



On behalf of our teachers I wish to extend to all ODPS families a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. May 2021 be filled with good health and happiness. Thank you for your lovely Christmas messages and flowers. Some families will be moving away from our school, we wish you all the very best. Those returning to us we look forward to seeing you in 2021.

School Holidays

School Year ends on Wednesday 16 December 2020

Years 1-6 return to school on Friday 29 January 2021

Kindergarten begins on Wednesday 3 February 2021

Dates for your Diary - Term 4

Week 10

Monday 14 December

Yr6 Farewell (Castle Hill RSL)

Tuesday 15 December

Trash Free Tuesday

Stg3 Planetarium incursion

Wednesday 16 December

Last day for students



**Years 1-6 Students Resume
Friday 29 January 2021**

As the year draws to an end, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have shown our school in 2020. Our collective aim in education and wellbeing at ODPS is that every student improves every year. This has been a challenging ask in 2020, but we have kept our students wellbeing and learning at the centre of our thinking. I applaud our teachers unwavering efforts to ensure every student is known and valued. As we reflect on this year and look to the future, our focus is on continuous improvement. We will pick up from where we leave off and strive to achieve.

Class formations 2021: This procedure begins with the placement of students with the teachers who we believe will bring the very best out of these students. Every class must have a mixture of boys and girls and a mixture of ability groups. We consider their relationships with their peers. Teachers know if 'best friends' can work productively in the same class or not. Some friendships are best suited to the playground only. **There are no guarantees that they will have their closest friend in their class.** We ensure that our students understand this from now. We seek your support to reassure your children that they will cope with their new class setting in 2021 and they will get to know many new children in their class. The placement of our students in the appropriate class with the appropriate teacher and mix of students is our top priority. Whilst we consider academic results, more importantly we take into consideration student's social and emotional wellbeing. All classes offer a differentiated curriculum. This means that all classes will have ability groups within them. Our learning programs are designed to meet the needs of each ability group. I explained composition of classes in last week's newsletter.

Procedures for the New School Year

All students from years 1-6 will begin the new school year on Friday 29 2021. These students will line up on their class dot under the COLA. Students will be welcomed back to school at a short outdoor assembly and then they will move to a classroom with their 2020 teacher. Here they will share holiday news, and be reminded of school expectations. Later in the day students will be split into their new classes. They will meet their new teacher, peers and move to their new classroom. **Please do not send student supplies on this day.**

At this point in time, we are unaware of the latest COVID-19 restrictions with regards to parent drop offs and pickups from school. Please have your Skoolbag App ready to hear from us of procedures in relation to this.

Best Wishes,
Betty Ploeg
Principal



Office 365 Education is free to all students at our school*

Just a quick reminder that if you're buying your child a new PC over the holidays, you don't need to also buy Office 365 Education.

It's available for free to students to use on up to 5 devices – computers, tablets and mobiles. If you do buy a new PC, simply activate your free subscription online by entering your child's school email address and password at [Aka.ms/AUFreeOffice365](https://aka.ms/AUFreeOffice365).

To qualify, students need a valid school email address. If you're not sure what your child's email password is, ask your teacher before the end of the year.

Summer Reading

It will be highly beneficial for every student to continue to read every day over the Summer holiday break. Our Wushka licence will continue throughout January so students are encouraged to continue to use the app. Please contact your child's class teacher if you need a reminder on how to access Wushka. Families can also access traditional and virtual books through The Hills library service:

<https://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Library/eResources-for-Kids>

Julie Torney
Deputy Principal



Wellbeing – LEARN IT, LIVE IT, TEACH IT! Quality Relationships and Wellbeing



Wellbeing Wednesday

What a fabulous day we all had last Wednesday. Students participated in many fun wellbeing activities, organised and led by Year 6 students. Congratulations to Year 6 students for the effort they put into preparing activities and for leading them so capably. All students also revised the learning from the year in wellbeing lessons and watched a movie, with a wellbeing message for discussion. Thank you to the Staff Wellbeing Team for their planning, organisation and dedication given to making this day happen.



Thank You to Oakhill Drive Families

The 'Giving Tree' was again a great success this year. Thank you to all our wonderful parents for their generous donations of foods, Christmas treats and many other items.



The Salvation Army came to pick up the donations on Wednesday afternoon and were overwhelmed by the amazing amount of goods donated. They were very appreciative and were taking them directly to the warehouse, to be distributed to families in need; including those experiencing poverty, homelessness and crises such as domestic violence.



