

Harmony Primary School MacBook Program

Information for parents of students currently in Year 3

Harmony Primary School has implemented a program in which parents of children in Year 4 have the opportunity to purchase a MacBook to enable students to have access to a greater variety of learning experiences whilst at school. This program has been extremely successful and families of students currently in Year 3 are being invited to participate in 2020.

Background

A Technologies learning area is included in The [Western Australian Curriculum](#). This includes Design Technologies and Digital Technologies.

Digital Technologies

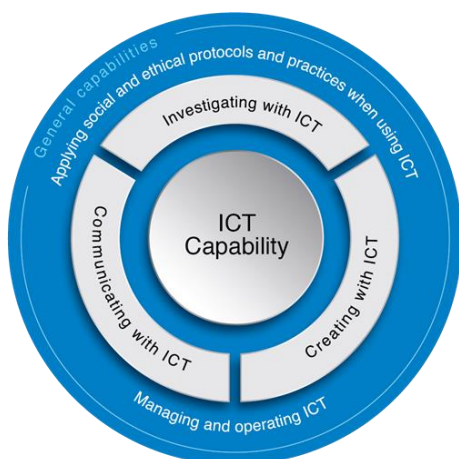
Digital systems are everywhere, mobile and desktop devices and networks are transforming learning, recreational activities, home life and work. Digital systems support new ways of collaborating and communicating, and require new skills such as computational and systems thinking. Technologies are an essential problem-solving toolset in our knowledge-based society.

Digital Technologies provides students with practical opportunities to use design thinking and to be innovative developers of digital solutions and knowledge. Digital Technologies enables students to become innovative creators of digital solutions, effective users of digital systems and critical consumers of information conveyed by digital systems.'

(Western Australian Curriculum)

Across the Western Australian Curriculum, students develop ICT capability (Information and Communication Technologies) as they learn to use ICT effectively and appropriately to access, create and communicate information and ideas; solve problems; and work collaboratively in all learning areas at school, and in their lives beyond school. The capability involves students in learning to make the most of the technologies available to them, adapting to new ways of doing things as technologies evolve, and limiting the risks to themselves and others in a digital environment.

Technologies aims to develop the knowledge, understandings and skills to ensure that, individually and collaboratively, students:



Investigate with ICT

Communicate with ICT

Create with ICT

Manage and operate ICT

Apply social and ethical protocols and practices

Why Apple?

We believe that Apple Products offer a resilient and solid platform for students to achieve a wide range of educational outcomes. Apple support a large amount of appropriate learning tools and allow for creation tasks unmatched by a windows based device. In addition to this, they offer great virus protection, long battery life, at home support 6 days per week through Apple Care (ph:133622) and established support amongst the education communities for our teachers.

There will always be pros and cons in any given situation, however, the school has spent considerable time investigating this from an educational perspective in consultation with other experienced educators and the School Board and has determined that the MacBook best suits our educational needs.

Why not iPads?

We use iPads in the junior school to great effect but as students get older they need the functionality of a full computer in order to be able to develop the required skills. Some advantages of the MacBook over the iPad include but are not limited to:

- Larger screen- Less concern over eyesight and posture related issues
- Built in Keyboard- Increased capacity to develop appropriate keyboarding skills
- Ability to print off and share documents with ease
- All devices have the same base image which includes a range of applications. There is no need for parents to purchase a multitude of different apps for classroom use (The Apple apps in the iWork and iLife range are free for all purchasers of new devices and are downloaded through the user's own iTunes account)
- Students can now access the Office365 package provided by the Department of Education. This is difficult to use on an iPad.
- Comes with flash player, USB slot and SD card slot (depending upon version) for uploading and downloading as required
- Internal memory allows documents to be stored locally. In a school setting, if all students are attempting to access documents from the cloud, the drain on internet bandwidth can be very high and in many cases will exceed the allowance provided by the Department, rendering the devices unusable for upper primary level tasks

How often will it be used?

