



Six-year-old Damien and his sister Olivia, eight, are ready for the first day of school today. Damien, one of the first four babies born in 2011, will be starting Primary 1 at Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Primary School, while his sister will enter Primary 3.
ST PHOTO: CHEW SENG KIM

First day of school for former new year baby

Six years ago, Damien Foong was born at the stroke of midnight at Mount Alvernia Hospital while revellers all over Singapore rang in the new year with fireworks, making him one of the first four babies born in 2011.

Today will be another first for Damien – he will be starting Primary 1 at Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Primary School in Bishan.

Yesterday, his father, IT manager Donovan Foong, 46, prepared Damien for his first day at school by taking him for a haircut, buying school

supplies and packing his bag.

Mr Foong said he is confident that Damien can adapt to school fast. “Psychologically, I think he is ready. He is an outgoing boy and tends to make many friends.”

Still, he is slightly worried that Damien, who turned six on Sunday, might face problems when it comes to academics since he is the youngest among his peers. Under the Compulsory Education Act, children born between Jan 2, 2010, and Jan 1, 2011, both dates inclusive, have to enter Primary 1 this year.

In contrast, Damien is not worried. “I am excited about school and want to make new friends.”

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong yesterday posted an Instagram message for students who are starting school: “For those starting in a new school, be yourself, get to know your classmates and teachers, and enjoy your new adventure.

“For those returning to school, I wish you an inspiring year of discovery and learning.”

Yuen Sin