



CHIJ ST. THERESA'S CONVENT

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19 January 2021

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

A blessed 2021 to us all. We give thanks to God for safely seeing us through 2020 and for bestowing His blessings upon our school. We also give thanks for all the opportunities that lie before us in 2021, and we ask for God's continued blessings upon our school, as we grow all Theresians to be a Light to Others.

As we begin the new year with renewed hope and confidence, we ask you to continue supporting your daughter/ ward by taking note of the following:

Theme for 2021: Seeking and Championing Truth

Love, Truth, Justice and Freedom are the four school values which we share with all the 11 IJ schools in Singapore. In 2021, we will align our assembly talks and school programmes in the value of Truth. Each of us has been given a conscience that can enlighten us on Truth. In Psalm 15: 2-3, we are encouraged to be "The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart; whose tongue utters no slander, who does no wrong to a neighbour, and casts no slur on others."

We will remind our students to seek Truth and to listen to their conscience in being a Light to Others, and to champion Truth through their upright actions as they face the experiences and challenges of 2021. We hope that you will also find time at home to share with your daughter/ ward about this value, during the year.

National Digital Literacy Programme (NDLP)

All secondary schools will embark on the NDLP in 2021, and all parents/ guardians of Sec 1-3 students should have received a copy of a letter on this via PG / hard copy, dated 11 Jan 2021. If you have any further questions, kindly approach your daughter/ ward's Form Teacher or the General Office during working hours. As our Sec 4 and 5 students may be asked to purchase their Personal Learning Device (PLD) in their post-secondary institution after 2021, we have decided not to ask our graduating cohort to purchase it in STC.

In STC, the NDLP will be implemented for all Sec 1-3 students. We have also uploaded a soft copy of the communications slides and the FAQs, on our school website, for your additional reference. All students (Sec 1-5) have been allocated a free locker by their Form Teachers, for their use in storing valuables, including the PLD. We encourage parents/ guardians to advise your daughter/ ward on proper safekeeping of their valuables during PE lessons, recess, before and after school dismissal. You may refer to pages 39 – 42 of the Student Handbook for more information.

Assessment and Homework Matters

To support students in their transition years of secondary school life, MOE has adjusted the School-Based Assessment structures, as announced in Sep 2018. For Secondary 1 and 3 students, there will be no Mid-Year Examination. The school will use the Weighted Assessments and an End-of-Year Examination to help your daughter/ ward consolidate her learning. You may refer to pages 49-50 for more information on the assessment structure and promotion criteria in the Students' Handbook.

All subject teachers will also inform students of the details of the Weighted Assessments. We encourage all students to take ownership of their revision plans. On a similar note, there is a Homework Board in every classroom which will be updated regularly for students to take note of the allocated homework. We encourage all students to be self-directed in their learning and to share their study plans with their parents/ guardians.

EFL Camps

In 2021, all cohort camps that will be held will be **non-residential**. This includes the MOE-OBS Challenge for Sec 3 students, and the various level and CCA camps. Safe Management Measures (SMM) will be practiced in our daily school calendar, including the camps.

Reporting times and picking up your daughter/ ward from school

We seek your support in ensuring that your daughter/ ward is in her classroom by **7.30 am** (Sec 2 and 3 students) and **7.40 am** (Sec 1 and Sec 4 & 5 students). Thank you for helping them to be ready, mind and spirit, for the start of each day.

The main school gate will be closed **by 6.15 pm** each day, so if you are picking up your daughter/ward, pls ensure that you leave the school premises before then. Students who are staying back for CCA and other lessons will be dismissed by 5.45 pm latest.

Discipline Matters

We also seek your support to advise your daughter to adhere to our school rules regarding the following, so that we can have the best possible learning environment in school:

- All students must switch off their mobile phones during curriculum hours unless otherwise instructed by teachers who need them to use it for teaching and learning in the classroom.
- Students who are found using their mobile phones during curriculum time will have their phones confiscated for up to 5 school days, depending on the severity of the non-compliance.

Health Matters

The school will be conducting daily visual screening, temperature taking and wipe-down in classrooms, to ensure that all in school are healthy and well.

- We seek your support in ensuring that your daughter/ ward does not come to school if she has any flu-like symptom (eg. cough, fever, runny nose, sore throat) and that she consults a doctor.
- If an adult in your household is given a 5-day MC for flu-like symptoms and/or a swab test for Covid-19, pls inform your daughter/ ward's Form Teacher immediately and your daughter will be placed on Approved Absence (AA) leave until the adult member either tests negative for Covid-19 and/or completes the 5 days of MC.

For Catholic students

We have resumed our Monday Masses in the Hall (7.25 – 7.55 am), subject to Safe Management Measures. Please note that every fortnight, the lower and upper secondary Catholic students may attend Mass in the Hall (up to a maximum of 50 pax, including Catholic staff and our priest from the Church of St. Teresa). Catholic students who wish to attend Mass are to present themselves to the Hall by 7.15 am to allow for time for attendance taking, temperature taking, etc.

General Reminders

- Parents and visitors are not to go up to the classrooms and/or staff rooms directly, unless accompanied by a member of staff. Pls sign in your attendance at the Guard house (Safe Entry, travel declaration, temperature taking) and go to the General Office when you arrive, and we will attend to you.
- Students who need to leave school early for exams outside school, medical appointments, etc, must have their parents seek prior permission in writing from their Form Teachers.
- Students who feel unwell and would like to go home should obtain permission from their Form teachers or Subject Teachers before contacting their parents/ guardians to pick them up from the General Office.
- In order to educate our students to be more independent in their secondary school years, the school will not be relaying personal messages to students. Please make arrangements to connect with your daughter/ ward after school. If there is an urgent emergency at home, please contact our General Office.

A heartfelt thank you to all parents for your support last year, especially with the changes to school routines due to Covid-19. As we go forth into 2021, let us continue to work together to guide our girls to live out the 4 Theresian values of Love, Truth, Justice and Freedom in their lives.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Jenny Leong
Principal