

Kindergarten Handbook



Reimagine Life's Possibilities

Table of Contents

Welcome	1
Vision and Mission	2
Term Dates	2
Uniform Shop Dates	2
Getting Ready For School	3
General Information	4
Food Allergies	6
First Day	7
Ways You Can Help	8
Reporting On Your Child's Progress	9
Emmanuel Staff	10
Curriculum	11
The Learning Program	12



Welcome to Emmanuel Kindergarten



We hope that this year will be the beginning of a long and enjoyable partnership with you as we journey together in providing high quality Christian education for your child.

Kindergarten is an exciting and rewarding year for children, their parents and teachers. The Kindergarten year helps children to develop confidence and the ability to concentrate and co-operate with others. It is a year which sets the foundations for the development of literacy, numeracy and problem-solving skills.

This brochure contains information to answer questions you may have concerning your child's first year at our school and offers suggestions to help with preparation for this exciting new adventure.

Emmanuel is a Christian Education National School. As such, we welcome the involvement of parents in the life and support of the school. We believe that the school and the home form a partnership, each contributing to the total education and wellbeing of your child.

Amanda Sargent

Kindergarten Teacher



It is a joy to welcome you to the start of your child's educational journey at Emmanuel Christian School.

At Emmanuel, we strive to provide the highest quality Christ centred education that prepares and equips your child for life. With a holistically driven approach, students learn to thrive and value life long learning. The early years of education are foundational to your child's development and we value partnering with you during these formative years and are delighted that you have chosen to be a part of our Emmanuel Community.

This is a very exciting time for your child as they embark on developing to their full God given potential and we value who they are and who God created them to be. We are looking forward to seeing the gifts and talents they have been blessed with and know they will be a wonderful addition to our Primary School. As the Head of Primary, it is my role to continue to see our students flourish in the Primary school, working alongside teachers and families to make the most out of their educational journey. I am looking forward to meeting with you and seeing your child grow while in our care.

Laura Ferguson

Head of Primary

Vision and Mission

Our Vision

To be a transformational Christian learning community.

Our Mission

To provide the highest quality Christ-centred education that prepares and equips students for life.

Our Core Values

FAITH, HOPE and LOVE. But the greatest of these is LOVE. – 1 Corinthians 13:13

Faith – Faith comes from hearing and trusting the message about Jesus.

Hope – Hope is the knowledge that this world is not all there is, looking forward to Jesus return.

Love – We are to love others deeply and put others before ourselves.

Our School Values

Courage, Integrity and Respect.

Courage – The determination and resilience to get up and go again.

Integrity – Doing what is right, even when no-one else is watching.

Respect – Showing honour and consideration by putting others before ourselves.

Term Dates for 2023

A comprehensive list of dates is available via the calendar on our website.

Please visit: emmanuel.tas.edu.au/calendar

Term One commences	Monday 6 February
Public Holiday (Regatta Day)	Monday 10 February
Public Holiday (Eight Hour Day)	Monday 13 March
Term One concludes	Wednesday 5 April
Term Two commences	Wednesday 26 April
Public Holiday (Queen's Birthday)	Monday 12 June
Term Two concludes	Friday 7 July
Term Three commences	Thursday 27 July
Student free day	Friday 1 September
Term Three concludes	Friday 29 September
Term Four commences	Monday 16 October
Public Holiday (Hobart Show Day)	Thursday 26 October
Student free day	Friday 27 October
Term Four concludes	Wednesday 20 December



Uniform Shop Dates

For all Uniform Shop opening hours please visit the calendar via our website

emmanuel.tas.edu.au/calendar. Uniform orders may be placed at the office. Hats, socks and stockings are available to purchase from the office anytime.

Getting ready for school during the holidays

- Prepare yourself and your child for separation. If your child is not used to being away from the family perhaps organise for them to spend time at friends or relatives houses without you before school starts.
- Talk with your child about the interesting experiences school will offer - new friends, new games, new equipment to play on etc...
- Talk to your child about what is likely to happen during the day.
- Drive past the school and familiarise your child with the route and how they will travel to and from school and who will be bringing and collecting them.
- Have a trial run at getting your child ready for school. Dress your child in their uniform before the first day to solve any problems with missing uniform items.
- Answer your child's questions fully.
- Encourage children to be independent and help them become used to managing their own belongings by:
 - a. Putting on and taking off clothes and shoes
 - b. Eating and drinking without help (taking off cling wrap and opening and closing lunch box lids)
 - c. Caring for and putting away play things
 - d. Using a tissue
 - e. Going to the toilet independently
 - f. Carrying their own bag

Pre-kindergarten Health Checks

Prior to your child commencing their Kindergarten year at Emmanuel, we strongly recommend that they complete an eye and hearing test with their local providers. This will ensure that they are having the best start possible to their educational journey with us and that any interventions are made prior to the commencement of their schooling.

