



启发小学

QIFA PRIMARY SCHOOL

50 WEST COAST AVENUE SINGAPORE 128104

TEL: 67783085

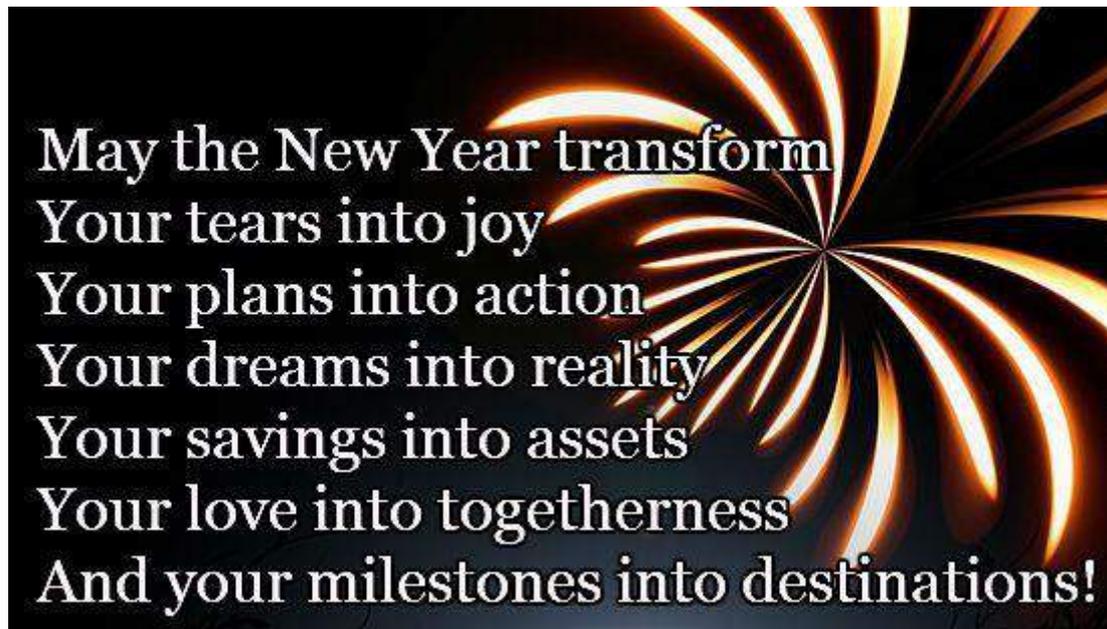
FAX: 67761485

Principal's Letter – Term 1, January 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome Back

On behalf of the staff at Qifa Primary School, I would like to wish you and your family a fulfilling 2017 ahead. A warm welcome to the new pupils and their parents, especially the Primary Ones, you are now part of our Qifa family ☺



I trust that the children have had an enjoyable and restful break in December. New adventures and lessons await them in the new school year. I have addressed the pupils today and challenged them to set new school year resolutions. In 2017, I hope to see the pupils experience the joy of learning every day. I hope that all pupils will reach home from school inspired and eager to share with you what they have learned from school, and what they look forward to exploring on their own.

As we begin this new school year and my fifth year at Qifa, I would like you to know that my staff and I will be engaging in conversations around nurturing a growth mindset, both for ourselves and for our pupils. We will guide every child to set learning goals for themselves, and help them to understand what they can and have to do to accomplish their goals.



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***Every Student, an Engaged Learner**

Strategic Thrust 1 - Providing a Holistic and Value-added Education

2016 Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE) Results

Last year, all our Primary Six pupils passed their PSLE and successfully progressed to secondary education. We achieved commendable quality and quantity results for both the standard and foundation subjects, with Chinese Language, Mathematics, Science and Foundation Science surpassing or close to the national mean for quality results and English Language, Foundation English Language, Mathematics, Science, Foundation Science, Higher Chinese Language, Chinese Language and Tamil Language surpassing or close to the national mean for quantity results.

I would also like to give due credit to our teachers, particularly our Primary Six teachers, who have played an instrumental role in contributing to the pupils' academic success. Without their deep sense of commitment and hard work, Qifa would not have been able to achieve such positive results.

