

BYOD FAQs

if you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to speak to a member of the Information Literacy Team.

Q: What is a Chromebook?

A: A Chromebook is a laptop cross tablet. The Chromebook offers dual functionality - a keyboard a touchpad mouse, as well as a touch screen and full 360 degree folding screen. A Chromebook runs through a Chrome operating system and has very little internal storage, therefore all content is accessed via the internet. The Chromebook is designed to be used primarily whilst connected to the internet.

Q: Why Chromebooks?

A: Chromebooks have inbuilt management through the Google Apps Admin console, making them easy to manage across the whole school. They offer the benefit of having both keyboard and touch screen functionality, and are more cost effective, being both cheaper to replace and repair if necessary. The Chromebook boasts a long battery life and quick start up time. App availability is also a benefit with Chromebooks being web-based, they can access any Adobe Flash based program, web-based programs and apps via the Chrome Store and Google Play Store.

Q: Are they reliable?

A: On average, Chromebooks boast a 7-9 hour battery life, therefore can be relied upon to last an entire school day. As Chromebooks are web-based, they don't require regular software updates, nor will they slow down over time.

Q: My child already has an iPad. Will he/she be able to keep using that?

A: Yes, providing it is compatible with the iOS 10 update. The iPads will be phased out of the BYOD program over the next three years and Chromebooks phased in. Regardless of whether your child is using an iPad or Chromebook, they will be able to access the same content.

Q: If my child has an iPad, are they able to install any app installed on their iPad?

A: Whilst at school, the iPad is a learning tool not an entertainment tool. All apps should be age-appropriate and aligned with the Oatlands Primary School BYOD Code of Conduct. Students are not permitted to have social media apps on their device during the school day. These include but are not limited to Facebook, Instagram, Kik, music.ly and Snapchat.

Q: If my child has an iPad, which apps will they need and how much will they cost?

A: A list of core apps for 2017 will be available before the end of Term 4 2016. These will be similar to the apps used this year. These apps are essential for students with iPads as they are required for integration of their device into the classroom and specialist programs.

Alternatively, if your child has a Chromebook, they will access almost all programs via the web or via free download from the Chrome App Store.

Q: How do the students use their device in the classroom?

A: The BYOD program enables students to integrate the use of their device into all teaching and learning programs at Oatlands Primary School. Students are able to use their device to support their learning during literacy, numeracy and inquiry, as well as during Information Literacy sessions.

Q: Will my child miss out if they have an iPad not a Chromebook?

A: No student will be better/worse off if they have an iPad or Chromebook. Regardless of device, all students will be able to access the same content, just via different means - whether it be app based or web based.

Q: What security does a Chromebook offer when my child uses it at home?

A: Chromebook security is much more secure than iPads as we have management over student accounts and therefore can enforce website blacklists which stop students from visiting unsafe websites. Providing that student logs in through their Department of Education issued Google account at home, these same websites would remain blocked, despite whatever internet security you have in place at home. If a student logs into their Chromebook through a separate non-school based account, they will access your home wifi, therefore security will be dependent on whatever internet security you have in place at home.

Q: Can I bring an Android device instead of a Chromebook or iPad?

A: Please be aware that an Android device is not a practical device for our BYOD program. Android devices do not meet the minimum technical specifications set out by our school to ensure that they can be effectively used for learning. Developers often modify the Android operating system for their devices and so the same experience is not guaranteed across the range of available Android devices. Historically, Android devices have been incompatible with eduSTAR, which enables students to access the internet.

Q: What payment and insurance options do I have?

A: Information regarding payment plans and insurance options will be distributed in the next 2-3 weeks.

Q: Are there minimum requirements if I purchase a Chromebook independently?

A: The devices we are purchasing for the classroom are Lenovo Yoga Chromebooks, which have an 11.6 inch screen. These are a mid-range Chromebook that offer dual functionality of a tablet touch screen and laptop features. We have selected this particular device for its reliability and durability. We are developing a portal for purchase of devices to be made through the same company that we are purchasing through. Therefore you are not required to look independently. If you do choose to, there are no minimum requirements regarding size or brand, however, we do highly recommend the following devices:

Lenovo:

- 100S Chromebook
- N20 / N20P Chromebook
- N21 Chromebook
- ThinkCentre Chromebox
- ThinkPad 11e Chromebook
- N22 / N42 Chromebook
- Thinkpad 13 Chromebook

Acer:

- Chromebook 11 C740
- Chromebook 11 CB3-111 / C730 / C730E / CB3-131
- Chromebook 14 CB3-431
- Chromebook 14 for Work
- Chromebook 15 CB5-571 / C910
- Chromebook 15 CB3-531
- Chromebook 15, CB3-532
- Chromebase 24
- Chromebook R13, CB5-312T
- Chromebox CX12

Asus:

- Chromebook C200
- Chromebook C201
- Chromebook C202SA
- Chromebook C300SA
- Chromebook C300
- Chromebox CN62
- Chromebit CS10

Dell:

- Chromebook 11 3120
- Chromebook 13 7310