



INFORMATION BOOKLET 2019-2020



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A. Introduction

Dear parents,

Welcome to the Olympiaschool in Amsterdam!

Our school is a public school for every child between 4 and 12 years old, who lives in the neighborhood of our school.

The atmosphere at our school is open, friendly and welcoming.

There are children of more than 25 nationalities attending our school.

Apart from regular classes, where children of the same age are gathered, we also have two so-called Newcomersclasses, with children between 6 and 12 years, who are less than one year in the Netherlands. These children are in smaller classes (max. 15 children) where they get an extra input of Dutch lessons. Most of their time they spend in this little class, but we think it's important that children mix with the Dutch children, so they play together with the Dutch children and they go together on schooltrips.

After one year (sometimes less) of Newcomersclass the children start attending a regular class, this can be either at the Olympiaschool or at any other primary school. The children who become 12 before the first of October in that time, go on to High school.

The younger children (4 and 5 year olds) they start immediately in a regular group 1-2 (in the first two school years the children are all together in one class), even though they don't speak Dutch at all. Every time we are amazed how easily the younger ones adopt to the Dutch language.

Every class in our school has one or at most two teachers, for whom it is no problem to communicate in English with you, as a parent.

We hope your child(ren) will have a wonderful and inspiring time at our school!

Best wishes,

Marjan de Smit
Principal

Below you will find a summary of our rules and information for parents. You can find more info on our website www.olympiaschool.nl

We are a public (Openbare) school in the south part of Amsterdam, near the Olympic Stadium.

In short, this means that we are open for all children. Parents don't have to pay school fee, apart from a voluntary amount for our parent association, so they can organize extra things for the children. We pay attention to all religions and beliefs, without judging or choosing for one of them. We think it's important that children grow up in a multicultural society and we are preparing them for it.

We don't work with a special educational concept. We want our children to be prepared for the 21st century, with all the skills and knowledge they will need.

We expect from our pupils and their parents that they behave nicely towards everybody in the school (and outside!), respect other people and be willing to listen to them. For us as a school it is very important that we have good communication with parents, because the triangle: child-home-school, we think is most important for children to be able to learn and live in a nice way.

B. School hours (schooltijden)

Monday (<i>maandag</i>):	08.30-12.00 and 13.00-15.00
Tuesday (<i>dinsdag</i>):	08.30-12.00 and 13.00-15.00
Wednesday (<i>woensdag</i>):	08.30-12.00
Thursday (<i>donderdag</i>):	08.30-12.00 and 13.00-15.00
Friday (<i>vrijdag</i>):	08.30-12.00 and 13.00-15.00

Please note that Wednesday is a shorter day!

The school doors open in the morning at 08.15 am. All children have to be in their classroom at 08.30 am at the latest. Parents/guardians may say goodbye outside in the schoolyard. At Fridays parents can join their child into the classroom.

In order to avoid major traffic jams around the school, we encourage all parents to bring their children as much as possible on foot or by bike. If you have to drop off/pick up by car, you can park your car in front of the school. Our pupils may park their bikes in the designated areas. Please note that cycling is prohibited on the school yard!

When you bring your child in the morning, there is some time to discuss small things. If there is anything that you would like to discuss in more detail, we kindly ask you to make an appointment with the teacher.

At the end of the school day, the children may be picked up outside in the schoolyard. The teacher accompanies the class to there.

Although children are only obliged to attend school from age 5, we expect 4-year-olds to attend every day too. So if your 4-year-old is going to miss school time, please inform the teacher in advance.

C. Lunch break (*overblijven or TSO*)

We have a lunch break from 12.00 till 13.00 pm. You may choose to either take your child to go home for lunch or stay at school. Most children stay at school for lunch.

When children stay at school for lunch, they should bring from home: some sandwiches, fruit, milk, other drinks. Please put it all in a (small) backpack, and mark everything clearly with your child's name. We prefer reusable boxes and cups, to avoid lots of plastic garbage. We don't allow sweets, chocolate, biscuits or fizzy drinks.

We work with volunteers and parents as lunch teachers.

For questions related to the lunch supervision you can contact Danny Herrera at tso@olympiaschool.nl or meet her at school on monday, tuesday, thursday and friday.

The cost for the lunch supervision is 2,25 euros per day. You receive an invoice to pay for it in your mailbox via Schoolkassa. You may also pay cash at the administration.

Either before or after lunch we play outside, weather permitting.

Somewhere between 10.00 and 11.00 am we have a short break. Please give your child some fruit and milk or another drink to enjoy during this time.

