



# Parent Information Folder A - Z

WARREGO STREET - PMB2

REMARK NORTH, REMARK S.A. 5341

Telephone: 08 8595 3274, 08 8595 3399, 08 8595 3412

Facsimile: 08 8595 3003

Email: [dl.0377.info@schools.sa.edu.au](mailto:dl.0377.info@schools.sa.edu.au)

Website: [www.rennorth.sa.edu.au](http://www.rennorth.sa.edu.au)

Principal: Mary Shannon 0419980491

## Welcome to Renmark North Primary School

We hope that you will soon feel valued as a part of the whole school community, ready to give input and to support the school to continually improve the quality educational offerings.

This folder contains information, which we hope will enable your family to get to know Renmark North Primary School and thereby assist your introduction to our highly successful school, as well as to serve as a 'ready reference' for school policies and procedures.



# Renmark North Primary School

## ATTACHMENTS

THESE WILL ALL BE EXPLAINED BY A SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVE AS A PART OF THE SCHOOL TRANSITION POLICY

- ENROLMENT FORM \*\*
- PERSONAL INFORMATION SHEET \*\*
- HEALTH SUPPORT PLANNING INFORMATION
- PASTORAL CARE WORKER CONSENT FORM \*\*
- GENERAL CONSENT FORM \*\*
- COMPUTER NETWORK POLICY AND AGREEMENT \*\*
- SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE INFORMATION
- ANTI-BULLYING POLICY AND AGREEMENT \*\*

*\*\*Please ensure that these forms are filled out and handed to the front office before your child commences school.*



# Renmark North Primary School

## ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL / ATTENDANCE

Parents and students should make every endeavour to see that students attend school every day. This will enable each student's educational program to proceed smoothly and will not necessitate 'catching up' missed school work. It is preferable for parents to plan family holidays during the school holidays, but we understand if on rare occasions students are missing during the school term. If a student is to be away for a week or longer – for any reason - the school needs be informed (an exemption form needs to be filled in, prior to the absence).

Although we encourage 100% attendance, children should not attend school if they are feeling unwell. Attention can be given to sick children at home as facilities for sick children are very limited at school, especially if there is a number of children feeling unwell.

When a child returns to school after being absent, either a note from parents explaining the absence needs be sent along to the class teacher, or verbal communication must be made - this is a vital part of our legal obligation for children enrolled at school. Family holidays (5 days and over) or pre-planned extended absences due to sickness (3 days and over) require a doctor's certificate, plus Exemption forms to be filled in. Unexpected sickness or injury absences require a doctor's certificate.

Teachers may be able to set work which can be done by the students while away from school.

Enclosed in this folder is a section detailing the symptoms, treatments as well as exclusion periods for common diseases (separate sheet).

Doors open at 8:40am and we encourage children to come into class and prepare for the school day. Our school day commences at 8:50am and it is important that all students are at school before this time, ready to commence on time. A note or message is needed if a student is late, and students need to be taken by their parents/caregivers to sign in at the office. If parents/caregivers are not there, a note will be sent home.

A Renmark North Primary School Attendance Policy brochure is available from the office.

## ADMISSION OF CHILDREN TO SCHOOL

### Enrolment of children - Parent Information

New parents will be shown around the school (preferably as a group) by the Principal, a parent representative or teacher. A time for this will be decided as a result of negotiation between the parents, Preschool and school. Following this, or as part of this session, parents will be invited to discuss the RNPS Information Package, the enrolment form and procedures.



# Renmark North Primary School

## **Age of child at entry to school.**

In South Australia, children are not required to begin formal schooling until they are six, but may enter at Reception at the beginning of each school year provided that they turn 5 by the 30<sup>th</sup> of April.

## **Preschool**

We are fortunate to have a site based Preschool as part of our school. The Preschool follows the National Early Years Learning Framework in a play based environment.

The Preschool and School work together to provide seamless schooling for the children.

Children who have a fourth birthday prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> of May are able to begin Preschool on the first day of Term 1 of that year. All children are eligible to attend two full day and one half day Preschool sessions for that year.

Playgroup is held at the Preschool each Friday for children under four years of age. A parent or guardian must accompany each child. The cost is only a gold coin donation, and participants are asked to bring a piece of fruit, a hat and a water bottle.

## **Non-Reception Children**

New children in Year 1 - 7 may be enrolled at any time. A parent / guardian needs to come with the student at the time of enrolment to speak with school staff and to complete the required forms.

## **Class choice**

Should there be more than one class of the same year level; placement will be made after consideration of:

- \* Class size
- \* Siblings
- \* Social mixture
- \* Physical and Academic Abilities
- \* Individual Student Needs
- \* Availability of classroom space
- \* Parent Input

## **Transition from Preschool to Reception**

As our Preschool is on site, the transition program is ongoing throughout the year. The Preschool and Junior Primary classes combine activity sessions regularly and the Preschool access areas of the school as part of their weekly programme. In Term 4 the Preschool children have timetabled visits to their new classes to familiarise them and their parents with the classroom setting.



# Renmark North Primary School

## APPOINTMENTS WITH TEACHERS

Parents do not need to wait for the formal teacher-parent interviews to speak with teachers about matters concerning their children. Parents are encouraged to communicate with teachers regularly. (It is usually best to make an appointment.)

Office staff will pass on telephone messages to teachers and, if necessary, teachers will return telephone calls during breaks. Please do not take the teacher from a group of students after 8:50am. Discussions need to be arranged for mutually agreed times.

If there are concerns which parents wish to see teachers about, we believe that it is best to attend to them promptly rather than let them continue.

The Principal is available for discussions about any aspect of education, and appointments can be made by telephoning the school.

## ASSEMBLY

The student run assembly is usually held two times during each term and parents are most welcome to join us and observe examples of student work. They are usually held at 2.30pm (sometimes at 9am) in the gymnasium. The dates for assemblies are advertised in the fortnightly school newsletter, which is sent home on a Wednesday.

## BANK

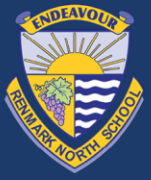
Representatives of the Commonwealth Savings Bank collect the bank money every Tuesday. Children are encouraged to save on a regular basis.

