



# QUEENSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

310 MARGARET DRIVE, SINGAPORE 149303

TEL: 64741044

FAX: 64713640

Email: [qtps@moe.edu.sg](mailto:qtps@moe.edu.sg)

School website: [www.queenstownpri.moe.edu.sg](http://www.queenstownpri.moe.edu.sg)

31 January 2025

## AN OPEN LETTER

### FEBRUARY 2025

Dear Parents / Guardians,

1. Season's greetings! I hope that you have had a wonderful time with your families over the Lunar New Year holiday. We are into the fifth week of the new term and my staff and I are happy to see that our students have settled well into the school. This month, our students will commemorate Total Defence Day as a poignant reminder of our collective responsibility to safeguard and strengthen our nation.

### *Upcoming Events...*

#### **Total Defence Day (17 February)**

2. The school will commemorate Total Defence Day on Monday, 17 February 2025. This year marks 41 years of Total Defence (TD41) in Singapore. As part of our commemoration of TD41 this year, our students will experience a food disruption simulation in school on 17 February 2025 .

3. This TD41 Exercise aims to prepare students for potential disruptions to our food supply chain due to climate change, protectionism, or geopolitical tensions etc., given Singapore's reliance on food imports.

4. Please note that the canteen will not serve any form of meat (e.g. chicken, fish and other seafood) on that day to encourage students to be flexible in their food choices and to be open to protein alternatives in the event of such disruptions. Following the exercise, students will reflect on their experiences and share their thoughts and feelings with their classmates through a guided discussion on 17 February 2025.

5. Parents/Guardians, you may wish to engage your child/ward in sharing his/her experience with you and to reinforce the important message that everyone has a part to play in Singapore's Total Defence effort. Where possible, we seek your support in not packing any form of meat as part of your child's snack or recess meal for that day. This is to provide your child/ward with an authentic learning experience through the food disruption simulation.

#### **Briefing for P2 to P6 Parents**

6. Parents / Guardians, you are our very important partners because you play an important role in supporting our students in the learning and development process at home. As such, we would like to invite you to our annual Briefing for Parents to be held **online via MS Teams**. The objective of this briefing is to keep you informed and updated on school matters related to your child's/ward's education.

7. The details for the briefing for the respective levels are as follows:

<b>For Parents/ Guardians of Primary 2 Students</b>	<b>For Parents/ Guardians of Primary 3 Students</b>	<b>For Parents/ Guardians of Primary 4 Students</b>
<p><b><u>Friday, 21/2/25</u></b>  <b><u>3.00 pm to 3.35 pm</u></b>  Briefing by School Leaders &amp; Key Personnel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principal's Welcome</li> <li>• CCE (Cyberwellness)</li> <li>• CCA Fair</li> <li>• Higher Mother Tongue Languages in Primary 3</li> <li>• Allocation of Classes</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Monday, 17/2/25</u></b>  <b><u>3.00 pm to 3.50 pm</u></b>  Briefing by School Leaders &amp; Key Personnel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principal's Welcome</li> <li>• CCE (Cyberwellness)</li> <li>• CCA</li> <li>• Swimsafer</li> <li>• Assessment and Science</li> </ul> <p><b><u>4.00 pm to 4.30 pm</u></b>  Interaction with Form Teachers</p>	<p><b><u>Friday, 21/2/25</u></b>  <b><u>4.00 pm to 4.40 pm</u></b>  Briefing by School Leaders &amp; Key Personnel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principal's Welcome</li> <li>• CCE (Cyberwellness)</li> <li>• Subject-Based Banding</li> <li>• Higher Mother Tongue Languages</li> </ul>
<b>For Parents/ Guardians of Primary 5 Students</b>	<b>For Parents/ Guardians of Primary 6 Students</b>	
<p><b><u>Thursday, 13/2/25</u></b>  <b><u>3.00 pm to 3.55 pm</u></b>  Briefing by School Leaders &amp; Key Personnel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principal's Welcome</li> <li>• CCE (Cyberwellness)</li> <li>• PSLE Scoring, Posting and Direct School Admission (DSA)</li> <li>• Mental Health</li> <li>• P5 Camp</li> </ul> <p><b><u>4.00 pm to 4.30 pm</u></b>  Interaction with Form Teachers</p>	<p><b><u>Thursday, 13/2/25</u></b>  <b><u>3.00 pm to 3.45 pm</u></b>  Briefing by School Leaders &amp; Key Personnel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principal's Welcome</li> <li>• CCE (Cyberwellness)</li> <li>• PSLE Scoring, Posting and Direct School Admission (DSA)</li> <li>• Mental Health</li> </ul>	

8. We look forward to meeting you at the briefing session. More details will be disseminated closer to the date.

### ***General Information...***

#### **Creating a Safe Environment for Our Students**

9. At our school, we are committed to fostering a positive and supportive environment where every student feels safe, valued, and empowered to grow. To uphold this commitment, we focus on creating a safe environment and a culture of care to prevent challenging behaviours from occurring. When inappropriate behaviours arise, they are addressed promptly and corrected before they affect others. Furthermore, we strive to replace inappropriate behaviours with pro-social and appropriate ones, while also restoring relationships with those who may have been hurt.

