



WHAT'S INSIDE

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Challenges turned into opportunities. Let's hear the insights from our teachers on the swift and coordinated actions taken as one Keming Family during the FHBL period.

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Every cloud has a silver lining. Read what our parents have to say about creating precious memories and appreciating their children's strengths in this period of FHBL.

Pages 8 -14

Though their lives at the start of FHBL just became very different overnight, read how our students stayed positive during this period amidst the uncertainty surrounding them.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome our students back to school from their Full Home-based Learning (FHBL) and mid-year holidays! Although FHBL was a new experience for all our students, we are proud that they stayed engaged and conscientious in their quest to learn. This new experience has helped our students to realise the new possibilities in the ways that they can learn, especially via technology. We are also heartened to know that our students were helpful and cooperative at home during the FHBL. Many of them also found the time to bond with family members and have activities together. As we start Term 3, we urge our students to continue to observe personal hygiene and help one another to follow the safety measures so that our school remains a safe and conducive place for learning.

In our End-of-Semester 1 letter to parents, we invited you to pen a few thoughts to thank your child for demonstrating resilience or a family member for supporting you during this period. We are glad to receive several notes of thanks from our parents to their children and family members. The parents have allowed us to share their notes of thanks in this newsletter as an encouragement to all of us. Our teachers and students have also written their reflections on their learning during FHBL. We would like to thank our staff members for adjusting to the challenges and reaching out to students and parents the best they could during FHBL.

We invite you to read the notes of thanks and reflections in this newsletter. Thank you once again for your support and cooperation.

Mrs Yap Dai Jee

Courage doesn't
always roar.
Sometimes
courage is that
quiet voice at the
end of the day
saying, "I will try
again tomorrow."

A walk into our Virtual Classrooms...



FEATURING OUR TEACHERS

When designing lessons, I often put myself in the shoes of my students. I try to make it as straightforward as possible for my lower primary students, for them to better understand the HBL lessons.

I also ensure that I am available online to respond to questions posted by my students. Sometimes, I may also post a quick video to clear any misconceptions students may have after completing the assignment.

I am proud of what my students have achieved during this HBL period.

-By Mdm Sabrena

I used the SLS chat to carry out my FTGP-Keming Chat with my students. I sent out an announcement to inform my class that there will be a Keming Chat on SLS, one day before the actual chat. The announcement function in SLS portal is very helpful and I could inform and disseminate information to my students easily.

During Keming Chat, students were asked to do a voice recording on the following question, 'What do they look forward to do during the school holidays?' I was elated to hear their voice recordings.

The students' responses were very heart-warming. I am glad that they picked up a new skill during the Circuit Breaker month.

-By Mrs Qu Li Hui

Although it has been rather hectic at times, I certainly have some great takeaways from this learning experience. To be honest, if not for this Full Home-based Learning (FHBL), I do not think that I would have learnt about so many different educational technological tools available out there and tried them out within such a short period of time. I have learnt to refine my lessons through trial and error and through feedback from my students. My students certainly gave great suggestions!

Overall, I am grateful for this learning experience. It always feels great to have encouraging colleagues who are open to feedback, receptive to new ideas and spur you on to try out new things. However, the learning does not end here. It certainly continues... As I type this, I am looking at two more new ICT tools, 'WordWall' and 'Educaplay' and how I can use these to teach Tamil and engage my students even better.

-By Ms Archana



The implementation of Full Home-based Learning (FHBL) is a steep learning curve for all of us (teachers, students and parents).

However, I am grateful that we have the experience of designing lesson packages long before the Circuit Breaker and thus, we are quite prepared for a full HBL. I am also glad that I learned a lot of new ICT tools (namely Deck Toys, Loom, Jamboard, Quizziz) shared by fellow colleagues during this period.

The full HBL gives teachers the opportunity to explore new ways of teaching. Although it cannot substitute face-to-face teaching, it is definitely an effective way to engage students when they are at home.

