: Details of Achievements** provides additional details, if any, of these achievements)

Domain	Achievement
Academic	<p><b>Animation and Game Making Competition 2022</b> Gold Award (Game Category) – Nurul Adilah, 3A1</p> <p><b>Singapore Junior Chemistry Olympiad (SJChO) 2022</b> Silver Award – Nah Jun Kai, 4A7</p> <p><b>Network For Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) Competition 2022</b> 1<sup>st</sup> – Iqmal Bin Azahari, 3A1 2<sup>nd</sup> – Ee Wei Tong, 3A1 3<sup>rd</sup> – Mandy Chong Min En, 3A1</p> <p><b>Historical Scene Investigation Challenge October 2022</b> Silver Award – Xu Meixuan, 2A6, Lim Hee Won, 2A6, Wong Yan Li, 2A6 and S R Rakshita, 2A6</p>
Staff	<p><b>Innergy Award 2022</b> Bronze – Dr Mohamed Faizal, Mdm Yaw Lai Theng and Mr Jeremy Goh</p> <p><b>MOE Service Excellence Award (MSEA) 2022</b> Platinum – Ms Jane Lim and Ms Anita D/O Chandrasagaran Gold – Mdm Haslinda, Mdm Nadiah and Mrs Quek Meng Chee Silver – Ms Crystal Ho and Mr Samuie Tarjalia</p> <p><b>Leading Foundation Teacher Award 2022</b> Leading Foundation Award 2022 for Early Childhood and Special Needs - Ms Candy Lee</p>

3. Please read through the following important information to start the school year well.

### **School Terms for 2023**

Semester 1	Term 1	Tuesday, 3 January to Friday, 10 March
	Term 2	Monday, 20 March to Friday, 26 May
Semester 2	Term 3	Monday, 26 June to Friday, 1 September
	Term 4	Monday, 11 September to Fri, 17 November

- The start time for school is 7.55 am on Monday to Friday. The dismissal time on Mondays to Thursdays is between 1.40pm and 3.00pm, depending on respective class timetables. On Fridays, students are dismissed at 12.25pm.
- There may be early school dismissal on some days in the year. Parents would be informed of early school dismissal via Parents Gateway.
- Students are deemed to be late if they are NOT with their respective classes at the designated reporting venue(s) at the start of morning assembly.
- For the safety of our students entering the school in the morning, please refer to **Annex B: Opening Hours for School Gates, Traffic Management & Road Safety**.

#### **4. School Focus for 2022 – Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDLP)**

- In line with our mission of nurturing every BBSSian to be self-directed learners with an abundance mentality, our school has remained focused on enriching the learning experiences of all BBSSians and enhancing their future readiness.
- The PDLP helps to prepare BBSSians for an increasingly digitalized world, where self-directedness, working collaboratively with others and digital literacy are vital. Additionally, with the increasing use of e-textbooks and e-pedagogies, our BBSSians will have the opportunity to learn through a mix of in-school and home-based activities, online and offline, individually and collaboratively.
- All Sec 2 to 5 students have been issued a Personal Learning Device (PLD). More details on the issuance of PLDs to Sec 1s will be communicated at a later date.
- The PLD will support our efforts to equip your child with important digital and media literacies, as well as 21<sup>st</sup> century competencies. We seek your assistance to ensure that your child/ward brings his/her PLD to school everyday, to ensure optimized learning.

5. **2023 School Calendar for Major Events/Programmes** - Please see **Annex C: Calendar for Major Events/Programmes in Term 1**. You may also refer to the school calendar in the student e-handbook for schedules of school programmes and activities for the various levels for the year.

6. **Principal Talks and Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs)** – We believe that it is imperative to establish and sustain strong partnerships with parents to develop our BBSSians holistically. As such, we have scheduled a series of Principal Talks and Parent-Teacher Meetings. Please see **Annex D: Schedule for Principal's Talks and PTMs** for the various levels.

7. **CCA Matters** – CCA days are on Monday and Wednesday, 3.15pm to 6.00pm. There may be additional practice sessions in the lead up to competitions / Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) presentations. The CCA teachers will inform parents/guardians of affected students in due course via Parents Gateway.

8. **Safe Management Measures** - With the relaxation of Safe Management Measures announced in August 2022, mask-wearing is optional in both indoor and outdoor settings. Social responsibility is key to keeping the school safe for everyone. Students who are unwell or have a positive ART result should not report to school and inform their form teacher of their absence.

9. **Video Recording and Photography in School** – As an institution that continually seeks to improve the learning experience of students, ongoing research by our staff may entail filming and photography on the school premises. Such materials may also be used for publicity and/or presentations. Please approach your child/ward's form teacher if you have any concerns.

As the world becomes increasingly complex and challenging, with uncertain geopolitical climate, on-going COVID situation and climate change, BBSS understands the need to build a positive school environment to help your children/wards navigate challenges and forge ahead. We seek parents'/guardians' partnership to reinforce a positive environment at home to support their children/wards' learning, improve their resilience, exercise personal and social responsibility as well as provide opportunities to practise environmental sustainability. Additionally, we have also included a poster in **Annex E** (for parents/guardians of Secondary 1 students) on how they can support their child/ward in transiting into a secondary school.

