



COVID-19 March 31st Principal's Update

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

I want to start this Parent Communication by thanking you all for the support you have shown the school during these unprecedented times. Our staff team have really appreciated the positive notes, comments and feedback on their efforts over the course of the past few weeks. It is a testament to the strength of the Immanuel Primary Community that we remain so well connected during this time of social distancing. We realise the fast changing circumstances are producing challenges of different types for many of our families, and we wish all of you and your family's good health and best wishes for the coming weeks.

On Sunday evening, the Federal Government added restrictions to increase community isolation. The Prime Minister also encouraged parents to keep their children at home, if they were able to do so rather than sending them to School. However, the SA Minister for Education's advice based on SA Health information is that schools, apart from those in the Barossa Valley, should be operating. We are trying to support both announcements the best that we can.

For students learning at home

We are ready to offer our IPS@home learning model as our preferred method of learning. With many students already learning from home we have begun the process of uploading learning engagements for students at home and doing live class sessions. This soft launch will continue throughout Week 10 and 11. We will continue to strengthen it over the next few days as we continue with our trials and curriculum development. If your child is at home this week, please ensure they access their learning through seesaw or google classroom. Please contact their teachers if you are unsure of anything. From this Thursday, 2nd April, IPS@home will be our preferred method of learning for students at home and school. Teachers will be responding to questions and giving feedback virtually. Teachers will be providing instruction, guidance, and assistance through either seesaw, zoom or google classroom. Moving to this model now allows us to address any issues and strengthen our online learning model in preparation for future school closures.

For students learning at school in Week 10 (this week)

We will continue to support those parents who work in essential services who are unable to supervise their children at home. Where possible and practical, we are now encouraging families to access our IPS@home online learning from home. If you are in a position to keep your child at home, please know that we support this decision and we look forward to supporting your child's learning virtually. From Thursday, 2nd April, children will be supervised at school whilst they complete their IPS@home learning for the day. For our early learners we will also provide some additional engagements.

Where possible we want to support the new measures surrounding 'social distancing' to keep as many staff and students safe. We understand this is a process in itself and the remaining students will need time to say goodbye to their friends and teachers. Please advise your child's teacher if it is their last day so the teacher can ensure they have the resources they need to be successful from home.

Please note - Year 5 and 6 teachers will be trialling IPS@home tomorrow from their own homes. We will supervise any Year 5 and 6 students at school as they engage in their first full IPS@home learning day.

Children of essential workers at school in Week 11

For children of essential workers, we will be open until Wednesday, Week 11 and at this stage, we will start again on Tuesday, 28th April.

Thank you for completing the survey last weekend as this has supported us in planning for how the supervision will work.

For all learners

On Wednesday, 8th April, (Week 11), we will trial a whole school IPS@home day for all students in preparation for Term 2. This will allow us to test all systems and processes that we have in place. Essential worker's children can be supervised at IPS for this. Over the next few days, you will be receiving more information on how IPS@home will work. You will receive weekly overviews that include specialists and an explanation of how a day will work.

The IPS ICT Helpdesk will be operating during school hours. The Helpdesk will be publishing helpsheets to walk parents through solving technical problems students may encounter whilst using their iPads at home. These will be available through a website that IPS will make available in week 11. The helpdesk can be contacted by email: helpdesk@immanuelps.sa.edu.au or by phone: 82948422 ext 411

Our teachers, support staff and leadership team are working incredibly hard to ensure your child has quality learning experiences and also that they have feedback on their learning in a timely manner.

To support ongoing learning please note:

- Staff will attempt to respond to emails and online learning posts within 24 hours. It is not possible for teachers to give instant feedback and reply to all children and their families within a short period of time. Please bear with us when there might be delays.
- Teachers will typically respond to emails and learning during the school day (8:30 am - 4 pm). Outside of these hours, they will be involved in curriculum planning, assessment and feedback as well as having their own breaks.
- Staff will not be available to give additional learning tasks over the weekends or during the April holidays as they need a break too. If it is necessary you can always email the principal@immanuelps.sa.edu.au address for confidential or urgent matters.
- Not every submitted learning task will be given written or verbal feedback. At times there will be acknowledgement of learning through a tick/like or short comment. Teachers will provide feedback on a range of learning samples to support student learning and growth across all curriculum areas.
- Teachers will be 'offline' next Monday and Tuesday as they collaboratively develop their Term 2 online learning curriculum. Teachers will upload a few learning tasks but the time will mainly be used for finishing off and any incomplete Term 1 learning tasks. Please use Monday and Tuesday to set up your child/ren's home learning spaces.
- On Wednesday, 8th April, (Week 11) we will be trialling an IPS@home day with all students accessing the live zoom session and a few modified learning tasks.
- Thursday will be a pupil free day as previously planned. Camp Australia is open on Thursday 9th April for care from 7am-6pm. Bookings are essential.

If you have a child/ren in our Early Learner Centre, you will be receiving a separate letter today. Thank you again for all your support over recent weeks. I am very proud of our staff and students in what have been challenging circumstances.

God's Blessings,
Bec Clements