

2019

Class Handbook



IMMANUEL
Gawler

LOCAL • GLOBAL • CONNECTED

A primary school of the Lutheran Church

1) How can you support your child at home and school?

Partnership

The home and school relationship is a key aspect of your child's learning. We encourage open communication between you and your child's teacher/s. We also value and appreciate support from time to time. Please see your child's teacher if you are able to assist in any way. This may include assisting on excursions, listening to reading and extra-curricular activities. We have found this connection to have a positive effect on your child's education.

Reading

Developing reading skills and positive reading habits is an important element to a successful school year. To help develop this lifelong habit, here are some ideas to help children turn into avid readers!

Find a quiet place to sit comfortably together away from distractions and read to them every day. It is the best way to develop a love of reading. Read every day yourself and let the children see you enjoying it. (Easier said than done, with busy lives these days.)

- a) Talk with your children every day (try to use a broad vocabulary). Good talkers usually become good readers and writers.
- b) Praise your child's reading efforts and let them share with other willing listeners such as grandparents and other adults.
- c) Use the story and sentences to help your child learn new words. Ask "What do you think it could be?" Use first letter sounds to help give an idea. If possible model sounding out a word in chunks for your child to guess (e.g. ch-air). They will often be able to blend the sounds you make to form the word, before they are able to do this task independently. Then go on with the story. If on a second reading he/she cannot remember the word, tell them again and if they can remember – great! Praise!
- d) Encourage your child to read aloud each night, even if it is only one page. Regular reading leads to reading improvement.
- e) Discuss the story afterwards, using: When? Why? What? And What if? Discuss the favourite and least favourite parts. This helps to develop comprehension.
- f) Don't compare one child's reading progress with another's. Remember each learns to crawl, walk and talk at different times. It is the same with reading. Remain positive and end reading times with a warm hug and a few words of praise for the effort given.

Sleep

It is also important children have a good night's sleep. This is "brain processing" time and a well-rested child will perform better at school (more alert and productive) and at home. It is recommended Primary age children get 9-12 hours of sleep per night.

Diet

Australian Government recommends a diet based on a variety of food from the 5 food groups. Please consider these recommendations when packing your child's lunch box. Eating breakfast is an important way to start the day.

Organisation

Helping your child prepare for their school day is important. Making sure they have everything they will require: recess, lunch, brain food (optional), drink bottle and their hat (Terms 1 and 4). Encourage your child to complete tasks as independently as possible.

Every day your child requires the best start possible. This begins with arriving to school on time. By ensuring your child is punctual to school will enable them to be prepared for the day ahead. Many children feel anxious and worried if they arrive late. Your child's well-being is a crucial aspect of a successful school year and one that is highly important to us. If your child is experiencing any worries, please come and see us as quickly as possible to ease stress upon you and your child.

Leaving early, whilst at times is unavoidable, it is not ideal in your child's education as they miss out on learning and may miss vital information that is discussed at the conclusion of the day.

2) Uniform

Please refer to the school's website for uniform information.

3) Learning at Home

At Immanuel we believe that Homework/'Learning at Home' is valuable as it builds good habits and facilitates an opportunity for parents/caregivers to gain insights into what students are learning. We also believe that it should not be burdensome and must cater for the differing abilities of students and the often busy and complex family life that students lead.

Above all, we believe Homework/'Learning at Home' should be authentic, purposeful and responsive to our philosophical IB understanding of 'Action' – meaning that students will choose to engage with the curriculum at home and in their own time. (An example of this might be that during a UOI on Sharing the Planet students might come home and want to conduct a home audit on water use/waste etc).

4) Daily Routines

Students are expected to be at school by **8:50am**. This is when they prepare themselves for the day ahead. We encourage students to prepare **themselves** for the day ahead and to develop independence. Learning time begins at **9:00am**.

5) Brain food

Brain Food is to consist of fresh or dried fruit or vegetable pieces. Please ensure that it is cut up into manageable pieces for younger students. Class teachers will designate suitable times throughout the day for students to enjoy a healthy snack (Please be aware that some classes will be nut free).

6) Drinks in the classroom

Children are allowed to have their drinks in the classroom if their bottles are filled with water only.

7) Communication

We value respectful communication with parents. Whilst face to face communication is the best form we understand that due to certain circumstances it may not be possible. If this is the case, then we recommend communicating via email. For significant concerns, please make an appointment. Unless scheduled, morning catch-ups are often difficult as the teacher's priorities are getting ready for the day.

Please let your child's teacher know if you have any questions or concerns. Concerns need to be addressed sooner rather than later, so an appointment time enables us to give your concern our full attention.

If you know in advance that your child will be late or away from school please communicate with your child's teacher explaining the reason. If in the morning, please communicate with the office.

Teachers regularly use See Saw to communicate your child's learning. We encourage you to sign up to allow this communication.

8) Behaviour Education

Within our classroom we will focus on students' positive behaviour. It is important to recognise those students who respect each other and themselves by following the class essential agreement. Teachers use a range of strategies to encourage positive choices, teamwork, kindness and organisation.

9) International Baccalaureate-Primary Years Programme

Immanuel Gawler is an IB World School using the Primary Years Programme. Each teacher is currently planning, teaching and assessing within these guidelines. The Australian Curriculum sits alongside the Primary Years Programme.

The International Baccalaureate® (IB) is a non-profit educational foundation, motivated by its mission, focused on the student.

The IB does not own or manage any schools. Instead, it works with schools around the world (both state and privately funded) that share their commitment to international education.

Authorisation to become an IB World School is an intensive process that typically takes two or more years and includes site visits by an IB team.

A regular process of evaluation is undertaken by schools that have been authorised. For information please visit <http://www.ibo.org/pyp/>

The curriculum is organised under six broad themes and teachers plan and teach one unit under each theme each year.

10) Class Carer

As we grow as a community, it is important that we all work together to maintain a welcoming, inclusive and supportive school environment. Further information regarding this role can be obtained from the 'Carer's Handbook'. Please let your child's class teacher know if you are interested in supporting our school through the class carer program.

11) Parents and Friends

The role of the P&F is to provide a positive and friendly community beyond the classroom through social and fundraising events/activities. If you wish to be part of this group, please stay tuned for meeting times/dates.

All the best for 2019