



'Endeavour to Excel'

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'Excellence, Opportunity, Success'

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'Communicating with our Caring Community'

Wednesday, 12th February 2025

DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	EVENT
12 February	P&C Meeting – 7pm Staffroom
17 February	CANTEEN CLOSED
20 February	Book Club Orders -Issue 1 Due
20 February	P&C Kindy Playdate 3:10-4:30pm Dinosaur Park (Sohier Park)
24 February	CANTEEN CLOSED
28 February	P&C Kindy Playdate 3:10-4:30pm Dinosaur Park (Sohier Park)
11 March	School Photos



Welcome Back

Welcome back to another exciting school year at Ourimbah Public School! We hope you enjoyed a relaxing break and are ready to dive into a year filled with learning, growth, and new opportunities.

As we begin this new school year, we encourage our students to set personal goals for their academic and

social development. This is a perfect time for students to reflect on their achievements from last year and think about what they would like to accomplish in the coming months.

This year, we will continue to focus on providing a well-rounded education that includes not only core subjects like English and Mathematics but also a variety of creative and physical activities. Our curriculum will include engaging units in Science, History, and the Arts, along with opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities, fostering teamwork and leadership skills.

Our dedicated staff are here to support each student in their educational journey. We will provide differentiated instruction tailored to meet the diverse needs of our learners. Our teachers are committed to creating a safe and nurturing environment where every student feels valued and empowered to take risks in their learning.

We strongly believe that a strong partnership between school and home is essential for student success. We encourage parents to get involved in school activities, volunteer for events, and participate in the P&C Association. Your insights and contributions play a vital role in enriching our school community.

Stay tuned for our calendar of events, which will include parent-teacher interviews and community gatherings. We are excited to share opportunities for families to connect with one another and with our school.

Effective communication, positive partnerships and respectful connections are critical to our success. We will keep you informed through newsletters, our school

website, School Bytes Parent Portal and school Facebook page. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or the school office if you have any questions or concerns.

Together, let's make this school year one filled with exploration, discovery, and achievement. We look forward to working alongside you and your children to create a memorable year at Ourimbah Public School!

We are very excited that Kindergarten have already started 'big school' a little earlier this year and we look forward to being able to take them on their educational journey. I thank the **Kindergarten Team Mrs Wakelin, Mrs Brown, Mrs Anderson, Miss Nebauer, Miss Gordge and Mrs Adams** for the wonderful Kinder Transition program they have provided to ensure a positive start for our youngest students.

Class Placements

Last week, the students and staff were placed in their new classes for 2025. The staff and I have spent a significant amount of time in placing students in particular classes and have done so with great consideration, thought and sensitivity. Issues such as **academic progress, social relationships and student behaviour and wellbeing** were, and continue to be, all contributing factors when making decisions about class placements. We are confident this is the best make-up for our school organisation and base this foundation upon a collaborative, diverse and professional approach during the planning phase.

A number of parent requests were submitted at the end of 2024, and we have made every effort to accommodate these needs. Whilst we welcome parental input into their child's ongoing education, including requests from parents highlighting exceptional circumstances that need to be considered when placing children into a new class, I must emphasise that, as professionals, the teachers and I are in the best position to determine final class placements for students.

This year, we have had several changes in student enrolments and staffing allocations to consider when forming classes - our current student cohort is **341 students**. This has meant that, according to NSW Departmental Policy and school staffing protocols, we are able to establish **14 classes** for 2025. The school is staffed on total student enrolments (K-6) and not on the number of students in each grade. This means that some composite classes are inevitable in a school our size.

Composite/Multi-age Classes

Composite classes are a regular inclusion in all Australian schools. This year, we have 10 composite classes, which are influenced by student numbers, wellbeing considerations and the academic and social needs of our students. Our staff take great care in ensuring that every student is placed in a classroom that

best meets his/her personal needs. Factors such as learning and social benefits are of prime importance.

Inclusion in composite classes can be a very positive experience for students. The students, whilst participating in regular grade appropriate programs, will have the opportunity to work with their peers to improve their learning performance. They will also develop their independence skills and enhance their interpersonal abilities.