In addition to collecting for families facing difficulties, we also put together a number of 'Treat Yourself' baskets for local workplaces that kept us going during the lockdown. Our students had suggested giving these people a small selection of treats because of the sacrifices they had made and risks taken to keep working at the most critical time. Some Year 6 students have made cards that will be attached to baskets, thanking them for continuing to work to help keep us all safe.

Baskets included items from the donations, including chocolates, biscuits, nuts, chips, cakes and puddings to be enjoyed in the workplace. ODPS staff also donated many puddings in our very own staff 'Pudding on a Plate' drive. These baskets will be delivered to local workplaces in our local area such as: Mexi's Cafe, IGA, Chemist, Taylors, Medical centre, Lolly shop, ARV retirement Centre, Appletree Preschool, Rural Fire Service Cherrybrook, SES Cherrybrook, Castle Hill Police, Salvos, Red Cross and ODPS cleaners.

If any parents would like to deliver one or more of the baskets with their children please let your child's class teacher know.

As we all know, 2020 has been a difficult year for many people. This event is such an important opportunity for our students to recognise that many others are needing help and, in doing so, appreciate and be grateful for all they have.

Thank you so much for making the Christmas for many others, better than they had hoped.

Helen Paris
Deputy Principal



*Oakhill Drive Public School
Honour Board*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:
Our Gold Acorn Award Winner**

Muneeza I
Sara G

Srivats B
Sanaa B

Tyla M
Amelia M

Samuel G
Kavil S

Nysa S
Jermaine H

Our Silver Award Winners

Jasmine Y
Samay G

Calli B
Arya P

Elysse I
Meghan A



Sebastian S
Ryan Y

Henry C
Olivia R



Oakhill Drive Community Honour Board

Congratulations to the following students who are recognised for their outstanding achievements outside school.

Student	Achievement
Ruby S (Year 6)	<p>Congratulations to Ruby who progressed to the finals of the Australia-wide Robogals Competition. The Robogals Science Challenge is a global online Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) competition for girls and gender diverse students aged 5-15. It aims to promote innovation and exploration through hands-on projects, which can be completed with a friend, parent, or mentor.</p> <p>The competition format has two main challenges. Participants are required to complete 2 minor challenges before being eligible for the major challenge. For Ruby's main challenge she built an impressive hydraulic helmet with moving goggle and mask sections. Ruby was awarded second place in the finals! A fantastic achievement. Well done Ruby.</p>
Wendy Y and Adele J (Year 3)	<p>An inter-school debate competition was organised by Talent Club Education on 5 December, teams from ten different schools took part. The topic of discussion for primary school students was – “That Public Transport Should Be Free For Everyone”.</p> <p>Wendy and Adele represented our school and the event was well attended by many parents and the Chief guest was Hon. Mayor Phillip Ruddock.</p> <p>The affirmative teams proposed the motion and supported the topic by citing facts and examples. The adjudicator declared the Negative Team as the Winner and awarded individual trophies to all the winners.</p> <p>The Examiner, Ms Therese Bennetts was extremely impressed and had commented, “Oakhill Drive Public School Students are extremely creative. They have performed beyond expectations in Public Speaking and we should continue to nurture and groom them”.</p> <p>Wendy and Adele both received Distinctions. Well done girls!</p> <div>   </div>

2021 Representative Sporting Trials

Each year there are trials for students to be part of a zone or area team in a variety of sports. As a school we are able to select a few students to send to each trial. To attend trials, students are expected to participate in the sport outside of school in either Division 1 or Representative level in U11/12 age group or above. Most sports are only open to Year 5 and Year 6 students.



When trials are announced, the Sport Coordinator and PSSA coach of the sport will consider any suitable students, looking at the level they play out of school and skills shown in weekly PSSA. Most of the zone trials are held after school within the local area. It is the parents' responsibility to transport your child to the various venues. Nominated students can then progress along the PSSA pathway for selection in representative sport: from school to zone to area to state and in some sports to national competitions.

The following is a list of the sports:

- **Girls and Boys:** Basketball, cricket, diving, golf, hockey, netball, orienteering, soccer, softball, tennis, touch football, water polo
- **Boys only:** AFL, rugby league, rugby union

If your child meets the criteria to be nominated as a possible school representative at a trial, please send in the following details to Miss Lord:

- Child's name, class / 2021 grade, age, date of birth
- Chosen representative sport
- Local club and representative teams – name of club/s, current competing age group, division, number of years played
- Positions played

For 2021, NSW PSSA and Sydney North PSSA are currently planning a return to representative sport, trials and carnivals. However, with Covid, this could change with short notice and possible variation to arrangements would occur.

Janelle Lord
Sport Coordinator

Giving is Receiving

'Tis the season for giving, receiving and getting together. Eat, play, shop and help raise funds for the school.

