



**Blockhouse Bay**

Primary School

*We Seek - We Strive - We Soar*

## Year 5 & 6: Bring Your Own Device



### **What is BYOD and why is Digital Technology important?**

The use of digital technology to support children's learning in schools has been steadily growing over the last decade and at Blockhouse Bay School, our goal is to make sure that our children are prepared as thoroughly as possible for their future. The school's funds can only provide so much however and so we ask parents of Year 5 and 6 children to send them to school each day with their own Chromebook. This initiative is known as 'Bring Your Own Device' (BYOD).

We know that having ongoing access to technology will help your child develop greater independence, increase engagement, extend their thinking beyond the classroom and develop the skills required to thrive in the 21st Century. We have been BYOD in the senior school using Chromebooks for quite a few years now and the feedback from students, parents and staff has been very positive.

### **Why have we chosen a chromebook for BYOD at Blockhouse Bay School?**

From our research and experience, we have decided that Chromebooks are the best device for your child. As a rough guide, Chromebooks cost around \$300 - \$400 each although some people have been able to get them even cheaper than this. Parents can purchase their child's Chromebook from whomever they wish, and are advised to shop around for the best deal. Both Blockhouse Bay Intermediate and Lynfield College also use Chromebook for their BYOD.

### **What is *Family Zone* and why should you join?**

We also advise that parents consider the possibility of joining *Family Zone*. We have partnered with a company that offers software that allows you control over your child's Chromebook (and other devices if you wish) when at home. You can limit the time by controlling the wifi, can block websites or apps, can choose what they are allowed on, set time limits plus more. The link for this is [www.familyzone.com/blockhouse-nz](http://www.familyzone.com/blockhouse-nz) We are more than happy to help set this up with you if you are uncertain or not confident in this.

### **What if my child does not have a chromebook?**

Whilst our goal is that all of our Year 5 and 6 children will bring their own Chromebook, we do have some school devices for the children to use at school. Please note though that these Chromebooks are shared and so the children do not have full time access to them, nor can they take them home.

### **Questions or Concerns**

We understand that this is a lot of money and that parents may have questions or concerns about this. Please find enclosed the answers to some frequently asked questions that we feel may address some of these issues. If you have further questions to ask, please contact the school office and we will contact you to answer your questions or discuss your concerns.



## Some Frequently Asked Questions about BYOD



### What will my child be doing on his/her device?

Student devices will be used to access resources, complete assignments and for personal organisation. Educational activities may include researching information, producing documents, analysing data, participating in surveys, producing videos, reading e-books, creating blogs, taking notes, scheduling events, collaborating, self-directed learning and individualised learning. The use of the device will be at the discretion of the teacher.

### Will my child be safe online while using his/her device?

A focus of this initiative is digital citizenship, which is the responsible use of technology. Your child will learn digital skills, ethics, etiquette, and online safety. These are important aspects of participating in today's world.

### What other security measure will there be?

To maintain a safe and secure learning environment, a filtered Internet connection will be provided for students. They will not be permitted to use a personal broadband connection such as a 3G/4G phone network. As well, students will only be able to use their device under the supervision of their teacher for work purposes. Suspected misuse of the device would be investigated and could result in privileges being revoked if a person was not being a respectful digital citizen.

The devices will be taken home after school and brought back each morning.

### Why Chromebooks?

Chromebooks are lightweight laptops that are significantly cheaper than a laptop. They run an operating system called Chrome OS, which is similar to Windows or Mac OS X, but actually sits on top of a Linux platform.

Chromebooks look like traditional laptops, but are lighter, more flexible and in a lot of environments, are replacing traditional laptops. They are fast, hardwearing, secure and support multiple users. Another reason for choosing Chromebooks is that many schools, including Blockhouse Bay Intermediate, encourage this type of device for their students, so it makes the transition to intermediate smoother and more cost efficient for parents.

### Whose responsibility is it to look after the chromebook?

Students will be solely responsible for their device and must bring it fully charged to school each day. Similar to other personally owned items, Blockhouse Bay Primary will be not liable for loss, damage, misuse, or theft - although we will definitely be supporting the children with this and will take all possible steps to ensure the safety of each device.

### What technical support will there be?

Resources will be provided to help students connect their device to the school network. Teachers will incorporate the use of your child's device into learning programmes and will support them with this. However, the school is not able to provide higher level technical support as this will often void any warranty. Chromebooks purchased from reputable retailers generally come with a 1 year warranty.

'CREATIVITY IS THINKING UP NEW THINGS  
INNOVATION IS DOING NEW THINGS.'  
-THEODORE LEVITT