~ By Mdm Wong Wee Cheng

To support the school's transition to Full Home-based Learning (FHBL) during the Circuit breaker period, I did my part to prepare both online and hardcopy HBL materials.

I also initiated more interaction with parents via the class dojo platform for them to be more involved in their child's learning and therefore, increasing the support the students have.

I believe it is important that students get help to ease them through the transition from school-based to home-based learning. I have also joined the SG Learning Designers Facebook group to learn from fellow colleagues in the fraternity. This group shares ideas on creating meaningful online lessons. Sharing of resources and ideas to support one another during this FHBL period have definitely helped me a lot.

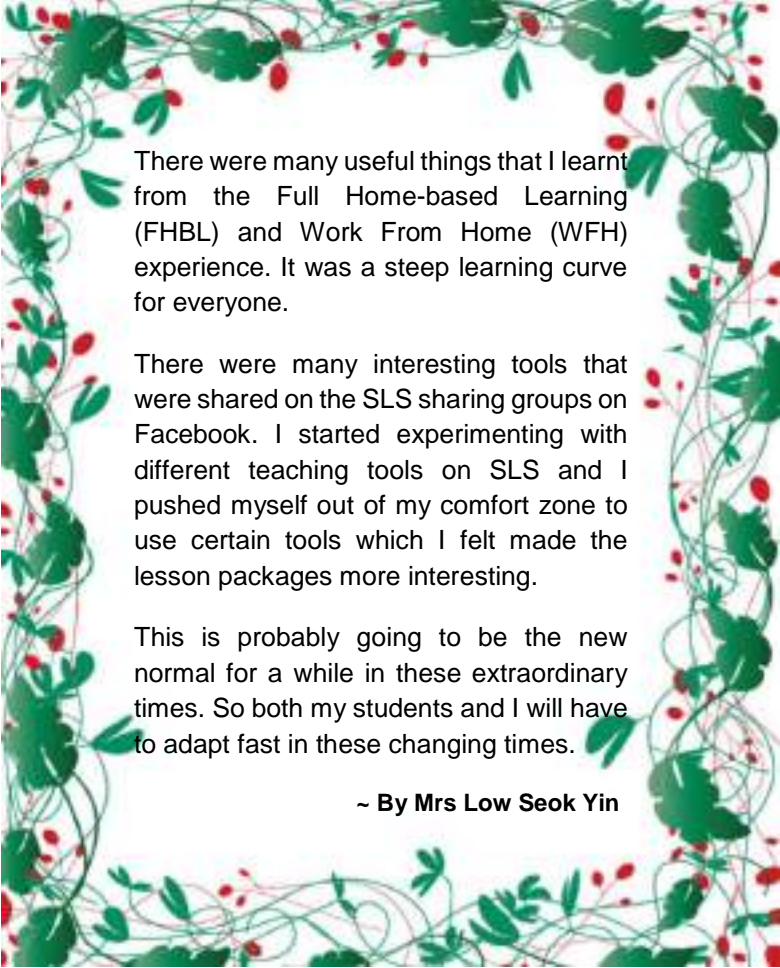
~ By Mdm Serene See

It was an ambivalent time of anxiousness, uncertainty and mindfulness just as it was for other teachers and me. Time was given, albeit short, to prepare HBL packages. Being a novice to many new software and applications, we embraced the idea of novelty and learning and soared beyond to learn and apply what we have found out individually and collectively for the betterment of the students.

As much as anxiousness and hesitations were involved, the teachers and I managed to overcome it to ensure there was joy in learning at the end of the day for the students and this needed to be the mainstay in a few, if not all, of the lesson packages that were sent out.

Through the anxiousness and uncertainty of the time, the prerequisite of mindfulness to students' needs prevailed at the end. The Full Home-based Learning (FHBL) experience can be aptly summed up in the words of Zig Ziglar, "Difficult roads can often lead to beautiful destinations. The best is yet to come."