Students can continue with their normal accounts or open a separate account for school banking. An envelope with the information and forms to open an account are part of this package.

## BOOK CLUB

Children are able to purchase books from the Scholastic Book Club through the school. Approximately twice per term, leaflets are sent home listing the books / posters / software / games which are on offer. The leaflets have an order form on the back page and money needs to be included with any orders.

The due date of orders is usually one week from the issue of the booklet. There is no obligation to purchase any of the offers. Book Club orders are also taken through the Preschool. Book Club orders also benefit the school, as a small bonus is given to the school based on family purchases.



# Renmark North Primary School

## CAR PARKING

Parents visiting the school are asked to use the designated car parks, on the road, at the front of the school. This will ensure students are not walking behind cars in the staff car park.

The bus zones are restricted to buses only. Motorists are reminded that there is a speed restriction of 25km/hour past the school. All drivers should exercise maximum caution near the school.

**Please ensure that students use the school crossing and do not cross the road in another spot which may be closer to their parents' car.** Parents need to lead by example and also cross at the crossing. Dangerous situations need to be avoided, and a little care will go a long way.

## CODES OF PRACTICE

**STAFF:** In addition to specific role and responsibility statements, staff will strive to abide by our code of practice which ensures:

- Children are the central focus
- All members of the school community are treated with respect
- That the stated values of our school community are upheld in action
- That the learning needs of students are paramount
- Student voice in decision making is valued
- Learning programs are consistent with the Australian Curriculum
- School and departmental policies are enacted
- All members of the staff actively assume their rights and responsibilities as collaborative decision-makers within the learning community
- Skills and knowledge are continually expanded through self-reflection, seeking constructive feedback and participating in training and development
- A constructive contribution is made to whole school activities
- A constructive contribution is made to developing and sustaining a productive teaching and learning environment.
- All members of the staff endeavour at all times to be part of the solution
- Open communication occurs, and the school's grievance procedures are followed
- Staff accept the democratic decision making process
- Successes are celebrated and time is taken to smell the roses

### **PRINCIPAL:**

The Principal is responsible for the leadership, management and development of the school and its programs. The Principal acts within the relevant Act, regulations, DECD policies and the roles and responsibilities for Principals. In providing effective leadership the Principal will abide by the code of practice identified for Staff and Leadership on our site. In addition he / she will:

- Lead and manage the implementation of the Partnerships Plan



# Renmark North Primary School

- Provide leadership and accurate information and advice to the Governing Council, Staff and Students and ensure that the policies and programs developed in partnership with the community are implemented
- Support all staff to effectively implement DECD and school policies
- Support the development and maintenance of a challenging and purposeful learning environment that encourages, supports and celebrates student achievement
- Ensure an environment of critical collaboration is established where constructive feedback is expected as a tool for the continual review and development of our practices
- Create an environment where individual and team successes, milestones and effort are celebrated and acknowledged
- Ensure that the positive well-being of the staff is considered as critical to the success of the learning programs they provide
- Facilitate the use of innovative and creative learning and teaching strategies, structures and programs to maximize students' learning outcome.
- Ensure a safe and harassment free environment, where student, staff and community voices are heard and acted upon with equal endeavour
- Ensure that principles of equity and merit are applied
- Manage the development and operation of the site's financial and administrative systems
- Actively seek opportunities to promote the school and to further enhance our own school community and the wider communities' perceptions of our learning programs
- Actively work to enhance links with all sectors of the educational and business community.

## **GOVERNING COUNCIL:**

All members of the Governing Council:

- Will act honestly, in good faith, and in the best interests of the school as a whole
- Have a duty to use care and diligence in fulfilling their role
- Must use the powers of office for a proper purpose, in the best interest of the school
- Understand that their main responsibility is to the school as a whole, and where appropriate have consideration for the interests of the whole school community
- Will not make improper use of information acquired as a council member
- Do not take advantage of their role in any way
- Do not allow personal interests, or the interests of any associated person, to conflict with the interests of the school
- Have an obligation to research issues thoroughly
- Have an obligation to be independent in their judgement and actions when making decisions
- Will not act in ways that discredit the school
- Will act in an absolutely confidential manner following legal principles of authorisation
- Will abide by the meeting procedures of the governing council
- Have an obligation to support and implement the decisions of the governing council in line with the principles of this code.

## **CURRICULUM**

Renmark North's educational programme is aligned to the Australian Curriculum with a major emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy.



# Renmark North Primary School

All students at Renmark North Primary School receive 400 minutes of Literacy and Numeracy instruction per week delivered on Mondays – Thursdays.

Friday at Renmark North Primary School is called “Specialisation Day” and throughout the course of the year all students are taught by specialist teachers in the areas of:

Information Technology

Health & PE

HASS – Humanities and Social Sciences (Including Geography & History)

The Arts

From Monday – Thursday students also receive specialist teaching in the areas of Modern Greek, Science and PE.

## The curriculum is supported through:

- Learning Assistance Program (Learning ‘catch up’ as well as talent extension)
- Special Education Programs / Targeted Intervention Programs / EALD – English as a Second Language/Dialect
- Liaison with local Renmark Schools as well as other Riverland Schools, through the Renmark-Loxton Partnership and other local partnerships
- Student Leadership through an effective Student Representative Council
- Student Behaviour Management practices developed as a whole school, including Flexible Learning Levels
- Our STARR values
- Effective parental involvement
- Cyclical review of policies, practices and programs
- Ongoing transition policy
- Students with disabilities supported within and out of classroom settings.
- Active After School programs
- Lunchtime Activities
- Visiting Artists / Presentation Programs
- Better Buddies – a program which aims to create a friendly and caring school
- Play is the Way – a social and emotional learning approach using games, activities and empowering language
- Choir, SAPSASA and Instrumental Music
- Constant use of the Education Dashboard, which allows us to monitor and track students’ progress, and subsequently tailor intervention to students who need it most

## Daily 5

Daily 5 is the structure that Renmark North Primary uses in Literacy lessons. When students participate in Daily 5, they focus on core literacy skills consisting of:

J:\Common\POLICIES PROCESSES PROCEDURES\UPDATED POLICIES & PROCEDURES 2016\RNPS\_InfoBook PARENTS AtoZ 2017.docx





# Renmark North Primary School

- Read to self
- Read to someone
- Listen to reading
- Work on words
- Work on writing

Students are taught a particular skill at the beginning of a lesson and are then given some choice in which Daily 5 activity they would like to take part in. Teachers work with individual students or groups on a particular area of need, while the other students participate in their choice. Daily 5 gives students choice, while offering them time to practise key literacy skills. At Renmark North Primary, we believe that Daily 5 gives students the independent learning skills needed to further their literacy development.