General Information

Arrival and departure times

The school day begins at 8.50am and finishes at 3.00pm. Please bring your child to the classroom in the morning and collect them at the end of the day from the under cover area in the kinder playground. You are encouraged to come into the classroom and celebrate your child's work. If another member of the family or a friend is collecting your child, please let the teacher know.

Communication

Communication between home and school is of vital importance to the welfare and happiness of your child. If there is any information that you think may assist your child at school please let the staff know.

Notice Board

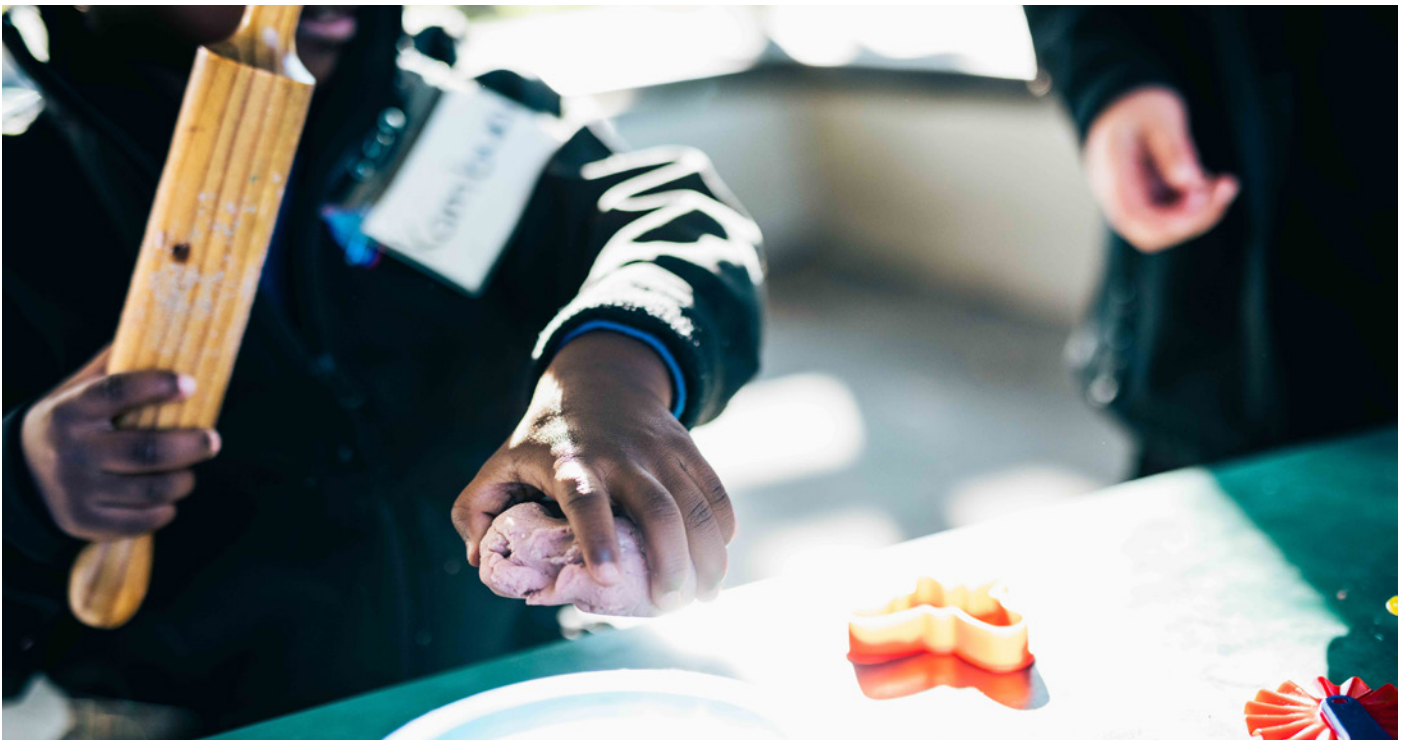
Outside the classroom is a notice board alerting parents to upcoming events. Please check the notice board regularly and return any notices when required.

Uniform

Please see our Primary Uniform Policy. You can download the latest version via our website: emmanuel.tas.edu.au/parents

Rest time

Please provide your child with a named small cushion for rest time, which we have each afternoon after fruit break. The children may either rest or have a book to look at quietly.



