



# ORAMA PUBLIC SCHOOL

## Parent and Community Welcome Pack





*"Orama Public School gave my son a wonderful start. I can't thank the staff enough for their care and dedication"*  
-past parent

*"Orama Public School has such a warm place in our community-everyone is welcome"-community member*



*"Since my daughter began at Orama, she has been able to follow her own learning path and this has been supported by everyone at Orama"*  
-present parent

*"I love it at Orama. My teachers help me learn. I love Lexia. Writing is hard but my teachers help me."*- present student

*"I don't always like it but my teacher challenges me. She also gives me opportunities to do the things I'm really good at"*-present student



*"I have many great memories from my time at Orama-I loved the sport and going to state"*  
-past student

# ORAMA PUBLIC SCHOOL



Orama Public School, located in the Thora Valley is set in beautiful bush surroundings next to the Bellinger River. The school is dedicated to providing quality education to the children in the local area. Parents and community members contribute to school programs and to the promotion of the school and its achievements. The school values its close working bond with the community.

Orama Public School proudly represents Public Education in NSW. The school has dedicated and committed staff who value and appreciate working within a unique family oriented school community. Orama Public School's parents and community members come from diverse cultural backgrounds and contribute a wide range of creative skills and expertise.

Orama Public School delivers a comprehensive curriculum which aims at promoting each child as an individual with priority being placed on literacy, numeracy and the integration of technology across all subject areas. The school aims to ensure the positive development of each student within a supportive, caring environment.

The school motto "Together In Friendship, We Learn" encompasses all facets of school life.

We welcome you to the Orama Public School family and we look forward to following the primary school journey with you and your family.

*Katharine*

Katharine Sutherland, Principal



## **SCHOOL HOURS**

The children go into class at 9:20 am. Recess is from 11:30am – 12 pm and Lunch from 1:15 pm – 1:45 pm. Classes finish at 2:40 pm.

Children **must not** be dropped off at the school before **8:45 am** nor should they be left to wait at school for parents to pick up after **3:15 pm** unless previously arranged with the Principal.

## **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

The uniform is comprised of a blue and navy T-shirt with school logo and navy shorts/skirt or track suit pants. School T-shirts can be purchased from our school office.



The school shirts should be worn every day as it gives our students a sense of belonging and it creates a positive identity for the school. The school may give your child a shirt to change into when they arrive at school out of uniform. When we attend events that are off school site, such as excursions, students are expected to wear the uniform as they are representing our school and community and it makes identifying our students in a large group very easy.

## **ABSENCES**

A short note or phone call explaining the absence is required when your child is absent from school. If school attendance is problematic, please contact the principal as we can approach any problems together. If your child is regularly absent without an explanation, the principal may be required to contact a Home School Liaison Officer for advice or intervention.

## **SICK CHILDREN**

Please don't send your child to school if you suspect he/she is not well. Children with contagious/infectious diseases eg. chicken pox, conjunctivitis, impetigo (school sores) should not be sent to school (in accordance with NSW Dept. of Health guidelines).

A "sick" bed is available at the school for any child who may become ill at school. If a child is hurt or becomes ill, you will be contacted if the matter appears to be serious or if the child remains sick for a period of longer than 30 minutes.

Medicine taking will be supervised providing a note is sent to school – prescription medications can only be supervised by staff. You must provide a written note permitting teachers to administer any form of prescription medicine and written instructions on how to administer the medicine. The school is not permitted to supply or administer medications which have not been supplied by a parent or guardian.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

Professional services available through the school include:

- \* School Counsellor
- \* Community Nurse - speech, vision and hearing tests.
- \* Reading Tutor
- \* Varying music tutors
- \* School Dental Service - free at Coffs Harbour Health Campus.

Contact with these services can be made through the Principal.

## **BOOKCLUB**

There is a scheme operated by Scholastic Bookclubs Australia whereby children have the opportunity to purchase good quality books at very reasonable prices. Leaflets will be available for your child to take home if they are interested. Orders can be made on the back of these leaflets and brought to school with the exact money by the due date.

