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Dear Parents,

Good day.

I appreciate that a few of you wrote to me to ask if you have missed this month's Keeping in Touch (KIT). Please accept my heartfelt apologies that this KIT came a bit later than usual as I was on official duty for three weeks as an assessor. I am glad that it is over and I can now focus on our Mee Toh Family and our children.

Building Harmony - Our Shared Commitment to Our Children: I would like to focus on the value of harmony which we share with our children this month. Harmony is aligned with our commemoration of the Racial Harmony Day on 21 July which is an important date in our school calendar. It is a reminder of the periods of turmoil Singapore faced before independence. Those challenging times taught our nation a precious lesson: peace and harmony are gifts that we must actively nurture every single day through kindness, respect, cooperation and deep understanding. In our Mee Toh Family, we want and teach our children to work and interact well with one another, while actively making efforts to appreciate differences and resolve conflicts in an amicable manner, guided by the school's rules and values.

 I relate and work well with everyone.	P1-P6	Work well with others, regardless of race, language or religion.
	P1-P2	Stay calm during a disagreement and try to find a solution that works for everyone.
	P3-P6	Find common ground in any conflicts and work to maintain positive relationships for the good of all.

Let me start with a short story: **The Bridge Builders**. There were once two villages that were sited in between a river. As they were divided by that river, the villagers did not interact or work with one another. Sometimes, they would quarrel over small issues like who dirtied the water and who had overfished the river. However, no one wanted to explore ways to foster a positive relationship. Two children, Ahmad and Sarah, who lived from the opposite side of the river, decided to build a small stone bridge across the river. They communicated by shouting across and listening to each other's ideas. They worked well together and managed to place large stones at each end of the riverbank. Their cooperation caught the attention of the adults from both villages. The adults were inspired by what both children did. They stopped fighting but came forth to help build the stone bridge. Finally, the bridge was completed, and it allowed the villagers from both sides to meet and interact with one another, and they got along very well after that. That bridge became a symbol of how friendship

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

could overcome division. It also describes what harmony looks like and the positive impact of how harmony could bring forth everyone together in the community.

Walking Hand-in-Hand Through Challenges and Conflict Resolution Protocols: Our children are very young, and they are still learning to navigate social relationships in school. Growing up means learning to make friends, and it is completely natural for our children to encounter disagreements along the way. Managing conflicts is a vital life skill. Please rest assured that our teachers and school staff are always there to guide, support, and help our children through these learning moments.

We treasure the strong bond that we have built with your good self, and we hope that you will trust us that we will always put your child at the centre of our decision-making process. If you do have any concerns about your child's interactions at school, please come straight to us or email to me or your child's Form Teacher / Year Head. There is truly no need to feel anxious or extend the matter outside our school community to the police or the Ministry of Education (MOE). Since we do know your child well, external agencies will always loop back to us to seek a resolution. Working directly with us as a team is the gentlest and most effective way forward. It strengthens our mutual trust, keeps our communication open, and creates a safe, respectful environment for us to interact. We want you to know that your child is equally precious to us in our Mee Toh Family.

Tips for Parents

- **Listen actively** to your child's perspective without immediate judgment. Share with us if you do have any concerns. Please note that we also need time to investigate as our teachers do need to teach and be engaged in school activities such as meetings and CCAs before they are able to find out the facts. They may not be able to reply to you immediately. We would appreciate it if you could give our teachers time and space to focus on their personal life and family in the evenings and weekends.
- **Encourage empathy** by asking how the other party might feel. This will deepen our child's learning habit to show care and concern for others and see things from diverse perspectives, instead of one's view. This habit will help our children to thrive as adults in the future.
- **Teach calm communication** by practicing deep breaths before speaking. We will continue to remind our children to breathe to regulate their emotions. We may end up saying and doing the wrong thing if we are emotionally challenged and may even end up regretting it later.
- **Focus on solutions** rather than finding who to blame. Every mistake is a learning opportunity and what is most important is that our children learn from their mistakes and make things right.
- **Partner with our teachers** early before a small misunderstanding grows. We are also not perfect, and we may make a mistake. Please do not be too harsh on us. There will always be a resolution when we talk about it together, and when we are willing to listen, we are likely to work towards a win-win solution.

Thank you for your continuous support in keeping our school community safe and harmonious. I look forward to partnering with you as we foster the value of harmony in our Mee Toh Family. When we do this well and are kind towards one another, our children will also learn from us.

Partnering with you,

Kelvin Tay

Principal

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