The Entertainment Digital Membership is a great Christmas gift for someone (great for those that are difficult to buy for), or even a great idea if you are heading out of town for your holidays - just purchase the multi-city membership.

Please ensure you add **Oakhill Drive Public School as your preferred sponsorship**, the school then receives \$10 for every single city subscription sale and \$20 for a multi city sale.

Happy Christmas
Georgina Brown

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Your Membership is allowed you to connect with donors and receive thousands of offers near you in an instant. New offers are regularly added for you to value your money.

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- 

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- 

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OAKHILL DRIVE PUBLIC SCHOOL



Dear Parents/Carers

At Oakhill Drive Public School, parents can access their child's reports and awards records via the Parent Portal. Student reports include: Semesters 1 & 2 Class Reports, Band Reports, EAL Reports and Early Stage 1 (Kindergarten) Best Start Reports.

All parents at Oakhill Drive Public School, need to register for the Parent Portal to have access to any information relevant to your child. After registering for access, no further action is needed and you can access at any time, especially when reports are available.

To access the portal, parents must have an email address registered with the school. This should have been provided to the school via your child's enrolment form. There may be some family circumstances in which both parents may require their own access to the portal. This can be done if both email addresses are registered with the school.

If you are a new parent, please allow approximately one week from the day your child starts at Oakhill Drive Public School before you try to register for the portal. This will allow your child's details to come across to all the data systems in the school. It is recommended that parents who have registered previously, check their access at this time.

The Parent Portal can be accessed by following these instructions:

1. Go to the Parent Portal
<https://www.impromotion.com.au/portal4parents/?schid=4604>
2. Click on the '**Don't have a password? Get Registered**' link at the bottom of the portal sign-in page, then enter your email address
3. Parents with no current portal account or incomplete portal accounts will receive a 'Getting Started' email which will guide them through the registration process.

During the registration process, parents will receive an email with instructions and a default password to use initially. This will give access to the portal to allow them to set up their own password which will be linked to that email address.

After the registration process is complete, parents can access the portal using their own email address as the Username and their newly set-up password.

Please note your password in a safe place for future reference when accessing the portal.

Helen Paris
Deputy Principal

School Travel for 2021



2021 school travel applications are now open

Applications for student travel in 2021 opened from Monday 12 October 2020.

Students who require a School Opal card or travel pass for 2021 can now [apply](#) online. A new application should be submitted if a student is applying for a school travel pass for the first time or requesting an additional pass as a result of a new shared parental responsibility situation (e.g. joint custody).

Students who have changed school/campus, changed address, repeated a year or received an expiry notification from Transport for NSW for their school travel entitlement should [re-apply or update their details](#).

*Applications must be completed by the student's parent or legal guardian if the student is aged under 16 years. Students 16 years and over must complete the application form themselves.

Where there is a change of distance eligibility based on a student's grade, the system will automatically update a student's entitlement if they meet the new criteria. If they do not meet the new [eligibility criteria](#), they will receive an expiry notification via email.

Students who have an entitlement approved under a medical condition which is due to expire will receive a notification advising them to re-apply.

[Term Bus Pass](#) holders will receive a notification to re-apply.

If a student needs to update their information or re-apply, they should go online to <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/updateDetails>

Applications need to be submitted before **31 December 2020** to ensure that current student entitlements are updated and their current entitlement/card remains valid. If their application is submitted after 31 December 2020, the system will automatically cancel an entitlement/card and a new one will need to be issued.

Students in the Opal network applying for a SSTS or Term Bus Pass entitlement for the first time will receive their card at their nominated postal address. Cards will be mailed out from January 2021.

Students residing in Rural and Regional (R&R) areas should receive their travel pass at the commencement of the new school year from their nominated operator, this may be distributed via the school or sent direct to their address. **Note:** some R&R operators do not issue travel passes. Students/Parents should confirm with their nominated operator if they do not receive a pass.

New Concession Entitlement Cards

Transport for NSW will be replacing the below cards with Transport Concession Entitlement Cards (TCEC) from October 2020:

- Senior Secondary Student Concession Card (16 years and over) – also used by Mature Secondary Students (18 years and over), Distance Education Students and Home School Students
- Proof of Age card (when a student under 16 years of age looks older)
- Boarder Rail Pass.

All previous cards will be valid until they expire. Students who require a Transport Concession Entitlement Card should speak with their school administration staff.

Enquiries regarding school student travel can be submitted to Transport for NSW at <https://transportnsw.infor/contact-us/feedback/passes-concessions-feedback>



December, 2020



The run up to Christmas and the holiday period can be busy and stressful. Throw in traffic congestion, fatigue and distraction. This edition provides some tips to help you get through it safely, as well as how to prepare for 2021.