For this break we also don't allow sweets, chocolate, biscuits or fizzy drinks.

D. Physical exercise/PE (gym)

During the week your child's class (group 1 up to group 8) has PE lessons (gym class). The PE lessons take place in school, in our gym hall.

All children in your child's class do PE in their gym clothes and gym shoes (no black soles, please)

On PE day, please make sure your child is wearing clothes and shoes that they can easily take off and put on themselves!

We advise all children to take a shower after the PE lessons. If you want your child to take a shower, please bring a towel.

The PE (gym) lessons are taught by Ewout Wattel. Groups 1-2 have their gym lessons by Bart Hanemaaijer and by their own teacher.

The youngest children (group 1-2) don't need to bring special clothes for gym lessons.

E. Other things you have to bring to school (meebrengen naar school):

- Set of spare clothes (only in group 1-2)
- Toys from home on Friday afternoons (only in group 1-2)
- For Christmas/end of year diner we ask all parents to bring some food (for about 4-6 persons) to school. The teacher will inform you about it.
- In the week between Sinterklaas and Christmas, we collect tins with food with all children for the 'Voedselbank', an organization who provides poor people with basic food every week.
- Sometimes the teacher asks some worthless material to construct things with in class.
- For an Easter breakfast we ask every child and teacher to make a breakfast in a decorated box for somebody else.
- For Sinterklaas (December 5th) every child from group 5 up to group 8 makes a surprise present for a schoolmate in the class. The younger children receive a present from Sinterklaas.

F. Class parents (klassenouders)

The parents of each class are represented by one or two class parents. These class parents discuss matters with the teacher and they will regularly ask the other parents for help with, for example, celebrations and excursions. You are welcome to ask the class parents anything you would like to know about the school. Some parents have an app-group among each other.

Our school also communicates with parents via a newsletter, called 'Olympiajournaal'. The director sometimes sends digital letters. Be sure we have your right e-mailadres at school.

If you want to change it, please inform the administration (info@olympiaschool.nl)

You are always welcome to make an appointment with the teacher of your child(ren). The school director can also be asked for an appointment.

Every class uses Parro, that is an application from Parnassys (our digital student tracking system) for the class agenda and messages from the teacher.

G. Teacher training days (studiedagen)

The school is closed on teacher training days, when the teachers have to attend a training course themselves.

You can find a schedule of the teacher training days on our website. Also you can find it on the calendar we give to all parents. Most of these days the after school care is open.

H. After-school care (BSO or NSO)

After school, children can either go home, or go to the after-school care (BSO or NSO).

We have an internal BSO, called: DONS. You can contact them via www.donsopvang.nl

The following BSO organizations also pick up children from school: Woest Zuid (www.woestzuid.nl) and Kleintje Zuid (www.kleintjezuid.nl). Woest Zuid is located in the little building on the school playground.

The BSO teachers will come and pick up the children from school. The parents can pick them up at the BSO location before closing time. The BSO is also open during the school holidays and most teacher training days.

Please note that you have to arrange for the BSO yourself and pay separately.

Please ask the BSO of your choice for more details.

We also sometimes organize after-school activities. You will be informed about it via 'Olympiajournaal'.

I. Parental contribution (ouderbijdrage)

The (voluntary) parental contribution for our school is 70 euros per year.

With this money we can afford celebrations like Sinterklaas, Christmas market, transportation to musea and daytrips.

You will receive an invoice in your mailbox (Schoolkassa) from the parent committee to pay the parental contribution.

In group 8 the children go on a sailing camp (4 days) in Friesland. We ask a separate amount of about 125 euros from the parents of these groups.

J. Call in sick (ziekmelden)

If your child is ill, you should call 020-4712265 in the morning before 08.30 am. An answering machine is always available. Please mention the name and the class of your child.

Please try and make doctor's and dentist's appointments outside of school hours as much as possible.

K. Lice (luizen)

A bit less popular subject to talk about is lice. It is not fun when someone has lice, but it is nothing to be ashamed of. It should be treated immediately, to stop it from getting worse. In order to prevent an outbreak, the so-called 'lice parents' regularly check all children's hair, especially after the school holidays. If we find lice or nits in a child's hair, we'll inform the parents and ask to treat the lice straightaway.

L. School holidays (schoolvakanties)

Our school holidays follow the national schedule. You can find all dates on our website www.olympiaschool.nl and on the calendar.

