

PLAZA NEWSLETTER (April 2026)

As previously announced, the Kumamoto City International Center resumed normal operations starting March 7. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused.

Well, before we knew it, March arrived, bringing with it the gradual hint of spring. In Japan, we cherish the changing seasons and enjoy the events and customs unique to each one. For March, celebrating girls' growth with "Hinamatsuri" and enjoying the view of cherry blossoms with "Ohanami" are quintessential Japanese spring traditions. There are many four-character idioms and proverbs related to cherry blossoms. One of my favorite sayings is "Oubaitouri(桜梅桃李- Cherry, plum, peach, and apricot)". (meaning "Everyone is unique in his/her own way" "Bloom where you are planted")

Now let us partially introduce the consultation details found in our plaza. We received 30 consultations in February and have shared below examples of questions and answers. Some content has been edited for privacy concerns.

Q : I plan to return to my home country two months before my current period of stay expires. Will there be any problems when I re-enter Japan?

A : Regarding re-entry into Japan, you may do so without issue as long as you are engaged in activities permitted under your current status of residence and your period of stay has not expired. Please confirm your current period of stay and ensure you enter Japan within that period.

Q : I plan to enter graduate school as an international student this April. Since I won't be receiving a scholarship, I'm thinking of getting a part-time job. Please tell me how international students can find part-time work.

A : When working part-time under the "Student" visa status, you must apply for "Permission to Engage in Activity Other Than That Permitted by the Status of Residence Previously Granted" at the Immigration Bureau. Once permission is granted, you may begin looking for work.

You can search at "Young Hello Work," which supports international students, or look on internet sites. Additionally, the Job Consultation at the Consultation Plaza is held on the second Wednesday of every month (1:00 PM - 5:00 PM). When looking for part-time work in Kumamoto, communication in Japanese is often required.



Job Hunting Website

Q : I am currently working, but my contract ends at the end of March, and my next job is scheduled to start in August. This leaves a gap of about four months. Will this affect my residence status? Also, if I temporarily return to my home country during this period, will there be any issues? My current residence card expires in July.

A : After resigning from your current job, please first submit a "NOTIFICATION OF THE CONTRACTING ORGANIZATION" to the Kumamoto Regional Immigration Services Agency within 14 days. Subsequently, you will need to change or renew your status of residence. Applications are generally possible starting three months prior. If you plan to temporarily return to your home country, please re-enter Japan before the expiration date indicated on your Residence Card, which should still be valid. We recommend completing the procedures for changing or renewing your status of residence as early as possible. When departing Japan, please apply for a "Special Re-entry Permit."

If you have any problems, please contact the Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents.

Kumamoto city' s Designated Collection Bags for Household Waste

Starting in April 2026, new designated garbage collection bags will be available for use. Currently, there are designated bags for “burnable waste” and “landfill waste” . The new designated bag is a single type that can be used for both burnable waste and landfill waste. (The previous designated bags can still be used.) Previously, designated bags for burnable waste had blue lettering and those for landfill waste had green lettering printed on them. The new designated bags feature black lettering and an illustration of Kumamoto Castle. There will be only one type of bag, but please continue to separate burnable waste and landfill waste as before and put them out on the designated collection days. Do not put burnable waste and landfill waste together in the same bag. The price of the designated bags and the stores where they are sold remain unchanged.