No class should ever be viewed as a "single-year class" due the wide disparity in age, physical development, cognitive development and social development that naturally occurs in each grade level. Even in Kindergarten each year there is often an 18-month age difference between the oldest and youngest students due to the NSW Department of Education enrolment policy.

As in all other classes, all students will be provided with learning programs relevant to their own individualised needs, abilities and interests. Students in composite classes will regularly integrate with other students in their grade for a wide variety of activities – including sport, fitness, excursions and planned academic programs.

Various studies into class structures have concluded that there is no difference in the academic performance of students attributed to single year vs composite class structures. Research does show far more important factors that influence student performance include the quality of teaching, teacher/student relationships and the social and emotional wellbeing of students.

Class Structures and Composition

Current class arrangements for 2025 are as follows.

Teaching Staff:

- ❖ KBN – Mrs Brown (M-T) / Miss Nebauer (W-F)
- ❖ K/1A – Mrs Anderson (M-W) / Mrs Adams (Th-F)
- ❖ K/1GW – Miss Gordge (M-W) / Mrs Wakelin (Th-F)
- ❖ 1M – Mrs Miranda (M-W) / Mrs McMurtrie (Th-F)
- ❖ 1/2BY – Mrs Brewin (M-W) / Miss Young (Th-F)
- ❖ 2R – Mrs Rae
- ❖ 2B – Mr Bradbury
- ❖ 3/4PN – Mrs Pasfield (M-T) / Mrs Nagle (W-F)
- ❖ 3/4T – Mr Tahere
- ❖ 3/4S – Mrs Sutter
- ❖ 4/5EB – Mr Edwards (M-W) / Mrs Bunt (Th-F)
- ❖ 5/6A – Mrs Alamango
- ❖ 5/6EK – Mrs Elsey (M-W) / Mrs Kenny (Th-F)
- ❖ 5/6W – Mr Wilson
- ❖ Library / RFF – Mrs Kenny
- ❖ Learning & Support Teachers – Mr Castles and Mrs English.
- ❖ RFF – Mrs Bullock (W-Th), Mrs McMurtrie (W)

- ❖ Mrs O'Malley and Miss Jankovic – Assistant Principals (Hearing)
- ❖ School Psychologist – Mrs McCormack (Th and alternate M)
- ❖ Itinerant Teachers (Hearing) – Mrs Cartwright

If ever you have a particular concern regarding your child's education, **the first port of call is your child's class teacher**. If required, any concerns regarding students in a particular grade can be referred to the relevant Stage Supervisors. This year, we have maintained a School Leadership Team comprising of 4 Assistant Principals –

- Early Stage 1 (Kinder): Mrs Wakelin,
- Stage 1 (Years 1-2 / Curriculum and Instruction): Mrs Golding,
- Stage 2 (Years 3-4): Mrs Sutter,
- Stage 3 (Years 5-6): Mrs Alamango (relieving), and

Administrative Staff:

- ❖ Senior Administrative Manager – Ms Vila
- ❖ School Administrative Officers – Mrs Ward and Mrs Dawson (T-Th)
- ❖ Student Learning Support Officers – Suzie Matheson, Judy Worth, Mel Kenny, Amanda Hampson, Mel Cooper and Fiona Head
- ❖ General Assistant – Mr Rainger
- ❖ Canteen Manager – Victoria Keegan
- ❖ Assistant Canteen Manager – Jessie Jorgensen

Part Time/Job Share Teachers

Like many schools, businesses and government organisations, our school has staff who work on a part-time basis. This may be because of leave options, employment requirements or employee choice. As the Federal Government provides this entitlement to all workers nationwide, more and more employees will take the option if desired.

This results in many classes in schools across Australia being taught by two teachers on different days of the week. While some parents may not see this as desirable, it is a staffing arrangement that exists in all schools. Our teachers are committed and hardworking and when those who do job share, team up with a colleague, we ensure that regular and frequent communication takes place between them and that the effect of two teachers on the students is nothing but positive.



School Bytes

School Bytes is a comprehensive school management platform providing Ourimbah PS with the tools we need to operate smoothly & efficiently. Over the holiday break we have transitioned over to some new modules for 2025.

