Founder’s Welcome

It is with great pleasure that I write to welcome you into our school community.

The school has long been a vision of ours as a centre of learning to nurture and develop children of the future generation. As parents, you are acutely aware of the responsibility you take upon yourselves to guide your children to grow into compassionate members of society and so I welcome your support of our school’s mission.

For our first year we are very lucky to have talented and dedicated teaching staff on-board. Principal, Ms Jacqui Bosman and F-2 teacher Mrs Rachael Coulson are exemplary not only in their teaching craft but in their demonstration of our school values.

To the first students of Hoa Nghiem Primary School, I wish you all the best in your educational journey with us.

Best Regards,

Senior Venerable Thich Thien Tam

Principal’s Message

Welcome to the first issue of The Singing Bowl, and to Hoa Nghiem Primary School! Our newsletter will be issued every fortnight during term, to keep you up to date with what is happening around the school and in the classroom.

While it might be school holidays for your children, there’s not much rest for the staff! While Mrs. Coulson and I have had a short break over the Christmas period, we are now busy preparing the school to open at the end of January. Between planning our lessons, setting up our classrooms, there is not much time for rest! It’s a very exciting time for us, and we are looking forward to opening our doors to you for the first time on the 28th of January.

Of course, we would not be where we are now without the support and hard work of so many people. I would like to thank Senior Ven., Thich Thien Tam, Ven., Sister Thich Phuoc Uyen, Trisha Bui, the school’s acting board and the volunteers from the Hoa Nghiem community who have helped at our Open Day and other events.

I would also like to thank the families of our first year of students, for your support, kindness and understanding over the last six months. It is your willingness to put your faith in us that has allowed the school to reach where it is today.

I wish you all the best over the school holiday period and look forward to catching up later this month.

Best Regards,

Jacqui Bosman

Upcoming Events

January 28
Term 1 Commencement

February 4 & 5
3:30-4:30pm – Assessment Feedback Sessions

February 8
Tet Festival – Pupil free day

March 24
Term 1 Last Day

Important Announcement

Uniforms orders will not be available until February. Until then, students are asked to wear comfortable casual clothes and non-slip sole shoes to school. Don’t forget that ‘No Hat, No Play’ still applies, so bring a wide-brimmed hat.
More Important News

Setting the Scene

Students begin school on the 28th of January, making our first week very short! In many ways, this is a good way to start, especially for our Foundation students who are just getting used to coming to school.

At HNPS, we believe it is very important to use the first two weeks to ‘set the scene’ for what is coming later in the year. For our Foundation-2 students, this means a lot of focus on learning how to behave in class, making new friends and getting used to how lessons are run.

In the 3/4 years, students focus on learning to work independently, setting personal goals and developing good study habits. A big change for the 3/4 students is that, with the teacher’s support, they get to choose their own books for reading study.

Term 1 Document Pack

During the first week of Term 1, HNPS students will be bringing home a Document Pack. If your child has been at school before, you are probably used to receiving a big pile of letters and information at the start of the year. Sometimes it can be hard to know what you need to do with it all!

We have tried to make this a little easier for you. If a letter is just for your information, it will be sent home on white paper. If you need to sign a letter or form, it will be sent home on yellow paper. Some important forms that will be in the Term 1 document pack are:

- Internet and technology use agreement
- Homework club sign up (for interested families)
- Local excursions permission

Please keep an eye out for this important information and return any forms to your child’s teacher as soon as possible.

Getting Ready for School

Hoa Nghiem temple is generously subsidising most of the stationary that your child needs to start school. This means that you do not have to rush out to buy things like books and pencils!

There are some small items that you may want to send your child to school with. These include:

- Pencil case
- Coloured pencils/crayons/textas
- Pencil sharpener
- Lunch box and drink bottle

If your child would prefer to bring their own pencils, pens etc, this is also fine.

As it is looking to be a very hot summer, please make sure that your child comes to school with a drink bottle. While the rooms are air conditioned, it is also important for them to have plenty of water throughout the day.

Specialist News

In 2016, Vietnamese will be taught by Venerable Thich Phuoc Uyen. We are very excited to welcome her to classroom teaching, given her great experience at Hoa Nghiem Vietnamese Language School.

As our first term is extremely short, and interrupted by preparation for Tet, students will begin their Vietnamese language study in Term 2. Students will have two, one hour lessons per week in order to make sure that they have appropriate time to learn.

PE and Art will be taught as normal from Term 1 onwards. Both lessons are taught by your child’s classroom teacher in 2016.
Homework Club

In 2016, HNPS will offer a ‘Homework Club’ after school for students who may require help with homework or a quiet space to work. The club will operate from 3:45-5:30pm from Monday to Friday, and be closed during school holidays or pupil free days. Tutors are volunteers, though if your child already has a tutor we are happy for them to come in to work with your child. The club is supervised by Ms Bosman.

If you are interested in having your child attend homework club, please complete the Homework Club sign up form which will be sent home with your child in the Term 1 Document Pack.

Assessment Feedback

As part of our Point of Need teaching program, all students at HNPS take part in regular assessment throughout the year. This assessment is particularly important at the start of the year, as it gives teachers a clear idea of your child’s understanding and future learning focus.

We know that many of your are interested in hearing more about your child’s performance in these assessments, what the schools is doing to support them and how you can help at home. Mrs Coulson and Ms Bosman will be holding meetings after school on the 4th and 5th of February, between 3:30 and 4:30pm for families wishing to know their child’s results. A ‘sign up’ sheet will come home with the Document Pack in Week 1, so please make sure to put your name down if you would like a meeting.

If you would like to meet but cannot come in during those times, please speak to either Ms Bosman or Mrs Coulson.

Out and About

Family Day

On the 20th of December, 2015, HNPS held its first Family Day. The day was a great chance for families to meet and chat, share a delicious lunch and learn more about the school from Senior Ven. Thich Thien Tam and Ms Jacqui Bosman.

After lunch, all students had a chance to meet their new teachers and classmates. The aim was to start building new friendships, as well as to give students an idea of what they could expect next year.

In the Foundation-2 class, (F2C), Mrs Coulson had children doing a mix of different activities. They even got their own teddy bear to take home and look after over the school holidays!

In the 3/4 class (3/4B), Ms Bosman had her students playing a game of ‘get to know you Yahtzee’, as well as planning what the classroom might look like next year. Being older, her students received their first homework: finding an important personal item to bring to school with them in 2016.

A great day was had by everyone.