



**WELCOME**  
to



**OPTIMIST  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL**



**BRINGING  
OUT YOUR  
INNER MAGIC!**



**2024 - 2025**





**NUT-FREE  
SCHOOL**



## WELCOME OPTIMIST FAMILIES!

It's almost time to join our OIS family, and we can't wait to welcome you into our vibrant community! We've put together this handy guide to help you navigate the first weeks of school and provide useful information for the entire year. Let's get started!

Warm regards,

*Anne-Marie*

Director of OIS





## SCHOOL HOURS

Our school hours are from 8.00am to 2.30pm. On the first day, please come to the main entrance, where a friendly team member will guide you to your classroom to meet the teacher and other students.

## SWIMMING

Groups 3 and 4 (3A, 3B, 4A, 4B) will have swimming lessons during school. Ms. Kristal, our Swimming Coordinator, will provide more information. We take swimming seriously in the Netherlands, ensuring all children gain basic skills and work towards their Diploma A. Look out for a detailed letter from your class teacher and consider volunteering for our swimming program!

## HEALTH & WELL-BEING

We eat healthily in school; we are a 'NUT-FREE' school due to student and staff allergies, please kindly be considerate when making lunch and snack boxes. If your child has allergies that we should be aware of please notify the school. We have physical education (PE) lessons twice a week and enjoy outdoor breaks in the morning and at lunchtime.

## SCHOOL APP: PARRO

Parro is our **main communication tool**. You will soon receive an email with instructions on how to download the app. Stay up to date with messages, events, and more, all in one place.

## SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our website is a treasure trove of information. From learning resources and policies to news articles and links to our school guide and social media, it's all there. Be sure to explore and get familiar with it!

## What to bring to school:

- ☐ Water bottle
- ☐ Healthy snack for morning break
- ☐ Lunch in a lunchbox
- PE kit (physical education)\*:
  - ☐ Group 1: gym/indoor shoes
  - ☐ Groups 2-8: shorts, t-shirt, gym shoes

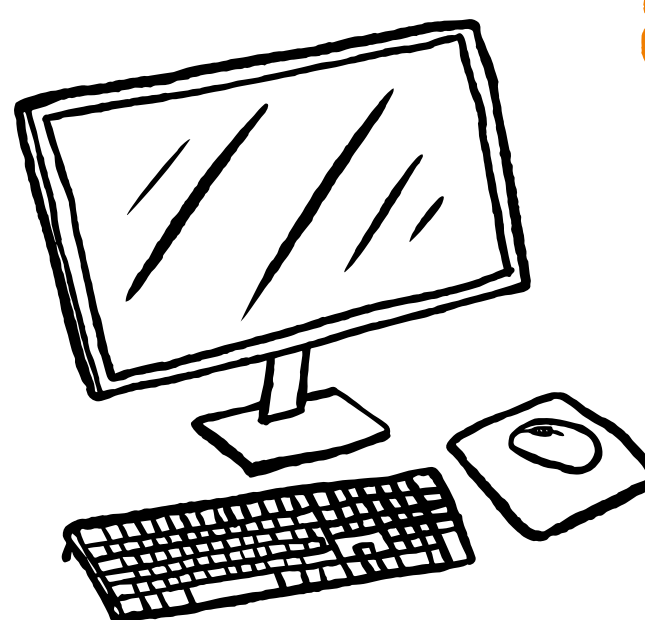
\*Please label all items with your child's name. PE bags can stay at school and come home weekly for washing.

Got everything?)

## LEARNING LADDERS & LEARNING CONFERENCES

We hold three **Parent-Teacher Learning Conferences** (meetings) annually (September, January, June) to discuss student progress.

Our **Ladders at Home** portal provides real-time updates, and end-of-year reports are issued in June. For any concerns or questions, feel free to schedule an appointment with the classroom teacher.





## Our Leadership team

### OUR OIS TEAM

We're proud of our diverse team of over 50 staff members from more than **15 nationalities**. Our teachers, assistants, and support staff bring a wealth of educational knowledge and international experience to OIS. Find the complete [staff list on our website](#).

SCHOOL DIRECTOR



Anne-Marie van Holst

HR & ADMISSIONS



Cheryl Embleton

LEARNING LEADER



Colleen Cropp

### STARTING DATES FOR NEW STUDENTS

We welcome new students throughout the year on these dates:

2 & 16 September 2024  
14 October 2024  
4 & 18 November 2024  
2 December 2024  
6 & 20 January 2025  
3 February 2025  
10 & 24 March 2025  
7 April 2025  
19 May 2025  
11 June 2025

### OIS LIBRARY

We're proud of our multilingual library! Each class visits weekly, and students can borrow books in an OIS library bag. Parents must sign an authorisation form before borrowing begins. Details will be communicated by the school librarian and class teacher.



### ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE REPORTING

Regular attendance is compulsory for children aged 5-16. Notify us of any absences via the **Parro app**. We are required by law to record reasons for absences and report excessive or unauthorised absences to the Attendance Officer. Ms. Jules manages our strict absenteeism program. For more information you can visit [our website](#).

#### Exceptional leave

In exceptional cases, we grant leave during term time. Use the Special Leave Form for family events, moving house, administrative appointments, etc. For more information and forms, visit our website.