The parent communication module allows our school to send personalised emails and SMS correspondence to each family. Parents will be able to access real time data about school events: your child's attendance, academic reports, excursion information and payments and wellbeing data keeping families informed about student behaviour and progress at school.

We strongly encourage all parents to login and access the Parent Portal via this link: <https://portal.schoolbytes.education>

School Bytes also offers a parent app for Apple and Android devices – these links can be found in the flyer that has been attached to this newsletter.

Office Hours

Please note that the school office hours are **8:15 am to 3:15 pm Monday to Friday**. It is not always possible to get messages to children after 2:30 pm unless in the case of an emergency. If there is a change in your child's pick-up arrangements, please let the office know as soon as possible; **preferably before 2:15 pm**.

Kind Regards

Greg Francis – Principal

GENERAL SCHOOL HOUSEKEEPING

ABSENCES

Absences from school can now be explained via the School Bytes parent portal and app. If your child is away and you haven't sent an explanation by 9:30am then you will receive an SMS. Please respond with your reason via the link located in the SMS message.

2025 SPORT DAYS

K-2	Wednesday
Yrs 3 – 6	Friday

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

The school newsletter is produced on a fortnightly basis on **Wednesdays on odd weeks** of the term and it is accessible on the school website, www.ourimbah-p.schools.nsw.edu.au and also via the School Bytes app & parent portal. Please ensure that you have access to either the School Bytes app or the website, so that you can keep up to date with what is going on at Ourimbah Public School.

CANTEEN

The canteen has returned for 2025, our menu has had some slight changes but for the most part remains much the same as last year with a few price increases and decreases. Ordering can be done through Flexischools online via card or over the counter with cash only. Did you know we have a Facebook page? Find us by searching Ourimbah P.S Canteen

We are looking for volunteers in the canteen, especially on a Thursday. If you or someone you know can help on any of the following dates, please call Victoria on 43621033 or email ourimbahcanteen@gmail.com

Tuesdays- 4 March
Wednesday- 9 April
Thursdays- 27 April and 3 April

NB: Note for Parents – for those who have previously used Flexischools, you will need to go in and update your child's classes for this year, if you haven't already done so?

Many thanks,
Victoria Keegan
Canteen Manager

P&C MEETING TONIGHT – 7PM STAFFROOM

The next meeting of your P&C will be held this evening Wednesday 12 February, commencing at 7:00 pm. This will be a 'hybrid meeting' to allow families to join us online as well as face-to-face. A password is not required to join the meeting, simply click on the Zoom Meeting Link provided below –

<https://nsweducation.zoom.us/j/69920449388?pwd=cdtcCeC4rX4P1ZuoFBEyvHLVstqFca.1>

Please attached the agenda for tonight's meeting.

CHANGE OF HOME ARRANGEMENTS

If your child's going home arrangements need to be changed, please ensure this is put in writing to your child's class teacher. Verbal messages to children can create confusion and this can cause them distress. If you do have to change arrangements by phone during the day, please give plenty of time for the message to be received by the class teacher.

LATE ARRIVAL

If your child arrives after the school bell has gone a late arrival note is required. Please bring your child to the office for this note.

EARLY DEPARTURE

A note to your child's teacher stating time of departure and reason is required. The office staff will organise for your child to come to the office **after you arrive** to pick them up, so please allow time for them to walk down from their classrooms.

ADMINISTERING PRESCRIBED MEDICATION

If your child requires medication at school, please fill in a Medical Consent form at the office. This form must be completed prior to any medication being administered by our staff. Please note that **only prescribed medications can be administered**. A note to the class teacher is also necessary to inform them of medications and the time to be given.



SCHOOL PHOTOS - TUESDAY, 11th MARCH 2025



BOOK CLUB ORDERS – ISSUE 1 2025



Welcome to all of our new students and families. Book Club Issue 1 brochures have been sent home and orders close by Thursday, 20th February 2025.

Please be sure to fill in the order forms correctly, with your child's name and class and then send into school with payment to the class teacher or the front office. Orders may be paid for **by cash or by ordering online with your credit card via the LOOP option**. Online orders can be placed at:

<https://mybookclubs.scholastic.com.au/parent.aspx>

If you are a first time user of the Book Club LOOP online ordering system, you will need to register first or login if you are a returning customer?