## **MONEY**

When forwarding money to the school for any reason, please place it in an envelope with your child's name, the amount enclosed and the purpose written clearly on the outside. This practice is especially helpful for children ordering lunches from the Canteen.

The school is enquiring about payments that can be made online. Future progress with this will be communicated in the newsletter.

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework is not compulsory, however, creating a love of learning is important. If your child is someone who would benefit from the regular practice of study, please contact your child's teacher. Activities which may be set could be a research task or a project. However, please see the section on ***Home Reading***.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Religious education is provided at the school by a volunteer trained religious instructor teaching the basic Christian doctrine. These classes run for 30 minutes each week. Parents need to sign a permission note indicating whether they wish their child to attend. Children not participating will be supervised by a teacher.

## **HAT POLICY**

In order to protect children from the sun, the school's policy is that if a child does not wear a broad brimmed hat then they are to play in the designated shade areas.

"HAT ON, PLAY ON!"

## **HOME READING**

This is an important program for students especially beginning readers (K – 2) or children experiencing difficulty with their reading in later years. All children will be shown the borrowing and returning procedures and are then expected to operate this system independently. Teacher assistance will be provided for children in K – 2.

## **SUBJECTS**

In NSW, primary schools have 6 core subjects. These are also known as Key Learning Areas. They are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science and Technology
- Human Society and its Environment (HISE- History and Geography)
- Creative Arts (Dance, Visual Art, Music and Drama)
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE)

Further information can be found at

<http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/home>

## **SCHOOL NEWSLETTER AND PERMISSION NOTES**

School newsletters are sent out electronically at the start of every week. Our newsletter provides important reading on school events and sometimes contains permission notes. The weekly newsletter can also be found on the school website; [www.orama-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.orama-p.schools.nsw.edu.au) and also on our Facebook page. Permission notes must be signed and returned to school before a child is allowed to participate in the proposed activity. It is requested that you return all permission notes and any money associated with the activity by the due date to enable the school to make final bookings, plans and payments.



## **EXTRA SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS**

Students could benefit from bringing these additional items, however this is not always necessary.

- Art shirt (old T-shirt)
- Pencil case, coloured pencils, lead pencils, pens (for older students), rubber, sharpener
- A change of clothes (for younger children in the event of “accidents”)

## **PARENT PARTICIPATION IN THE SCHOOL**

The school welcomes parents and community members to come to the school to assist in classroom activities. Your assistance is not only welcomed, it is appreciated and valued. Your child will love it! Ways to assist could include: reading, writing, library, art, music, garden maintenance, book covering, canteen, sport and craft. Also any personal expertise may be utilised e.g. leatherwork, poetry, woodwork, clay modelling. Please contact your child’s teacher to negotiate times when this assistance can take place.

To volunteer at school we do require you to have completed a Working with Children Check at [www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au) and present this with 100 points of identification (drivers licence, medicare card, bank card) to the school on your first day of volunteering.

### **PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION**

Parents and Citizens (P & C) meetings are held in the Library on a date advised in the newsletter. All parents are welcome to come along and participate in discussions and decisions which are made.

Inservice courses for parents are held at the school from time to time to familiarise parents with certain aspects of the school curriculum. This encourages parents in a majority of cases to work towards enhancing the quality of their children's education.



### **CANTEEN**

A P & C run canteen operates every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday with help from parent volunteers. Any parent wishing to help is welcome to do so, contact the office for more information including the parent guide to catering for these canteen days. There is small cost per child for canteen.

### **TELEPHONE**

It is requested that phone calls to school be restricted if possible to non-teaching times i.e. before school (8:45 – 9:10 am), Recess (11:30am – 12 pm) and Lunch (1:15 pm – 1:45 pm) and after school (3:00 pm – 3:30 pm). The school phone number is 66558567. If the call isn't answered, please leave a message.

### **BUS TRAVEL**

We are fortunate to have two bus services that your child can travel on. Dorrigo Bus Service (6657 1096) travels further up Darkwood Road and Natureland Bus Service (0421 164 311) travels down Darkwood Road towards Thora and into Bellingen.