~By Mr Gejendran

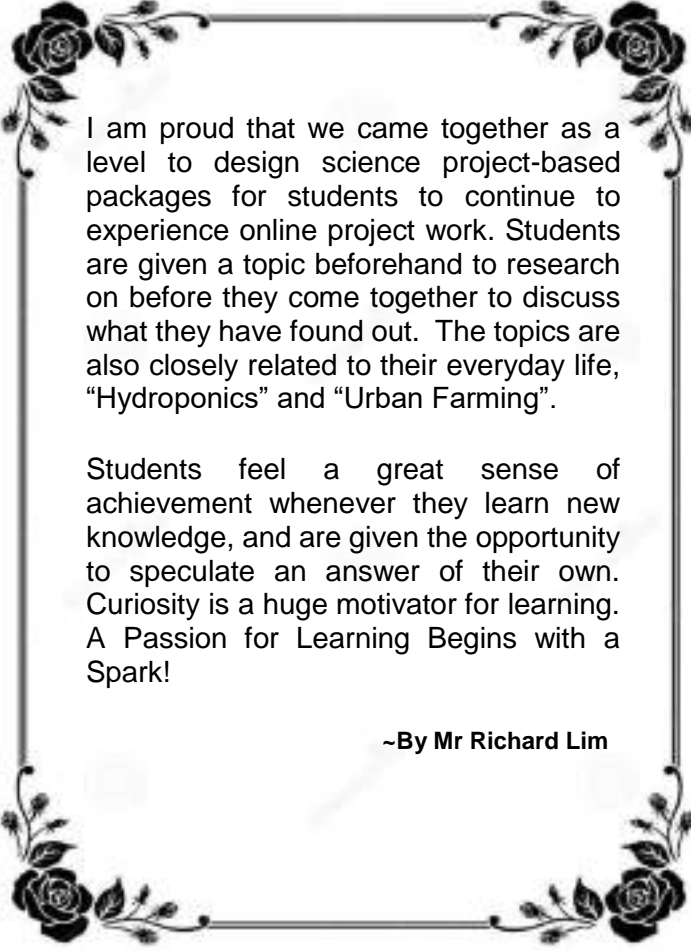


There were many useful things that I learnt from the Full Home-based Learning (FHBL) and Work From Home (WFH) experience. It was a steep learning curve for everyone.

There were many interesting tools that were shared on the SLS sharing groups on Facebook. I started experimenting with different teaching tools on SLS and I pushed myself out of my comfort zone to use certain tools which I felt made the lesson packages more interesting.

This is probably going to be the new normal for a while in these extraordinary times. So both my students and I will have to adapt fast in these changing times.

- By Mrs Low Seok Yin



I am proud that we came together as a level to design science project-based packages for students to continue to experience online project work. Students are given a topic beforehand to research on before they come together to discuss what they have found out. The topics are also closely related to their everyday life, "Hydroponics" and "Urban Farming".

Students feel a great sense of achievement whenever they learn new knowledge, and are given the opportunity to speculate an answer of their own. Curiosity is a huge motivator for learning. A Passion for Learning Begins with a Spark!

-By Mr Richard Lim

During the Full Home-based Learning (FHBL), I was concerned that my Primary 2 students would not be able to catch up with learning on their own for such an extended period. I set up a Padlet page for Keming Chat so that they have a platform to connect with me and to share their well-being after my phone calls to them. The last two weeks, I tried Google Meet and Zoom to connect with them and took the opportunity to do a book sharing using a wordless book titled, "Journey".

I was proud of students of 2 Pearl as most of them were able to complete the tasks in SLS. Looking at them in their home attire showcasing their work made me feel glad and relieved that they were doing fine.

Through the book sharing, I discovered more about their experiences at home. They were generally happy at home as they got to spend more time with their family.

-By Mr Michael Sim

Creating precious memories...

BEING APPRECIATIVE OF OUR FAMILY

All kids need is a little help, a little hope and somebody who believes in them.

Dear Izzat and Alya,

It was initially very hectic to monitor both of your learning at the same time but thankfully, both of you got the hang of it pretty quickly. You knew your schedule well and your teachers have been awesome. They communicated their instructions clearly to you, made sure you understood the lesson content and followed up with parents after that.

