# PAYA LEBAR METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL (SECONDARY)



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# **Principal's Letter to Parents**

# Thanksgiving for 2025

#### Dear Parents/Guardians

As we come to the end of the 2025 school year, we give thanks to God for His unfailing presence, provision and protection over our school. We are also deeply grateful for you - our valued partners - who have journeyed with us to nurture your daughters in their learning and growth. Your support and trust have enabled our students to flourish in a safe, caring and encouraging environment.

This year's theme, "A Friend Loves at All Times," has guided our efforts to help our girls understand themselves better and develop stronger socio-emotional competencies. In a rapidly changing world, these life skills are essential for them to thrive not only academically, but also as compassionate and resilient young women. As we reflect on 2025, we rejoice in the progress made, the friendships strengthened, and the character built.

Looking ahead, 2026 will be a significant milestone as we celebrate our school's 110th Anniversary. Our theme for the new year, "ONE Perfect 10 in Christ," reminds us that our strength and success lie in unity and purpose. Together as ONE - students, staff, parents, alumni and church - we will continue to build on our legacy and prepare our girls to lead with courage and conviction in Christ.

I warmly invite all parents to join us in the year-long celebrations, especially our Family Day cum Carnival at the end of Term 2, which will be held on our school grounds. It will be a time of joy, thanksgiving and community as we mark this historic moment together.

Thank you once again for your partnership and belief in our mission. Let us continue to work hand in hand, in Christ and as ONE, for the holistic development of every girl entrusted to our care.

With gratitude and anticipation, Ms Ng Amy Principal

The following are some things for you to take note of as the academic year draws to an end. More importantly, at this year-end, please take time to celebrate your daughter/ward's learning and growth.

# 1. S1-2 Bridging & Remedial Programme and Sec 3 Remedial Programme and Selfpaced Learning (27 Oct to 7 Nov)

The objectives of bridging and remedial is to help our girls address their learning gaps and better prepare themselves for the next learning year. Selected Sec 1 to 3 girls have been informed by their subject teachers and were given a schedule for bridging and/or remediation

lessons via email for (27 to 30 Oct) the upcoming holidays. Please check with your child if she is required to attend.

In addition, we also encourage our Sec 3 students to continue their self-paced learning programme (31 Oct to 7 Nov) in the upcoming holidays, details have been assigned to them via their SLS and/or Google classroom groups. Completing this learning responsibly will provide our girls with a stronger foundation for their Sec 4 curriculum next year.

# 2. Year-End Holidays Essential

#### a. Bookshop Purchases

The 2026 Booklist is available in the school website (<a href="https://go.gov.sg/plmgss-booklist">https://go.gov.sg/plmgss-booklist</a>), please download the relevant booklist from the links provided.

#### Walk-In Purchases

Opening Dates and Timings of our School Bookshop are as follow:

DATE	DESCRIPTION
12 -15, 26 - 28 Nov 3 - 6, 26, 29 - 30 Dec	Self-Collection for Online (online purchase available from 6 Nov to 6 Dec), Walk-In Purchase for Sec 2 - 5
18 - 20, 22 - 23 Dec	Self-Collection for Online (online purchase available from 16 – 23 Dec), Walk-In Purchase for Sec 1 only
29 & 30 Dec	Walk-in Purchase for ALL levels

\*Weekdays 9.00am - 3pm; Saturdays 9am - 12pm; Sundays - closed\*

Please follow the dates and timings listed above for your level closely to avoid long wait time for yourself or others. Online ordering will be available on the vendor's website <a href="https://www.pacificbookstores.com/">https://www.pacificbookstores.com/</a>.

You may arrange for home delivery at a cost from \$14.90 (depending on the number of carts), or self-collect (FOC) at the School Bookshop on the specific dates given to you when your orders are ready.

#### b. School Uniform Purchases

Considering the ongoing hot weather and to ensure the safety and well-being of students, the school will continue with our dress-down policy into 2026. From Monday to Friday, students may wear dress-down attire, including a school-based t-shirt with skorts or pinafore as a more comfortable option. However, full school uniform with the school tie will still be required on special occasions such as Founder's Day, Graduation Day, Class Photo taking, and other formal events.

We would also like to remind parents to review your child's current uniform needs. Some students have outgrown their uniforms and have been adjusting them during the school day by unbuttoning or unzipping due to discomfort. The length of the girls' skorts should also be adequate for their safety and well-being. To ensure comfort and a presentable appearance,

we encourage you to purchase any necessary new uniforms for your child/ward before the start of the new school year.

