

Newsletter

11 May 2026

Upper Orara Public School

Term 2 Week 4

Upper Orara Public School community acknowledge the traditional custodians of the Gumbaynggirr land on which we stand and pay our respect to the elders past, present and emerging.



Congratulations to Eddi who recently made it to the second round of the PSSA Basketball trials in his bid to make the team.

From the Principal's desk!

Ginnagay ngujawiny (Hello everyone),

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the Orara Valley Lions Club for their very generous donation to support our Swimming team, who travelled to Sydney in week 2 to compete in the small school's relay event. Their kind contribution played a significant role in enabling our students to represent our community with pride. To help the Lions Club continue their invaluable support of our local community, families are encouraged to take their recycled bottles to the Earn and Return facility opposite the Glenreagh Police Station.

The Lions Club would greatly appreciate any assistance, including volunteering at the Glenreagh markets barbecue, which helps raise essential funds. We are truly grateful for their generosity and community spirit.

Joanne Goodenough

Principal, Upper Orara Public School

CRICKET FOR SPORT

Starting this Thursday and continuing until Week 11, our students will be participating in Cricket for Sport. Thanks to a Sporting Schools grant, we have engaged a cricket coach who will visit the school each Thursday. Please ensure your child comes prepared with appropriate shoes, a hat, and a water bottle. Cricket sessions for Kindergarten to Year 2 will run from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm, and for Years 3 to 6 from 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

NEW YEAR 1 NUMBER SCREENING

The upcoming Year 1 Number Screening will take place on Wednesday, 13 May. If you wish for your child to opt out of this assessment, please notify the school before this date. For more information, feel free to contact the office to arrange a time to speak with Mrs Clark about the screening.

ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES

It's important for children from Kindergarten to Year 12 to attend school every day to get the most out of their learning. Sometimes, your child may need to be absent for a good reason such as:

- Being sick or having an infectious illness
- Attending a necessary medical appointment
- Taking part in a recognised religious holiday
- Dealing with urgent family matters, like attending a funeral

If your child is absent, please provide a note or explanation to the school within 7 days from the first day they miss. If we don't receive an explanation within this time, the absence will be marked as unexplained.

We're proud to share that our Year 6 students currently have the fewest days absent, with Year 1 close behind. Thank you to all our families and students for supporting good attendance. Our goal for this year is to reach an overall attendance rate of 95% or higher, with 90% of students attending school at least 90% of the time.

Thank you for helping us achieve this!



SCHOOL PHOTOS

This year school photos are being taken on the morning of **Wednesday 17 June**. An envelope will accompany students home two weeks prior to this date outlining the packages and the payment methods available to families.


POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING (PBL) THE RESILIENCE PROJECT

- I stay positive and motivated when faced with challenges.
- I care about the feelings and opinions of others.

Student of the Week


Upper Orara Public School

K-2 STUDENT OF WEEK 3



LILLY

Lilly receives this award for always doing her best .



Upper Orara Public School

3-6 STUDENT OF WEEK 3



AALIYAH

Aaliyah receives this award for her kind and approachable manner towards others.



Upper Orara Public School
**K-2 STUDENT OF
WEEK 4**



MILO

Milo receives this award for trying hard to listen to instructions.



Upper Orara Public School
**3-6 STUDENT OF
WEEK 4**



JETT

Jett receives this award for taking on feedback to improve his writing.



ANTS ON A LOG

KID FRIENDLY COOKING

Ingredients

- Celery sticks
- Any nut butter or soft cheese
- Dried fruit of choice

This classic snack, ants on a log – which is nut butter spread over celery sticks with raisins or dried cranberries on top



Compulsory school attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my Legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age of 17 years. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the NSW Education and Standards Authority for home schooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The Importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.

My child won't go to school what should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children's Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The NSW Department of Education recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...



More information

Further Information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's Policy Library AND The Department's Attendance Matters Website

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's Wellbeing and Learning website

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on **131 450**. You will not be charged for this service.



K-2 CLASSROOM NEWSLETTER

- We hope all our wonderful mums and carers had a very Happy Mother's Day and enjoyed the special cards and goodies sent home. It has been wonderful opportunity for the children to continue learning about the importance of showing kindness and gratitude.
- In mathematics, we have been practising estimation. Estimation helps us make thoughtful guesses about numbers or quantities. Students have been estimating how many objects they have collected and are using effective ways to check their answers. In English lessons, K-2 is continuing to explore the parts of a narrative. Students are learning about characters, settings, problems, and solutions—all the key ingredients for a great story! They are also practising how to join ideas together using compound sentences. A compound sentence connects two ideas using words like “and”, “but”, or “so”. This helps students make their writing more interesting.
- Just a reminder that I will be completing the Year One Number Screener this week with all year one students.

Thank you for supporting your child's learning.
Have a great fortnight,

Mrs Clark



Mother's Day in 3-6

This week, our Year 3-6 students have been busy preparing special Mother's Day surprises! With creativity and care, they've crafted unique key chains and beautiful cards for their mums and carers. These gifts are a wonderful way for our students to show their appreciation and gratitude.

On behalf of the entire school, we'd like to extend a warm thank you to all the mums, grandmothers, and mother figures in our community. Your ongoing support, encouragement, and love make such a positive difference in our students' lives. We hope you enjoy these thoughtful tokens from your children, and had a very happy Mother's Day!



A calm, trusted space for your child to grow.

Valley 
Preschool



Exciting Enrolment Opportunity

At Valley Preschool, we are a small, community-based service where relationships, trust, and quality care come first.

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(On the grounds of Upper Orara Primary School)

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in the Upper
Orara
Community

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Term 2 Calendar

Week 1 April	20 School Staff Development	21 School Staff Development	22	23	24/25 ANZAC March 25th
Week 2 April/May	27 ANZAC Public Holiday	28 NSWPSSA Swimming Carnival	29	30 CHD Cross Country	1
Week 3 April/May	4	5	6	7	8
Week 4 May	11	12	13	14 Cricket	15
Week 5 May	18	19	20	21 Cricket	22
Week 6 May	25	26	27	28 Cricket	29
Week 7 June	1	2	3	4 Cricket Eisteddfod	5 Eisteddfod
Week 8 June	8 Kings Birthday Public Holiday	9	10	11 Cricket	12
Week 9 June	15	16 OV Athletics carnival	17 School photos	18 Cricket	19
Week 10 June	22	23	24	25	26
Week 11 June /July	29 OHS performance & NAIDOC Assembly	30	1	2 End of Term Assembly	3 Last day term