With the strong support from the teachers, I am able to better understand your strengths and weakness in each subject and assist both of you to the best of my ability.

Parent, 4 Diamond 2020
6 Jade 2020



be thankful

Dear Amisha,
Thanks for your resilience in managing your studies and activities during the Circuit Breaker period. You have not complained even once on how boring it was having to stay stuck at home all day long!

It is a pleasure spending time with you daily, watching television, watching you play video games, having chats at the balcony and most importantly having you as my exercise partner doing several reps of staircase exercise. I also enjoy the jokes we shared as a family. This period has been tough for all but time we spent as a family is something I am grateful for.

Let's continue to stay safe and exercise social responsibility. I know you are looking forward to go to school and meet your friends and teachers.

Parent, 6 Amethyst 2020



be thankful

Letter to my dearest Wendy, Reuben and Ethan

I am proud of you! Thank you for your patience, self-discipline, creativity and thoughtfulness, without them, riding out this COVID circuit breaker – home-based learning – will be a nightmare for all.

Thank you for being there to support Daddy, especially after each long endless day in the office, madly rushing to work out new devices for my hospital colleagues and to equip them with new protective devices.

Your faith, love and understanding are the primary motivation that keeps the family going today and every day, it is the thing for which Daddy is most grateful.

Looking forward, however reluctant we are, fighting this coronavirus will be a long-haul battle. Let's together as an individual, a family, a community and a nation overcome this with resilience and kindness.

Parent, 6 Emerald 2020



be thankful

Dear Chloe,

Being alone at home is not an easy task at your age and I am so proud of you for being so independent during this critical period when Daddy and Mummy have to be away at work.

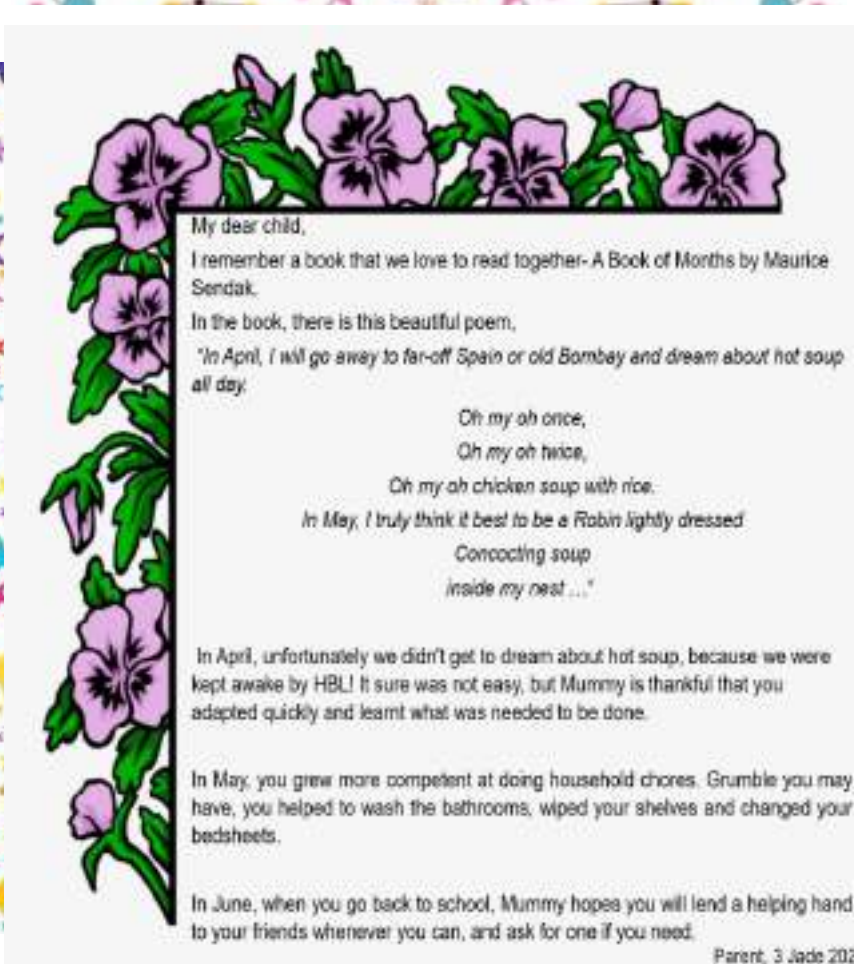
We are grateful that you are able to complete your tasks given by your teachers without much supervision from us.