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

Friday Mornings: 8:30 - 9:15am

Uniforms may be ordered through the online ordering system, via the 'Square' app.

<https://ops-uniform-shop.square.site>

All orders will be sent home with your child, unless requested in the notes box, to collect by the parent from the office. Please also include your child's name and class in the notes box too.

Attached is a copy of the Uniform Shop ordering form and instructions on how to access the 'Square' ordering system.

KINDY PLAYDATE

It can be hard starting a new school, but a friendly face can make a big difference!

OURIMBAH P&C would love to invite the incoming 2025 Kindergarteners and their parents to an afternoon playdate!

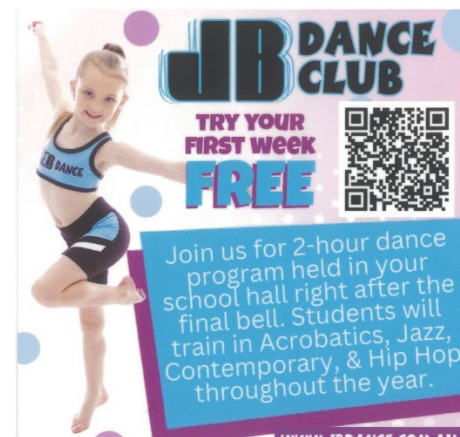
Join us on Thursday, 20th of February and Friday, 28th of February from 3:10pm until 4:30pm at the Dinosaur Park (Sohier Park).

It's a wonderful opportunity for the kids to play, make new friends, and for parents to connect with each other.

Light afternoon tea for the kids will be provided. Older siblings are welcome. Please note that parents must supervise their children.



COMMUNITY NEWS



Nutrition Snippet

HOW TO PACK A HEALTHY LUNCH BOX



A good lunch gives children energy and nutrients to learn, play and grow.

But what does a healthy lunch box look like? Find out in our [short video](#).

healthylunchbox.com.au  **Cancer Council**
Healthy Lunch Box

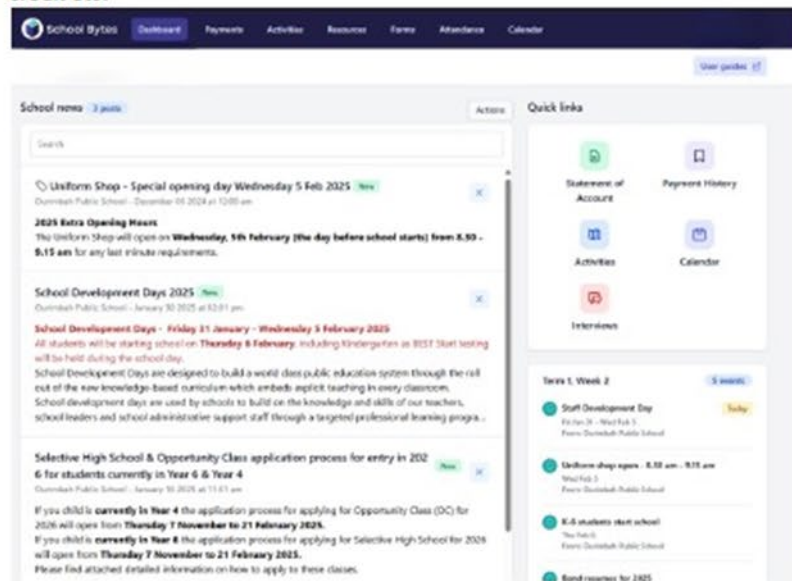
School Bytes – information for parents

New modules from School Bytes have been introduced at Ourimbah Public School from 2025. By opening tabs on the top of the page you will be able to view calendar, attendance and past reports (resources, payments as well as activities (excursions & events)).

How to access School Bytes by Parent Portal & Parent App - It is recommended that at least one member of the family is connected to the Parent Portal.

- **Method 1 - Parent Portal** - accessed via this link: <https://portal.schoolbytes.education>
If you are unable to link to the parent portal please contact the school and a linking code will be sent to you. The emails are sent from noreply@mail.schoolbytes.education. If you are not receiving these emails, please check your spam/junk mail folder and add the email address to your safe senders list.

