

BYOD Questions & Answers

How many times a week will children be using BYOD?

BYOD will be used on a daily basis to support the learning across Reading, Writing and Maths as well as any topic or inquiry aspects. There is no set time frame to this as it is a case by case situation where students will be provided with tasks that encourage the use of a balanced programme (including using their device).

Is it a good idea for children to be able to comment on others' work? How will you deal with negative comments that could potentially be posted?

Commenting on others' work is a powerful form of feedback within a classroom. We are confident that by setting high expectations of behaviour and having clear boundaries and consequences through our HEART values, that the children will ensure this tool is used appropriately. We see in class that they actually help each other - piggybacking ideas off one another and giving positive constructive feedback.

If children are sharing a document what will happen if someone deletes another person's work?

It is important to highlight that children can only work on/adjust others' work if they are invited to do so by the author through a document being shared - children can choose to make it: 'Editor', 'Commenter', 'Viewer'. However if things were to be adjusted in a negative capacity there is a tool that restores previous versions before they were altered. This tool also shows us which person it was that made the alteration. We proactively teach the importance of logging out of devices when they are not in use so children cannot access one another's documents.

What is the general need for BYOD?

We are always searching for ways to improve teaching and learning and BYOD allows students to shape a device to suit their individual needs and act as an efficient learning tool in shaping the world that they live in. It is also simply impossible for a school to fund the amount of devices that students need to support their learning, particularly with the lockdowns that have happened due to Covid. Our BYOD programme has meant that our children are able to smoothly and quickly transition to home learning and continue with momentum.

Will BYOD distract my child and cause them to fall behind?

All teachers will still have the same required learning targets. Individual tracking and assessment will continue as always with BYOD supplementing what is already done so well. BYOD will only add to the already rich learning opportunities your child has and all learning will always be related back to the New Zealand curriculum. It is a choice for whānau whether to buy a device to support this approach to learning.

What if my child is slow at typing? Will this slow the learning process down?

Our BYOD programme is scaffolded to meet the student's preferred learning style. Obviously if a child preferred to use pen and paper/book to draft out a story, then they would do so if the circumstances are appropriate. The programme is designed to meet individual needs, and to still work in an exercise book is perfectly fine.

Will the children be on the computers too much and will this replace the teacher group learning?

No. The digital devices will act as a tool to enhance their learning, but certainly won't replace group or individual teacher time in reading, writing, maths or any other area of the curriculum. There is nothing like face to face

teaching and learning, dovetailing in and out with conversation and demonstration... that hasn't changed in the eight years we've been BYOD.

How will BYOD be used at reading time?

Depending on the age and stage of your child, reading will be run in the same manner that it has been with student groups meeting with the teacher during the week for guided reading sessions of a text. Students will then complete independent reading activities which will be designed to enhance their comprehension of the text and linked to the student's current reading focus, e.g., Kiwibytes, LEARNZ. Having a device on hand will allow the teacher to set a broader range of follow up activities utilising software such as Google Slides, Google docs, Powtoon, Prezi, as well as camera and video recording tools.

Won't handwriting be done anymore?

Yes it will still be done. Many children love handwriting and it is a vital aspect of communication. We as teachers value legibility and the hand/eye coordination benefits that handwriting has for our learners.

How will BYOD be used at writing time?

In story writing time devices will be used by students who wish to plan and complete writing tasks using free online tools such as Google docs. Students will be taught how to plan, structure, create and share written work effectively. The device could also be used to research a topic before writing (just as it is now). Access to writing websites can help to engage, e.g., Pobble 365. Some writing websites are designed to support a writing style or a specific learning intention, i.e., The Literacy Shed. Google also has a voice recording option where spoken word is converted into text. This is a feature that can be used to benefit students with individual learning needs or for children who find it challenging to get enough written.

How will BYOD be used at maths time?

Maths time will be run much the same as it has been with students being taught in a range of whole class, individual and group learning situations. BYOD will allow students to complete 'Khan Academy', 'Prodigy' and 'Sumdog' reinforcement activities on their own device to supplement their learning. Sumdog has a competition element and children love this. The actual sites vary according to student learning needs. Learning can be shared with the children and research can be completed for problem solving to be realistic. There are many websites designed to support the New Zealand Curriculum for children to access that support learning. Strand maths areas such as statistics and geometry also benefit from digital presentation styles, e.g., Google draw for geometric shapes, symmetry etc.

Other examples of how do we use BYOD for Years 4-6 in Pāhake:

1. Google Classroom
2. Google Suite: Docs, Slides, Draw - specific reading/writing tasks or activities shared by the teacher
3. Google Suite: Sheets, Sites - to share planning with students
4. Google Suite: Gmail - to communicate with others and source information from experts
5. Collaborative presentations: Prezi, Powtoon
6. LEARNZ: for inquiry learning and reading alongside New Zealand scientists
7. Tinkercad + Makerbot software: 3D printing projects related to classroom learning in a range of curriculum areas
8. Spotlight: to share our eLearning portfolio, communicating with our families.
9. iLife: iMovie, Garageband etc. for creating learning and presenting to others if using a Macbook
10. Kahoots: for creating quizzes around the knowledge and skills children have been learning
11. Scratch, Scratch Junior: Computational thinking, coding: taking part in the Grow Waitaha awards
12. Study ladder

In truth the possibilities are endless but as teachers our primary role is to facilitate learning, not games.