# VOLUNTEERING COMMUNITY

We encourage family and community members to support our school and students. Parental support is highly appreciated at many levels, such as reading activities, library activities, logistical assistance, special activities (such as excursions), events and specific expertise. We welcome all parents to come into school and use the school facilities.

## Welcome Team

For new families we have a **Welcome Team**, which serves as non-school specific settling-in support. They also offer specific connections to current parents, in which they try to link parents in their own language or with some other connection (e.g. area where they live, previous country, or company they work with) if requested.

## Class Parent

Every class has a **Class Parent**. Class parents serve as a liaison between the class teachers and the parents. Class parents are parents who volunteer to assist their child's class teacher with class and schoolwide activities. They are also a welcoming informal network of support to new parents and a source of assistance to the class teacher, on all sorts of non-educational matters. Class parents do not have a formal role in the school like the elected members of the school **Participation Council (PC)**, their role doesn't involve communication between parents and school about learning or teaching concerns, complaints, individual opinions, school policies or other school matters.

Class parents run the class parent **WhatsApp group**. The class WhatsApp traffic is intended for announcements about practical matters and the provision of information. It is not intended for one-on-one conversations, discussions, disagreements or emotionally charged messages. We explicitly ask parents not to use the app group to express complaints about children/the teacher or to disclose information about their child. This entails insecurity for all those involved and is not in the interest of cooperation around children. In the group no pictures of children can be shared by parents, because of privacy reasons.

Class parents, along with the Welcome Team, are also a welcoming informal network of support and a crucial source of assistance to the class teacher on many non-educational matters. Assistance can include: organizing volunteers for group activities, helping organize class displays, activities, etc. As a group, the Class Parents also work together on the organization of events and seek support from other parents in school willing to volunteer in their own class or school-wide, for example school trips, sports events and decorating the building during events.

## Volunteering

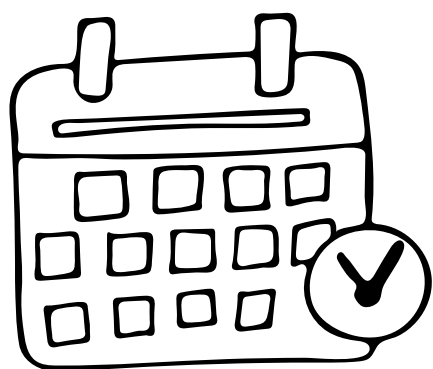
We also have regular volunteers who assist teachers with specific support such as weekly **swimming lessons, running the library, reading with children**.

At the beginning of each school year, we advertise all these voluntary opportunities in school and hope to recruit as many parents as possible to join our volunteering community in a role that suits them taking into account their availability. Parents who have occasional time available often register as an **Activities Volunteer** and could be contacted by teachers, class parents or specific event organizers to help at specific moments.

To volunteer, register or for support, contact Jules at [julie.joly@floreer.nl](mailto:julie.joly@floreer.nl).

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

Our school calendar is available via the [website](#) and on the **Parro app**.



## AFTERSCHOOL CARE

UniKidz provides afterschool care from 2.30-6.30pm with activities like dance, cooking, sports, and swimming. Sign up at [Unikidz](#). UniKidz also offers summer camps during the first week of summer holidays.

There are additional extra-curricular sporting and language activities available for students, you can find out more on our [website](#).

## OIS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow us on social media for a glimpse into our school life! We regularly post photos, videos and updates from all corners of the school. Click the links below to Like, Share, and join the conversation on our Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn pages.



## TRANSPORT AND PARKING

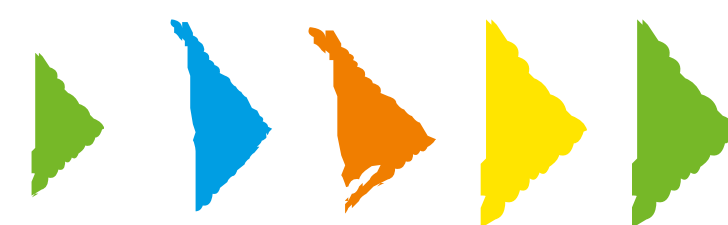
Our school is accessible by bike, public transport, and car. Free parking is available but can get congested. Bicycle paths are secure, and the Floriande Noord bus stop is a 5-minute walk away. Bus numbers 341 and 340 serve our area.

## PERMISSION TO USE PHOTOGRAPHS

We request photo/video permissions at the start of the year for use on our website, social media, and app. You can opt in or out anytime on **Parro**. Privacy preferences can be updated as needed.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ALL TOPICS MENTIONED IN THIS DOCUMENT CAN BE FOUND IN OUR SCHOOL GUIDE, [OUR WEBSITE HERE](#).**

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to us, we are happy to help and receive feedback



We're excited to have you with us for a 'magical' school year!

**OIS TEAM**



## OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

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[www.optimist-international-school.nl](http://www.optimist-international-school.nl)

You can also find us on Facebook, Instagram  
and LinkedIn.



**Floreer**  
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**ica** International  
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Curriculum ipc

 **dutchinternational**  
schools