Renmark Primary School is located 254 km north-east of Adelaide on the River Murray. At the 2011 census, its population was 7,491. Renmark is mainly a horticultural community; citrus, stone fruit and grape growing. The drought in recent years has impacted significantly on these industries and local business. The community has noticed an overall downturn in many associated aspects but remains very supportive of its schools and community events i.e. Rose Week, Riverland Field Days, visiting productions and shows at the Renmark Chaffey Theatre.

Renmark Primary School is an R-7 school, having amalgamated with the Renmark Junior Primary School from the beginning of 2013. We are moving forward very strongly in improving student learning outcomes, connections to community and improving the learning environment and school grounds. We have a wide range of data including achievement, client surveys and anecdotal to indicate the benefits to staff, students and community of amalgamation.

The Renmark Primary School community is very multicultural represented by 17 different cultures and provides a rich and valuable education environment and community.

Our school community and partners work closely together to ensure the highest quality education and care possible for every student. This remains a priority for our school and community.

Renmark Primary School’s IoED is Category 2 with an average enrolment of 355 students, which has remained steady since 2013. Families reside in the town and outlying areas. Buses provide free transport to and from school for those living 5 km or more away from Renmark Primary as their closest DECD School. The Bus Management Committee comprising local school principals/delegates and Townsend’s Buses bus manager, the local bus company servicing our schools, oversees bus runs and manages issues and changes as they arise.

Low socio-economic status and disadvantage impact many of our students and families. Our student cohort comprises 14% aboriginal students (an increase on recent years), 25% from non-English speaking backgrounds, 52% School Card and 12% students with a disability.

Renmark Primary School staff comprises a Principal, Deputy Principal, School Counsellor, 24 teachers (full time and part-time), 17 SSOs, a Pastoral Support Worker and an Aboriginal Community Education Officer. Two CentaCare case managers support 10 FLO (Flexible Learning Option) students.

Renmark Primary School comprises 14 classes, OSHC and a Dental Clinic. We are co-located with the Renmark Children’s Centre and Renmark High School. Strong and strengthening connections B-18 are very beneficial to our whole community. Renmark High, Renmark, Renmark West and Renmark North Primary schools, the Renmark Children’s Centre and the Renmark West pre-school comprise the Renmark ECD Local Partnership.

We strive to ensure that every child is a successful learner and is an active member of a vibrant community.

Restorative Justice, our behaviour learning framework, is most successful with all students.

A New Arrivals Program supports students residing in Australia less than a year from countries including India and Afghanistan. Bilingual SSO 2 staff provide Turkish and Punjabi Mother Tongue lessons for these students, funded through a cluster application. Students with disabilities, social and emotional wellbeing issues, GOM students and those with English as a Second Language or Dialect are supported in a number of ways; School Counsellor programs and case management, EAL/D teacher, AET, ACEO and SSO programs strongly aligned with NEPs, ILPs and IEPs.

Our Pastoral Support Worker and School Counsellor support staff, students and families and various programs incorporating community members including the ongoing Wood Work group, mentors and LAP. We have strong volunteer involvement i.e. Parent Group that supports school events, in classrooms, on Governing Council and more.

Aboriginal students and families are supported through our ACEO and AET; home visits, lunch time activities, curriculum support and strengthened links with the aboriginal community. Identified ASTI students receive extra literacy tuition through the DECD APAS program, year 1-4 students through Running Records and NAPLaN data.

Students are involved in SAPSASA sports, instrumental music, choir including the Regional Festival of Music choir and Performance Arts programs delivered on site by Riverland Youth Theatre. We promote healthy eating and have an established vegetable garden. Students cook using the produce grown at school.

SRC/Little Leaders, School leaders provide a strong forum for student voice, led by our School Counsellor.
Stronger partnerships with the co-located preschool and high school have developed and together we work to incorporate pedagogies and infrastructure to support more seamless and successful transitions between educational settings.

Our focus is on whole school high quality teaching and learning so that our students can move between teachers and classes knowing the language of learning and understanding our high expectations.

Various policies and guidelines supporting our ethos include: Attendance Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Uniform Policy, Behaviour Learning Policy, Site Improvement Plan, Australian Curriculum and Teaching for Effective Learning Framework.

Transitioning from the South Australian Curriculum Standards and Accountability (SACSA) Framework to the Australian Curriculum (AC) is well supported and well managed through working with our PACIO, team structures and professional learning opportunities provided to staff.

Scaffolded literacy is our whole school Literacy teaching and learning framework and our Renmark Primary Literacy Statement ensures all teachers are aligned in content and pedagogy. Recent feedback from Renmark High School and another local primary school indicates that our students demonstrate an outstanding understanding and knowledge of Literacy text structures and features.

Renmark Primary School’s Numeracy Statement incorporating Ann Baker Natural Maths strategies as our whole school practice is currently being developed.

Greek is the Language Other than English and all students attend Greek lessons.

R-7 Specialist areas are PE, Science, Greek and History.

Our Site Improvement Plan identifies Literacy (Oral Language, Play and Reading strategies), Maths/ Numeracy (Number and problem solving) and Social and Emotional Wellbeing as our improvement priorities. The constant focus on high quality teaching and learning, whole school pedagogy and understanding 21st Century learning are critical in achieving high standards of teaching and learning and student learning outcomes.

Renmark Primary School has undergone significant upgrading to its grounds and facilities. A $2.5 m State Government upgrade supported the amalgamation – new administration area, car park, 6 classrooms returned from areas no longer required and landscaping to several areas in the school.

The BER funding and the State Government Amalgamation funding have provided Renmark Primary School with outstanding facilities and resources for students and community use.

The Renmark Primary School Governing Council supports the parent community and school leadership in many ways including decision making, policy development, finance, school events and parent issues. It is the employing body for OSHC and the Grounds person.

Regular school to community communication occurs in many ways including our Facebook page, new website, fortnightly school and at least termly class newsletters, in school, regular assemblies run by SRC/Little Leaders, parent-teacher-student discussions twice a year (more as requested), written student reports at the end of terms 2 and 4, and Parent and Student Noticeboards in the administration area.

Renmark Primary School provides high quality education for all students. Staff are committed and passionate, our community is supportive and together we strive to provide a range of experiences and learning opportunities for every student.