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Dear Parents,

Good day.

Thank you for reading this *Keeping in Touch for Parents*. Let me begin with a short story for this fourth edition: **The Gift of the Seed**

A father gave his young daughter a seed and said, "This will grow into a beautiful plant, but only if you care for it every day." The girl was excited and watered it eagerly for the first week. Then came distractions such as watching cartoons, playing games and exploring the Internet via digital devices. Days passed, and she forgot about the seed. One morning, she saw the soil was dry and the seed did not seem to germinate into a plant. Tearfully, she ran to her father.

He sat beside her and said, "A plant doesn't grow overnight. Responsibility means staying true even when it isn't exciting." From that day, she diligently watered the seed daily. Slowly, with her dedication, it sprouted into a plant that was strong, steady and full of life.

Moral of the story

Like the seed, **a child's growth depends on daily care and learning responsibility begins at home**. As your child's amazing and caring parents, **you are your child's first and most influential teacher**. Before entering the school, your child will learn from you — your good daily habits, the kind words you use, and the values you hold. Mee Toh School, on the other hand, provides structure and knowledge, but the heart of learning begins at home with you.

One of the greatest gifts that you can give to your child is the **love of reading at home**, especially through **hardcopy or printed books**. In a world filled with screens, endless entertainment and instant gratification via digital devices, a printed book offers a quiet space for imagination, reflection, and shared moments between parent and child. Such books offer fewer distractions, help our children focus longer, and provide a tactile experience that improves memory and emotional connection. The book also removes the temptation to click away or swipe into playing games instead of developing the reading skills.

We advocate for our P1 to P4 children to read from printed books:

- **Better focus** – Books do not buzz or pop up with notifications. Children will stay focused, engage longer and think deeper.
- **Stronger memory and comprehension** – Flipping the pages and physically locating information improves your child's understanding.
- **Less eye strain and fatigue** – Paper is gentle on the eyes, unlike backlit screens.
- **Emotional bonding** – Reading a printed book together invites closeness, questions, laughter and wonder.

Vision : Touching Souls, Challenging Minds

Mission : To maximise students' potential and develop in them a passion for life-long learning guided by compassion, conscience, purity and righteousness.

Motto : Compassion, Conscience, Purity, Righteousness

愿景 : 净化心灵, 挑战思维

使命 : 以校训慈、良、清、直为指引, 激发终身学习之热忱, 务必人尽其才。

校训 : 慈、良、清、直

- **Encourages imagination** – Unlike digital media, printed books do not show many pictures; they let the child *imagine* them.

As our P5 and P6 children progress from budding to more experienced readers, we recommend more advanced printed books for them to strengthen higher-order thinking skills and to develop consistent reading habits.

- **Advanced comprehension** – Reading and engaging with longer printed texts will help older children to build their analytical thinking, executive functioning and inference skills. This will also build their stamina for longer texts while giving students the opportunity to pause, reflect and put forth thoughtful responses.
- **Independent learning** – Establishing a regular reading habit and routine with older children helps inculcate self-directedness, cultivate discipline and allows them to explore personal interests. So parents – please set aside dedicated time each day for parents and children to enjoy reading their own books or other printed materials.

How you can make reading exciting at home:

1. **Make it a daily habit** – Even 10–15 minutes a day makes a big difference.
2. **Let them choose** – Let your child pick her or his own books; choice builds ownership.
3. **Be their reading buddy** – Read aloud with your child, take turns, and do funny voices. This makes reading a fun experience!
4. **Create a book nook** – A quiet, cosy space with printed books within your child's reach will encourage independent reading.
5. **Talk about stories** – Ask questions. "What do you think will happen next?" or "Would you be friends with this character?"

Let us nurture a generation of children who grow not just in knowledge, but in character, starting with reading a good and wholesome book, and a few quiet minutes together.

Thank you for your trust and partnership in your child's education journey in our Mee Toh Family.

Serving with you,
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