On this page you can access user guides to assist with giving permission, paying, using credit etc.



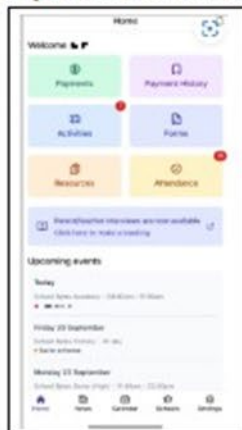
- **Method 2 - Parent App**

App Store - <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/school-bytes/id6463097826>

Google Play - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=education.schoolbytes>

Parent App - School Bytes now offers a parent app for Apple and Android devices. This app is designed to complement our existing parent portal, and makes it **easier for parents to use School Bytes on your mobile device.**

A key feature is the addition of push notifications. Notification are alerts or short messages that your school can send to your mobile device. A push notification arrives on your home screen or, as a notification within the School Bytes app.



Kindy Playdate

OURIMBAH P&C would love to invite the Kindy Kids of 2025 and their parents to an afternoon playdate!

**We are running two sessions
on the 20th and 28th of February
from 3.10 pm at the
Dinosaur Park (Sohier Park)**

Light afternoon tea for the kids will be provided.

Older siblings are welcome.

It's a wonderful opportunity for the kids to play, make new friends, and for parents to connect with each other.

Please note parental supervision is required.





**Ourimbah Public School
P&C Uniform Shop**

Opening Hours: Friday – 8.30 am – 9.15 am

Uniform Order Form 2025

Unisex	Size	Price	Size	Quantity	Total \$
Black & White Polo	4 - 16	\$30.00			
White Shirt with Emblem	4 - 16	\$25.00			
Microfibre Hat with Emblem	S/M- M/L	\$15.00			
Bucket Hat with Emblem	S- M -L	\$15.00			
Zip Jacket with Emblem	4 – 16	\$32.00			
V-Neck Jumper with Emblem	4 – 16	\$29.00			
Long Sleeve Winter Shirt	4 - 16	\$25.00			
Girls Uniform					
Girls Summer Tunic	4 – 16	\$50.00			
Girls Pleated Skorts	4 – 16	\$25.00			
Girls Shorts	4 – 16	\$30.00			
Girls Winter Tunic	4 – 16	\$50.00			
Girls Winter Pants	4 – 16	\$40.00			
Girls Winter Tights – Grey		\$13.00			
Boys Uniform					
Boys Summer Shorts	4 – 16	\$22.00			
Boys Winter Pants	4 – 16	\$25.00			
Sports Uniform Girls/Boys					
Girls Black Sport Skort	4 – 16	\$17.00			
Boys Black Sport Shorts	4 – 16	\$17.00			
House Polo – Platypus - Red	4 – 16	\$20.00			
House Polo – Koala - Blue	4 – 16	\$20.00			
House Polo – Emu - Yellow	4 – 16	\$20.00			
House Polo – Kangaroo - Green	4 – 16	\$20.00			
Accessories					
School Backpack		\$46.00			
Library Bag	One size	\$10.00			
Iron on Emblem		\$ 4.00			
School Tie	Pre-Tied	\$20.00			
School Tie	Standard	\$17.00			
Total					\$

We accept Cash, Eftpos & Cheque at the Uniform Shop, No Eftpos available at the front office.
Cheques payable to – Ourimbah Public School P&C. Orders can also be placed on 'Square'
<https://ops-uniform-shop.square.site>

Ourimbah Public School P&C Uniform Shop

Opening Hours:

Friday: 8.30 am – 9.15 am

Payment Methods:

We accept cash, cheque and Eftpos.

Please make all cheques payable to Ourimbah Public School P&C.

The P&C have also introduced an **online ordering system** called **Square.**

Simply go to <https://ops-uniform-shop.square.site>

It only takes a few minutes to register online. You will be sent an email with further instructions on how to complete your registration. Once registered, you can start placing orders online immediately.

Orders made via Square can be made by Visa, Mastercard or Bank Transfer.

Uniform Shop order forms are available from the office.



