



SENG KANG PRIMARY SCHOOL

A Vibrant Community of World-Ready Learners

<http://www.sengkangpri.moe.edu.sg>

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SKPS/2018/P6 Level/284
13 September 2018

P6 Level Letter for Term 4

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We have finally arrived at the much-anticipated Term 4. Throughout the year, we have been encouraging our children to be resilient, to learn from their mistakes and to improve themselves. With the PSLE approaching, please continue to monitor the well-being of your child and ensure he / she stays positive and forward-looking. The resilience in him / her (and us) would pull him / her through this challenging period.

Coincidentally, Resilience is the school value for Term 4. This reminds me of the resilience displayed by the twelve teenage Thai boys and their coach who were trapped in a flooded cave for 14 days in June this year, and the admirable resilience and contribution of their rescuers from different walks of life and different parts of the world. Let's recall the incident and identify some takeaways about resilience.

The Story

Twelve teenage boys and their 25-year-old coach stranded in a flooded cave in Thailand for 14 days have seized the world's imagination. They disappeared on June 23. A video of the moment they were found on July 2 has gone viral online. In it, a diver with a British accent asked the boys how many there were, and replied "Brilliant" when told there were 13 - which meant all survived nine days in a cold, dark cave 1km deep underground, huddled on a muddy bank 4km from the cave entrance as coffee-coloured waters swirled underneath. They drank water from the cave walls to survive. Despite the initial jubilation, the ordeal is not over as rescuers work on getting them out of the cave. Options include teaching the boys, aged 11 to 16, to swim and dive so they can navigate the narrow flooded tunnels, or waiting months for the rainy season to be over and waters to subside, or boring a way in from the forest floor above. Each option is replete with risks. That a former Thai military diver died after running out of oxygen in the tunnels, illustrates the danger involved.

Globally, many have been captivated by the ongoing story of resilience. The boys from the Moo Pa (Wild Boars) Academy youth football team asked for World Cup updates soon after being found. The football world reciprocated with messages of hope to the boys, including from the English, Japanese and Swedish teams. One of the 33 Chilean miners trapped underground for 69 days in 2010 sent a message telling the boys to "Hang in there!"

The rescue effort is global. About 110 Thai navy Seal divers are involved, with divers from Thailand, the US, Britain, China and Australia along with others. Among them are two heroic and selfless volunteers: fireman Richard Stanton and computer engineer John Volanthen, both from Britain, are so well known for underwater cave rescues they were asked for by name and were the duo who reached the boys first - but have shunned the limelight as they want to focus on the job at hand. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has also offered to assist in any way that Singapore can. Many companies have also stepped forward: a Thai company supplied light sticks used in the cave; an Israeli firm supplied the underground communications system; and Tesla chief Elon Musk offered his company's boring technology.

The Thai people have responded with unity. The mother of the youngest boy said she trusted the coach "a million per cent" to take care of her son, silencing critics asking why the boys went into the cave in the first place. Farmers willingly put up with lost livestock and fields flooded by water pumped out to drain the caves. The boys' brave cheer communicated via photos and video is a shining example of grit. Their example has unlocked a groundswell of global goodwill, a beacon to the power of cooperation in an era of retaliatory trade tariffs, xenophobia and brinkmanship.

(Taken from: <https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/st-editorial/resilience-of-thai-boys-rallies-the-world>)

The resilience and collaboration of so many people in this unfortunate incident shows that when we put aside differences and reflect on mistakes made, we are opening up to more possibilities. We can learn from our mistakes and be more innovative in completing the task or solving the problem at hand. It is important not to give up. With resilience, we can help one another pull through challenging situations. Let's work together to help build in our children the resilience to face challenges with a positive mindset.

You can refer to the following Annexes for general information such as programmes and events for the term.

Annex A: General Information

Annex B: Programmes / Events / Activities for Term 4

Please note that a letter on Supplementary / Remedial Lessons Schedule for Term 4 has been issued in Term 3.

We hope to continue actively engaging you as a partner in your child's / ward's holistic development. Together, we will take responsibility for the discipline, character development and academic achievement of your child / ward.