## Literacy CAFÉ

Literacy CAFE complements the Daily 5 structure. It focuses on the way we at Renmark North Primary teach and assess reading and writing. CAFE is an acronym for:

Comprehension: "I understand what I read"

Accuracy: "I can read the words"

Fluency: "I can read accurately and with expression"

Expand vocabulary: "I know, find and use interesting words"

The children learn reading strategies within each category. These strategies become tools for them to use to help themselves become better readers and writers. The CAFE system includes goal setting with students in individual conferences, posting of goals on a whole-class board, developing small group instruction based on clusters of students with similar goals, targeting whole class instruction based on emerging student needs, and fine tuning one on one conferring. This targeted approach to reading and writing allows students to develop skills in their personal area of need.

## Numeracy

At Renmark North Primary School we use Natural Maths as our main philosophy. This approach to the teaching and learning of Mathematics has its roots in research findings, and brings these findings to life through activities that have been found to fully engage students in mathematical discovery, discussion and understanding. As a supplement, we use Envision Maths, which is based on the Australian Curriculum content. With the structure of our lessons around the Natural Maths philosophy and explicit Mathematics instruction based on the Envision program, we provide a well-rounded approach to Mathematics.

## DAILY TIMETABLE

The school day begins at 8.50am. To ensure children are not rushed and are ready to begin the school day, it is advisable for children to be at school no earlier than 8.30 am as supervision does not



# Renmark North Primary School

commence until that time. It is important that students are at school and ready to start at 8:50am so that rolls are marked, notices are given out and morning jobs are done before the first lesson commences at 9.00am. **The timetable is as follows:**

8.50am	Siren for students to enter class
9.00am	First Lesson commences
9.50am	Second Lesson commences
10.40 am	<b>Morning Recess</b>
11.00am	Third Lesson commences
11.50am	Fourth Lesson Commences
12.40 pm	<b>Children eat lunches in or near class areas</b>
12.50pm	<b>Lunch – Play time</b>
1.30pm	Fifth Lesson commences
2.20 pm	Sixth Lesson commences
3:10pm	Final siren. All students dismissed

## DISCIPLINE / BULLYING

We have a very detailed Bullying & Harassment Policy developed with input from school staff, students and parents. The emphasis is on encouraging success and responsibility in children in order that discipline problems are minimised. As far as discipline is concerned, we focus on positive behaviour, and this is recognised by the use of our Flexible Learning Levels in every class. As students climb up the levels they are rewarded by more freedom to choose how and where they can work. The Flexible Learning Levels are linked to our STARR values. If students do not display our values, they stay on the lower end of the Flexible Learning Levels and miss out on choices, fun activities or even attendance at sporting / special events, if their behaviour does not improve.

Children respond very well to the reasonable levels of discipline used in the school, however, if there is a continuing problem parents may be called in to discuss possible courses of action.



# Renmark North Primary School

The school seeks the best for each child and we want all children to feel positive about themselves; to be cooperative and to be able to create options to resolve issues so as not to adversely affect other children's learning.

## EMERGENCY CONTACT RECORD

We ask that all records concerning emergency telephone contacts be filled in at the start of the school year and returned to school as quickly as possible. In the case of child illness or injury it may well be necessary to contact parents. If neither the parent nor the additional emergency contacts can be reached by phone and there is need for medical treatment, the child will be taken to a doctor's surgery or to the Renmark Hospital - by ambulance if necessary.

Where family circumstances change (families change phone numbers, emails or addresses, or the phone number of emergency contacts has changed - especially mobile numbers), parents should contact us immediately so that our records can be kept up to date.

## EXCURSIONS - CAMPS / SLEEP-INS



Our school acknowledges the importance of camps and excursions in providing a balanced, inclusive curriculum to rural students both in and outside of the local community. We believe that learning experiences from outside of the normal school environment, properly planned and linked with the classroom based curriculum, will have the best chance of meeting the needs of students.

We will endeavour to offer this mix of experiences during each student's time with us, however a camp or excursion will not necessarily occur each year. It may be that in some years a number of day trips replace a camp or that a series of activities are held in the school to better meet the learning objectives.

We aim to maximise the benefits of camps and excursions by ensuring that:

Activity, location and the time away are appropriate for the child's level of development.

Junior Primary - Day trips and/or one night sleep-in only (local) / Middle Primary - Day trips, 1 or 2 nights away / Upper Primary - Day trips, or up to 4 nights away

The venue and activities are planned so that all students can participate. i.e. Access, toilet facilities, cultural or religious considerations.



# Renmark North Primary School

The camp or excursion is an integral part of the year/term/block of work, with activities leading up to and following the camp/excursion. Activities may be around a central theme and may cover a number of curriculum areas.

The camp/excursions assists the child with their social skills, including coping with being away from home, sharing accommodation with a bigger group, and being more responsible for organising themselves in an ever widening variety of situations.

Costs are kept at a minimum, with notification to parents at least one term prior for an activity that exceeds \$30.00.

Appropriate student behaviour leading up to and during the camp/excursion is expected. A child will not be guaranteed a place in planned activities unless behaviour is acceptable and our school values are upheld.

Parents are often supportive of the planned activities and we try to make use of their skills. Should parents be invited to go on the camp/excursion as a helper, they may or may not be asked to contribute to the cost, depending on the activities, with arrangements being made prior to the activities. Parents asked to use their own car should expect remuneration for the cost of fuel.

## FEES & CHARGES

### (School Materials and Services Charge)

The school is **dependent** upon the prompt payment of fees by parents for the purchase of equipment and the maintenance of our school curriculum.

The amount charged is very low when it is spread across the whole year, and when it is considered that it covers the purchase of curriculum materials for areas such as art and craft, physical education, library, computing, stationery and photocopying.