Lastly, we would like to say “THANK YOU” for your understanding.

Parent, 2 Jade 2020



EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING!



PRECIOUS BONDING MOMENTS

Dear Winston,

I want to express my deep appreciation to you for your patience and understanding.

I fully understand that you were disappointed by the Circuit Breaker situation that prevented you from wandering outside and having fun playing with your friends. I was so glad that you were able to adjust yourself to adapt to the "new normal" lifestyle quickly.

During the Circuit Breaker period, no matter what happened, you always had a smile on your face! You showed your love to learn new stuff daily; you have also been a passionate reader; you loved exploring and asking us questions when in doubt. I am also thankful that you helped out around the house, by doing some simple household chores and reading to your younger sister.

Mummy is so proud of you! Thank you for being so responsible and for being such a caring brother and a loving child to all of us!

Parent, 1 Jade 2020

Dear Marco,

This period of Circuit breaker is a challenging time for all of us. We had to slowly adjust and come up with a family routine that works for all of us. Luckily, with help from your school teachers, I am able to involve you in some fun indoor activities.

We embarked on some interesting science activities. Thanks Marco, for coming up with the great idea, of constructing a Kinetic Energy Ball Track. We even made a video of us constructing the ball track. Even though it was hard work, the activity brought us closer as a family. We had lots of fun and laughter.

If not for this "Circuit Breaker", I doubt I will have the time and energy to bond with you over such meaningful activities.

Great that I am still very much an influencer in your life during this period and not just a boring mother that nags at you to finish up your work. =)

Parent, 5 Onyx 2020



THERE ARE TWO
GIFTS WE SHOULD
GIVE OUR CHILDREN,
ONE IS *Roots*, AND
THE OTHER IS *Wings*

Dear Raghuram,

I am proud that you never once complained that our short holiday trip had turned unknowingly into a frustrated Covid -19 lockdown situation in India.

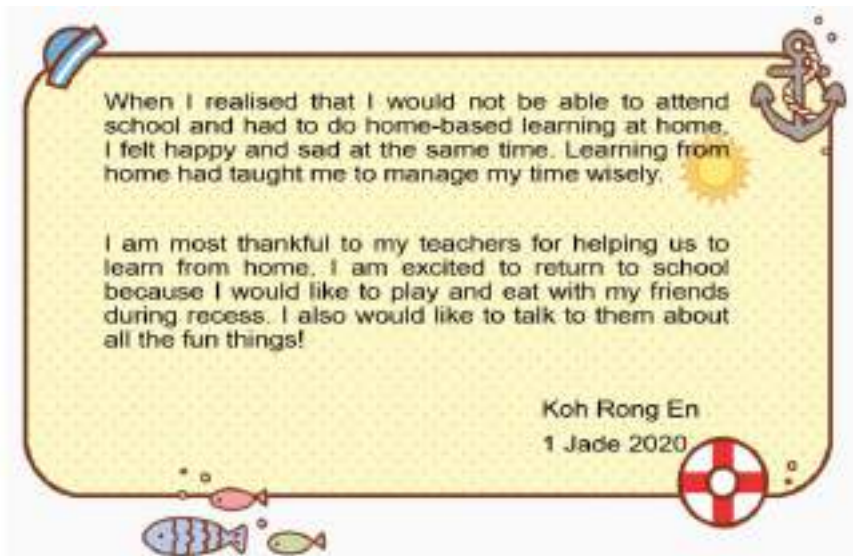
You have showed resilience daily in keeping up with your HBL schedule despite the network issue and slow connectivity. You have also kept the family bonded during this period of uncertainty with your jokes and magic tricks. You have shown care and consideration for all of us. You appreciate every little thing in life. Thank you, son!

