Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello to all of our current and brand new students, parents and staff. Welcome to our friendly and happy Oran Park Public School community, a school where we celebrate a love of lifelong learning! At our school we ensure that we have fun, look after the welfare of all students, make new friendships and work together to provide every opportunity for our children. We greatly value student, parent and staff input and love your support. We are a new and ever evolving community. We are lucky to have a wealth of experience and knowledge that we share and can build on, to ensure all of our children have the best learning opportunities.

To ensure success for every student we require your support with open communication. Your feedback or questions ensure that we continue to provide an excellent quality of education for every student. If there is a concern please share it with us. Keep us informed, talk to us, let us know, so that we can ensure you and your family are well supported.

We have had a positive start to Term 1 2016. Our students were happy to return to school. Every class settled quickly and I was impressed to see our students get back into the swing of the school year!

Thank you to those students, parents and teachers who represented Oran Park Public School at the Australia Day Celebrations in Camden on Australia Day. It was great to see such a positive response.

School Newsletter
We email a school newsletter four to five times a term. This is also available on our website and is sent through the Skoolbag app. Our website is a good source of information and previous newsletters are available on this site.

Staff Development Day
At the beginning of Terms One, Two and Three there are Staff Development Days, prior to the student’s first day. On these days staff focus on mandatory training, such as First Aid procedures, new Child Protection procedures, school planning for the year and the continued development of our curriculum. Our first day this year was spent learning about our new English syllabus and a revision of our whole school Morning Routine Program.

Welcome to our Early Stage One/Kindergarten children and families
Welcome to BIG school! All kindergarten students will spend the next couple of weeks involved in the Best Start Program. They will be placed into their new classes in a couple of weeks. Prior to that time they will all mix with each teacher in temporary classes until the kindergarten teachers organise the permanent classes. This is to ensure appropriate social groupings to ensure all children are happy and comfortable. Mrs Banfield is acting as Assistant Principal for Kindergarten students.

Assisted School Travel
All students in our Special Education classes and those who access Assisted
Travel transport depart school at 2.45pm. Parents of children in the three Special Education Classes can also take their child home at 2.45pm, allowing them to depart before the crowds hit!

**Classes for 2016**
Currently our classes are not structured for 2016. The children are in temporary class formations until at least this Friday. At present we have a number of new enrolments and there may be some staff changes. This situation cannot be avoided, as we are a new and ever growing school in a fast developing area. Classes cannot be formed until we have more information regarding the number of students enrolled in each stage group. This practice will happen each year until our enrolments plateau.

At this stage, one new permanent position has not been filled in Early Stage One. I do not expect Staffing Services to fill this position until Term Two. A temporary teacher will teach the class until a permanent teacher is appointed. This is out of my control and is in the hand of our staffing unit. I thank you for your patience and understanding of this situation.

We teach in stages at Oran Park Public School, as per the New South Wales Curriculum. Students are placed in Early Stage One, consisting of Kindergarten and some Year One students; Stage One, Consisting of Year One and Year Two students; Stage Two, consisting of Year Two and Year Three students; and Stage Three, consisting of Year Five and Six students.

I will make available literature to ensure that you are informed about the stage approach to teaching.

Our classes this year will be named as countries participating in the 2016 Olympic Games. Each class will be known as a country rather than as a stage/year group. For example, rather than being called 1/2Z, a class may be called just Malta, or instead of KS a class may be called Australia. Each class will be involved in Library and other curriculum lessons, with a focus on learning about the country their class is called and of course following this country’s progress in the Olympic Games! This will be exciting and informative for our students. The teachers are all really excited about this approach and have already tried to outdo each other with their flags and classroom welcome signs! (In the spirit of the games of course…)

**Staff Information for 2016**
We have increased our staff greatly this year. I would like to warmly welcome them all to our school.

Currently our Assistant Principals are Miss Odefey, Mrs Banfield relieving for Mrs Ritherdon, who is currently acting as the Principal at Busby Public School; Miss Bland relieving in an unfilled position and Mrs Salter, who is replacing Mrs Cleary whilst she assists at Spring Farm Public School.

Miss Odefey is permanently appointed as Assistant Principal at Oran Park Public School through the Merit Selection process. Miss Odefey comes to us with lots of experience, as she was previously an Assistant Principal at her last school. I look forward to working with her.

For your reference, Mrs Banfield supervises Early Stage One (Kindergarten), Miss Bland supervises Stage One (Years One and Two), Miss Odefey supervises Stage Two (Years Three and Four) and Mrs Salter supervises Stage Three (Years Five and Six). I supervise our Special Education classes. We are all available to assist and support you with your children.

Our new permanent teachers for 2016 are Mr Boyd, Mr Dodds, Miss Smith and Mrs Sullivan. Congratulations to you all on your permanent appointment and welcome to OPPS! Our temporary teachers for 2016 are Miss Fulwood, Mrs McDiarmid, Mrs Seguna and Miss Young. They are all welcomed back and are very much a part of our wonderful school. Our temporary teachers for Term One are Miss Bonns, Miss Gibney and Miss Knopp. These teachers will be with us until new teachers are permanently appointed and I appreciate their work with our school community.

**School hours**
Our school hours are 9.10am until 3.10pm. Playground supervision commences in both playgrounds at 8.40am. Please ensure that your child does not attend school before 8.40am, as there will be no supervision. Each morning at 9.10am the children in Years 1 – 4, meet in their class lines under the COLA outside the hall. Years 5 and 6 meet outside their classrooms.

Our OPPS Morning Routine Program is taught in every class across the school. To maximise learning time with this program, children will line up in their classes on the first bell and will be taken to class by their teachers on the second bell. There will be no official communication meetings held at this time. Due to this immediate class start it is important that all children arrive on time, as Morning Routine Programs in all classes will begin by
9.15am every morning. This is essential learning time and late arrivals disrupt everyone's learning. Please ensure that your child is at school by 9am each day.