The Department for Education and Child Development also provide various grants and the school has a number of fundraisers during the year to assist with the purchase of materials for school.

All families will receive an invoice for each child's Materials and Services Charge during January. The school will be open for two days prior to school resuming for the year for payment of school fees and collection of student's stationery. **All** families are to come into the school during these times to pay their child's fees either in full, or sign an instalment plan, apply for School Card or apply for alternative payment plans.

Centrepay is a voluntary bill-paying service that is free for Centrelink customers. Use Centrepay to arrange regular Deductions from your Centrelink payment.



# Renmark North Primary School

The amount paid to the school is used to pay for school fees or even camps or excursions that are held later in the year.

The payment of the school fee ensures that your child has an adequate supply of their stationery needs for the year, however should items be lost or used at a greater rate than anticipated, then additional items can be purchased from the front office. Stationery sales are available at the front office from 8:30 am to 8:50 am daily. A cash register receipt will be issued for all money paid to the school.

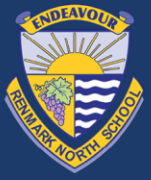
## FIRST AID

Staff members will, as a part of our duty of care, administer minor first aid to students. Should an incident occur, we will send home a brief note explaining the treatment that was administered. Generally, children will not be sent to stay in a sick room (apart from a short rest period). Any child not well enough to be in a classroom setting will have one of their emergency contacts called so that the child can be given proper attention, either at home or under the supervision of the emergency contact.

There are different types of situations that may require students to have medication at school.

1. Severe allergy, ADHD, Diabetes etc. - medication for these are in the Office **with instructions written by student's doctor.**
2. Asthma – An **Asthma Care Plan** must be completed by Doctor, and will be stored in Office. Puffers are kept in the First Aid cupboard in the office. A generic spare Ventolin is kept in the Office for emergencies.
3. Long term medication – needs to come with a **doctor's letter** giving instructions on administration and side effects, and taken to the office where the information will be recorded and medication stored.
4. Short term medication – none will be administered at school. Parent to see Office if concerned.

All medication is to come in the original packaging, with **pharmacy label attached**, showing dose, name of child and valid expiry date. We are unable to store ANY out of date medicines or medication that does not have the above details. We also require a **medication authority either from the pharmacy or the doctor**, even for taking medications on a camp. We are not permitted to give children any Panadol or painkillers.



# Renmark North Primary School

## FUNDRAISERS

Money from fundraising is assigned to particular projects and this is promoted at the time of the event. A range of fundraisers may be held during each year, at different levels (e.g. SRC, class and whole school) in consultation with the Principal, staff and Governing Council.

## GOVERNING COUNCIL

The Governing Council is a very important body within the school. It is a representative body of the parents and staff and works for the welfare of the whole school community.

The Governing Council:

- generally oversees the wellbeing of the school
- advises the principal on the needs of the school as seen by the parents and the community
- notes the facilities and equipment within the school and advises the principal of changes it considers necessary
- gives consideration to the school's general education policy, and advises the principal on the school community's considered view of developments within the school
- advises the principal on the distribution of Government grants
- is actively involved in fundraising
- is an integral part of the decision making process within the school
- has a committee structure to carefully investigate and implement change (i.e. Grounds, Finance, Fundraising, Sports)

The Annual General Meeting of the Governing Council is held at the beginning of each year. All parents are invited to attend. Governing Council meets approximately twice a term. The Governing Council represents the parent point of view. If you have anything you want raised, please advise a member of Governing Council or the Principal. A list of Governing Councillors is printed at the front of this handbook, is published in school newsletters & is available on our website.

## GRIEVANCE ISSUES / FEEDBACK

We want to hear from you when:

- you think we're doing something well - **a compliment**
- you want to know something - **a question**
- you think we could do things differently - **a concern**
- you're unhappy about something - **a complaint**



# Renmark North Primary School

If a parent of our school has a concern about a student who is not their child, the parent must not approach that particular student but talk to a staff member or Principal about their concerns.

## **Parents must not directly approach other students**

We understand that people with a concern or complaint may feel angry, frustrated and upset. So that we can work together to fix the problem, we need to:

- Stay calm
- Focus on the problem, not the person
- Look for answers to suit everyone
- Be prepared to try suggestions

## **Grievance Procedure**

Good relationships within the school community give children a greater chance of success. However in the event of a grievance, the following guidelines should be used.

## **Principles of our Policy**

- ❖ Everyone is to be treated with respect.
- ❖ All communication is respectful and individuals are not to be spoken about unkindly or unjustly through rumour or innuendo (this includes in the use of social media).
- ❖ Meetings to discuss grievances will be suspended if any person(s) behave in an insulting or offensive manner.

<b>STUDENTS With grievance should...</b>	<b>PARENTS/CAREGIVERS With grievance should...</b>
<b>STEPS:</b> 1. <b>If you feel okay to do so</b> talk to the person about the problem, or ask a friend to help 2. Talk to the teacher or SSO about the problem at an appropriate time 3. If you feel uncomfortable, speak to someone, "with whom you feel comfortable with." 4. If issue is unresolved, speak to your parent(s) / caregivers	<b>STEPS:</b> 1. Arrange a time to speak to the relevant teacher(s) about the problem. 2. Let the teacher know what you consider to be the unjust or unfair action. 3. Allow reasonable timeframe for issue to be addressed. 4. If the grievance is not addressed arrange a time to speak with the Principal or Counsellor. 5. <i>A Parent Guide to Raising a Concern or Complaint</i> given to every parent who raises a concern or complaint.

## **Note: Parents with a grievance towards a Renmark North Primary School staff member can:**

- # Arrange a meeting time with the Principal / School Counsellor to discuss their concern.
- # Allow a reasonable time frame for the issue to be addressed.

If the issue has not been resolved after meeting with Principal / School Counsellor:

**Parent Complaint Hotline is: 1800677435**

It is important that these concerns are dealt with in a confidential manner.



# Renmark North Primary School

When the matter is discussed in the student's hearing, it is important that the student understands you have confidence the issue will be resolved confidently at the school level. The school can only deal with the issues that are raised in the ways outlined above. If we do not receive information then we assume all is well.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

You will not be discriminated against if you make a complaint. All staff are bound by the Code of Ethics for the South Australian Public Sector, which requires staff to act impartially, fairly and equitably.