Lastly, you must thank your teachers for their support to handle your daily remote learning sessions. I am sure you miss your teachers and classmates and can't wait to return to school.

Parent, 5 Jade 2020

Joy of Learning continues from Home...

Full Home-Based Learning (FHBL) became an important stage in our fight against COVID-19 where we needed to stay home, stay safe, and help our children stay curious. Here are some of our Keming FHBL highlights.



When I realised that I would not be able to attend school and had to do home-based learning at home, I felt happy and sad at the same time. Learning from home had taught me to manage my time wisely.

I am most thankful to my teachers for helping us to learn from home. I am excited to return to school because I would like to play and eat with my friends during recess. I also would like to talk to them about all the fun things!

Koh Rong En
1 Jade 2020

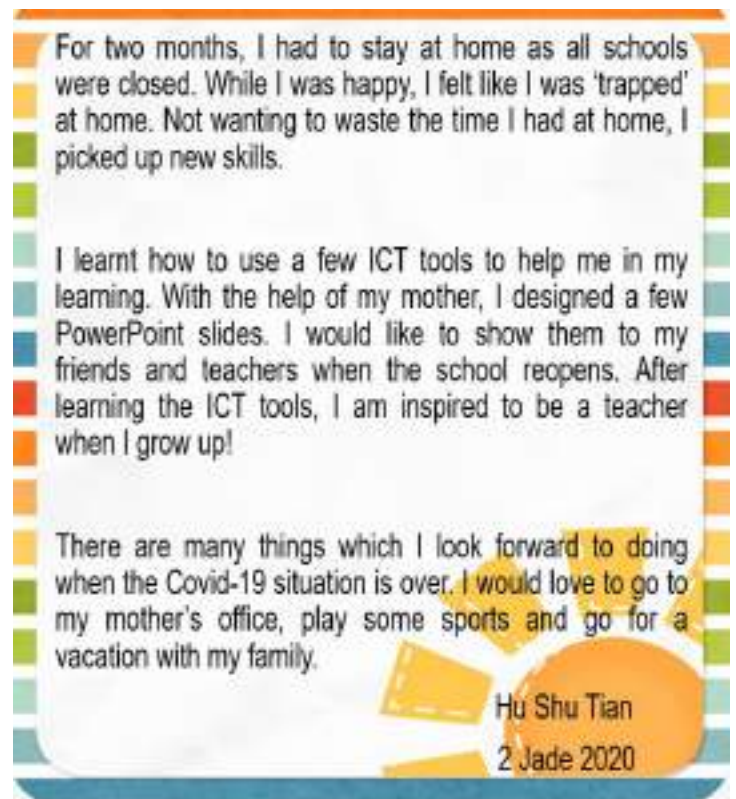


Staying at home for home-based learning had its challenges for me. I had to share the family laptop with my elder brother and sister. I had to patiently wait for my turn to use the computer because my brother had 'live' lessons to attend in the mornings. Unfortunately, the laptop stopped working in the second week of HBL and we had to share my mother's laptop while getting our computer fixed.

Learning from home had taught me to be more resilient. I would try my best to complete the assigned task given by my teachers on my own. However, when faced with difficulties, I would seek my parents' or siblings' help.

I am thankful to my teachers for preparing all the lessons so that my learning could continue at home. I look forward to get out of the house as I would like to go back to school and meet my friends. I also miss eating out with my family at our favourite restaurant.

Isa Thomi
2 Onyx 2020



For two months, I had to stay at home as all schools were closed. While I was happy, I felt like I was 'trapped' at home. Not wanting to waste the time I had at home, I picked up new skills.