All the best wishes to you and your family in the New Year. May the year ahead be an enriching one and may you all enjoy good health and happiness.

Yours faithfully

Mr Phua Huat Chuan  
Principal

*(This letter has been posted electronically on Parents Gateway. No signature is required.)*

**List of Annexes**

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**Details of Achievements**

<b>Domain</b>	<b>Achievement</b>
Academic	<p><b>Animation and Game Making Competition</b>                      The Animation and Game Making Competition is an annual competition organised by CPDD Sciences Branch, Computer Education Unit. It serves as a platform to showcase students' work in programming, develop students' interest in media design and to hone students' presentation and communication skills. Nurul Adilah of 3A1 has achieved the Gold Award for the Game Category.</p> <p><b>Singapore Junior Chemistry Olympiad (SJChO) 2022</b>                      The SJChO provides a platform for students to challenge themselves in their chemical knowledge and skills, seeks to promote the excitement in learning and doing Chemistry, and develops talents in Chemistry. Nah Jun Kai of 4A7 achieved the Silver Award for the Olympiad.</p> <p><b>Network For Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) Competition 2022</b>                      Three of our students from 3A1 presented their business ideas to the judges and they were awarded the top three placings in the competitions. Iqmal Bin Azahari was placed 1<sup>st</sup>, Ee Wei Tong was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and Mandy Chong Min En was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the competition.</p> <p><b>Historical Scene Investigation Challenge October 2022</b>                      The Historical Scene Investigation (H.S.I.) Challenge is an annual contest organised by the National Library Board, which promises an exciting experience for students to put their historical inquiry and research skills to the test. This year's contest commemorates the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Japanese Occupation of Singapore during WW2, in which students create a 3-minute video related to the theme of the competition. Four of our students from 2A6, Xu Meixuan, Lim Hee Won, Wong Yan Li and S R Rakshita attained the Silver Award.</p>
Staff	<p><b>Innergy Award 2022</b>                      The MOE Innergy Awards recognise individuals/teams for their innovations that contribute to significant benefit and impact at their workplaces. Our Chemistry Team, led by Dr Mohamed Faizal, Mdm Yaw Lai Theng and Mr Jeremy Goh won the Bronze Award for their entry '<i>Enhancing the immersive learning experience of students in Chemistry experiments using Virtual Reality laboratories</i>'.</p> <p><b>MOE Service Excellence Award (MSEA) 2022</b>                      The annual MSEA recognises exemplary staff who are passionate in service delivery, consistent in serving stakeholders with C.A.R.E. and inspires colleagues to do likewise. Ms Jane Lim and Ms Anita D/O Chandrasagaran were awarded Platinum, Mdm Haslinda, Mdm Nadiah and Mrs Quek Meng Chee were awarded Gold and Ms Crystal Ho and Mr Samuie Tarjalia were awarded Silver.</p>

Domain	Achievement
	<p data-bbox="370 184 943 216"><b>Leading Foundation Teacher Award 2022</b></p> <p data-bbox="370 216 1432 449">The Leading Foundation Teacher Award recognises passionate and dedicated teachers and special needs education officers who have made significant contributions to the care and teaching of children in the fields of early childhood and special education needs. Ms Candy Lee has shown exceptional dedication and commitment to go beyond the call of duty in caring for her students' well-being and was awarded the Leading Foundation Teacher Award for Early Childhood and Special Needs.</p>

**Opening Hours for School Gates, Traffic Management & Road Safety**

Do note the following regarding the opening hours of the school gates and latecomers.

<b>Morning Assembly (7.55 am)</b>	Before the chime for morning assembly	Front gate – Open from <b>6.00 am</b> Back gate – Open from <b>6.30 am to 7.55am</b>
	After the chime for morning assembly	For safety and security reasons, <b>only the front gate</b> will be open. Latecomers can <b>only enter</b> from the front gate after 7.55am.
<b>After 8.25 am</b>	Latecomers <b>without valid reasons</b> will need to report to the Principal or Vice-Principals.	

In the afternoon during curriculum time, the rear gate turnstile will be open at the following scheduled timings for **EXIT** only with exceptions that may be made during rainy weather and during the examination period.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Time</b>
Mon - Thu	1.40 pm – 6.30 pm
Fri	12.25 pm – 6.30 pm

**Traffic Management & Road Safety**

To ensure the safety of our students, the school **does not allow** vehicles to be driven into the school compound before morning assembly (7.55 am). The restricted space leading to the foyer and the heavy traffic volume in the morning makes it unsafe for the students.