You can ask for your identity to be confidential when making a complaint. However, keep in mind:

- this may limit options for investigating and negotiating a resolution
- while every effort will be made to comply with your request, freedom of information requirements may result in your identity becoming known.

## POSITIVE PARENT RELATIONSHIPS

Respect between parents and staff helps build good relationships and encourages positive outcomes.

## HAT POLICY

Our school has developed a hat policy after much consultation with our school community. With all the factual information about the damage sun can do, (even leading to life-threatening situations in later life), we should ensure there is adequate protection for students. Children **must** wear wide-brimmed hats at all times when they go outside the school buildings. Children not wearing hats must go to a shade area near the swimming pool. Hats must be Royal Blue or Navy Blue. No additional logos / words / pictures or other adornment, excluding the school logo, are allowed on the main body of the hat.

These measures have been taken to protect the children's skin which often seems to show the after effects of over-exposure to the sun many years later. Parents are also advised that children should not wear sleeveless tops and that sunscreen is recommended for days of high UV penetration.

## HISTORY

### The Founding of the Renmark North School

**(Reprinted from the Jubilee Celebrations Booklet 11th - 13th October 1974)**

It was in February 1924, that Mr. V.T. McLean became aware that the Director of Education, Mr. McCoy, was to pay a visit to the Renmark district. Realising that this would be an ideal opportunity





# Renmark North Primary School

to press the claims for a school at Renmark North, he convened a public meeting at the Methodist Hall in Barwon Street.

At this meeting, which was attended by about sixty people and their children in a picnic atmosphere, a Committee was formed to pursue the idea of establishing a school in the area. In March, Mr. McCoy was invited to attend a meeting of parents at which the principal speakers, Mr. McLean and Mr. Ash, outlined the need for a local school. Following this meeting the Director agreed to provide a teacher if use of the Block E hall (then in the course of erection) could be secured. After negotiations with the Church authorities concerned, this was arranged, and the school commenced in October 1924 with Mr. F. Jennings as Head Teacher.

Some interesting comments are revealed by a perusal of reports by the District Inspector, and one such gentleman had this to say in the very early days:

“The pupils show signs of outback pioneering conditions and they need special training in various points of tidiness and orderly habits. The moral tone is quite good in a rough and ready sort of way but the pupils are somewhat more heedless and careless than I usually meet.”

However we need not despair, as progress is in sight! A few years later another inspector commented: “Pupils are in very good toilet and all the children are shod.” (Must have been a farrier around).

## **Further historical notes:**

The Block E Hut was used as a school building from 1926 until 1928. At one stage, accommodation was so over taxed that a third of the children in turn were taught in a bough shed to relieve the situation in the hall. Here we had what was probably the very first Open Space Unit in South Australia. Very Open!

In June 1928, the school staff doubled by the appointment of a young red-headed girl as Assistant Teacher, and Mary Bibby began a long and happy association with the children and parents of the district. She is still remembered with affection by the older members of the community.

Some time prior to this, a deputation consisting of Messrs. V. Mclean, E Pitt, W. Wood, N. Newstead and J. Snook had waited on the Minister of Education, Mr McIntoch, at Parliament House, requesting that a more permanent stone school be constructed. This was agreed to and the present stone building was opened in July 1928.

Mr R Pfennig, the Head Teacher, and Miss Bibby transferred from the old hut to the new school. After a few months, Mr Pfennig was succeeded by Mr A.W. Lott, who remained in charge of the school until 1936.

Mention must also be made of Mr Ned Mitchell who served as an assistant at the school in the 1930s. He developed the school band, and by his enthusiastic leadership made it one of the finest in



# Renmark North Primary School

the State. He was also responsible for the school sporting teams becoming a force to be reckoned with in the district.

The school expanded in numbers and made steady progress in the following years, much of it under the guidance of Mr J.R. Barnes, who served as Head Teacher for a period of eleven years.

In 1961 Miss Bibby apparently decided that she had had enough and transferred to Darlington after a record term of thirty three years at this school.

A highlight in the history of the school was the establishment of a filtered swimming pool, which was opened by the director of Education (Mr Mander Jones) in 1962. The pool was completed at a cost of 1,300 (\$2,600) and a "considerable amount of voluntary labour." The swimming pool largely owes its existence to a great deal of effort by the Headmaster, Mr L. E. Baxter, the school committee chairperson Mr K. M. Edmonds and the parents of the school.

On completion of the new five teacher Open Space Unit, the staff and children moved in on February, 1973. This bright and attractive modern building is a far cry from the bough shed of the early days. At the same time the old stone building was upgraded and refurnished to provide an attractive location for other classes.

A new gym was opened on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May, 2004, thanks to the huge effort of the then Principal Peter Hunter, who was supported by the Governing Council. A new library and pre-school followed in 2010, funded by the Federal Government.

There is a long history of fundraising activities, made possible by the tremendous support of the school and wider community. The school's annual Continental, which still takes place, began in 1957, while an annual Greek 'Taverna' began in 1977 and continued for over 30 years.

Walking around the school grounds today, there is no doubt that the Renmark North Primary School has come a long way from its inception over 90 years ago.

## Renmark North Head Teachers / Principals (Site Leaders)

<b>1924</b>	F. Jennings	<b>1955-56</b>	W.J. Kerslake	<b>1972 – 74</b>	M.I. Cowan
<b>1925</b>	P. A. Read	<b>1956-5</b>	W. Tucker	<b>1975</b>	T. Denman
<b>1926-28</b>	R. Pfennig	<b>1958-59</b>	H.A. Brokate	<b>1978 – 80</b>	T. Niemann
<b>1928-36</b>	A.W. Lott	<b>1960-63</b>	L.E. Baxter	<b>1981</b>	R. Kemp
<b>1937-48</b>	J.R. Barnes	<b>1964-66</b>	B.B. Barclay	<b>1982 – 88</b>	J. Simmons / (P. Maxwell – part 1989)
<b>1948</b>	R.P. Koehne	<b>1967-69</b>	W.A. Lewis	<b>1990 – 94</b>	M. Dunn
<b>1949-51</b>	A.W. Morris	<b>1970</b>	H. Donnelly		
<b>1952-5</b>	K.A.M. McCormick	<b>1970 – 71</b>	R.C. Slater		



# Renmark North Primary School

**1995** J. Chase / V. Skelton

**1996 - 2011** P. Hunter / (J. Trobbiani – 2011)

**2012 - 2016** G. Platt / (P. Panagiotopoulos – part 2016)

**2017** M. Shannon

## 1924 \* Jubilee Celebrations \* 1974

In October of 1999, the School Community joined together to celebrate 75 years of education at Renmark North Primary School. Our 1999 Continental was part of the celebrations and over 1000 people attended on the Friday Night. Over the Saturday and Sunday, hundreds of past scholars and interested people attended our roll call, displays, tree plantings, the lowering of a capsule and the highly successful formal dinner. Memorial plaques were also erected at the sites of the Chaffey and Block E schools.

