



# Orewa North Primary School

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### What are the school hours?

School begins at **8:55am** each morning and finishes at **2:45pm** each afternoon.  
Morning Interval is from 10:40am to 11:00am,  
Lunch from 12:30pm to 1:15pm

Classrooms are open from 8:30am and children are encouraged to be at school in time to organise themselves and be ready for the start of the school day.

It is important children arrive at school on time as this is often the time that teachers go over important information and talk about aspects of the day's programme.

### How does the school communicate with parents?

We have just launched a **new school website** and it should give both current and prospective parents lots of relevant and interesting information.

There is also a **Facebook page** for parents and friends of the school, the link to which is on the website. The Facebook page will be all about great things happening at our school and parents do need to request to join the page as it will initially be private while we assess its effectiveness.

The **school app** has been a considerable success over the last two years (currently on 927 devices) and we will continue to use it for important alerts and events details. Parents are able to advise of absences and contact staff members via email through the app. The app can be downloaded free via the App Store by searching for Orewa North.

The **school newsletter** is usually published each Monday and is still the key means of communicating with parents. Those who have indicated they would like to receive the newsletter via email will continue to do so and ideally we would like all parents to receive the newsletter this way. There will also be a copy on both the website and the school app.

### What happens if my child is absent from school?

To ensure that all children arrive safely at school each day we operate the following system to account for all students.

**If your child will be absent we ask that you inform the school.** You can do this by telephone (09 426 4849) and when prompted press 1 when advised. Please leave the name and area number of your child and the reason they are absent. As an alternative, you can also press the 'Absentee' button on the Orewa North school app and fill in the relevant information.

After roll check in each room, the parents of any student unaccounted for will be contacted to check the reason for absence.

### What do I need to do if my child is turning 5 and about to start school at Orewa North?

Please ring the school office (09) 426-4849 and make an appointment to see Mr Tilby, the school Principal, as he likes to meet all new parents and children. At that meeting he will talk to you about your child, tell you about our school and take you for a tour of the school. He will give you an enrolment form and explain what needs to be filled in and returned to school. He will also answer any questions you may have at the time.

### Do you have school visits and how are these organised?

When you have met with the Principal, Mrs Sturley, the School Administrator will organise a visit for you and your child. These are held on a Thursday, once a fortnight between 9:30am and 10:30am, and usually shortly before your child begins school.

We have found that one visit is more than adequate for most children, but you may discuss this further

with Mrs Morgan, the Associate Principal, if you have any concerns after your visit.

#### [How is Stationery organised?](#)

At the end of each school year children will receive a list of their stationery requirements, which can be purchased from local retailers. Throughout the year replacements of exercise books, pads, pens and pencils etc. can be purchased through the office before school each morning.

New Entrant packs will be made up by the office staff and delivered to the classroom on their first day. Payment must be made to the office before the child starts.

#### [Does the school have a uniform?](#)

At the present time, the school has an optional school uniform. This uniform has been the same for a number of years and the Board of Trustees are currently discussing how we best proceed with updating this option. This will be discussed with and communicated to parents in due course.

Please note that the wearing of HATS in Term 1 and 4, whilst outside, is compulsory.

#### [What do I do if I have a concern about my child's learning or welfare at school?](#)

If your concern is about your child's learning, please contact the class teacher in the first instance. If you feel your concerns or queries have not been addressed, please contact the syndicate leader. Parents are always welcome to make an appointment to see the Principal.

Should at any time your child have issues that are impacting on their learning and welfare it is important that the school is informed so it can deal with it. We do have a zero tolerance to bullying and will do our utmost to solve any possible issue. Initial contact should be made with the class teacher or for more serious issues the syndicate leader or the Principal. Early intervention or awareness can make things much easier for all concerned. We also will contact parents when we have a concern.

#### [What happens if my child has an accident or is sick at school?](#)

While every care is taken, accidents do happen from time to time. Minor accidents are treated in the school sickbay. Where the injury is more serious, or a child becomes ill at school the parents will be informed. It is important for this reason that parents keep the school informed of changes of address, phone numbers and alternative contact people.