I learnt how to use a few ICT tools to help me in my learning. With the help of my mother, I designed a few PowerPoint slides. I would like to show them to my friends and teachers when the school reopens. After learning the ICT tools, I am inspired to be a teacher when I grow up!

There are many things which I look forward to doing when the Covid-19 situation is over. I would love to go to my mother's office, play some sports and go for a vacation with my family.

Hu Shu Tian
2 Jade 2020

Learning in a different way...



WHAT ARE OUR STUDENTS SAYING?

Screen time became more interesting with the fun and entertaining tasks given by teachers. Comic drawings, escape rooms, online recordings, timed quizzes and virtual experiments were some of the tools we found joy in learning during FHBL.



Students' artefacts done during FHBL



The biggest change during this home-based learning was that while I was studying, my mother was seated beside me, busy working. Though my parents were both busy, they still tried their best to help me out when I faced difficulties in my learning. I am very grateful for that!

I do not like to watch television shows, so instead I spent most of my time reading. I love to read, because I can escape to another reality and imagine I am in the story. Reading broadens my horizon.

Lastly, I would like to thank my family, for being so supportive of one another during this period. I am definitely looking forward to going back to school!

Liew Yee Xin
3 Opal 2020

During the two weeks of Full Home-based Learning (FHBL), I faced some difficulties which included adapting to the sudden change of the learning environment. There was a lot of reading and understanding of instructions which I had to do. Either one of my parents would help and guide me in my work even though they were also busy working from home.

I knew that I had to be more patient and try to follow the instructions to complete the task given to me each day.

It was a big difference between classroom lessons and FHBL. I prefer having my lessons in the classroom as my classmates and I will be learning together and the teacher will be in class to explain and guide us.

One of the challenges I faced was that I was not able to upload some of my work on Student Learning Space (SLS), so the status of my assignment showed 'Incomplete' for a few of the subjects. This caused me stress as I was worried that the teachers would scold me for not completing my work.

I am trying to improve on my resilience so that I can be more independent and learn to overcome difficulties whenever I am stuck with my work. I must try to solve the problems myself first before approaching my parents for help.

I hope to go back to school soon.

Lim Jun Xing Brylan
3 Amethyst 2020



I feel great during this Circuit Breaker month. I enjoyed playing games at home, and exercising together as a family.

I would also like to show my appreciation to my family, especially to my mother, for working in the frontline as a nurse and for taking care of the family when she is home. Thank you mummy for all that you have done for us!

Brian Wong Qian Jun
4 Jade 2020



Writing Gratitude Cards for Bukit Batok frontliners in March



Our Heart of Gratitude art pieces put together by the Art Club members to be presented to Bukit Batok frontliners

Learning at home was the biggest change during the Circuit Breaker month. I tried to keep myself occupied by drawing, painting and watching comedy shows. I also enjoyed our family time together, baking pizzas and playing games.

I am very thankful to my sister and parents for supporting me during the home-based learning month. They taught me many new things, especially on how to handle the technical difficulties that I faced while learning online. A big thank-you to my family!

Siva Kaarthik
4 Onyx 2020



During this HBL, I didn't have difficulty learning and studying as the teachers put in a lot of videos to help us understand better. We also had enough time to finish our homework. Sometimes, our teachers made WhatsApp calls to tell us if our homework had any mistakes. If there were any, we were able to correct them through the videos that the teachers had made.

My favourite part of HBL was when we had Keming Chat, as we still got to interact with teachers even though we could not go to school. I want to sincerely thank the teachers for putting in effort.

Soh Qi Feng
5 Opal 2020



Practising personal hygiene



Daily temperature-taking in class

I am thankful for my teachers who took the time to prepare SLS lessons as they wanted us to learn during the pandemic.

I also appreciate that my parents helped me during this tough time even though they still had to work. Handling their own work and helping a child with his or her studies in a global pandemic can be a challenge. I am so grateful to have amazing parents like them!