School travel pass applications are available at <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/applyNow#/>

Any other variation to your child's normal travel e.g. cricket or music training at Bellingen also needs parent explanation by phone or note.

### **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY**

In the case of an emergency situation e.g. flood, which is likely to cause the school to be "non-operational", each family will receive a text



message from the principal to inform them of this news. Please reply to let the principal know you have received the message. If you do not have a mobile phone, the principal will call you on your home phone. The school website and Facebook page also has news of flood events.

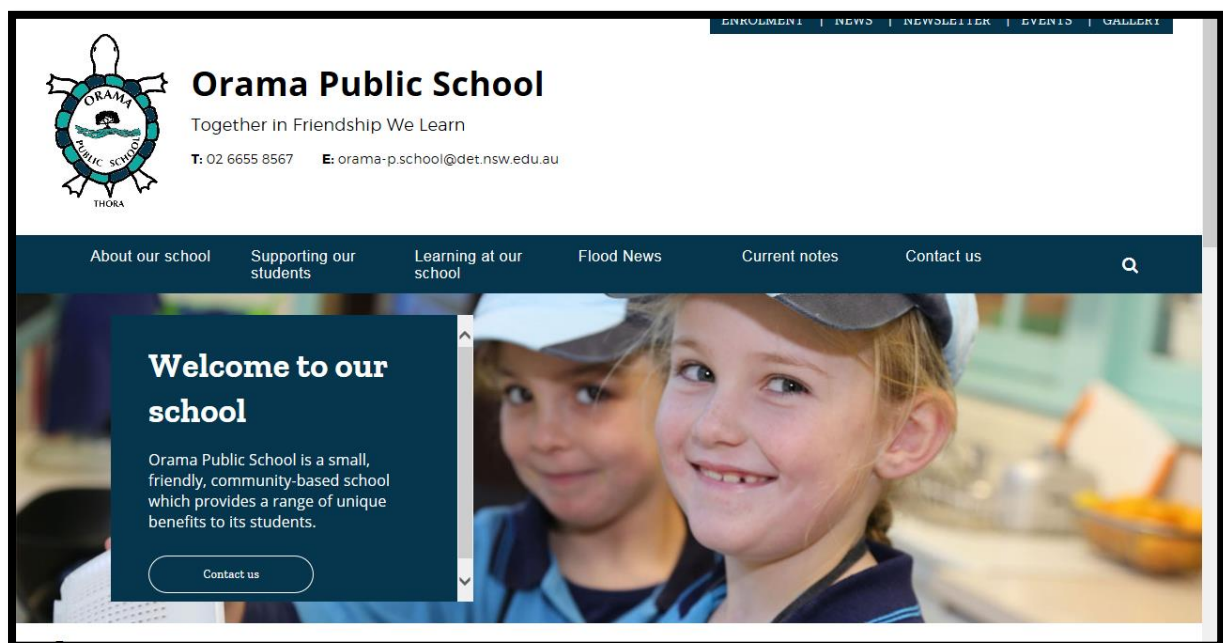
### **SCHOOL FEES**

The school does not ask for voluntary school contributions. This has been decided by the Principal in collaboration with the P & C. The school and P&C also attempt to keep other costs to a minimum where possible, this includes the school or P&C subsidising some extra-curricular school based activities. We do ask that any additional payments be met as soon as possible. If there are any problems meeting the costs of excursion or other events, please contact the principal.

### **SCHOOL WEBSITE and FACEBOOK PAGE**

The school website and Facebook page is an excellent source of “what’s happening” at school. The site and pages are updated regularly with the current newsletter, photos, excursion details and general school information. The website is:-

[www.orama-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.orama-p.schools.nsw.edu.au). Or on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/oramaps/>



### **PORTABLE DEVICES AND MOBILE PHONES**

Students are permitted to bring portable devices to school to listen to music on the bus, however they are wholly responsible for them. Students can leave these in the office for safe keeping and collect them at the end of the day if they wish. The same conditions apply for mobile phones.