

Dear Parents,

We are writing as a follow up to the letter and information pack that you received last week regarding the implementation of a 1:1 iPad program. As a result of constructive feedback from some parents, there are some key questions from the previous correspondence that we wish to clarify.

To ensure the successful implementation of this initiative we will continue to provide ongoing communication.

How will an iPad be used at TPPS?

An iPad does not, and will not replace quality teaching. We use the word 'tool' to describe iPads and that is exactly how we view them. They are a great tool to not only access information quickly, but to also use features such as the camera, video and sound recording options to present or record what students know about a concept or topic, what they would like to know or what they have learnt. Predominately, they give the same options as a laptop in doing this but a personal device eliminates logging on to our network (time consuming), sharing notebooks (unequal access with students using them) and provides a tool at the student's fingertips when an incidental opportunity to learn arises. By this we mean for example, when a class discussion results in a topic or issue that students would like to learn more about they can all reach for their iPad to quickly enable them with getting information or presenting their understanding in different ways. Currently if this arises, the students would all look at the teacher's notebook on the projector (or all get up and go get a notebook if they are not already being used) and watch the one person (usually the teacher) investigate this as opposed to doing it for themselves. This access is vital in eyes of teachers to not only help with the learning but to also maintain student engagement. Everyone doing as opposed to everyone watching or listening is very powerful.

In terms of what the students will use them for in the core areas, it is again about the support they can provide. They will not replace the school's philosophy of open ended learning; ability based grouping to meet individual needs and real life learning. The school has and will continue to, select only Apps that teachers agree add value to current teaching methods and content. For example one thing you will not see is students playing video style games that have a weak link to learning (for example a space rocket that shoots objects if you get a sum or time table correct).

The iPad does not determine the learning, the school does. We see the iPad as a giver of options.

Does the school expect all students to have their own device on the first day of term 3?

No. Time is needed for all families to assess what option is best for them in terms of their child bringing a device. The date given is the date from which the classrooms will be secure and ready from a technical point of view to accommodate iPads. We understand that it will take time before a 1:1 iPad program will be in full operation. Our preference is that all students would have their own device during term 3. We acknowledge that family circumstances are different and in some cases a longer period of time is necessary.

Why are we asking for students to bring an iPad to school?

A personal iPad allows for instant access to information and collaboration. A personal iPad also allows for tasks to be planned, created and produced over a duration of time. Ongoing personal access to student work is possible. The sharing of iPads does not allow this.

What will happen if my child is unable to bring an iPad to school?

The school will continue to support all students with access to iPad technology. Depending on student numbers, it may mean that devices will be shared. Use of a school iPad will not enable students to share their learning with families at home as they will be required to remain at school.

Will social media options such as Facebook and Instagram be accessible?

No. The wireless network at Templestowe Park is different to Wi-Fi Hotspots which allows access to any user with a pc, phone or tablet. At TPPS, each device (iPad, student notebook, staff notebook) needs to be set up by the school computer technician with a certificate which allows it to connect to the school wireless network. This network is controlled by the Department of Education and has built in functions to deny access to social networking sites (for all staff and students). This is additional to filtered Internet access to ensure appropriate use. The school also has the ability to block any sites that may be popular with students but do not have any value in regards to teaching and learning.

What if my iPad has both Wi- Fi and 3G capability?

3G enables an iPad to be used in a similar way to a mobile phone. It maybe the option families prefer for internet access at home instead of using an internet provider. When such an iPad is brought to school that has been configured to the school's wireless network, the 3G capability will be automatically overridden by the wireless network. This means that the device will be forced to access the internet through the school's Wi-Fi network allowing the filtering and website restrictions to operate. It is the responsibility of the student to not alter any settings on the device to enable 3G access whilst at school.

Can my child's personal email account be used to set up their iTunes account?

No. All year 5 and 6 students at Templestowe Park have an email address using our internet provider Netspace. Netspace is the Department of Education's preferred internet provider and its mail hosting system is set up for schools. This means that like our internet restrictions as listed in the question above, student email is filtered to help ensure appropriate use. This includes the feature of a 'bad word list' that alerts an administrator when a student uses one of these words in an email that is sent. Our wireless network does not allow email accounts such as Hotmail and Gmail to be used. For students with an existing iTunes account, it is very simple to change the Apple ID to their school email account.

Can my child use our family iPad?

This is still a question that the school is trying to get more information about. While the general answer is yes, there are some points to consider. It is important that while at school the iPad is signed in as the student. One reason for this is so that any apps that he / she download to use at school remain his / her property. When students leave TPPS and eventually own a device, their apps can be utilised (eg secondary school).

It is also important that the standard mail app is configured to the student as then it can be utilised with other apps. For example if the student creates an e-book and would like to email it to a peer, teacher or family member, he/she would not be able to do it if the mail app is configured to another account (ie another family member). This set up would mean the student would not be using their email account.

Another thing to consider is what documents, email etc are considered private. While different email apps can be installed and set up for different family members (regardless of which iTunes account the device is signed in as), it is difficult to restrict others with accessing emails and documents that do not belong to them.

What are the options to provide an iPad to a student?

- Bring an existing iPad from home
- Lease a device
- Rent a device
- Purchase a device

Examples of these costs are enclosed. Please note that all options provided are suggestions only.

Are there any websites I can visit to learn more about iPads and their use in schools?

Victorian Department of Education 1:1 Case Studies

http://epotential.education.vic.gov.au/showcase/1_to_1_devices/case_studies

Victorian Government iPads for Learning website:

<http://www.ipadsforeducation.vic.edu.au/>

Redlands iPad Programme:

<https://ipad.redlands.qld.edu.au/>

Epson Primary School Findings

<http://epsipadtrial.global2.vic.edu.au/2012/01/25/a-final-word-but-no-so-final/>

Who can I contact with any further questions?

For information about the schools iPad program contact Nick Cox on 0417114955 or nicholas.cox50@gmail.com

For technical and educational information about your iPad requirements contact Brian Cleary on 9846 2700 or cleary.brian.c@edumail.vic.gov.au

For information about the schools purchase / lease / rental options please contact Jenny Turpin on 9846 2700 or turpin.jennifer.m@edumail.vic.gov.au

Kind Regards,



School Council President
On Behalf of Templestowe Park School Council