Batrisyia
5 Amethyst 2020



Home-based learning provides us with various ways of learning. For example, we can learn through Quizizz or Quizlet. Home-based learning also allows us to venture out beyond the standard curriculum and learn about nature or the world which we have hardly enough time for when in class. For example, my form teacher, Mrs Ang, sent my class a link to watch a virtual tour of a zoo in Africa. This way, we not only got to see wildlife, but we also got to learn about them.

Although it was hard to not get to interact and talk to my friends and teachers face-to-face, I think that Zoom has done an excellent job of keeping us connected no matter where we were. Lastly, I would like to thank all my friends and teachers for making my home-based learning fruitful and enjoyable.

Keshwini Gejendran
6 Amethyst 2020

I was feeling rather tired and bored as I had been staying at home all the time since the circuit breaker started. A big change for me was not to have the mid-year examinations.

However, it was not all bad. I am thankful that I could spend time with my family, playing games like Monopoly with them. I appreciate my family as we always show care and look out for one another, even when playing games. I was also able to spend some time watching kids' shows on television and even baked some cookies! These are things I did not have time for before.

This period has been a significant moment in my life. I will always remember to appreciate everything and everyone. Whether situations are good or bad, I have learnt that they teach me something and I would have to remember how to manage the difficulties so that when the next significant moment comes, I can stand up to the next challenge.

Abdul Azeem Bin Shaik Amin
6 Diamond 2020



Meaningfully engaged while sitting apart in class



My experience at home during the circuit breaker was quite different from any other normal day at school. During that period of time, I was quite worried about my upcoming national examination, PSLE. I knew that my learning would be affected as I do not really have the right learning environment at home. I could not concentrate that well as compared to in school.

Even though there was this difficulty of trying to concentrate hard, I still put in my best effort in the work that my teacher gave me. I took pride in my work and ensured that it was all done in time to be handed in.

Next, I am really grateful to my teachers as they spent their time developing the work we needed to complete on SLS and even making time from their own individual schedule to conduct Zoom lessons for us. I also know that they sincerely put in a lot of effort to make our Home-Based Learning interesting so we would study better at home. For all their hard work, I am really touched and would really like to thank them for all they had done during the circuit breaker.

Kyzac Chng
6 Diamond 2020



Having fun exercising while maintaining social distancing

Full Home-based Learning (FHBL) was not easy for me. The biggest change was not being able to go to school and have friends to talk to. I find doing HBL work on the computer difficult as I can get all messed up and would not be able to complete them on time.

However, I have activities at home that I enjoy doing in my free time too. One of them is drumming!

I appreciate my family for taking care of me. I am thankful to my brothers who spend time playing with me. One of our favourite family activities is to share jokes with one another. Besides cooking for me, my parents give me a very comfortable place to study in and help me with my work whenever I have difficulty understanding them.

I will not forget these difficult but also happy moments.

Jonathan Lee Jing Xi
6 Jade 2020



Singapore Together Pack

STORY BEHIND HER ARTWORK

"Heartbeat of the Nation"

Sheerah Sanjana Pandian, Keming Primary School

Though the Covid-19 developments created fear and doubt in many of us, Keming Primary School's Sheerah Sanjana Pandian realised the importance of a healthy society that can work through differences and come together for a common purpose.

Therefore, in her artwork, she decided to portray the image of a strong heart, representative of life and hope. Meanwhile, the people in the heart represent the diverse society we live in, working together to overcome challenges. These individuals include the four main races, and though not explicitly shown in the artwork, the fifth individual represents foreign workers, a group she believes is pivotal to Singapore's success.

This year, Sheerah would like to say to all foreign workers: "Thank you for being the silent unsung heroes who have built our nation. I would like to dedicate my work to you."

Sheerah's first extended interaction with foreign workers occurred last year, when their family sought the help of two foreign workers to paint their house. Hearing about their long working hours and loneliness due to separation from their families, she developed a much greater respect for their tenacity. She hopes that with greater societal discourse regarding the role of foreign workers, we can use avenues like National Day to show greater appreciation to these "forgotten members" of our society.



Sheerah