***Every Teacher, a Caring Educator**

Strategic Thrust 2 – Providing Care and Support for Staff

New Appointments and New Staff

Each year brings positive change. This includes a few additions to our staff. We are delighted to welcome the following new staff to the Qifa family:

*Ms Rebecca Lim, Subject Head (Student Development), who has just returned from completing her Masters in Linguistics in the United Kingdom. Rebecca was previously from Nanyang Primary School. She will be teaching Middle Primary English Language

*Mr Chew Chee Wai, Level Head (Mathematics), from Boon Lay Garden Primary School who will be teaching Upper Primary Mathematics

*Mr Chua Gim San, from Assumption Pathway, who will be teaching Middle and Upper Primary Mathematics

*Mr Tan Yew Wee, from Radin Mas Primary School, who will be teaching Physical and Health Education



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*Ms Jan Teo, an untrained teacher, who will be assisting a Primary Two class

***Every Parent, a Supportive Partner**

Strategic Thrust 3 – Building Effective and Sustained Partnerships

In Partnership with you

The Qifa teachers are a committed and caring lot, and I know that they will give their best to nurture your child. They will work closely with you and partner you throughout your child's educational journey in Qifa. Research indicates that children learn best when the significant adults in their lives such as parents, teachers and other family and community members work together to encourage and support them. Teacher-parent partnership is one that must be nurtured and cultivated because both parties share the same objective of wanting the best for the child/ren.

Teachers are mindful of the need for them to maintain good communication with parents. There must be mutual respect because that is the basis of a productive partnership. At times, the teachers may have to engage with you to address some of their concerns regarding your child's academic progress or social-emotional development. I hope that as parents when you receive feedback, such as if your child is not performing or misbehaving, you will keep an open mind. This is especially important when the complaint is serious and calls for disciplinary measures to be meted out. Author M. Farouk Radwan cautioned that too much pampering and over-protection by parents are among the factors that can ruin a child's self-esteem, and that can in turn have a severe effect on his/her self-image.

I have encountered times when the version of the incident presented by a child to the parents may not be the full or true story. In school, we always teach a child that to err is human but we want him/her to own up when a mistake has been made not so much because we want to punish them for a wrongdoing but to use the mistake as a teachable moment to help a child improve or change for the better. Therefore be prepared to hear that your child is at fault but that should not detract your belief in and your dreams for him. Children are very perceptive. If they see that their parents are fair and reasonable people with the moral courage to accept the truth and embrace all their achievements and wrongdoings, the children will grow up to be well-adjusted and principled.



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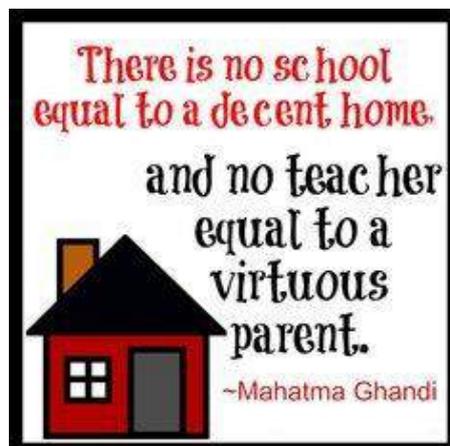
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While a child's character development begins at home with parents and caregivers, schools play a crucial role in shaping, reinforcing and encouraging the children to exemplify the right values. Pupils spend a significant proportion of their time in school and the influence of peers, their teachers and the entire school ecosystem on their values system cannot be underestimated. The activities and interactions in and outside the classrooms all play a part to develop leadership skills and core character traits such as empathy, integrity and loyalty.

As a community, I hope that we will continue to work closely to inculcate the right values in the children. Do encourage your child/ward to complete their daily assignments to the best of their ability so that they continue to grow in '*self-discipline*' and demonstrate '*pride in work*'. Instilling the right habits of diligence and punctuality will stand them in good stead for the future.

I seek your support in this area, to help them to get to school on time and attend school regularly. Please write in to me to seek permission should you need to take your child out of school for more than two days (excluding weekends) during term time for non-medical reasons. Do note that the school does not encourage parents to take their child/ren for a holiday during a school term.

I would also like to encourage you to join the school's Parent Support Group (PSG) so that you can get involved in the school's activities, and get to know other parents and your child's friends in school. You can sign up for activities that suit your schedule and you do not necessarily have to devote long hours in the school's PSG to be fully engaged in your child's education. We would like to partner you to develop your child to be the best that he or she can be.





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2017 Networking Sessions

As mentioned above, my team and I would like to forge closer partnerships with parents in the education of your child/ren. I would like to urge you to take the time to join us for the ***Networking Sessions with Parents*** this term where you will also have the opportunity to engage with your child/ward's Form &/or Co-Form Teachers. Dates and time are as follows:

Primary 4 to 6

0900-1100 Saturday, 11 February 2017

Primary 1 to 3

1830-2030 Friday, 17 February 2017

A parent once remarked to me that she always makes time for such sessions because she firmly believes that when the children know that their parents care about their education, they feel more motivated to do their best. Therefore, whether your child wants you to attend or not, do avail yourself because you know that they do need you and appreciate you making the time for them.