Smocks

Smocks are provided by the school at no charge.

Bags

Please ensure that your child has a large enough bag to contain all their belongings. Emmanuel School Bags are available for purchase from the uniform pool if desired. It is now compulsory for Kindergarten children to have the Emmanuel School bag.

Lunch boxes

For many children this will be the first time where they will need to choose the right foods for their recess snacks and their "big lunches". It can be very confusing for them. A helpful tip is to have a small lunch box for recess and a separate larger lunch box for lunch time. Remember that the children will be at school for a whole day so please provide a large range of foods so that they don't get hungry. Talk about food choices with your children and involve them in the preparation of their food. They may be more inclined to eat it. Please clearly name your child's lunch box/es.

Eating at recess and lunch time is always supervised. We discourage pre-packaged snack food and lollies both for your child's health and the environment.

Drink bottles

Water is the preferred drink of choice and the children are encouraged to drink throughout the day and may access them at any time during the day. We would prefer children to bring water as their main drink throughout the day. We strongly discourage juice, cordial and soft drink.

Toileting

Children may go to the toilet at any time during the day, however are encouraged to tell their teacher when they are going.

Library

The children go to the school library once a week. They are given a school library bag and will need to bring their book back to school in its bag to be changed each week.

Fruit

Please put cut up fruit in a container or a whole piece of fruit for your child for after lunch time. The children love their fruit at this time and it gives them added energy to see out the rest of the day.

Absenteeism

If your child cannot attend school on a particular day, for any reason, please phone the school office before 9.00am. Unexplained absences will invite a phone call from the school.



Food allergies

Nut aware policy

Our school supports children with nut allergies and therefore we ask that no food be brought to school containing nuts. This includes items with 'traces of nuts'. If you need some nut-free ideas for lunch boxes please see your class teacher.

Nuts (all types)... and foods to watch for

- Muesli Bars (check labels carefully)
- Nutella, Peanut Butter and Other Nut Spreads
- Chocolate containing Praline or Nuts
- Peanut Brittle
- Satay Sauce / Marinade
- Anything Containing Peanut or Tree Nut Oil
- Some Moisturising, Skin Lotions and Lip Balms (Almond Oil)
- Pecan Pie and Other Pastries Containing Nuts
- Dried Fruit and Nut Medley

What can we eat?

Lunch box ideas:

- Fresh and packaged fruit
- Vegetable Sticks (eg. carrot / cucumber / capsicum) and Cheese
- Sultanas / Dried Fruits (not nuts)
- Sandwiches (with safe bread)
- Baked Goods (If purchased check labels)
- Cabana / Salami Sticks
- Rice Crackers (check labels)
- Rice Wheels (check labels)

Remember to always check the ingredients list carefully, as allergies can be potentially life threatening. We thank you in advance for your attention to this very important matter. If there are any children in your child's class with significant allergies we will inform you.

On the day

- Be prepared so the first day is as stress-free and relaxed as possible.
- If you feel a little teary it is only natural however for your child's sake try and stay calm until after the goodbyes.
- If your child becomes upset, prolonging the leaving can make the situation worse; try to leave quickly with a positive comment.
- Be punctual in getting your child to school and when collecting them afterwards as children can become upset when left waiting.
- Please assist your child to settle in by encouraging them to play outside or start an activity in the classroom each morning. The routine for each morning is bags in lockers and fruit in the basket. Children may then go outside in the Kinder playground or settle down to an activity in the classroom.



Ways you can help

There are many aspects of our educational program that are greatly enhanced by the support and co-operation of parents.

Appearance

Uniforms are compulsory at Emmanuel Christian School. We need your support in ensuring that children are wearing their uniforms correctly. Please refer to our Uniform Policy available at emmanuel.tas.edu.au/parents

Materials and equipment

Learning materials and most items of equipment are supplied by the school. Please encourage your child to take care of their own items and always make sure they return books, learning materials, and equipment to school as required.

Parent and Grandparent help

We value the expertise and skills that all parents and grandparents have and value their input into the Kindergarten Curriculum. We also welcome parents and grandparents to all excursions.

To be involved you must have an up-to-date Working With Vulnerable People (WWVP) registration. To apply for a WWVP card please visit justice.tas.gov.au.





Reporting on your child's progress

During the year there will be a number of different methods employed to report on your child's progress. Feel free to discuss your child's progress with their teacher at any time.