The nature of the 1:1 laptop environment is that students will have their MacBooks with them and available for use throughout the school day. This does not mean that they will be used in every lesson. Like other learning tools, the use of MacBooks will depend on the particular learning activity and this is at the discretion of the teacher. MacBook activities will blend with others such as writing, reading and discussion and students will find that their use of MacBooks will vary from day to day. Students will continue to be taught all of the basic skills of handwriting, spelling, etc.

Specific technologies lessons will occur throughout the week with students using the MacBook to access the learning in these lessons. Year 4 students will focus on developing key computer usage skills and then progress to using the program Scratch for coding activities. Year 5 students will use Lego We Do to create solutions to real world problems and the Year 6 students will use Makey-Makey to investigate circuits. Class teachers then design programs above and beyond these in order to meet the requirements of the curriculum.

A device purchased or leased for students in Year 4 will be used by them in Year 5 and Year 6 at Harmony Primary. Families who do not purchase a device this year but wish to do so in the future will have that opportunity. Students continuing to Atwell College will be able to use their MacBook in Year 7 and beyond.

What if something goes wrong?

Due to our experience with these devices, the school is aware of many of the most common issues affecting the MacBook and can resolve many of these onsite. Students simply need to bring their MacBook to the office in the morning, fill in a form and come back after school to collect their device.

Parents who have purchased Appicare also have access to their telephone service (133622) to support them at home. A number of parents have told the school that they have been pleasantly surprised to discover that their children have enough knowledge of the device and program being used to complete any required work without technical assistance from their parents. This is also a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their problem solving skills.

Students may also call Appicare themselves to get assistance with quick how-to questions about the iLife and iWork applications.

Other frequently asked questions

Students with their own device will not be expected to share with other students although they may choose to do so. The school has a small number of machines available for students without MacBooks to use on a shared basis when the work cannot be completed in a pencil and paper format. A fee will be charged for this service.

Year 4-6 students do not use the school iPads so will not be required to pay the iPad usage fee. Please note that the same contributions and charges sheet goes out to all families across the school and not all fees will apply to all students.

We recommend that all parents take advantage of the free parent information sessions on CyberSafety presented annually by Paul Litherland. He discusses ways in which parents can assist their children to be safe users of technology and the internet. Year 4 students attend school sessions with both Paul Litherland and The Health Ed Van on this issue as well as receiving instruction and support from teachers in class.

Some concern has been raised in the past about the increase in screen time that use of MacBooks at school will create. There is a great article from the eSafety Commissioner about this topic:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/big-issues/time-online>

Please also see Appendix A, *Making the Most of Your Child's Laptop*, prepared by an Occupational Therapist, specifically for our school.

What machine do I buy?

Harmony Primary School has partnered with Winthrop Australia in offering a Parent Funded 1:1 MacBook Program available for 2020. Through Winthrop, parents will have access to a choice of two discounted MacBooks. Purchasers receive the special educational rate on the device.

Parents are able to have a look at the ordering portal <https://sales.winaust.com.au/shop/harmony> at any time to inform themselves about machine specification, insurance, etc. Parents will need a password to access the portal. For security purposes the password is available in this document on Connect. Alternatively please contact the school office for details.


Please note also that there is no requirement to purchase through the link above. Families are welcome to source their device from any provider and second hand machines are more than able to be used.

Apple do update devices towards the end of term 3 and Winthrop update the devices available through the ordering portal accordingly. The device currently recommended is below:



Harmony Primary School Recommends the MacBook Air



Model	MacBook Air Retina
Colour	Silver & Space Grey
Battery	Up to 12 hours of using the web on Wi-Fi
Weight	1.25 kg
Processor	1.6GHz dual-core Intel Core i5 (8th Gen)
Storage Capacity	128GB or 256GB
Delivery	3-5 Business Days
Inclusions	 3 Years Applecare Warranty on some bundles below
Optional Extras	STM Ace Super Cargo 13" laptop bag External Hard Drive
Optional Insurance	3 Years Coverage to cover Theft/Loss/Accidental Damage Excess per claim is \$150

The 128GB machine has more than enough memory for our purposes at school, however the option is available to purchase a device with more memory capacity should you so choose.