In the afternoon please wait in the shaded areas away from the classrooms, under the COLA or on the benches near the Administration Office. Alternatively, you may also use the School Pick-Up zone at the rear of the school in the second car park. Drivers stop and wait, a teacher will supervise the students meeting their parents in this area. Please do not park in the car park or in the pick-up zone. You must remain with your car until your child arrives.

Please do not wait near classrooms. The classroom areas should be left clear at all times, so that the students and teachers can begin and finalise their day and not be distracted. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

School Swimming Carnival
On Thursday 4th February all students in Years 3 – 6 and those children in Year 2 who turn 8 this year, will have the opportunity to attend our school swimming carnival which will be held at Picton Pool. Information and permission notes regarding this event have been sent home. A bus will transport our students to and from the event.

Students in K-2 will remain at school during this event.

Meet the Teacher Afternoon
On Tuesday 23rd February from 3.30pm to 4.30pm, all teachers will be in their rooms to meet with parents, to discuss requirements for 2016 and to answer any questions you may have. If you have children in different classes please ensure that you see each teacher for their information handout. If you need further information, please organise an individual appointment time to meet with the class teacher.

If at any time throughout the year you require a meeting with a teacher, please arrange this through the school office. Please do not approach your child's teacher whilst they are teaching their class. This enables all staff to give their full attention to the teaching of their class and to all students. By arranging a separate time to meet with the teacher it ensures that they can fully attend to your enquiry.

School Uniform
Thank you to those parents who have made every effort to ensure that our students attend school in the full school uniform. Your support ensures that our students show pride in their school and in their achievements. Our uniform is available from Lowes in Narellan Town Centre.

Please note that girls at our school have two uniform choices. They can wear the school polo shirt and skorts or the checked tunic. The sports uniform is the same for boys and girls, school sports shirt and black basketball shorts.

All students should wear black shoes and white or grey socks with their school uniform. Students can wear joggers on Fridays for sport. Your support and assistance with this is very much appreciated.

Please be aware that the school bag sold at Lowes is a personal choice. Some families have already purchased other bags for their children. As long as the logos and designs are appropriate, other bags are acceptable.

Students at our school wear the school bucket hat, available from Lowes. Caps are not to be worn, due to sun safety reasons. Students with caps or no hats will be unable to play in the playground areas.

All of the students look really smart in their school uniform. We pride ourselves on our uniform and all students wear it with pride. If you have difficulty ensuring your child has a uniform, please come and see me confidentially. I have additional funds available to assist parents with this and I am happy to assist.

No Hat, No Play Policy
All students need to wear the wide brimmed hat with our school logo to school. Caps are not sun safe. Our school has a No Hat, No Play policy. This means that if children come to school without a hat they will have to play in the shade during break times and will not be able to play in the unshaded areas. Students wearing a cap will have to follow the same policy. Caps do not cover ears or necks.

For health and safety reasons jewellery should not to be worn. If students have pierced ears, plain studs or small hoops are acceptable. Unfortunately, accidents can happen if children wear long earrings, they can be torn from ears, and necklaces can be a choking hazard. Jewellery that has cultural or religious significance is permitted. Thank you all for working with us in this matter.
School Parking Zones
There is parking on South Circuit and in the surrounding roads. **The two car parks are for school staff only.** It is not safe for parents to park in these car parks at any time, due to student arrival and departure. The first staff car park must be kept free for Assisted School Travel vehicles to access. These vehicles drop off and pick up students with special needs. For the safety of all students, please do not park in this car park at any time.

The second car park has an outside loop around the staff car parking area, for a pick up/drop off zone. This enables parents to drive through, drop their children and keep driving on, to allow other cars behind to do the same. There are marked crossings in this section for children to cross. **Please note that this car park is only for staff parking.**

Please assist us with this and ensure that you park on South Circuit or neighbouring streets only.

Bike Safety
All students who ride bicycles to school are required to wear helmets and must enter/exit the school on foot, via the school gate. There are bike racks provided at the front gates. Please ensure that your child follows road safety rules when riding to and from school. For health and safety reasons no students are to ride bikes in the playground. Scooters, skateboards or hoverboards cannot be ridden to school, as these are not a safe mode of transport.

Nut Awareness Policy
We have students enrolled at our school who have severe (in some cases potentially fatal) allergic reactions to products containing nuts. In the interest of their health and safety we would like to inform all of the following guidelines:

**We request that students do not bring nuts to school. This includes peanut butter/nutella sandwiches, bags of nuts, nut bars etc.** We request your support in ensuring the students adhere to these guidelines. There should be no trading or sharing of food, food utensils and food containers. Bottles, other drinks and lunch boxes provided by the parents for their children should be clearly labelled with the name of the child for whom they are intended. If any parents have any queries regarding this please call me. Thank you for your continued support to ensure all of our students can attend school safely.

School Assemblies
In Term One our assemblies will begin in Week 3, Friday 12th February. Parents and carers are welcome to our assemblies. The Early Stage One and Stage One (K-2) Assembly will be held from 12.40-1.10 in our hall. This later start allows for the children to play sport before the weather becomes too hot. Our Students in Stages Two and Three, (3-6) will have assemblies from 10.10-11.00.

Oran Park Public School Parents & Citizens
On Tuesday 23rd February, at 6.30pm, we will hold our first P&C meeting of the year. The meeting will be held in our school library. Please consider joining our P & C. Your contributions to improve the learning opportunities for our students and to help our school, will be greatly appreciated.

I really look forward to getting to know all of your children and your families. Remember to ask and clarify matters if you are unsure. Welcome and all the very best for 2016!

*Donna Shevlin*