

## BYOD Information for Families

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Reremoana School invites students who are Year 4 and above to bring their own device to school (BYOD). The device that Reremoana permits and recommends is a Chromebook. As your child is moving into Year 4, now is the perfect time to consider whether you would like your child to bring their own device. Here is some information about BYOD. If you have any questions please feel free to email [maramao@reremoana.school.nz](mailto:maramao@reremoana.school.nz) (Marama O'Reilly - Assistant Principal)

### BYOD Frequently Asked Questions

#### Why BYOD?

Bring Your Own Device allows students to have one-to-one time on a device that is set up to their specifications for their learning. This has many benefits, including:

- enabling students to take increasing responsibility for their own learning
- empowering students to learn at a pace and place as well as a way which suits them
- teaches students how to discern what tool will best help with their learning
- encouraging and enabling teachers to more easily implement personalised learning
- prepares students for a future where they are likely to be working in an environment with increasing amounts of technology and IT/collaborative/cloud based tools.

#### How does Google Apps for Education (GAFE) work?

The Google Apps for Education suite offers apps for email, calendar, blogs, documents, presentations and website creation as well as Google Drive, which is a way of organising all of the work done on these apps. The use of these apps are free and can be used in 'the cloud' - a collaborative environment where others can access and work on documents together in real time.

GAFE allows students to access their work from school, home, the local library - anywhere with an internet connection.

#### Why a Chromebook?

- Chromebooks work seamlessly in the Google Environment
- Cloud-based storage
- Automatically complete software updates without disruption
- Light-weight
- Less on-device distractions

#### How long will my child spend on their device?

At Reremoana School we are aiming for a style of 'Blended Learning' in our BYOD classes. This means that students will enjoy learning both with their devices and also with

more traditional means of learning as both are valid. Keeping in mind the considerable investment that is made on the devices, teachers will endeavour to utilise devices as much as possible during the school day, as well as using them for home tasks. Students will also be encouraged to take breaks from their screen in what is considered good practice for this type of learning.

### **Will the use of these devices in classrooms cause my child to be distracted?**

Chromebooks at school will have the sole use of being used for educational purposes. Our current learners are more engaged and motivated by this type of learning, rather than distracted. As with all learning styles, teachers will also have procedures and guidelines in place for ensuring that learning is happening.

### **How is access to potentially harmful material limited at school?**

As with all internet use at Reremoana School, there is a filter that blocks visiting sites with a potentially harmful nature. This system is far more robust than what is ordinarily in place in the home setting. In 2023 we will be using Linewize which helps schools filter content, manage classrooms, and keep students cyber safe.

- The Cyber Safety agreement that students and parents sign has very clear guidelines for what to do if and when an issue occurs.
- If a security breach or misuse occurs, this is used as an important authentic learning opportunity, as these things may occur both inside and outside of school and students need to be prepared for how to deal with such situations.

### **How will the device be kept safe at school?**

Classrooms have procedures in place for looking after devices including lockable storage units for students to place their devices in when they are not in use or students are out of the classroom.

Although every effort is taken to keep devices safe by both the students and the teachers, the overall responsibility lies with the student to follow these procedures to ensure the safety of their device.

Families purchasing chromebooks are strongly encouraged to purchase an insurance plan.

### **What about the other students who do not have a device?**

Students who do not have a device will have access to school owned devices, both Chromebooks as well as other options that have always been provided in classes. This means that students who do not have devices will have more time to use classroom equipment as the ratio of those that need access to it decreases with others using their own device. Reremoana School will continue to purchase IT equipment for classes to supplement the BYOD devices brought in by students.

### **What if I decide not to purchase a device as soon as my child moves into Year 4?**

Devices can be purchased at any time of the year, or not at all. Students will still continue to learn in a 'blended learning' style and will not be disadvantaged. Devices will need to be shared amongst students and one-to-one is unlikely.

## **Things to Consider when Buying a Chromebook**



### **Chrome Symbol**

Please ensure the device has the chrome symbol on it (as pictured above) as our school is a Google Chrome school. Some stores try to sell you a device that allows Chrome to be used, however it may not be a Chromebook.

### **Cases**

We recommend buying a hard case cover for the device as they do tend to get minor knocks and scrapes from the general wear and tear.