A 140 page history book was produced with input from all decades of the school's life.

## HOT AND WET WEATHER

If the predicted temperature for the day, from the previous night's news report, is 38 degrees or more, the Principal (or a nominated person) may declare a Hot Weather Day.

Days less than 38 degrees may also be declared as hot weather, should other conditions make the day inappropriate for outside play.

This will be documented in the staff Day Book and three sirens will be rung at each break.

### **If the hot weather siren rings:**

Junior Primary yard duty teacher – is responsible for Unit 2 area.

Upper Primary yard duty teacher – is responsible for Unit 1 area.

Students in the transportable class will need to go to Unit 1.

If the weather changes to enable children to play outside then the rostered yard duty teacher/s will ring the siren.

NB: the above steps are the same as our Wet Weather Policy

### **In addition to this:**





# Renmark North Primary School

There will be no sport lessons held outside.

This should be read in conjunction with our No Hat No Play Policy, which covers other aspects of keeping students safe.

While our school is air-conditioned, it does not always function as well as we would like and on particularly hot days - or a string of hot days, the inside temperature and humidity quickly rises. It is a parent's decision about whether a child stays home in hot weather, however consistent with other local schools, the temperature would be at least 38° C and students would normally be collected from 12.15pm.

The only time the school would close early would be in the event of a series of hot days where the air-conditioning was not functioning - notification would be sent home should this occur.

## LIBRARY

Our library is well stocked for a school our size. Reception and Year One children can borrow two books for one week while older children can borrow three books for two weeks.

Books can be very expensive to purchase and it is essential that when books are borrowed, the children do their best to ensure they are not damaged, and the life of books is not shortened. We recommend that children bring a Library bag to help protect the books that they have borrowed. If books are lost or damaged beyond repair, parents are asked to help meet the replacement cost of the books.

## LOST PROPERTY

**Parents are asked to label their children's clothing, lunch boxes and water bottles.** Students or parents who want to see if lost clothing has been handed in should inquire at the front office or visit the lost property area, the Unit 2 verandah.

A display of items found around the school is advertised each term (usually following the last assembly of the term) and we encourage parents to view the items.

We accumulate a very sizeable stock of lost property each year. Any items not claimed are eventually donated to local charities.

## LUNCHES

Children are to bring lunch from home. Each class has access to a refrigerator for the safe





# Renmark North Primary School

storage of food. Individual classes have monitors appointed to deliver / collect items for 'cold' storage.

Friday is Special Lunch Day. Special Lunch is advertised every Monday by a note home with the oldest child in the family; orders need to be at the front office by Wednesday of every week by 3:30pm. Special lunches are usually \$3 a week or \$18 for the term unless otherwise specified.

## MEDICATIONS

It is vital that parents record all known medical conditions on the forms sent home with this package. Schools **cannot** administer medications without written approval and in some cases we require written directions from a medical practitioner. **Please do not send medications assuming that we will be able to administer them.** The legal ramifications around incorrect administration of medications are incredible and we must not administer any medicine without the express permission of parents - this includes Panadol. Often, however, arrangements can be made for children to self administer asthma medications - but we need to be kept informed.

Should your child's medical needs change, it is vital that the school is notified so that we can take the best possible care of your children.

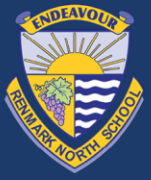
## MUSIC

Music is an important part of the general school curriculum offered to all students as they move through their schooling. Some students, however, wish to extend their musical abilities through specialised tuition, in a more specific area than what the general curriculum can offer.

Offers to learn an orchestral instrument are made to students at the end of the school year, ready for the next year. This is generally only available for Year 5 to Year 7 students, and may involve a commitment by parents to travel to Renmark, as well as the costs to purchase or hire an instrument and purchase music sheets. Some private tuition is available at school and this is also advertised through the newsletter.

## NEWSLETTER

The school newsletter is distributed by email fortnightly on Wednesdays. It is also uploaded to the Renmark North Primary School's Facebook page. The newsletter provides a ready form of communication to the school community (and beyond) of events within the school and our area. If you have any news you want included, it should be left at the school's front office by Monday.



# Renmark North Primary School

The newsletter is also available via a link on the school's website page. Just go to [www.rennorth.sa.edu.au](http://www.rennorth.sa.edu.au) and click on the newsletter link at the bottom of the homepage.

A few copies of the newsletter are available from the front office, for those who wish to have a hard copy.

## PARENT INVOLVEMENT

We welcome parents being involved in our school. It is most important that we all work closely together for the benefit of our school and especially for the benefit of the students within it. We invite parents to share in the school education of their children and at the same time, to become acquainted with the curriculum and educational methods. All people have knowledge and skills and a lot of these may be both interesting and educational for all of our students.

Some ways in which parents and other adults may consider becoming involved are:

- helping on special days, Special Lunches (Fridays)
- assistance with fundraising
- volunteering to hear reading or working with small groups in different curriculum areas (Our Learning Assistance Program is regularly looking for volunteers)
- assistance with school camps
- join the Governing Council
- supporting special occasions when parents are invited to school for educational or social reasons

Remember, Renmark North Primary School belongs to all of us - students, parents, staff members and the wider community. We all need to be working for its well-being and to be proud of it. It is an important part of our community.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

School photographs are taken each year and these provide a good reminder of the earlier school years as well as being excellent gifts for relatives.

Photographs are also taken on an individual and family basis.

There is no obligation to purchase any of the photographs.



