



**isp** International  
Schools  
Partnership

Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> 2026,

Dear parents,

At Straits International School Rawang, we give high priority to the development of all students' literacy skills. We know that if students are to at the very least meet – and ideally exceed – their academic potential, then they need to be highly proficient readers and greatly skilled communicators. As English is the language of learning in most classrooms in our school, this means to a large extent that students quite simply must develop a mastery of the English language.

In order to achieve this, we have a number of strategies in Straits International School which are designed very specifically to support the development of students' literacy, as outlined below.

Classrooms in all areas of our school are adorned with **key vocabulary** posters. Our incredible teachers have highlighted the key words and terms which students must understand and use regularly if they are to experience academic success in their respective year groups and specialist subjects. There is consistency in the terms that are used across both our primary and secondary phases so that transition from year to year feels as if it is the seamless continuum of learning which it is meant to be. Parents can play a role here too by asking their children about the words and terms learned in school and then insisting that such key vocabulary is also used outside of school, where appropriate. As teachers, we know that we can never dumb down our language, because to do so is to lower our expectations of students in terms of their language development.

We are also continuing our **Reading Buddies** scheme this term – in the Reading Buddies zone in the centre of our school on the ground floor. Each day, a team of secondary students read with selected primary students so that our younger children can learn from and be inspired by their older peers. We want our students to feel positive about reading and to look forward to opportunities to engage in reading, and we feel that this particular strategy is likely to help us a great deal.

**Embrace Unity, Innovate Today, Create Tomorrow | Raikan Perpaduan, Inovasikan Hari Ini, Cipta Masa Depan | 团结一心，今日创新，创造明天**

Parents can also support their children's literacy at home by choosing books from our published **reading lists**, which can be found on our website [here](#). There is no obligation for parents to buy any of the books, and the titles listed are simply recommendations from teachers. However, because we know that gaining mastery of the English language unlocks academic potential in all subjects, and not just in English lessons, we would ask for parents to support us in encouraging the young people in our collective care to become lovers of literature outside of school. Reading for pleasure at home will support extremely high standards of English language development, and for this reason choosing books from our reading lists would be a highly effective strategy. In line with this belief, you may already have noted that all teachers and other professionals who work in our school have a line under their email signatures which announce which books they are currently reading. This is intended to stimulate discussion around books, and – more specifically – reading for pleasure. If parents could replicate such discussions at home with their children, that may also help us to achieve our collective literacy aims.

Of course, we also know that many of our students are multilingual, and that many students join our school with differing levels of English proficiency. With this in mind, it may be worth reiterating our commitment to multilingual learning via our recently published **Multilingualism Vision**:

*We believe in the power of learning in more than one language and welcome students from all cultures and backgrounds. Our goal is to help every child grow in thinking, health, friendships, and emotions through teaching that meets their individual needs. We support students in learning important life skills and understanding the world, so they feel confident, proud of who they are, and ready to succeed in school and beyond.*

In addition, following on from the huge successes of our **Multilingual Spelling Bees** earlier this academic year, we are hosting our first ever **Poetry Competition** this term (with the final taking place today!) – led as ever by the wonderful Mr. Nas (our Student Showcase & Enrichment Lead). This event will align with World Poetry Day and is designed to encourage creativity and artistic expression within our clearly very talented student body.

Our **library** – which is now in a single dedicated space rather than split across different levels – will also be central to our literacy plans moving forward, with library teams made up of both students and teachers supporting its upkeep and the role a library can play in working with a school's key literacy strategies.

As always, if any parents would like to contact me about any of the points above, or indeed about any other issues, then you are always welcome to do so via the email address below.

Yours sincerely,



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