#### Walk-In Purchase at the Store

#### **School Uniform Supplier Shirley Season Wear**

Address: 7030 Ang Mo Kio Ave 5 #04-55 Northstar@AMK Singapore 569880

Tel: 6280 4917

#### Opening hours:

January to November

Mondays to Saturdays: 12:00pm to 6:00pm (Closed on Sundays and Public Holidays)

December

Mondays to Sundays: 12:00pm to 6:00pm

(Open Daily)

#### Online Purchases

Online purchase is available at the vendor's website <a href="https://shirleyuni.com/">https://shirleyuni.com/</a>. You may arrange for home delivery at the cost of \$9.

#### c. School Canteen Opening Hours

The school canteen will continue to operate during the O-Level examination period, up to 4 Nov. Stalls 1 and 2 (which offer drinks, snacks, bread and sandwiches) will be operating from 7.30am to 1pm from 27 to 31 Oct to support students taking the O-Level examinations and to support students returning to school for CCAs, remedial and bridging. There are also vending machines which the students can purchase their drinks and snack from.

#### d. Library Opening Hours

During the year-end school holidays, the School Library will be opened every Mondays to Thursdays, 8am to 5pm and Fridays 8am to 4.30pm. During the lunch break from 12noon to 1pm, the library will be closed.

Due to our librarian's annual leave and training, the library will be closed from 27 November to 17 December, and on 26 December.

#### e. General Office Opening Hours

During the year-end school holidays, please take note of the General Office's opening hours:

- 27 Oct 21 Nov & 15 Dec 31 Dec: 7.30am 6pm
  - Except 13 Nov. The school will remain open with our security guards on that day.
    Only the General Office will be closed; you can still contact us via our office contact at 62816606 as all staff will be out for our Annual Staff Retreat.
- 24 Nov 12 Dec: 8am 5.30pm
  - Except 24 Nov: 1.00 5.30pm. The school will remain open with our security guards the entire day. The General Office will be closed before 1 pm; you can still contact us via our office contact at 62816606 as office colleagues will be participating in an external learning journey.

#### 3. 2026 School Terms and Holidays

Please refer to the following URL for 2026 School Terms and Holidays. https://www.moe.gov.sg/news/press-releases/20250730-school-terms-and-holidays-for-2026

Our school's protected holiday periods for staff and students in 2026 are:

- March holidays: 14 22 Mar (Girls involved in the 2026 National School Games may be required to come to school for additional practices.)
- June holidays: 30 May–28 Jun
- Sept holidays: 5 13 Sep
- Nov/Dec holidays: 21 Nov onwards (tentative)

# 4. Highlights of Key School Events in Nov/Dec 2025 and Jan 2026

The following are highlights of our school's key programmes in Nov/Dec 2025 and Jan 2026. I would like to highlight the PL(Sec) Open House scheduled on 22 Nov (Saturday), 9.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. Besides learning about PL(Sec) through our CCA and Signature Programme booths, you are invited to attend the Open Classroom sessions conducted by our Lead and Senior Teachers. There will be a sharing session where you can interact with the school leaders and key personnel.

Dates	Key Events
6 - 8 Nov (Thur - Sat)	Mega Camp – PL Student Leadership Development Camp for Relevant Student Leaders
12 Nov (Wed)	Cambridge Dinner (for Sec 4 and 5)
22 Nov (Sat)	PL(Sec) Open House
25 – 27 Nov (Tue – Thur)	(Tentative) Release of 2025 PSLE Results
18 – 19 Dec (Thurs)	(Tentative) Release of GCE N-Level Results
17 – 19 Dec (Fri)	(Tentative) Release of 2026 Sec 1 Posting Results
Next working day after the release of posting results	2026 Sec 1 Registration (online only)
	(More details will be released closer to this date. All purchases of school's supplies, briefing session etc. will be conducted online.)
24 and 25 Dec (Tue and Wed)	Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
30 Dec (Tues)	Prayer Walk @PLMGS(Sec) (7.30-9.00am)
	Staff Dedication Service for PLMGS (Pri) & (Sec)(11.30am)
30 and 31 Dec (Tue and Wed)	2026 Sec 1 iDiscover Camp preparations