Term 1

There will be a chance for you to meet the teacher individually to talk about any concerns or questions that you may have, as well as a progress report.

Term 2

Mid year reports will be sent home based on the National Early Years Framework.

Term 3

Kindergarten Development Check

Term 4

An **End of Year Summary** and **Portfolio** will be sent home in December, together with the option of having a Parent Teacher interview should you wish to have one.

Primary Staff

Lifeas Kapofu

principal@emmanuel.tas.edu.au

Principal

Laura Ferguson

lferguson@emmanuel.tas.edu.au

Head of Primary

Julie Weeks

jweeks@emmanuel.tas.edu.au

Counsellor

Teaching Staff

TBC

Support Staff

Mrs Rachael Bradshaw (Library Technician), Mrs Sue Briggs, Mrs Joan Harrison, Mrs Glenys House, Mrs Rebecca Madden, Mrs Cheryl Dwyer, Mrs Amanda Sutcliffe, Mr Sam Orchard and Miss Luna Zhao.

Administration Staff

Mrs Anna Morrison

admin@emmanuel.tas.edu.au

Senior Administration Officer

TBC

admin@emmanuel.tas.edu.au

Administration Officer

Contact the school office

+61 3 6247 8476

admin@emmanuel.tas.edu.au

Curriculum

The Kathy Walker Approach to learning

The Walker Learning Approach is the first major Australian based total and holistic pedagogy to be designed and implemented. It is based upon decades of research about play based and personalised learning and social constructivism. The Walking Learning Approach is not a program or an inquiry model sitting discreetly or separately from other curriculum areas. It is a total approach to teaching and learning which combines the need for children to be active participants in their learning through hands on and creative exploration and investigation which sits alongside formal instruction. There is explicit teaching and development of not only literacy and numeracy skills and knowledge but also the range of vital social, emotional and life skills. Once a week the children also enjoy completing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) challenges.

Outdoor

At Emmanuel we have fantastic open-air play spaces. We have a natural creek running along the boundary of the school which is great for exploring and our new outdoor learning area is well used.

We believe that children learn about the environment by interacting with it on their own terms. As they climb, balance, and jump, they strengthen and develop major muscle groups. Dirt, water, plants and small animals attract and hold children's attention and help them to appreciate the natural environment. Some of the activities that we participate in include the following:

- Balancing over a bridge
- Observing birds and other wildlife
- Observing Frogs/Tadpoles
- Building shelters and campfires
- Building dams with rocks
- Listening to the sound of water
- Working to build bridges over the creek
- Using sticks to make the letters of the alphabet
- Rolling down a hill.

Bush Kinder

Once a week we visit a nature-play space at Clarence Plains Family Centre. The children look forward to this time every week with many wonderful bush investigations and explorations.

Bush Kinder is a place to support cognitive development, gross and fine motor development, science learning, social skills and dramatic play. The children engage with each other in construction play, building, sorting, measuring, digging, running, jumping, climbing, hopping, and skipping.

Children's direct experience of nature may lead them to ask deeper, meaningful questions that can be further investigated in the classroom. We have also used this space to observe changes and effects in the weather and seasons and how this relates to changes in the environment. We also explore and observe the local wildlife and their habitats.

For all these activities children will need to have gumboots to be kept at school.

The Learning Program

Kinder is an introductory year to formal education. During this year the children learn what behaviours are expected at school, how to relate to other children and teachers, and about their own contribution to the learning process. It is important for every child to feel safe, secure, happy and confident being at school and for them to start viewing themselves as learners. Much of the learning in Kinder is achieved through play and planned investigations. We want all children to experience success in their first year at school.

Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF)

The teaching at Kinder is guided by the government assigned curriculum called the Early Years Framework (EYLF). The Early Years Learning Framework focuses on the preconditions for learning. Each child needs to feel safe, secure, confident and valued. This will enable them to learn to the best of their ability.

Children should have an active role in the learning process. Learning needs to be something the children do for themselves, rather than something a teacher does for them. Alongside explicit teaching sessions, the children will be encouraged to learn through play and investigation.

Creativity, imagination, curiosity and the transfer of knowledge from one situation to another are crucial parts of the EYLF. Learning to be communicators and sharing knowledge through speaking/listening, art, photos, drawings or symbols, starting to understand the purpose of written text, pictures or diagrams is a major part of the Kinder year. Learning about sustainability and connecting with the natural world are also components of the EYLF.





1 Chipmans Road, Rokeby 7019

+61 3 6247 8476

admin@emmanuel.tas.edu.au

emmanuel.tas.edu.au