10. Students are taught what to do when they encounter unsafe situations. They are encouraged to report any incident of bullying to their teachers or staff at the General Office. Alternatively, they can use the Bullying Reporting Box located outside the HOD Room. Recognising that some students may feel more comfortable confiding in their peers, we have trained students in each class to look out for one another and to report such matters to the school on their behalf.

11. When any incident of bullying, whether inside or outside the school, is reported, the school conducts a thorough investigation before determining the appropriate course of action.

12. If your child/ward has been a victim of bullying, we encourage you to remain calm, provide emotional support, and reinforce positive values and coping skills. Similarly, if your child/ward has engaged in bullying, we urge you to guide them to take responsibility for their actions, apologise sincerely and make amends.

13. Positive change requires time and a shared commitment between parents and the school. By working together, we can create an environment that inspires our children to grow into responsible and compassionate individuals.

### **Guidance On Screen Use in Children**

14. The availability of mobile devices like smart phones, smart watches, tablets and laptops have expanded rapidly over the recent years. Educational screen use could lead to academic gains and cognitive development if used appropriately and at the right age. However, there are also potential downsides to screen use. For example, mobile devices may allow children to consume digital content excessively and expose them to inappropriate online content. There is emerging evidence that the content on social media may negatively affect children's self-identity and socio-emotional well-being. There also appears to be some associations between screen use and insufficient good-quality sleep, sedentary behaviours, increased obesity, poorer cognitive outcomes, and poorer mental health and well-being. Longer periods of mobile device usage may also increase the likelihood of myopia, eye strain, and dry eye, especially in children.

15. As part of the newly launched national health strategy ('Grow Well SG') to encourage children and adolescents to adopt healthier lifestyles, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has updated its guidelines to manage the use of screens among children. These updated guidelines provide parents with children aged 0-12 years old with practical suggestions on how to manage their children's screen use. You may access MOH's 'Guidance on Screen Use in Children' at: <https://go.gov.sg/moh-screenadvisory>

16. In the January Open Letter, I had shared with you our school's guidelines on the use of mobile phones and smart devices in QtPS. Please be reminded that **students are not to use mobile phones or smart devices (e.g. smart watches other than the POSB Smart Buddy Watch) during school hours** (including recess, CCA and after-school programmes, including in school student care). The school will take strict action against students who use their mobile phones or smart devices to take pictures or videos without permission, and uploading them onto the Internet. This policy is in place for several important reasons:

- a) to encourage face-to-face social interactions and development of interpersonal skills
- b) to maintain a safe and supportive learning environment, free from potential cyberbullying, inappropriate content exposure, and digital distractions that could negatively impact students' well-being and academic focus.
- c) to better manage screen time for students' health and well-being.

17. Where possible, **students are strongly discouraged from bringing such devices to school**. Nonetheless, should they bring their mobile phones or smart devices, they are to place them in their school bags before the start of the school day. They should bear the responsibility for the safekeeping of their mobile phones or smart devices as the school will not bear responsibility for the loss of, damage to or theft of students' mobile phones or smart devices.

### Inculcation of Responsibility in Our Students

18. We have observed that when students forget to bring their belongings to school, parents/ guardians often deliver these items on their behalf. At QtPS, we strive to nurture responsible future citizens, and we believe that each student should learn to be accountable for their own belongings. Therefore, we kindly discourage you from delivering personal items such as pocket money, books, stationery, water bottles, or food to your child/ward through the General Office or security personnel at the Security Post. However, exceptions will be made for the delivery of essential items such as medication. By allowing students to experience the consequences of forgetting their belongings, we hope to instil a greater sense of responsibility in them. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding in supporting this important aspect of their development.

### School's Calendar of Events (COE)

19. Our February calendar of events can be found on our school website, at <https://www.queenstownpri.moe.edu.sg/useful-links/school-calendar/>



### Connect with us

20. To be updated on what has been happening in our school, please visit us at:

<p><u><b>Our School's Website</b></u> <a href="http://www.queenstownpri.moe.edu.sg">www.queenstownpri.moe.edu.sg</a></p> 	<p><u><b>Our School's Facebook Page</b></u> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/qtps.sg/">https://www.facebook.com/qtps.sg/</a></p>  <p>QtPS Facebook Page</p>
---	--

### *Concluding Remarks...*

21. Our school values are Respect, Resilience, Integrity and Gratitude, and we will be exploring each of the four values each term. For Term 1, the value that we are focusing on is Respect. In QtPS, we believe in cultivating respect in our students, so that they will possess the belief in their own self-worth and the worth of others. As our very important partners at home, do encourage your child/ward by reinforcing his/her positive self-image, and also by reinforcing this message of respect at home.

Warmest regards,  
Mrs Olivia Cheong,  
Principal