#### [Are the children given homework?](#)

At Orewa North we understand that many children have after-school commitments and we try to make any homework given relevant to their learning needs.

Year 1 and 2 children are required to do some home reading each night so it is important their book bags are at school each day.

Year 3 and 4 children are expected to do approximately 20 minutes per night - reading, spelling words and a weekly Maths Buddy task. There will on occasion be talk preparation and research/information gathering sometimes.

Homework is given Monday to Thursday and children return their homework on Friday for discussion and marking. We expect our Year 5 and 6 children to be doing about 20-30 minutes per night although this can be worked around your busy afternoons to suit.

#### [How much is the school donation?](#)

The annual school donation for a single child of \$120.00 per annum (or \$30.00 per term) is used to supplement the money given to us by the Ministry of Education. For those who have two or more children at school there is a combined donation of \$160.00 per annum (or \$40.00 per term).

The one-off annual Paper/ICT donation of \$25.00 per child helps us meet paper costs and the ever-increasing expense associated with the use of technology in students learning.

The school makes provision for all school payments to be made directly to the school account via internet banking.

#### [Where do I park my car?](#)

In the mornings, there are usually carparks available outside the school. In the morning, the bus bay can be used as a drop-off zone only, but please note that drivers must not leave cars unattended. You will need to park in another area (other than the bus bay) if you are coming into the school.

With the ever-increasing size of the school, the collection of children at the end of the day is becoming more congested and car parks are at a premium. The bus bay is used by three different buses between

2:45pm and 3:00pm and parents must remain with their vehicle at all times.

Some parents who only have children in Areas 10 to 14 park in Nukumea Common, with their children using the walkway at the back of Areas 11 and 12. The walkway is behind a staff carpark but children are able to walk on the edge of the grass and then along the fenceline, meaning that it is not necessary to walk across the carpark. Please be aware that Nukumea Common is a little cul-de-sac and also gets very busy at the close of school.

Please do not use the internal school parking areas to drop off or collect children at the start or end of the day. Drivers reversing are often unsighted and this can be dangerous.

Many parents choose to park a little further away and walk to the school and this is often the most practical option.

#### [Where is the safest place to cross the road to school?](#)

If you are coming from the opposite side of the road to the school, we strongly urge you to use the pedestrian crossing. This is patrolled between 8.30am and 8.55am each morning and at 2.45pm to 3:00pm in the afternoon. We strongly discourage parents crossing the road with their children or calling them across at any other place outside the school, as it can be very unsafe.

#### [Is there a school bus?](#)

A free bus service is available to all children who live north of Hatfields Beach. This bus is also used by Orewa College. The bus drops children off at school at approximately 8:15am and picks them up from school at 2:55pm. Please be aware that in the afternoon children do wait on the bus at Orewa College for approximately 20 minutes after they leave our school.

A fare paying service run by the Bayes Coachlines is available to children who live in the Hatfields Beach area.

#### [Can my child cycle to school?](#)

Students are permitted to cycle to school as long as they are responsible road users and wear cycle helmets. It is highly recommended that parents of younger children cycling accompany them to and from school. Children can bring a scooter but similar safety rules apply.

#### [Can I order a school lunch for my child?](#)

Lunches are available through online ordering with EZ Lunch the current price list is available on the website. The instructions for ordering are available on the website or from the school office.

#### [Do you have Christian Religious Education \(CRE\) at school?](#)

Christian Religious Education is an opt in, as opposed to an opt out, and takes place on a Tuesday morning between 9:00am and 9:30am. The programme is based around making good life choices and parents are always welcome to discuss the programme with the Principal. This year we have two groups based in different locations around the school and children who are attending the CRE will go to the appropriate group. While the school is technically closed during this time, the children who do not attend and are at school will be in their classroom with their teacher.

#### [Does the school have a Dental Clinic?](#)

The Dental Clinic is based at Silverdale Primary School. A Mobile unit will visit Orewa North Primary School during the year. The Office will always be able to tell you where a Therapist can be contacted and through the newsletter parents will be informed of when they are at Orewa North (usually in November/December). The clinic phone number is (09) 426-8470.

We will review and update the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page when necessary.