1 Jan 2025 (Thur)	New Year's Day
2 Jan 2025 (Fri)	2026 New Academic Year begins
	Principal's Welcome Assembly
	Start Right Programme for Sec 1 – 5
2 – 7 Jan 2026 (Fri – Wed)	5 – 7 Jan: Sec 1 Orientation and iDiscover Camp (non-residential)
7 Jan 2026 (Wed)	2026 CCA Fair
	Sec 1 Meet-The-Parents Session / Camp Finale Night (5pm – 7.15pm)
14 – 16 Jan 2026 (Wed – Fri)	(Tentative) Release of GCE O-Level Results
9 – 12 Jan 2026 (Fri – Mon)	Exchange Programme and Visit by Kyung Hee Girls' High School (South Korea)
23 Jan 2026 (Fri)	Sec 3 and 4/5 Meet-The-Parents Session
27 Jan 2025 (Tue)	National School Games 2026 Opening Ceremony

Please check the school website (<a href="http://plmgss.moe.edu.sg">http://plmgss.moe.edu.sg</a>) for regular updates on the school programmes and other administrative matters. Do also follow us on our Facebook page for the happenings in and around the school (<a href="https://www.facebook.com/PAYALEBARMGS/">https://www.facebook.com/PAYALEBARMGS/</a>).

### 5. Revised Smartphones & Smartwatches Guidelines for Secondary Schools - NEW

To reduce distraction and encourage student interaction, MOE has revised its smartphones & smartwatches guidelines for all secondary schools, for compliance and implementation from 2026. Our PL-Lites were informed today that from Jan 2026, they are not to use their smartphones/smartwatches during school hours including recess, snack breaks, CCA and after-school programmes (e.g. supplementary/enrichment/remedial lessons) etc. without their teachers' permission. Smartphones/smartwatches should be kept in their school lockers during school hours, once they arrive in school. Coincidentally, the school had already purchased and will be installing new lockers at more accessible areas around the school during this year-end school holidays.

We will further engage our girls when the new school year starts, with the refreshed mobile phone use policy and consequences, locker allocation and other related matters. For misuse of mobile phones/smartwatches, the current consequences include retention of the device during school hours if the student continues to use her mobile phone without the teacher's permission. I have engaged our Parent-School Support Group and some parents, and am grateful for their support for this change.

# 6. Student Absences - Submission of Reasons for Student Absences via Parents Gateway

To further streamline communication between the school and parents, and to provide greater convenience for parents in managing their child's absences, the school will be leveraging the Parents Gateway (PG) to better handle administrative matters related to student absences.

Starting from Term 1 2026, the school will be onboarding the new Student Absence feature on PG. With this feature, parents who are onboard PG will be able to submit valid reasons for their child's/ward's absence and attach supporting documents such as medical certificates directly via the "Services" tab on the PG app.

A Parent User Guide (Annex A) and FAQ (Annex B) are attached for your quick reference.

## 7. Advice for Parents on Holistic Well-Being and Safety

We would like to emphasize the importance of helping your child better navigate cyber space and practise safe use of computing devices during the holidays. You can find a suite of self-care tools and resources on MindSG webpage (<a href="https://www.healthhub.sg/programmes/186/MindSG/Caring-For-Ourselves/Learning-About-Cyber-Wellness-Youths">https://www.healthhub.sg/programmes/186/MindSG/Caring-For-Ourselves/Learning-About-Cyber-Wellness-Youths</a>), which you can use in your discussion with your child.

With the upcoming school holidays, the Singapore Police Force (SPF), Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), and National Council Against Drug Abuse (NCADA) would also like to remind all students about the consequences of committing crimes and engaging in drug/inhalant abuse. It is essential to take preventive measures to avoid becoming victims of crime. In addition, the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) and Health Promotion Board (HPB) would like to raise awareness among students about the harmful effects of using imitation tobacco products, including e-cigarettes and e-vaporizers. We encourage all students to familiarize themselves with Singapore's laws and regulations on vaping, as well as the potential consequences for individuals, families, and society.

Please refer to **Annex C** for the infographic and advisory, and kindly share this information with your daughter/ward.

Once again, thank you for your support and partnership to care for your daughter/ward, our PL-Lite. It is when we look out for one another, when the collective "we" is strong, each individual "me", each PL-Lite, becomes stronger too. This collective responsibility is reflected in our 2026 Theme Verse below, that

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12

On behalf of our ONE PL family, we wish you a blessed school holiday with your family and loved ones.

Yours faithfully, Ms Amy Ng Principal