# Renmark North Primary School

## RECYCLING

Our school has a recycling program in each class. At this stage, we are only able to support in-class recycling of paper.

## REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS

Student work is often on displayed in classrooms as well as around the school (i.e. the excellence board). We encourage parents to visit and view students' work at any time.

### Term 1

Early in Term 1 we hold a "Get to know you" evening. This provides an opportunity for staff, parents and students to meet on an informal basis. The teachers prepare a summary of their classroom routines and basic subjects. A BBQ tea is provided and the pool is usually made available for the children. The Governing Council AGM is usually held on this night, just before the BBQ. Parent / Teacher interviews are also held, later in Term 1, where teachers and parents get together to hear and discuss the progress of the student at school. Several nights are set aside and parents can choose one of these to come along to and be given an update of their child's progress in each subject area, as well as study habits and their social interaction. The parent receives a record of these achievements. If there are areas that the teacher and/or parents believe need some extra attention, a plan of action is worked out so that parents, student and teacher, together, can work towards the best educational outcome.

### Term 2

A formal mid-year report is sent home at the end of the term.

### Term 3

Towards the end of Term 3, a block of time is set aside so that a child's teacher and/or parent can request an interview. A mutually convenient time is arranged so that progress, and any necessary action, can be further discussed.

### Term 4

A detailed written report is sent home in the last week of term. It provides an overview of progress in all areas of school life throughout the year.



# Renmark North Primary School

## SCHOOL BUSES

Our school is served by several bus runs. Details as to where these buses run will be available during the transition meetings or can be discussed directly with the front office / school principal.

To be eligible to catch the bus, you must reside more than 5 kilometres from the school by the most direct route and not bypass another government school. You are able to check your eligibility with the bus manager.

Everyone is asked to give maximum cooperation in seeing the buses keep to their schedules by being at the bus stop five minutes before the bus is due to arrive.

Students will be reminded about the importance of cooperating with the school bus driver. Drivers have a very responsible job and their attention must not be diverted. Parents are asked to back up the school's efforts in seeing that responsible behaviour is shown by students.

Students not following the school bus rules may receive a verbal warning, a written warning or a suspension from the school buses depending on the nature of the infringement.

A copy of the rules for students travelling on buses is enclosed in this package.

## SCHOOL CARD

School Card is a scheme to provide assistance for educational expenses for full time students of low income families. The allowance covers the full school fee, if approved.

### **Families are eligible if:**

A Centrelink Customer Reference Number is provided from a Health Care Card or Pension Concession Card, and combined gross family income is within the School Card income limits. Financial Hardship application forms are also available. Further information can be obtained from the front office.

## SCHOOL DENTIST

A Government dental service is based at Berri, at the Riverland Oral Health Centre, co-located at the Riverland General Hospital. The check-ups and treatment are free of cost, up to a limit. Parents who want their children to receive check-ups and treatment will have filled out the necessary forms soon after their children started school.





# Renmark North Primary School

## SCHOOL STATEMENT

Renmark North Primary School is located approximately 10 km from the township of Renmark and is nestled amongst vineyards and fruit properties.

Our school occupies a large area which includes two ovals, two playgrounds, a pool, netball/basketball courts, a gymnasium, Science Room, Library and Computer Room. Our preschool is located on-site. Playgroup, for children aged four and under, takes place at the preschool site every Friday morning.

We instil our STARR values: Success, Teamwork, Acceptance, Respect and Responsibility; and pride ourselves on the diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds of our school community.

Lessons are structured so that students have a minimum of 100 minutes a day for both Literacy and Numeracy, four days a week. We follow the Daily 5, Literacy Café, Words Their Way and the Seven Steps to Writing approach, while in Maths we use Natural Maths and Envision. Targeted students receive specialised intervention. Additionally, we follow the Play is the Way program, which is a practical methodology for teaching social and emotional learning using guided play, classroom activities and an empowering language.

Science/Health & P.E. and Modern Greek are taught for a further 100 minutes per week, while on Fridays we offer our Specialisation program, which includes The Arts, HASS (Humanities and Social Sciences – including History and Geography), Health & P.E. and Technologies.

Extra curricula activities include Choir, SAPSASA and Instrumental Music.

All students are expected to read at home daily and record this in their Reading Log. Year 3-7 students are also expected to practise (and record) their Times Tables at home, at least three times a week.

As part of our behaviour management, each class has its own Flexible Learning Levels chart. Students achieve higher levels on the chart when displaying positive behaviour. Students who are operating at the top levels are able to negotiate with the teacher, when it comes to designing where and how they can work most effectively.

We have a focus on data collection which shows students' progress in the areas of Maths, Reading, Attendance rates, Well-being, and School and Community Engagement. Most of this data is easily accessed through the Education Dashboard, allowing us to monitor and track students' progress.

In 2016, a decision was made for our school to join the majority of Riverland schools in a new venture, based on Professor John Hattie's Visible Learning approach. This venture will commence in 2017 and continue for three years. Staff are very excited by this prospect, which in other schools has revolutionised education and improved student outcomes dramatically.

Our family and community involvement is strong, and students are at the centre of everything we do.

## SOCIAL MEDIA



# Renmark North Primary School

In addition to our website, our school has an official Facebook page. Details of upcoming events, the newsletter and any other news from the school will be uploaded on a regular basis.

The school will also send out regular text messages regarding any information or reminders to parents. Please ensure that the school has your correct mobile number.

## STUDENTS' REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

We have an S.R.C. in the school that represents all students. Each class has two members on the S.R.C., which meets regularly. Each class also holds meetings at which ideas are raised. These are taken to the S.R.C. and discussed. Staff members oversee the meetings.

The S.R.C. encourages close liaison between students and staff. Students have the chance to develop skills in meeting procedure, speaking, listening and negotiating. Children are able to exercise responsibility and develop a deeper commitment to the development of the school.

## SWIMMING

All children have the opportunity to participate in lessons run by trained instructors. The aim of these lessons is to develop both confidence and safety. Formal lessons are held in the Renmark town pool in either Term 1 or Term 2, or at our own pool. When our own school pool is operational, classes take turns in using it during the warmer months, as part of our Physical Education program.