Holiday periods for primary schools are set nationally with staggered start- and finish times across three regions in order to spread out most of the holiday rush. Amsterdam belongs to region Noord. See also www.schoolvakanties-nederland.nl

The summer holiday lasts for six weeks. During the school year, there is at least one week of holiday after each period of about eight weeks, so both pupils and teachers can recharge their batteries.

M. Time off outside the school holidays (buitengewoon verlof)

Dutch law is very strict regarding school attendance. From the first day of the month after a child's fifth birthday s/he is obliged to go to school. A child may only miss school in the event of a family emergency, or important celebration, or if their parents can prove they are unable to go on a family holiday during the school holidays. You can get permission for a maximum of ten days per school year, which you have to ask for in advance. This 'extraordinary leave' is not allowed during the first two weeks of the school year. Please be aware that if you don't follow these rules you might get fined by the truancy officers.

You can find all specific rules about this on this website: www.leerplicht.net (in Dutch). If you want to book extraordinary leave, the form you should complete is available at the administration. Please also provide proof (an invitation or statement by your employer).

Please also fill out this form if your child isn't five yet. Then in most cases you will be granted permission. More details about the Dutch school attendance law you can read in this article (in English): <https://aabc.nl/the-dutch-school-attendance-law>.

N. Tests (toetsen)

Like all Dutch schools we closely follow our pupils' progress. We do this by means of a short test at the end of each section in a workbook. Additionally, twice a year the children take the Cito test, which is the same for every school in the Netherlands. These tests have been designed to measure the development of a child. All results will be saved in a 'pupil monitor system'. At our school we make use of the ParnasSys system.

If we observe a sudden drop in a child's test results, we'll discuss with the parents what could be the possible cause, and whether any additional support might be needed. In this way we try to catch possible learning difficulties, like dyslexia, at an early stage. Please note that your child doesn't need to study for these tests, and s/he won't repeat or skip a class based on the test results alone.

The children in *Newcomersclasses* also take tests, but their results, also available in ParnasSys, need explanation. If you only consider their results by color, you don't get the right impression. You can be sure that if your child doesn't make progress as expected, the teacher will invite you for a parent meeting.

O. Learning difficulties/delays (leerachterstanden)

For children who experience some kind of learning difficulties or delays, we first try and offer the support needed ourselves. If the problem turns out to be too severe, we might refer the child to a dedicated special needs school, where s/he will get the help they need from specialised teachers and therapists.

Please notify us as soon as possible if you think your child may have a speech delay, behavioral issues, concentration problems, or any other difficulties. Then we'll discuss with you how we can best help your child.

If you have any questions related to learning difficulties, you may contact Yvon van der Meer, our internal supervisor at y.vandermeer@olympiaschool.nl.

We would also like to inform you about the existence of the Eseng: the expat special educational needs group in the Netherlands, <http://eseng.nl>, and a special Facebook group for special needs families in the Netherlands: www.facebook.com/groups/1535236416724036.

P. Reports (rapporten)

Three times per year (October/November, January/February and in June) we will make a report of your child's results. This report will contain performance descriptions ranging from 'excellent to below average' and observations about your child's behavior, social interactions, and progress.

Q. Parent/child/teacher meetings (oudergesprekken)

During a '10-minute meeting' we'll discuss the results of the tests with your child or with you, together with the teacher's observations, and other things that both you, your child and the teacher would like to bring to the table.

These meetings will preferably be held in Dutch, but English can be spoken if needed.

R. Homework (huiswerk)

Children from group 6 on will get some homework for some subjects. In general we consider serious homework to start at High school. We recommend, especially for the non-Dutch speaking children to watch Dutch television like 'Jeugdjournaal' and 'Klokhuis'. Also we like them to go to the library for Dutch books to read at home. And try to make appointments with Dutch playmates.

S. Parent help (ouderhulp)

We regularly need the help of parents to organize some extra things for our pupils, such as accompanying us on school trips, lice parents, library help and decorating the school for Christmas. Often you don't need to speak Dutch fluently, and we really appreciate your help. Please ask your teacher for more information.

T. Complaints (klachten)

If there is anything you are concerned about, or which you don't understand, we encourage you to talk about it with your teacher as soon as the situation occurs. More often than not it is just a misunderstanding that can be easily resolved. If you haven't been able to resolve it with the teacher, you could talk with Marjan de Smit, principal of the school. As a next step, if you still feel that the unwanted situation has not changed, you can file an official complaint via our board: Openbaar onderwijs aan de Amstel (www.oooda.nl)

U. Specialized teachers (Vakleerkrachten)

We are very proud of our specialized teachers for the following subjects: Physical Education, Music and Arts & Crafts

Children from group 3 on (music and physical education from group 1-2 on) are taught by these teachers at least once a week.