How is access to the wireless system controlled?

It is managed using our wireless WiFi system. Children's devices are logged onto and authenticated into the BYOD network and will automatically log back on once they have been set up. This is a separate network from the BAS network that staff are on. Our BAS BYOD network is just for our children.

Will my child's device be able to easily access the wireless system?

Each child is able to access the BYOD wireless network, this is an open network with a password needed to access the internet.

What will my child be able to access from their device on the wireless network?

Children will be able to access the internet through our network during the school day, Monday to Friday, with permission. If a student needs to print they must seek permission from a teacher. Work can only be printed via their teacher's device by emailing to or sharing their learning with the teacher as we encourage a paperless environment. All activity is monitored through Linewize and it's Monitor system.

Who is responsible for the security, maintenance and charging of the BYOD equipment?

You as a parent/caregiver have overall responsibility for your child's equipment. We also discuss with students how to care for their device. A storage area in the class will be available for students to use at interval and lunch. One reason we recommend Chromebooks is because they will retain their charge for the whole day if they have been charged overnight. This is an important feature in helping us to manage devices during the day. Students take excellent care of their BYOD devices because they value the opportunity to learn in this way and don't want to lose this. If your child is not using their device it will be put away and will not be out for others to use.

Will students be able to access their devices at play, lunch and after school?

No. Student devices will remain in the classes locked away. We value the Hauora of students being outside with their peers playing and having a break from devices. However from time to time children may work inside alongside their teacher to complete work. They will still get a break during this time. After school we expect devices to be transported home safely and to not be used in the playground.

Will my device come setup? Do I need to purchase additional software?

No additional software is required. As long as your device has the 'Chrome' browser, students will get connected to our network and they will have their own login. Accounts are actively monitored by us. Students cannot access the internet until this has been done. We also have an IT administrator, eLearning Infrastructure Teacher who can support both staff and students as required.

What systems are installed to prevent my child's device from accessing online games etc and downloading content? We don't want another means for them to 'waste time playing games.'

This comes down to expectations, monitoring of websites, history etc. We can only control what is happening at school and we have particular sites blocked through the student WiFi setup with our IT Service Provider and N4L/Linewize. All students will be automatically connected to this.

This again rules out certain words, phrases etc. Our eLearning Infrastructure Teacher accesses regular reports and data. We then follow up with students and families if required. Within the collaborative learning space we also roam around and check up on our students. We can also do this remotely. At any stage we can ask to view their device if we feel it has been used inappropriately. Again parents should know their children's passwords so they can do this at home.

For Linewize, alerts are sent to our eLearning Infrastructure Teacher and Deputy Principal so that any inappropriate activity can be followed up straight away. Where appropriate, students will be stood down from device use and families contacted. If there is a repeat of inappropriate digital behaviour then the stand down will be longer. When inappropriate behaviour is detected children's histories will be checked for the previous 12 weeks to see what has been happening. This information is viewable in a written form.

Will my child's information be kept private?

At Pareawa Banks Avenue we have policies that cover all areas of schooling on School docs. Our philosophy is that personal achievement information and behaviour data for children is kept private. Documents are shared for learning and administration on a needs only basis. We encourage children to only share documents with their peers if they are learning collaboratively. We expect parents to respect the privacy of their children's peers if they are viewing a collaborative document as part of our HEART values. We expect that collaborative learning would never be 'on shared' by a student or parent to other parties.

Is putting an 7-11 year old in charge of a device really a great idea?

This is a perfect age to take on more responsibility. Students thrive on having ownership and responsibility of something. We teach students about caring for devices and the value placed on them. We also have expectations about how and where devices are left in our collaborative learning spaces.

Will my child be on a device all day?

Balance is the key and we are very conscious of this - they would never be on a device all day.

What device/s is Pareawa Banks Avenue recommending?

We are recommending either a **Chromebook** with a minimum of a quad core processor (not a dual core processor as these are too slow for the graphics) or a **Macbook Air** if you wish to purchase an apple device. Devices will also need to travel to and from school in a protective sleeve/satchel. A set of headphones is also needed to help your child to concentrate and ensure that they don't disturb others when viewing and creating files that have sound. We do not want tablets or iPads as they don't fit the learning brief for what we want our children to achieve in Pāhake. Please note that children are not able to charge their devices at school. This is one of the reasons we recommend a Chromebook as if it is charged every night it will stay charged throughout the school day. Chargers are not to be brought to school.

Will the school be offering a purchase or finance offer for BYOD devices?

We have discussed this and our decision is that we do not set our BYOD programme up in this way. Families need to organise their own purchase of a BYOD device. We made this decision for a number of reasons, all of which was centred on what was best for our school and our learners.

What if a family has shared custody and the device is owned by one parent?

If families are unable to reach a compromise please see your child's classroom teacher so that we can arrange a tag test for you at your own cost. A device could then be charged in these 'special' circumstances.