## TERM DATES

### 2017

Term 1 30<sup>th</sup> January – 13<sup>th</sup> April

Term 2 1<sup>st</sup> May – 7<sup>th</sup> July

Term 3 24<sup>th</sup> July – 29<sup>th</sup> September

Term 4 16<sup>th</sup> October – 15<sup>th</sup> December

### 2018

Term 1 29<sup>th</sup> January – 13<sup>th</sup> April

Term 2 30<sup>th</sup> April – 6<sup>th</sup> July

Term 3 23<sup>rd</sup> July – 28<sup>th</sup> September

Term 4 15<sup>th</sup> October – 14<sup>nd</sup> December

## TRANSITION

Before starting school, there is a program for children (and parents) to gradually become more familiar with school. Through preschool, each child develops a 'feel' for school by taking part in some combined lessons with the Junior Primary classes before actually starting school.



# Renmark North Primary School

This transition policy is detailed under the section “Admission of Children to School”

The Transition from Year 7 to Year 8 (high school) is planned each year and input from parents is most welcome. This transition process will be published in the school newsletter and sent to parents of Year 7 students.

## UNIFORM - DRESS CODE

Our school, with the support of the School Governing Council, actively promotes and expects children to wear the school colours - **royal blue / navy blue and gold / yellow**. It helps to enhance pride in the school and develops a spirit of unity within the school.

**Suggestions:** Navy or royal blue – tops / shorts (no short denim shorts) / skirts / skorts / tracksuit pants

Gold/yellow as alternate top - No sleeveless tops, Plain single colours, No badges / labels / stripes on main body of garment (excluding the school logo), Jeans permitted – but they need to be neat & tidy - not ripped or with ragged edges.

**The School Dress Code will also be expected in the following activities:**

Excursions, SAPSASA Sports Representation, School Representative functions/activities, i.e. Remembrance Day, Local Media, School Photographs, Camps – where the organisers of the camp will make clear when School Dress Code is needed (i.e. trip to Rundle Mall – yes, but not necessarily for on-site camp activities).

Hats – in school colours with the emblem, available for purchase from the front office.

A supply of pre-used clothes is available from the front office at very reasonable prices.

Parents are able to purchase the school tops from Tri-State Graphics or Yates Menswear in Renmark.

On Fridays, unless on a school excursion or camp, students may wear a top from a club/group they belong to (e.g. soccer top, SAPSASA top). This is a way of promoting the importance of extra-curricular activities, as we believe these clubs contribute to the development of our students into well-rounded members of the community. They can't wear a top of a team they support – they must be in the team themselves.

## VALUES - STARR VALUES

### Success



'Have-A-Go' - Persisting - Setting Achievable Goals

Being and Doing your Best

### Team Work

Working with Others - Listening - Cooperating

### Acceptance

Being different is OK - Being Flexible and Open Minded

Understanding and Appreciating Others

### Respect

Yourself - Others - People's Property

Treat others as you want to be treated



### Responsibility

Being Responsible for your Actions - Caring and Sharing

Being a Good Role Model





# Renmark North Primary School

## VISION

Renmark North Primary School: Empowering all students to become life-long learners who are responsible, productive and engaged citizens, striving for their personal best in our ever-changing world.

## WE BELIEVE:

<p><b>Our school should be a place where CHILDREN:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feel safe.</li> <li>• Are happy and enjoy being here.</li> <li>• Are responsible for their behaviour.</li> <li>• Learn to the best of their ability.</li> <li>• Learn without interruption from others.</li> <li>• Strive to do their best.</li> <li>• Receive support and encouragement as they face challenges.</li> <li>• Are involved in decisions which affect them.</li> <li>• Feel comfortable in their dealings with staff.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Our school should be a place where PARENTS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feel welcome and comfortable in discussing their children's development.</li> <li>• Feel part of a team helping their children.</li> <li>• Are informed of student and school activities on a regular basis.</li> <li>• Know teachers are giving their children a high quality education.</li> <li>• Feel confident in expressing their opinions in the knowledge that their opinions are valued and will be fully considered.</li> <li>• Are able to contribute their skills and knowledge for the well-being of the school.</li> <li>• Are encouraged by staff and children to be effective participants.</li> <li>• Are able to make use of school facilities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Our school should be a place where STAFF:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help all children learn to the best of their abilities, taking into account the different needs of boys and girls, varying economic backgrounds, cultural differences and varying intellectual and physical disabilities.</li> <li>• Provide an environment that is conducive to learning.</li> <li>• Help all children to feel safe.</li> <li>• Support each other.</li> <li>• Enjoy their work.</li> </ul> <p><b>Our school should be a place where STAFF:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate positively with parents.</li> <li>• Are approachable by students and parents.</li> <li>• Are trusted by students and parents.</li> <li>• Care for and respect their students and their students' parents.</li> <li>• Are good, positive examples to their students.</li> <li>• Are loyal to the school community.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Our school should be a place where the CURRICULUM:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotes a feeling of self-worth among students.</li> <li>• Promotes a respect for and appreciation of differences in people.</li> <li>• Allows for development of negotiation and decision making skills among students.</li> <li>• Is interesting, relevant and challenging.</li> </ul> <p><b>Our school should be a place where the CURRICULUM:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides a variety of learning experiences among children.</li> <li>• Provides for the academic, physical and social development of all children.</li> <li>• Provides each child with a core of factual knowledge on which later knowledge and skills can be built.</li> <li>• Helps children understand technology.</li> <li>• Helps children to prepare for the future in terms of work, leisure, rights and</li> </ul>



# Renmark North Primary School

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Are at ease in their work environment.</li><li>• Are committed to their professional learning</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>responsibilities.</li><li>• Provides for learning experiences outside the school.</li></ul>
---	---

## Our school should be a place where FACILITIES:

- Are safe, clean and well-maintained within a pleasant learning environment.
- Enhance the learning of children.
- Complement the school curriculum.
- Provide children with fun, while being practical and purposeful.
- Are treated with respect by all users.
- Are adequate for use by all children.
- Are adequately supervised when used.
- Are available for community use.

## WEBSITE

Our website is: [www.rennorth.sa.edu.au](http://www.rennorth.sa.edu.au)

In it you will find a wealth of information about our school, including hyperlinks to DECD policies.