Throughout the year, if you have any pressing concerns or constructive feedback for us, please feel free to approach your child/ward's Form, Co-Form and Subject Teachers, or email us at the following school email address: qifa_ps@moe.edu.sg. You can call the General office at 6778 3085 to leave a message for the teacher to contact you or send an email to the teacher concerned. The email addresses of our staff are available on the school website at: <http://www.qifapri.moe.edu.sg/about-us/school-teaching-staff>.

***Every School, a Good School**

Strategic Thrust 4 – Creating Quality Systems

Increase in School Hours on Wednesdays & Snack Time for all Pupils

With the increase in Physical and Health Education curriculum time, the school has extended school hours on Wednesdays by half an hour. This means that school will function from 7.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in 2017. As we are ending school later, we will have a 10-minute snack time for all the pupils around noon time.

Do prepare a healthy snack such as an apple, banana or light sandwich for your child in addition to what you would like him to have for his recess to tide him/her over till school dismissal. The school has been encouraging the pupils to adopt a healthy lifestyle which



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includes choice of food therefore we want to send a consistent message to the pupils. We will discourage them from eating tidbits during the 10-minute snack time.

Discipline, Safety and Security Matters

Parents, please do not engage directly with other pupil/s especially with regards to discipline matters. Should there be any matter of concern, please bring this to the attention of the Form and/or Co-Form Teacher for follow up and resolution.

The safety of our children remains a top priority in the school. Do note that the teaching blocks are strictly out of bounds to non-staff. Thank you for displaying your Visitor Pass prominently and reporting to the General Office when entering the school during the non-dismissal times. These have helped our security staff to manage trespassing, and ensure the safety and security of our children in the school. We would like to remind you to continue to wear your Visitor Pass without demand whenever you are in school.

School Bus Rules & Expected Behaviours

If your child/ward is using the school bus service, we would appreciate that you partner the school to remind him/her of the following:

1. Seat belts are to be worn at all times.
2. Standing is strictly prohibited. All passengers are to remain seated at all times.
3. The school bus should be kept clean; there should be no eating or littering in the school bus.
4. Use of inappropriate language towards the bus attendant, driver and other children on the school bus will not be condoned.

Do note that the bus vendor is at liberty to stop providing bus service for an errant child who has been warned repeatedly but who fails to adhere to the bus rules above.

Conduct of Temperature Taking Exercise

As part of our measures to maintain the school's preparedness to ensure that all pupils are familiar with temperature-taking in order to provide a healthy and safe environment for all in the school, there will be a temperature-taking exercise conducted on **Friday, 6 January 2017** by the school.



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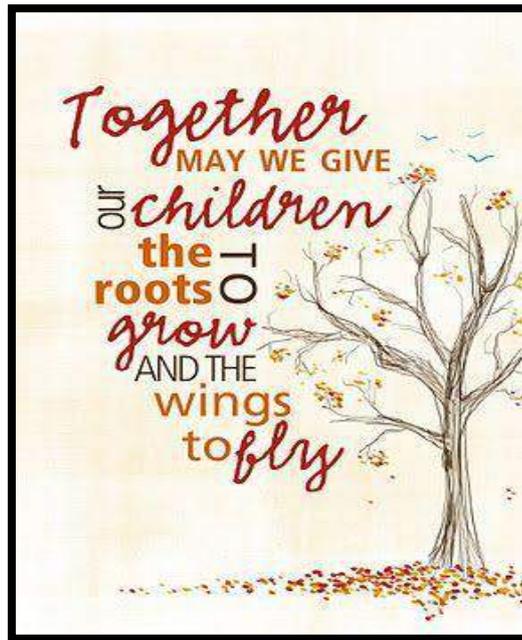
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We will be conducting a pre-exercise check on Oral Digital Thermometers (ODTs) on **Thursday, 5 January 2017**. We would like to seek your assistance in ensuring that your child/ward brings his/her personal ODT on the two days mentioned. Each Primary One pupil will be issued a free thermometer during the temperature-taking exercise.

In Closing

We look forward to an enriching year ahead for your child/ward at Qifa Primary School, and thank you for your partnership and support.

Thank you, and see you at the Networking Session/s.



Yours sincerely

May Wong-Tan (Mrs)
Principal