



# Brand new learning spaces

More than 1,500 pupils started their school year in seven new primary schools this year.

Opening their doors on Jan 2 were: (in the north-east) Palm View Primary, Punggol Green Primary, Punggol View Primary, Sengkang Green Primary and Springdale Primary; (in the west) Westwood Primary; and (in the north) Riverside Primary.

They are the Ministry of Education (MOE)'s answer to rising demand. The schools are all in towns with growing populations, with several existing schools filled to the gills. The MOE is also building more schools as part of its plan to turn all primary schools into single-session ones by 2016.

In addition, these new schools are built to meet the Primary Education Review and Implementation Committee (Peri) recommendations from 2009.

These include having

facilities such as specially designed classrooms, eco-gardens and a performing arts studio.

They are all built with the latest facilities for MOE programmes, such as the Programs for Active Learning and Outdoor Experiential Learning.

Little Red Dot spoke to several pupils, all of whom were excited about their new schools.

At Riverside Primary School, Ella Tok was taken by the Diversity Garden. The 200 sq m space has areas such as the Herbs and Spices Garden, Cactus Garden and an Eco-Pond.

Said the six-year-old: "I saw many flowers and fishes in the Diversity Garden during the school's orientation. There were many flowers and they were so beautiful."

Over at schools in the Sengkang and Punggol areas, many schools are planning environmental programmes.

For example, at Punggol Green Primary, an Outdoor Education module will see pupils heading to the Punggol Waterway and Lorong Halus Wetland Reserves nearby to explore.

Such activities have made kids more enthusiastic about attending classes.

Said six-year-old Tan Jing Xi, a Punggol Green Primary 1 pupil: "I am very excited to come to school. When it looks like I may be late for school, I will tell my parents to move faster."

Nicholas Teo takes a peek into seven primary schools which welcomed pupils for the first time this year



### WESTWOOD PRIMARY

1 Jurong West Street 73

Westwood Primary has a Values in Action programme which allows pupils to learn and apply the school values: having A Heart of Gratitude, a Passion for Community, a Resilient Mindset and a Future-ready Confidence. As the programme is integrated with project work, pupils will have the opportunity to work with teachers to generate ideas to reach out to the community.



### RIVERSIDE PRIMARY

110 Woodlands Crescent

Riverside Primary's Diversity Garden (below), which is bigger than two classrooms, has features such as the Herbs and Spices Garden, Cactus Garden and Eco-Pond. Besides learning the importance of respecting and loving diversity, pupils will also have a chance to create signs for the plants.



### PUNGGOL VIEW PRIMARY

9 Punggol Place

Punggol View Primary is using Lego to promote creativity in class. What started out as a visual art module, has been extended to English, mother tongue and mathematics lessons. Now, pupils can even use Lego to build robots as part of their science and information, and communications technology subjects.

### PUNGGOL GREEN PRIMARY

98 Punggol Walk

At Punggol Green Primary, the school's Outdoor Education Module will be integrated into the pupils' curriculum. Primary 1 and 2 pupils will have the opportunity to go on learning journeys to the Punggol Waterway and Lorong Halus Wetland Reserves to explore and learn about various environmental issues.



### SENGKANG GREEN PRIMARY

15 Fernvale Road

At Sengkang Green Primary, pupils can utilise the school's large rooftop area (below) for outdoor activities. The school also has an outdoor fitness playground, rooms dedicated to Programme for Active Learning (PAL) and a dance studio.



### SPRINGDALE PRIMARY

71 Anchorvale Link

Based on the school's education philosophy of Play, Passion and Purpose, speech and drama programmes are integrated with English and mother tongue language classes to teach pupils how to be effective and confident communicators. Pupils will also have the opportunity to showcase their learning through stage performances.



### PALM VIEW PRIMARY

150 Compassvale Bow

Palm View Primary is next to a public park. Hence, the rooms of the school are designed to have a view of the greenery. Pupils can also catch glimpses of the park through the school's common corridors.

