



**NORTH POINT METHODIST  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



Volume 1 | 2019

# KS1 ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

*Providing students with maximum exposure and use of English by promoting English-language activities and events.*

**Dear Parents,**

**We are delighted to bring you our very first English Newsletter.**

**In this letter, we will give you a clear rundown on our focus points, objectives, and the programs we implement to create a positive, fun, and creative environment for your child to grow in.**

“*For us, it is essential to create a classroom where our students can express themselves with confidence, where they are encouraged and motivated by learning through hands-on activities, and by bringing the world outside into our classroom.*”

We have an exceptional English team, with four NET Teachers allocated evenly across the six levels. Key Stage 1 (Primary 1 – Primary 3) is the root foundation of our student’s growth in using English as a second language.

This year we will start the new ‘*Rainbow Reading Program.*’ The English team are collaborating with the Chinese team to make the transition and the recording of books more accessible. The English part will have coloured paper in the reading record symbolising the rainbow.

...More on this and the rewards system will be further explained in the newsletter.

## **In This Issue**

**PAGE 2** Animal Adventures visited out school, and amazed the children with their exotic animal collection.

**PAGE 3** Advancing the studying of phonics through Step 4 of the FootStep Phonics Program.

**PAGE 4** Placing emphasis on smaller group discussions so that students benefit from more face time with teachers.

# PRIMARY 1



Our Primary 1 Student's are introduced to an exceptional Phonics program called "FootStep Phonics", which assists with correct pronunciation, and the decoding of difficult words. Furthermore, we focus on Dolch High-Frequency words, which appear in context, storybooks, and various text types. Together, these programs strengthen student's reading abilities and promote effective communication in English. Students at this level will have three readers in Semester 1, and one reader in Semester 2.



A UK Proven Approach  
to Early Reading

Primary 1 students will also be involved in 'station work', where they have the freedom to choose from three stations, each of which have different activities. This allows them the opportunity to interact with teachers in smaller groups, and allows them the independence to choose which activity they would like to engage in. We are also successfully using the online learning platform 'StudyLadder', where children can choose between a variety of games to play to improve their listening, reading, and spelling skills.



Once a year, Primary 1 students will go on an excursion, where they will be able to increase their learning through hands-on activities. We also have Animal Adventures visiting our school, which introduces students to exotic animals and their habitat.



Unique Wildlife  
Presentations and Programs



# PRIMARY 2

Primary 2 is based on a very similar platform to Primary 1, and students entering this year are already familiar with station work, which makes the transition far easier. We continue to focus on consistency and growth, assessing the students on their retention of more challenging Dolch words in both first and second terms. The scores from these are used to assign students to different levelled readers from our new "Rainbow Reading Program".



We will advance the studying of phonics through Step 4 of the FootStep Phonics Program this year, and students will continue to use Studyladder as the online platform to strengthen their overall growth in English through engaging in a variety of online activities.



Primary 2 students will have three readers in Term 1, where they will be introduced to different reading strategies – Buddy Reading, Group Reading, and Reading Aloud. These strategies will prepare students for 'DTS- *Development of Text Sets*', which is a new program we are planning on implementing in Term 2, which aims at improving student's ability to read different text types.

The program is based on a theme with guide questions, each of which has a different reader. These readers will be supplied by the school, either hard copy or online. This is an instrumental program, and students show significant improvement in confidence and



## Studyladder

Engaging Learning Resources  
for Children



# PRIMARY 3

In Primary 3, students now show complete independence through the ability to read complicated words and higher levelled books. In Term 1 we continue teaching Dolch High-Frequency words pre and post test, and we bring an end to our 'FootStep Phonics' Curriculum by the end of Term 2. Station work remains a high focus this year, and the consistency in our learning objectives ensures that students are able to work independently on ipads, complete their homework, and work on the 'Rainbow Reading Program'.



Development of Text Sets

Having implemented DTS in P2, we are able to continue to apply the same concepts in P3, resulting in an even greater level of confidence in reading English text.



During this year we will place emphasis on smaller group discussions so that students are able to have more face time with teachers, and also encourage students to ask more questions to heighten their understanding of the topic being taught. We will also practise different reading strategies such as 'Buddy Reading' and 'Group Reading', which will further enhance their confidence in reading aloud.



## Reward System

*With the new Rainbow Reading Program in place that will start this year, students will receive a sticker for every book they read and it will be recorded in their reading log book. The reading program will align with some of the festivals we celebrate in Hong Kong, the culture, the food, and the traditions of each celebration.*

*Students who read and have the most books recorded will join our English team in the covered playground to sample food that relates to that festival and also learn more about why people celebrate these festivals in Hong Kong. The festivals we will promote are 'Christmas', 'Chinese New Year', and 'Easter.'*

*Our objective is for the students to enjoy reading books, and to be rewarded in a fun and exciting way.*