Please acknowledge receipt of the letter and return the Reply Slip via your child / ward to his / her Form Teacher by **17 September 2018 (Monday)**.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully, on behalf of the P6 Level Teachers,

Mrs Michelle Lim
Year Head (Upper Block) (Internal)

cc. Mrs Teo Whye Choo, Principal
Mrs Winefrede Loo, Vice-Principal
Mr Hamri, Vice-Principal (Admin)

General Information

Item	Remarks
1. Punctuality	Please note that students should arrive in school by 7.20 am to enable them to settle down. <u>Students who arrive after the 7.30 am school bell has rung will be considered late.</u> Please make the necessary transport and child care arrangements to ensure your child is punctual for school.
2. Absence from school	<p>We would like to appeal to you not to take your child out of school during term time so as to ensure that he/she is fully engaged in learning.</p> <p>If your child is absent from school during curriculum time because of medical or other valid reasons, please furnish either a <u>medical certificate</u> or a <u>letter</u>. Phone messages will not be accepted. We would also appreciate it if parents can inform the school should your child be absent.</p> <p>We would also like to remind parents / guardians that <u>students are to be in school during term time and not allowed to leave the country earlier</u> as they will miss tests, examinations or activities being carried out during that time. Do note that teachers would not be obliged to provide students with the materials, tests or examinations they missed without valid reasons. Parents / guardians are to consult the form teacher or Year Head / Assistant Year Head for advice in advance if you intend to take your child out of the country during curriculum time.</p>
3. Mode of Communication	The Student Handbook and e-mail will be used as the mode of communication between teachers and parents. Please make an appointment with the teacher if you would like to meet him / her personally. <i>(Meeting of teachers is strictly by appointment only and during the teacher's free periods or after school.)</i>
4. Temperature-Taking	Students must exercise social responsibility and take the basic precautions to safeguard themselves and their schoolmates. Temperature-taking is an important aspect of that. Please ensure your child has his thermometer in his bag every day.
5. Homework Policy	All homework will be recorded by students in their Student Handbook. Wednesday is a homework-free day, so do engage your child in his / her areas of interests on this day. We would also like to seek your help to monitor your child's homework so that he has consistent practice and is able to manage time effectively.
6. Whole-School Approach Reading Programme and Speak Internationally Acceptable English (IAE)	Students are to read age-appropriate English storybooks and to speak in Internationally Acceptable English at ALL times to enhance their proficiency in English (except during MT periods). Please ensure that your child brings an age-appropriate English storybook to school every day.

Item	Remarks
7. Mother Tongue morning silent reading	Please ensure that your child brings an age-appropriate MT storybook for silent reading on Thursdays.
8. Eco-Tues	Eco Tuesday is part of our school's fortnightly Environmental Education (EE) Programme that is carried out during the school term on Tuesdays. It is designed to build a child's character through teaching the value of care and responsibility towards the environment. Students are strongly encouraged to bring clean paper recyclables such as unwanted mailers, newspapers, magazines and so on, to school. We look forward to your support in encouraging your child/ward to be young involved citizens of tomorrow.

Annex B

Programmes / Events / Activities for Term 4

No.	Programmes / Events / Activities	Date
1	PSLE Listening Comprehension	14 Sep
2	PSLE Written Examinations	27/9, 28/9, 1/10, 2/10 and 3/10
3	Children's Day Celebration	4/10 (Dismissal will be at 12.00 p.m.)
4	Children's Day	5/10 (School Holiday)
5	PSLE Marking Exercise	15/10 – 18/10
6	Secondary School Marketing	24/10
7	P6 Next Steps Transition Programme	30/10
8	Deepavali	6/11 (Public Holiday)
9	P6 Inter-Class Games	8/11
10	Early School Dismissal at 12.30 p.m.	12/11 – 14/11
11	P6 Advocacy VIA & Innovation Project Fest	12/11
12	P6 COS & Graduation Day	14/11
13	Closing of Year	15/11
14	Staff Learning Day	16/11 (non-school day)

Acknowledgement Slip
P6 Level Letter for Term 4

I have noted the contents of this letter.

Name of Child / Ward: _____ Class: P 6 (_____)

Name of Parent / Guardian: _____

Contact No. : _____ (H/P) _____ (H)

E-mail Address: _____

Signature of Parent / Guardian

Date