

# Questions from MK Parents

## 1) How do we know if our child is well-prepared for Primary 1?

There are a few indicators that parents can look out for:

### 1. Social skills

- Good manners and etiquette
- Taking care of personal belongings i.e. organisational skills
- Practising good personal hygiene
- Independence i.e. asking for permission to go toilet, wearing own uniforms, tying shoelaces etc
- If your child has special educational needs, consider choosing a school that caters to their learning needs

### 2. Academic

- Write the 26 letters of the alphabet in capital and small letters
- Read and write sight words
- Basic numeracy skills

## 2) How do we ensure that my child succeed in Primary School?

### 1. Be involved in your child's school life

- School's workshop, MTP
- Take attendance seriously
- Talk about school & their teachers positively

### 2. Prepare your child to learn

- Boost attention span & concentration
- Good sleeping habits
- After-school timetable

## 3) How do we improve our child's social skills?

### 1. Learn about your child's specific social challenges from his pre-school teachers

### 2. Observe and take notes on your child's behaviour

### 3. Skills training

- Try role-playing at home and help him/her learn positive behaviour
- Model positive social skills at home

### 4. Increase opportunities in meeting other children to practise skills

### 5. Share information with Form Teachers

## 4) What is the support for students with special needs or challenging behaviours?

### 1. Home-School Partnership

- Share information about your child during P1 registration and with the Form Teachers. This will allow the teachers to understand who they can support your child's needs.
- Reinforce social skills at home
- Be flexible in your expectations

### 2. Referral system in school

- Trained in Special Needs (TSN) Level representatives
- Allied Educator (Learning and Behavioural Support) & School Counsellor
- External parties

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## 5) What if my child is not able to read properly, will there be difficulties in adapting?

### 1. Learning attitude

- Usually, poor readers will avoid reading because it's difficult or because they think that they can't. It is important for parents and teachers to encourage and create a "can-do, will try" attitude in their children.

### 2. Support from home

- Parents can start by encouraging positive thinking and by creating a friendly reading environment at home.

### 3. Support in school and community

- Learning Support Programme (LSP)
- Extensive Reading Programme (ERP)
- KidsRead programme
- Collaboration with NLB and etc.

Given these support for the weaker students, there is no remedial for Lower Primary students.

## 6) Will the Primary School let the parents know who the form teacher is prior to the start of the school?

For Huamin Primary School, parents will be notified of the child's class allocation by week 2 of December. The Form Teachers will follow up with an introductory letter. Parents can also speak with our Year Head for lower primary, Miss Karen Soon, about their child during the P1 Admin Day (held tentatively in Oct) or P1 Orientation (held tentatively in Nov).

## 7) What kind of Partnership will we have during our child's educational journey at Huamin Primary School?

1. Every parent an engaged partner and a PSG member
2. Parent Volunteer, i.e. school events, celebrations, learning journeys, etc.
3. Saturday events, i.e. Dads for Life
4. Parent workshops with Family Matters @ School
5. Meet-the-Parents Sessions

## 8) How do we encourage our child to share his/her experiences if he/she refuses to talk?

1. Re-connecting with your child first, i.e. "I miss you", "Let's have lunch/dinner"
2. Parent-child activity, i.e. going for a run, jig-saw puzzle
3. Share a few details from your own day (good or bad days) to encourage conversation
4. Structuring questions to scaffold sharing, i.e. What made you the happiest in school today? What do you wish was different?

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## 9) Are there a lot of homework for Primary 1?

At Huamin Primary, we have a Homework Policy to manage the workload of students across all levels.

For Primary 1, we allocate approximately 30 to 45 minutes to be spent on reinforcement of newly acquired skills daily.

Homework assignments will not be assigned over festive periods. There is also a designated homework board in every class that lists all the homework assigned by the respective teachers. This helps the teachers to be aware of the spread of homework given in the class, so that they can coordinate and adjust the workload and deadlines if necessary.

## 10) What is the syllabus for Lower Primary?

You can find out more about the subject syllabuses from:

<https://www.moe.gov.sg/education/syllabuses>

## 11) Will there be exams/tests in Primary 1 & 2?

There are NO examinations in Primary 1 & Primary 2. There will be formative assessments for teachers to monitor students' learning.

Term 1 of Primary 1 is a period of adjustment and building confidence, thus there are no assessments. Spelling for both EL and MTL will be conducted in due course.

With the removal of weighted assessments in P1 and P2 and to further reduce the over-emphasis on grades, the criteria for the Edusave Merit Bursary and Good Progress Award has also been changed, to focus on learning dispositions, instead of academic results.

As parents, you can look forward to richer feedback on your child's development and gain a more complete picture of his achievement and progress. Parents can also support your child's learning progress by affirming their efforts and be proud of their learning process and achievements.

## 12) How is the schedule like in Primary 1 on a day-to-day basis? (E.g. reporting time, frequency and time spent on CCAs)

In Huamin Primary School, school begins at 7.45am for all levels.

There will be staggered arrival and dismissal timing. For Pri 1 & 2, the timings are as follow:

- Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri: 7.35am to 1.05pm
- Wed: 7.35am to 2.35pm

All students will have 30 minutes to eat and play. P1 recess is from 8.45am to 9.15am.

For the 1st week of school, the P1 students will be given additional time for recess. This is to ensure that they have sufficient time to learn the necessary routines.