These can be purchased in two different bundle types:

- a) MacBook only
- b) MacBook and AppleCare

Optional extras: Portable hard drive, carry case, MacBook cover, Insurance

[Please go to the ordering portal here for further information.](#)

See note above re password to access the portal.

Portable Hard Drive

We strongly recommend purchasing an external hard drive to back up the MacBook with the Apple Time Machine application. This automatically backs up the entire Mac including all files, applications, accounts and preferences. Time Machine also keeps a spare copy of every file and remembers how the system looked on any given day- so you can revisit the Mac as it appeared in the past. This is not the same as using an external hard drive to transfer a copy of documents. The hard drive should be kept in a separate location to the MacBook itself. Please see www.support.apple.com/en-au/HT201250 for information on how to use time machine.

Insurance

In the unfortunate event of accidental damage, theft or fire, Harmony Primary School recommends that parents purchase the optional 3 Year ProtecSure Insurance as a way of safeguarding the machine from costly repairs/replacements. The excess on this policy is currently \$150.

This insurance means that should a student's MacBook require insurance replacement or repair, this process will be arranged through the school without the need for parents to take the machine to Apple themselves. Parents will need to bring the device to the front office and sign the form generated when the issue is reported to Winthrop. Warranty issues on machine purchased through Winthrop will be arranged through the same process whether insurance has been purchased or not.

Families who choose to source their own device are encouraged to add it to their home insurance policy.

Possible second hand items available

Past Year 6 families who wish to sell their child's device have the option of providing the office with their contact details so that incoming Year 4 families may arrange a private purchase of pre-used devices. Current Year 6 families will also be offered this facility. Please see the office in term 4 for this list.

Access to Wifi and Programs

Students will be given a Connect username and password at the beginning of Year 4. They use this to access the school wifi on their device.

As mentioned earlier, parents will need to install the FREE Apple software programs onto the device using an Apple ID and Password. The school is unable to do this as the programs must be connected to each individual child's device.

The Department of Education has partnered with Microsoft to give all students FREE access to the Microsoft Office Package of software. This was a new initiative for 2019.

Please see Appendix B for details of the programs to install. They are all free when downloaded from the correct link.

We recommend that children are set up as an administrator on their account and that parents are very careful not to set stringent parental controls over the devices. This can cause a lot of frustration at school level if for example, a child's device has been set up to only be on for three hours in the day and they use it for 30 mins and 9am, put it in sleep mode (recommended) and then try to use it again at 2pm. They will simply be unable to complete the class work.

We also encourage all parents to create a separate administrator account for themselves so that they can log in and reset their child's password should the need arise. The school does not have any administration rights over the child's machine and so is unable to assist should a password be forgotten.

How do I find out more?

A parent information session will be held in week 10 this term. More information will be sent out prior to the event.

Please communicate directly with Mrs Robinson at Jennifer.Robinson1@education.wa.edu.au with any further questions.

Making the most of your child's laptop

You may have lots of questions about how to use your child's laptop and how to be cyber safe, but have you asked how to use their technology to promote good physical health?

Information and Communication Technologies can include laptops, computers, tablets, smart boards, TV's, gaming consoles, and phones. What will be next?

They can be found in all environments including schools, homes and workplaces. There is limited chance to avoid interacting with these technologies. Children have had technology and devices around them from such an early age, so it is important to teach them good practices for life long healthy use of all Information and Communication Technologies.

Some key tips to healthy ICT use for children:

Break up laptop use with *physical activities*

- Do you know the Department Of Health (Australian Government) recommend **60 minutes of daily physical activity and no more than 2 hours screen time** for children aged between 5 and 12 years?
- Limit sedentary behaviour at school and home. Think about how much screen time the children get at home and school, whether it be a smart board, a tablet, a phone, TV. Now there is a laptop to add to the mix. Decreasing the unnecessary screen time is a key to remaining more physically active
- Take a break from computer use with an active task every 30 to 60 minutes.