Driving tips

- Allow extra travel time to get to places.
- Avoid alcohol if you plan to drive.
- Place packages in the boot or restrain them with a seatbelt to avoid them moving about, in case of a crash.
- Ensure pets are properly restrained

Planning ahead

Now is a great time to think about how your family will travel to school in 2021. Walking, cycling or catching a bus to school is a great alternative to school zone congestion.

- Plan and practise a safe travel route with your child/ren.
- Identify safe crossing locations.
- Discuss how to spot dangers, like vehicles exiting driveways.

Double demerits

Double demerit points apply for speeding, seatbelt, mobile phone and motorcycle helmet offences during the following holiday periods:

Christmas Day to New Years Day:

Starts Thursday
24 December 2020 to
Sunday 3 January 2021
(inclusive).

Australia Day

Starts Friday
22 January 2021 to
Tuesday 26 January 2021
(inclusive).

Wishing you a very safe and happy festive season!

Model safe and considerate behaviour for your child - they will learn from you!



Road safety on holidays

A message from NSW Department of Education - road safety education

With the school holidays approaching, daily routines often change and everyone is a lot more relaxed. Different play locations and holiday destinations means changed traffic environments and new safety concerns. To help keep our children safe, we all need to remember these key road safety messages in these new environments:

Point out the road safety differences and dangers.

Roads, footpaths, parks, car parks and bike tracks can look very different in holiday areas or maybe totally foreign, especially if going overseas for your holidays.

The best way to keep children safe is to actively supervise them.

Talk and teach children about road safety every time you are out and about. Even on holidays it is important to actively supervise them.

Talk to children about being a safe road user.

When out walking talk about the safe decisions you make, they may not have experienced these situations before.

Stop, look, listen, think every time you cross the road.

If a child is aged 8 years or younger hold their hand when walking near or across roads. Up until at least 10 years old supervise them closely. When on holidays children can often be overly excited and not thinking about being safe.

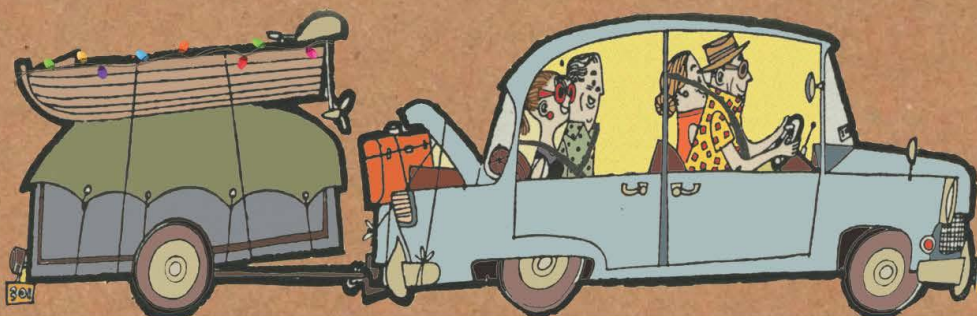
It's the law that everyone wears a helmet when riding a bike in a public place.

It also makes good sense to wear a helmet when riding scooters and skateboards too! It is a great way to encourage always wearing a helmet.

Click clack front 'n back every person for every trip.

Safe travelling in the car on long distances means taking a break every two hours. Give your children fun things to do in the car so they don't distract the driver. If using a different car while on holidays check they are in the right child restraint for their age and size.

Remind the other adults such as grandparents, aunts and uncles, who may be caring for your children while on holidays, about these key road safety messages. Take care and have a great holiday together.



Be extra careful out and about on the roads...make it a happy Christmas for everyone...



Community News

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After School Activities at Oakhill Drive Public School

Future Leaders

Public Speaking, Debating Creative Writing

Enrolling Now For First Term, 2021
 Regular After School Weekly Lessons Every Monday In The Secure Premises of the School
 Limited Seats, Qualified and Experienced Staff
 Groups as per age (6 years to 15 Years)
 We are members of
 Australian Speech Communication Association
 and prepare children for their Exam
 We also prepare kids for Eisteddfod and Other Inter-School Competitions
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www.talentclubedu.com.au

Attention Parents



Please remember we do not encourage parents onto the school grounds. If you need to visit for any reason – please call ahead first. Once on grounds please ensure to sign in each time you enter for COVID-19 Tracking.

SCHOOL SECURITY

If you see trespassers in the school out of hours please call school security.
 1300 880 021 (24 hours)



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 E: oakhilldr-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au