



November 2019

Dear Patch parents,

Technology is used in our classrooms to bring 21st Century learning skills to our students. Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration and Communication are the skills that our students will need in a changing world. Collaboration utilising such platforms as Google Classrooms; Critical Thinking and Creativity skills needed to develop the necessary coding for programming Beebots, Minecraft for Education etc; Communication between teachers, parents and students using Google Classrooms. Much of our assessment (including NAPLAN) is now online.

With access to more devices, it will also allow the use of many recommended intervention tools such as speech to text, phonic readers online as well as the chance to showcase our digital technologies through a dedicated technology open day/evening.

ICT does not replace quality teaching. The use of ICT is always purposeful and will support your child(ren) in their learning.

Most of the devices in our school are 6 years old or older. The students are working with slow, outdated devices that often cannot load the latest operating systems or software.

We need to fund access for suitable devices for all of our students, Prep – 6, on a 4 year plan.

We hope to lease to purchase:

- accessible and hardy desktops where suitable
- laptops which are easily shared and screens which are easy to read
- a class set of Chromebooks which will allow easy accessibility for video and photography that can be used to record student learning, among other creative ventures
- We aim to lease (to buy) enough devices so each grade level has access to a class set.

While we appreciate that the Victorian Department of Education delivers funding for some devices for student use in our schools, unfortunately this only provides very limited access to technology. Instead, DET encourages co-contribution as one option to increase the devices available to students. While for this year the ICT supplement is voluntary, we hope to have as much uptake as possible, to provide the best possible opportunities for all our students.

Regards,

Jennie Simpson
I.T Coordinator

Debra Herrmann
Principal