



STRATFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Dear Parents and Whānau of current **Year 2-7 Students**

Re: Bring Your Own Chromebook (2021)

Our Year 3-8 teachers are excited to announce that BYOC (Bring Your Own Chromebook) is continuing in 2021. This has been extended to include students in Year 3-4.

We are sending out information to parents and families about the chance to buy students their own device for learning in **Year 3-8** from 2021 onwards. This is not compulsory but is **optional**. There are many benefits to students having their own device (or one provided to use at school) to use at their disposal. We realise this is a big expense for families and if you do not wish to purchase technology, there will still be chromebooks available at school for children to share in classrooms. Our intention with BYOC devices and our own school devices, is that everyone will have access to a chromebook when needed.

Having the technology at the children's fingertips will enhance the completion of a wider range of tasks, online and on paper. It will assist us as teachers in sharing many of the things we currently do in other ways with our students. It will also give you wider access to what your children are doing at school through the regular updates. Students will also be able to access their learning from home.

Commonly Asked Questions

Will the kids be on the chromebooks all the time? Is screen time bad?

We understand there are many thoughts and opinions about the use (or overuse) of technology. We are not becoming a paperless learning environment. Our key focus is on your child and their specific learning journey. Technology is just one vehicle that we use to help them on that journey. Just like you have restrictions of time on technology at home we will at school also.

Will my child be able to use this device at high school?

Some schools are Google schools (like us) and some are Windows 365. Stratford High School runs Windows 365. We understand from the device providers that if the Chromebook has the Android icon next to it, it can access the Google app store and Windows 365 can be downloaded.



What happens if my child or someone else damages or loses the chromebook?

There will always be some queries about the safety of these devices before, during and after school. Your child will be responsible for bringing the device to school, looking after it at school and taking the device home and charging it ready for the next day of learning. At school there will be a lockable cupboard available that students can use when the devices are not in use. Over the 2020 school year, in Year 5-8 the incidents of breakages were minor. Please note: The school is not responsible for any breakages or theft of devices.

Are there restrictions on what websites students can access at school?

Yes, N4L (Network for Learning) is a government funded organisation that manages cybersafety for schools. This restricts access for where students can go online, while they surf the Internet at school. N4L is constantly updating the safety settings as new threats come up. As part of the schools cybersafety agreement, students must report any issues they come across on the Internet. The school also has Mr Lex Pomeroy monitoring student access. He has restricted use across the school to many sites and apps. All these measures reduce the chances of students accessing inappropriate material. Chromebooks used at home can also be restricted if students are logged into the device with their school google account.

How do we know what websites the children will be on, is it too hard for the teacher to see what's going on at all times?

SPS uses a programme called Hapara Dashboard. It enables the teacher to see what is happening on every screen in the room at once. Emails, websites, folders of work can all be seen at the push of a button if required. This programme also allows for the teachers to personalise every student's tasks even more. It can also push out assignments to different groups of children. This is especially handy if students want to work on a project at home on their device.

What agreements does the school have to safeguard against inappropriate behaviour or defiance around the use of chromebooks or the internet in general?

In the first week of Term 1 2021, when meeting your child's teacher (more info to be shared around this day), there will be a student/parent/school contract to sign around the "BYOC Safety Guidelines", and also an updated "Online Safety" form to sign.

While we are doing our best to make everything clear, you may still have some questions about BYOC. We are happy to answer any query to the best we can, please feel free to contact your child's current teacher. Attached is a flyer from Noel Leeming with the latest and most affordable options. There should be a BYOC display at all outlets. The bundles advertised are not set in stone, you may wish to leave out, swap or add something to your bundle. We do recommend keeping the hard cover case for extra protection. The prices will adjust accordingly. There are also higher spec models of chromebook/laptop you can buy if you wish.

Yours sincerely

*The Year 3-4, Year 5-6 and Year 7-8 Teams
Stratford Primary School*