During some of these lessons the class is split. While half of the class receives these dedicated lessons, the other half gets some more personal attention from the regular teacher.

Music (muziek):

Once per week we have music lessons. We practice singing and rhythm, and we introduce musical instruments.

The music lessons are taught by Noortje Folkertsma.

Arts & Crafts (beeldende vorming/bevo):

Once per week we have art lessons. We practise drawing, painting, design, sculpture, woodwork. The art lessons are taught by Marloes Nieuweboer

Culture (cultuur):

During the whole year the children have culture lessons. We often have themes, like for example Vincent van Gogh, making stopmotion movies, the Romans.....

The culture lessons are taught by the teacher of the group.

At least once per year we work on a big project with the entire school and we give a joint performance or we organize an exhibition for all parents.

V. Playdates (*speelafspraken*) and birthdays (*verjaardagen*)

Playdates are a big thing for our pupils. After school they often play at each other's houses. This is considered beneficial to their social development, and for busy parents it can also be a practical arrangement.

Children and their parents are supposed to arrange the playdates between themselves; school is not involved. Please inform your teacher if your child will go to someone else's house after school. Without your permission s/he will not be allowed to leave with anyone not authorised by you in advance.

For children, their birthday is usually a very important day, and we celebrate birthdays at school. Your child may bring a treat (*traktatie*) to give to other children in their class, as well as the teachers. Please discuss with your teacher in advance which day would be most suitable to bring the *traktatie*. You can either bring healthy snacks or sweets, but please don't make the treats too big.

If your child would like to invite other children for his/her birthday party, please distribute the invitations in a discrete way, in order to avoid disappointment for children who are not invited. Please note that you are not obliged to invite all boys or all girls from the class if you don't want to.

W. Themes (*thema's*)

We often work with themes, for example Autumn, Spring, Christmas and Easter, as well as the themes that our curriculum offers (for example travel, the Golden Age, and water). We regularly ask our pupils to bring some objects from home that are related to the theme. Please make sure that your child doesn't bring anything of great (emotional) value. Of course we'll take good care of them, but we can't guarantee that they won't break or go missing. We also often go on an excursion that is related to the current theme.

X. Excursions & school trips (*excursies & schoolreisjes*)

A few times per year we go on a school trip. We go for example to a farm, to a museum or, once a year, to a theme park. There is no extra fee asked for these trips. We only ask for parental help, to accompany little groups of children. We sometimes go by bus or tram, or in some cases group transport will be arranged.

Y. Dutch School vocabulary

Translation of some words you will regularly see and hear at our school:

Dutch	English
Basisschool	Primary school (age 4-12)
Bewegen	To move (physical activity)
Buurt	Neighborhood
Directeur	Head teacher/principal/school director
Gesprek	Conversation/Meeting

Groep	Group/class
Gym	Physical exercise
Helpen	To help
Huis	House
Huiswerk	Homework
Hulp	Help
Juf	Female teacher
Klacht	Complaint
Klas	Class
Klaslokaal	Classroom
Klassenouders	Class parents
Leerkracht(en)	Teacher(s)
Leerling(en)	Pupil(s)
Leerplicht	Compulsory school attendance
Lezen	To read
Luizen	Lice
Meester	Male teacher
Middag	Afternoon
Middelbare school	Secondary school / High school
Ochtend	Morning
Oefenen	To practice
Onderwijs	Education
Ouder(s)	Parent(s)
Ouderbijdrage	Parental contribution
Ouderhulp	Parent help
Overblijven	Lunch break (at school)
Rapport	Report
Rekenen	Maths
Schoolplein	School yard/ school playground
Schooltijden	School hours
Schrijven	To write
Speelafpraakje	Playdate
Spelen	To play

Stop, Hou Op!	Stop doing that! (used by children to indicate their limits to other children)
Studiedag	Teacher training day (school is closed)
Thema	Theme
Thuis	Home
Tijd	Time
Toets	Test
Trakteren	To hand out treats (for birthdays, etc)
Traktatie	(Birthday) Treat
TSO	Care during the lunch break at school
Vakantie	Holiday
Verjaardag	Birthday
Vriendinnetje	Friend (girl)
Vriendje	Friend (boy)
Vrije dag	Day off
Ziek	Sick / Ill

