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Dear Parents,

Good day. This year, as Singapore celebrates SG60 in August, we are reminded of the strong shared values that have carried our nation through challenges and triumphs. One such value is **responsibility**, which our children will learn in their Character and Citizenship Education (CCE) lessons – that **they have a duty to themselves, their families, community and country, and to fulfil these duties with love and commitment**. We hope that our children will always do what is right, even when it is difficult, and show care for the well-being of others as much as themselves.

Responsibility is the foundation of trust, progress, and community. Without it, Singapore would not have flourished into the thriving global city that we are proud to call Our Home. We will continue to share stories of our forefathers as well as founding fathers with our children during Social Studies and CCE lessons so that our children will appreciate the sacrifices, determination and hard work that they had laid down for us to build our present Singapore. May our children continue this sense of duty with love and commitment to develop a better future for Singapore in the next 60 years.

Let me start with a short story on **Responsibility**: There was once a village where every family depended on a single well for water, just like in those kampung days that some of us had experienced as children. One boy was given the responsibility to fetch water daily for his household. One evening, feeling exhausted from playing football with his friends, he thought, *"Skipping just one day of fetching water from the well will not hurt. Besides, I am so tired today."* So, he left the bucket by the well and went home empty-handed.

That night, his family had no water for cooking or cleaning. The next morning, when his neighbours also came to draw water, the bucket was missing — stolen during the night because it had been left unattended. The boy realised that his one act of neglect did not just affect his family; it also brought inconvenience to the entire community. From then on, he never missed his duty again, knowing that **responsibility means others are depending on you, and your actions or inactions will make a difference**.

My Reflection: Our children are learning what it means to be responsible every day at home and in school. Responsibility is not developed overnight; it grows through our daily practices, through the trust that we place in them, and through the freedom that we give to them to face the outcomes of their choices and actions. As parents and educators, we are sometimes tempted to step in quickly to shield them from making a mistake, to solve their problems for them, or to take over tasks from them when they forget. Yet, just like the boy at the well, it is often through their small failures that our children learn the biggest life lessons.

When we allow our children to tidy their own bedrooms or desks in school, pack their own bags, guide them to own up to their mistakes, or complete the homework they forgot to do – we give them valuable opportunities to grow and develop the value of responsibility. These little moments at home and in school will build the character that our children will need later in life as students, friends, and eventually, citizens of Singapore.

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

Three Practical Ways Parents Can Nurture Responsibility at Home: As parents, you are your child's **first teacher**. The lessons on responsibility begin at home, in the daily routines and choices that your child makes with your guidance. Here are three simple ways that you can support us to nurture the value of Responsibility in your child:

1. **Give our children appropriate duties** - Simple tasks such as setting the table, cleaning their bedroom, or watering plants will teach our children that they have a role in the family. Such duties should not be outsourced to your helper if you do have one. Your helper can guide or supervise your child on your behalf. Your helper should not take over your child's duties for oneself and the family.
2. **Let our children face the results or outcomes of their choices** - If they forget their homework or misplace an item, resist the urge to rescue them immediately. Instead, guide them to learn from the experience and make better choices next time. Thus, we do not encourage our parents to deliver forgotten items to school. Our children must learn to pack their bag and have a checklist to ensure that they have brought all necessary items to school the next day. As part of packing, they should also learn to remove items that they do not need from their bag. This is an important habit to develop.
3. **Model responsibility to our children** - Children learn best by example. When they see us keeping promises, admitting mistakes, and fulfilling commitments, they understand what responsibility looks like in real life. Likewise, we remind our colleagues to do likewise as they are role models for our children in school. Our children must also show care in a responsible manner. Recently, we learned from one of our children that she would hit her helper if her helper made a mistake. She mirrored the hitting of the helper's head from an adult in the family. We were shocked to learn about it and had to correct her on the right thing to do.

On a similar note, vaping will now be treated as a drug issue, as announced by PM Lawrence Wong at yesterday's National Day Rally. We will continue to advise our students to stay away from e-cigarettes, which are banned in Singapore, as many of them are laced with addictive and harmful substances such as etomidate. In future, e-cigarettes could be laced with more deadly drugs that may rob our children's lives if they become addicted, similar to the drugs today. History has also taught us how the addictive nature of opium led to widespread dependence and social problems in the early 20th century China and Singapore. Thus, we cannot let history repeat itself.

We need our children to understand these dangers and the negative impact on their health and well-being. We hope to work with you to ringfence and protect our children from this social problem. Our children are very young and may not understand the consequence of their actions. As their significant adults, we have a duty to teach, redirect and guide them to do the right things by making the right choices. This is what it means to be responsibility for our children's growth and well-being.

By walking hand-in-hand with you, I am confident that we can raise children who will grow into **responsible and useful citizens of Singapore**, ready to carry our nation into the next 60 years and beyond. Together, let us show our children that responsibility is a mark of maturity, strength and care for others. With your support and partnership, we will continue to instill this value in our children through their learning, schooling experiences, and community life. Thank you in advance for your support and partnership.

Partnering with you,
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