Reminder to parents and carers:

Apply now for 2025 School Opal Cards

School Opal Cards

- All students catching the bus in 2025 will need a School Opal Card.
- Under the [School Student Transport Scheme \(SSTS\)](#), eligible students can apply for free or subsidised travel between home and school.
- For more information about the SSTS and how to apply for a School Opal Card, visit <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/#/> from a desktop computer, and click 'apply for a school travel pass'.

Bus timetables

Busways is the school bus operator that runs your schools' bus services. To find your child's school bus timetable visit the Busways website by using the following steps:

1. Go to busways.com.au/nsw
2. Click on 'school services' in the navigation bar and then proceed to '[school timetables](#)'
3. Enter the school's name in the field that says 'enter a school name'
4. Select the school's name and the timetable should open on your device.
5. If you are unable to find or search for the school's name, use the drop-down menus on the same web page to find the school.
6. Once the timetable is opened, you will be able to identify which school bus services are available in your area for your child to use.



**OURIMBAH PUBLIC SCHOOL
P&C ASSOCIATION**
121 Pacific Highway Ourimbah NSW 2258
Phone: (02) 4362-1033
Email: ourimbahpandc@gmail.com



AGENDA	
Meeting	Ourimbah Public School P&C Association – General Meeting
Convened by:	To Be Advised
Attendees:	All P&C Members
Location:	Ourimbah Public School – Staff Room and via Zoom
Date and time:	12 February 2025 at 7:00pm
Apologies:	To Be Advised
Minutes by:	Secretary - Marie-Claire Bergman

Please allow 10 minutes reading time prior to commencement of business.

No	Agenda Item
1	Welcome and Apologies
2	Acknowledgement of Country
3	Minutes of the Previous Meeting
4	Business Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">Action ListWish List
5	Correspondence
6	Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">TreasurerPresidentUniform Shop CoordinatorFundraiser CoordinatorSocial ConvenorRAP CoordinatorNitbusters CoordinatorSocial Media CoordinatorCC Council of P&C RepresentativePrincipal
8	General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">
9	Date of Next Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">12 March 2025 at 7pm

If you have any topic that is school related that you would like brought up at the next P&C Meeting, please email the P&C Executive via ourimbahpandc@gmail.com.

5	Action List
	Genready for yr 4 and yr 5 Greg to get quotes - Greg
	Complete the cash bag and form for uniform shop cash drop - Emma
	Curtains for the change room - Kirsty
	RAP Trail Grant - For next year assist with application - Emma/Oly
	Smarty grant details required - Kirsty
	Purchase items for RAP trail BBQ - Aaron
	Bring left over sausages to RAP trail bee - MC via Damon COMPLETED
	Arrange skip bin for RAP trail bee - Emma COMPLETED
	Sue to ask Tara if RAP trail can use the left over water - Sue COMPLETED
	Reach out to Federation re guidelines around P&C engaging with business- Kirsty
	Send social media log ins to p&c email - Marissa
	Update canteen requirement for freezer use - Holly COMPLETED
	Review Rafflelix and set up square for Carols - Kirsty COMPLETED
	Contact leaving members - Sal
	Post re Kindy playdates - Emma

4	Wish List
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GenReady program for Year 6 in Term 3 - \$2,376 invoice to come after the event based on attendance. Decodables \$5,918.30 spend approved, awaiting invoice.

8	General Business
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss Uniform shop plan of action for 2025 Discuss setting event dates for 2025 Review Constitution, Rules, Standing Orders and Policies

Executive Positions	Position Holder
President	Emma Gillan
Vice President 1	Holly Bradbury
Vice President 2	<i>Position Vacant</i>
Secretary	Marie-Claire Bergman
Treasurer	Kirsty Turner

Administrative Roles	Position Holder
Uniform Shop Coordinator	Meagan Allomes
Fundraising Coordinator	<i>Position Vacant</i>
Social Convener	<i>Position Vacant</i>
RAP Coordinator	Melinda Cooper & Aaron Cooper
Nitbusters Coordinator	Melinda Cooper
Social Media Coordinator	Marissa Pletz
P&C Delegate 1	Amy Westrip
P&C Delegate 2	Olesya Whitwell