The following serves in advising parents/guardians who drop off/pick up their child/ward at school:

- Drive carefully always at a much-reduced speed within the school zone.
- Children/Wards should be dropped-off outside the school **AFTER THE MAIN GATE** before morning assembly. The school security guards will be there to direct cars to the drop-off points. Do heed their instructions.
- Alternatively, the HDB car parks serving Block 160 to 164 may be used to drop off students while the rear gates are open till 7.55 am. There is no parking charge for vehicles exiting within 10 minutes.
- For children/wards alighting on the opposite side of the road, do drop them off nearer to the pedestrian crossing located a short distance from the main entrance. It is **dangerous and not advisable** for the children/wards to cross the roads without the assistance of the pedestrian crossing. There are no plans by LTA to build a pedestrian crossing immediately outside the school gates.
- In the event of rain, cars are allowed to be driven into the school compound to drop off/pick up child/ward at the foyer.
- To ensure a smooth flow of traffic, all parents/guardians are to follow the instructions given by the security guards and volunteers on duty.

Students should liaise with parents/guardians to pick them up only when they are ready to leave the school. It is advised for students to be picked up from the rear gate in the HDB carparks serving Block 160 to 164.

Parents/Guardians may drive their vehicles into the school and park at designated visitor lots for **up to a duration of 15 minutes** after school hours to pick up their child/ward **without leaving their vehicles**.

Please continue to always exercise care while driving within the school zone and in the school compound.

**Calendar for Major School Events/Programmes (Term 1)**

Do refer to the BBSS school calendar in the student handbook for schedules of school programmes and activities for the various levels. The table below highlights the major events in the first term.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
Wed, 4 Jan	S1 CCA Experiences & Trials (Boys' Session I) [3 pm – 6.30 pm]
Fri, 6 Jan	S1 CCA Experiences & Trials (Girls' Session I) [1.45 pm – 5.30 pm]
Mon, 9 Jan	S1 CCA Experiences & Trials (Boys' Session II) [3 pm – 6.30 pm]
Wed, 11 Jan	S1 CCA Experiences & Trials (Girls' Session II) [3 pm – 6.30 pm]
Fri, 13 Jan	Seek, Discover and Learn (SDL) Day (ALL)
Thu, 19 Jan	Principal's Talk for Sec 1 Parents [6.00 pm – 7.30 pm]
Fri, 20 Jan	Chinese New Year Celebrations [7.50 am – 12.00 pm]
<b>PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (SUN, 22 JAN TO TUE, 24 JAN) – CHINESE NEW YEAR</b>	
Fri, 27 Jan	Seek, Discover and Learn (SDL) Day (ALL)
Wed, 8 Feb	CCA Orientation (Sec 1)
Fri, 10 Feb	Seek, Discover and Learn (SDL) Day (ALL)
Wed, 15 Feb	Total Defence Day
Fri, 17 Feb	Principal's Talk for Sec 3 Parents [6.00 pm – 7.30 pm]
Fri, 24 Feb	Seek, Discover and Learn (SDL) Day (ALL)
Fri, 3 Mar	Principal's Talk for Sec 4/5 Parents [6.00 pm – 7.30 pm]
Thu, 9 Mar	Parent-Teacher Meeting (selected students) [3.00 pm – 5.30 pm]
Fri, 10 Mar	Parent-Teacher Meeting (selected students) [11.00 am – 12.30 pm]
	Seek, Discover and Learn (SDL) Day (ALL)
<b>SCHOOL HOLIDAYS (SAT, 11 MAR TO SUN, 19 MAR)</b>	



**Schedule for Principal's Talk and Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs)**

During the PTMs, the school aims to communicate planned programmes and share on the progression of students to parents/guardians, and harness their support to work hand-in-hand with the teachers in developing them. At the Principal's Talk, perspectives will be shared on how parents/guardians can provide home support throughout the students' secondary school life in strong partnership with the school.

	<b>Sec 1</b>	<b>Sec 2</b>	<b>Sec 3</b>	<b>Sec 4/5</b>
Principal's Talk	Thu, 19 Jan 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm	Fri, 24 Mar 4.30 pm – 6.00 pm	Fri, 17 Feb 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm	Fri, 3 Mar 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm
PTM	Thu, 9 Mar (selected students), 3.00 pm – 5.30 pm			
	Fri, 10 Mar (selected students), 11.00 am – 12.30 pm			
	Wed, 24 May (ALL), 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm			
	Thu, 25 May (ALL), 3.30 pm – 5.30 pm			
	Fri, 26 May (ALL), 8.00 am – 4.00 pm			

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S /WARD'S

# Transition to Secondary School

Transition is a period of adapting to change.

Your child / ward will be starting a new education journey as he / she enters Sec 1.

Here are some ways you can support him / her through this transition.

## Recognise & Acknowledge

1

Your child / ward may be feeling worried and anxious about the coming change.

- Acknowledge their feelings.
- Provide encouragements.



## Preparation

2

Share with your child/ward changes and expectations in secondary schools.

- Increase in number of subjects compared to primary school.
- Subject Based Banding
- Longer school hours (CCA, after school programmes)
- To be more independent in seeking help.



## Be a listening ear

3

Encourage your child/ward to share their day in school to know more about their time in school and friends.



## Collaboration with school

4

Inform school of your child's / ward's diagnosis so that school is aware and can better support his or her needs.