★★Garbage Disposal After April★★

* burnable waste

*landfill waste



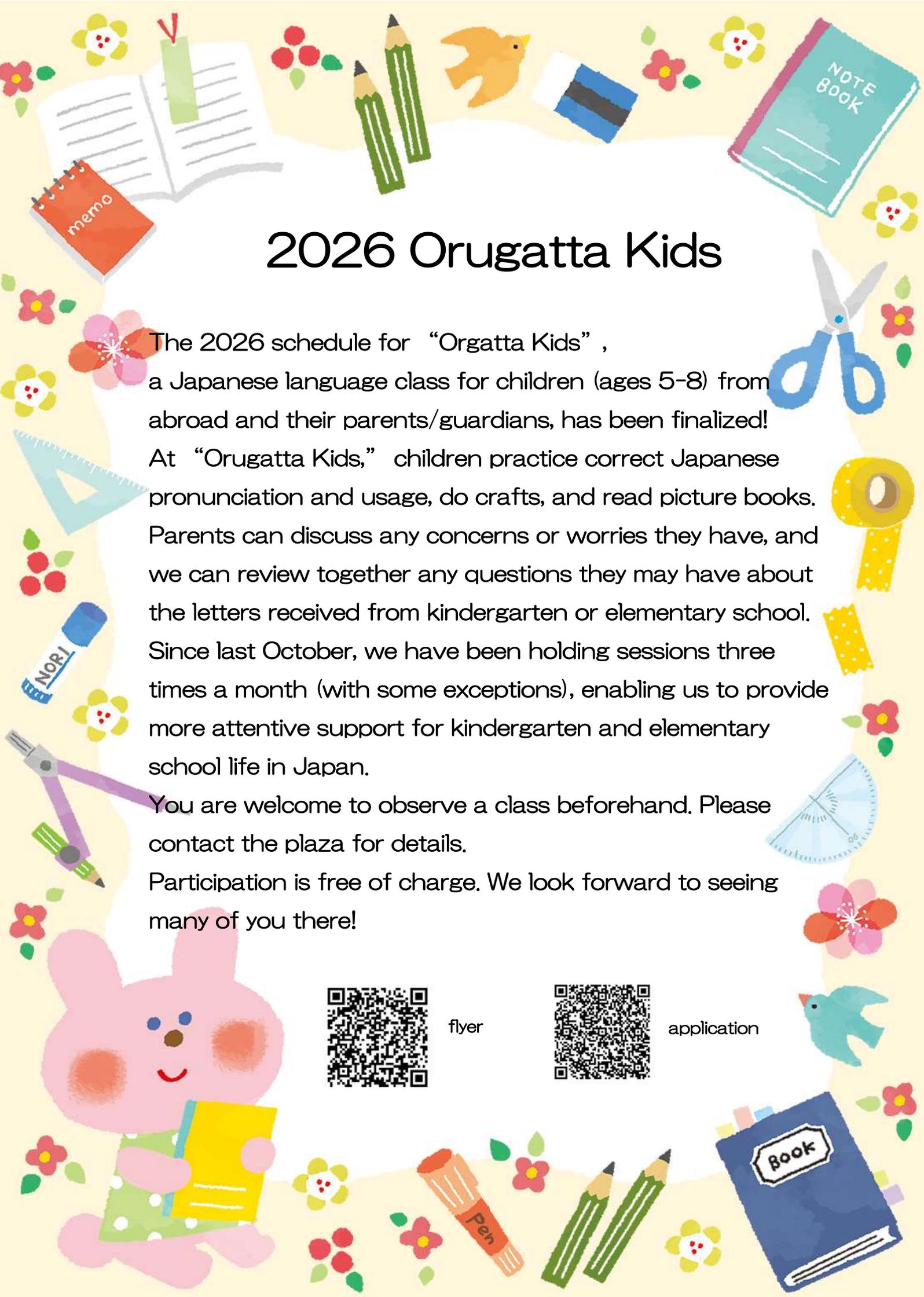
or



or



the bags can be bought at stores displaying these stickers

A decorative border surrounds the text, featuring various school supplies and flowers. At the top left, there's an open book with a green bookmark, a red memo pad, and two green pencils. At the top center, a yellow bird flies above a blue and white striped object. At the top right, a blue notebook with 'NOTE BOOK' written on it is visible. On the right side, there are blue scissors, a roll of yellow tape, and a blue protractor. At the bottom right, a blue book with 'Book' written on it is shown. At the bottom center, there's a red pen and two green pencils. At the bottom left, a pink rabbit is holding a yellow book. The background is a light yellow color with scattered small flowers and leaves.

2026 Orugatta Kids

The 2026 schedule for “Orugatta Kids” , a Japanese language class for children (ages 5-8) from abroad and their parents/guardians, has been finalized! At “Orugatta Kids,” children practice correct Japanese pronunciation and usage, do crafts, and read picture books. Parents can discuss any concerns or worries they have, and we can review together any questions they may have about the letters received from kindergarten or elementary school. Since last October, we have been holding sessions three times a month (with some exceptions), enabling us to provide more attentive support for kindergarten and elementary school life in Japan.

You are welcome to observe a class beforehand. Please contact the plaza for details.

Participation is free of charge. We look forward to seeing many of you there!



flyer



application



Information on Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents

The Plaza offers professional consultations including legal affairs, residence status issues, housing and life affairs support in multiple languages. Consultants who speak English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Spanish, Nepali and Taiwanese are available at the Plaza as the schedule below.

April Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			01 ·Immigrational Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese	02 ·Korean Consultation	03 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation ·Spanish Consultation	04
05 ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese	06	07 ·Chinese Consultation	08 ·Mental Health Counseling ·Tagalog Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation	09 ·Korean Consultation	10 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	11
12 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Educational Consultation ·Orugatta Kids	13 closed	14 ·Chinese Consultation	15 ·Housing Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation ·Life Consultation in	16 ·Korean Consultation	17 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	18 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Free Legal Consultation
19 ·Immigrational Consultation ·Vietnamese Consultation ·Nepal Consultation	20	21 ·Chinese Consultation	22 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·German Consultation ·One-stop Consultation Service for International Students	23 ·Korean Consultation	24 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·English Consultation	25
26 ·Life Consultation in Chinese ·Educational Consultation ·Orugatta Kids ·Life Consultation in Taiwanese	27 closed	28 ·Chinese Consultation	29 Showa no hi ·Life Consultation in Chinese	30 ·Korean Consultation		
<p>Note: Consultations 1:00pm~5:00pm (apart from the ones below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Life Consultation in Chinese 1:00pm ~ 6:00pm ·Immigrational Consultation 1:00pm~4:00pm ·Mental Health Counseling 3:30pm~5:30pm ·Free Legal Consultation 2:00pm~4:00pm (Reservation required) ·Educational Consultation 10:00am~3:00pm ·One-stop Consultation Service for International Students 1:00pm~4:00pm 						

※ Consultation service could be cancelled due to consultant's personal reasons. Please e-mail or call us beforehand to check if the consultant is available.

Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents' Facebook

We regularly update information useful to you.

Follow us and be one of the first ones to be informed!



Plaza's FB

We are offering variety of information useful to your life. Please check us!



Our website



Life orientation videos by Immigration Services Agency

Kumamoto Consultation and Support Plaza for Foreign Residents

Location: 2nd floor of Kumamoto City International Center

Address: 4-18 Hanabata-Cho, Chuo-Ku, Kumamoto City, 860-0806

Tel: 096-359-4995

E-mail soudan@kumamoto-if.or.jp

Opening hours: Between 10 am and 6 pm

Closed on second and fourth Mondays and between December 29 and January 3

★ If second or fourth Monday is a national holiday, the plaza will be closed the following day instead.