Encourage *changes in posture*

- It is ok for kids to use a laptop whilst standing at a bench, sitting down or laying on the floor. Variations in body position stimulate muscles, and also assist them to concentrate
- Fidgeting and moving whilst using a laptop is ok. It stops the body from being static and not moving.

When sitting at a desk to use a laptop, ensure *good postures*

- Feet should be touching the floor (if chair is too high get a footstool)
- It isn't essential to have a backrest
- Avoid armrests on chairs
- Desk height should be at around elbow height.

When sitting at a desk to use a laptop, ensure *good eye contact*

- The top of the screen should be at eye height. A separate keyboard might be helpful at home.
- Position screen one arm lengths away and directly in front of the child
- Avoid glare from windows



Develop typing skills

- Learn shortcuts on the keyboard
- Learn how to touch type




Transporting the laptop

- Choose a low weight option where available
- Carry laptop in back pack using straps over both shoulders

Pain

- Teach your child to recognise when they feel discomfort or pain they should do something about it, like take a break and stretch rather than working through it

Other simple ideas to ensure healthy computer use include:

SCREEN FREE	PHYSICAL ACTIVITY	PAIN ZONE
Make bedrooms a screen free zone – this will enhance cyber safety but also limit the amount of time they are likely to spend on it.	Encourage a minimum amount of physical activity prior to screen use – if you like technology consider using a fit bit, where they have to reach a certain amount of activity before they access their “screen”.	Use timing devices and set alarms to remind you to get up and move around rather than relying on pain or discomfort telling you to move.
		

Reference:

Straker, L, Johnson, P, Burgess-Limerick, R, Dennerlein, J (2010) *Evidence Based Guidelines for the wise use of computers by children: Physical Development Guidelines*. ERGONOMICS Vol 53. No 4

Department of Health, (2014) *Physical Activity Guidelines for children aged 5-12 years*. AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/F01F92328EDADA5BCA257BF0001E720D/\\$File/brochure%20PA%20Guidelines_A5_5-12yrs.PDF](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/F01F92328EDADA5BCA257BF0001E720D/$File/brochure%20PA%20Guidelines_A5_5-12yrs.PDF)

Appendix B

Macbook Applications and Programs to Download onto Student Devices

All of the following applications are FREE when accessed from the correct website.

Applications that can be downloaded immediately:

iWork: Pages, numbers, keynote, <https://support.apple.com/downloads/iwork>

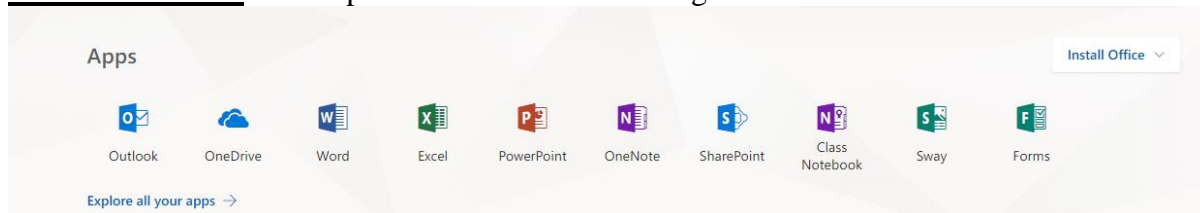
iMovie: <https://support.apple.com/downloads/imovie>

iBooks Author: <https://www.apple.com/au/ibooks-author/>

Scratch2 (Learn to code): <https://scratch.mit.edu/download/scratch2>

Applications that can be downloaded in 2020:

Microsoft Office: The Department of Education has given all students FREE access to this software.



Students access this [here](#) and sign in (link in the top right hand corner of the page) using their portal username (firstname.lastname) and password. Teachers will give students their password details and these can be used to download the apps to their machines (recommended) and allow them to work with the offline version.

Students access the school wifi using the same log-in details.