

## **ELEARNING INFORMATION**

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The Whangaparaoa Primary School Board of Trustees has approved the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) initiative. This will apply to students in Year 3 and above from 2017 on.

This letter contains

- Background information on BYOD - why, how, what, when, where
- Frequently asked questions

### **Why is it important for every child to have a device ?**

There are many reasons why we are moving to BYOD devices

Here are some :

- We believe it supports our learning vision of connecting, challenging and empowering
- The computer is a powerful multifunctional tool that can support teaching, learning and the learner. It is a calculator, encyclopedia, phone, book, stationery item and much more all in one
- It is the tool of today and tomorrow and if we are preparing children to live meaningfully and responsibly in their world we need to play our part in educating students about this tool
- As a tool it has the power to optimise productivity, communication and connectivity whilst enhancing creativity, collaboration and innovation
- It has the ability to individualise instruction and personalise learning
- As a tool it enables students, families and teachers to access their learning anytime and anywhere
- It is an important tool in supporting our inquiry based approach to the curriculum
- It is an excellent communication tool that is quick and can be used effectively on many fronts, in many ways - home/school, student/teacher, student/parents
- It is a great way for parents to keep in touch with their children's learning and ask informed questions

### **Why e-learning at Whangaparaoa Primary School ?**

It will lead to :

- Students being active, responsible digital citizens.
- Students using technology to support the achievement of their learning goals
- Digital technologies being used to enhance the pedagogical practice of the school;
- Students using digital technology appropriately in a continuous cycle to enhance their learning (including assessment);
- Making connections between home and school
- Integrating the use of digital technologies across our curriculum;

## **BYOD FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What devices will be allowed ?**

We are promoting a HP chromebook. The reason we are recommending this device is we

can get a special price for our community, it has an attached keyboard and we feel it will be easier to manage devices if there is as much uniformity as possible. It has the specs we require and a battery life that will last the day. A chromebook is robust and is designed for school settings, allowing access to educational apps and software.

### **How much will it cost us and where do we get this device ?**

JB Hi Fi are providing us with a special one off deal. This offer will only last until the end of February. The cost to get the device delivered to school is \$307. Any accessories like insurance or a bag etc is extra. This is the lowest price we have seen anywhere and includes GST. To place an order parents just need to phone in their details and the device will be delivered to school. Parents will be notified to pick up. We have been able to negotiate 12 months interest free payments for these devices as well. After this, interest rates will apply.

### **Can the students bring other devices ?**

If possible we would like parents to look at the chromebook. We have done our research and chromebooks are preferred as they are a tool specifically designed for education. The less types of devices we have, the easier it will be for teachers to manage. However, we also understand that the preferred device at high school may be different so purchasing another device at year 6 to fit in with the high school is understandable.

### **Why Year 3 and above ?**

We feel year 1 and 2 students need the time to acquire some of the physical motor skills associated with things like handwriting and writing for purpose. We realise there are many schools promoting each child having their own device from year 1 up. Hekia Parata in her recent article "Tomorrow's tools today" also promotes children using today's technology from 5 years old forward. At this stage our school will start with year 3 up. We think this is easier to manage for students, teachers and parents.

### **Can Year 1s and 2s bring their own devices and use technology ?**

Yes they can. Every year 1 and 2 classroom will also have access to a pod of school computers to use.

### **Can children use their devices at break time ?**

Only under the direct supervision of a teacher.

### **Are all chromebooks the same ?**

No but they do all run the google chrome set of docs which is what our children will use.

### **How will my child be using their device during the school day ?**

Children will use their device to collaborate, communicate, inform, problem solve, research, document learning and access recommended websites with curriculum related content.

### **What about security/ theft/ damage ?**

Devices are the responsibility of the children. Each class will have a security area for the device to be stored during break times and when the device is not in use. It is the child's responsibility to ensure the device is placed in the secure area during these times.

### **Who is responsible for damage, loss or theft of devices your child brings to school ?**

Students and their families are responsible for their devices at all times. (Parents should

check their own personal insurance policies.)

### **Will the device be protected with internet content filtering ?**

Whangaparaoa Primary School uses the government ' Network for Learning ' internet filtering device. Inappropriate websites or content searches are filtered and cannot be accessed at school. The Google Teacher 'dashboard' and 'workspaces' also provide monitoring of student activity. It is important to note that this filtering only applies whilst the device is connected through the school network, it does not extend to home. You would be responsible for any content filtering when the device is not at school.

### **What is the policy on charging personally owned devices while at school ?**

It is the child's responsibility to ensure the device comes to school each day, fully charged.

### **Can the devices be left at school ?**

No, they will need to go home with the student each day, be charged, and then return with the student the next morning.

### **What length of time per day will be spent on devices ?**

This will vary with every teacher, every day. It will depend on the learning needs of different students, the teacher and the opportunities that are available to access the curriculum. Whangaparaoa is an active school that loves taking opportunities to engage children in all sorts of ways. Technology will be one of these ways, but it will not be the only way. We feel it is very important that children use multiple tools and environments to connect them with their learning.

### **What will happen if a child's family can not afford a device ?**

With time we hope that sponsors, fundraising and supportive families may be able to help here. There will be some devices in the school for children to access and share. Our students will use their devices in an ever increasing diversity of ways so our aim will be every child has a device. Students will be able to use their devices daily to share their learning and school life. They will also use it as a tool to report to you in terms of their progress.

### **What infrastructure will the school put in place ?**

- A school vision and strategic plan – School and e-learning strategic planning documents
- Snapping our school has provided us with the capacity, capability and speed to manage our schools growing demand. This also includes internal knowledge and external technicians to keep the operating system performing
- Network for learning – this is being developed to support our teachers
- E-learning leader, team, coach and technician
- Support systems across the school and community for teachers, students and parents to upskill
- Hardware safety, security and storage organisation
- Schoolwide programme of digital citizenship
- Learning focus (key set of Apps for curriculum and level), not games focus
- Teacher dashboard, working towards screens in every room
- Balance of screen time

- To ensure every child understands the responsibility of digital citizenship
- To support all students, teachers and parents to gain an increasing understanding of how this tool can support learners and learning
- To ensure the hardware is being used as a tool to support learning in effective and meaningful ways by modelling and observing in classrooms
- To plan the inquiry focus with teams and then support teachers and learners to be able to use technology as a resource
- To train technology wizards in each class to support learners
- To provide professional development for staff, students and parents
- To provide lunchtime opportunities for students
- To lead the e-learning team and ensure staff have the skill to use technology to share their learning with parents in different ways
- To monitor our concept of balance

TKI link for parents reading

<http://elearning.tki.org.nz/Research-and-readings>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2YybEM9yhk>

If you require further information, please ask

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