Why iPads for primary school students?

iPad and Apple Mac programs are now common place across WA schools. Bertram has been working to implement a complete school program for a number of years and each year our program develops to a higher level as staff and students become more skilled in the use of the device. We chose iPads rather than MacBooks as primary school children are able to complete most activities on this device and it provides continuity for the families and children across years and in some cases throughout their primary schooling.

In junior classes iPads have been shown to support the growth of:

- Phonological awareness;
- The acquisition of phonics;
- The development of reading; and
- The recall of basic number facts.

In middle and upper years students have the opportunity to design, create, investigate and present a variety of information across a wide range of interest areas providing the capacity to exceed recognised curriculum content and support a higher level of student centred learning.

For further information about the use of technologies in WA schools please follow the link below:
http://www.det.wa.edu.au/curriculumsupport/primary/detcms/navigation/tablet-technology-for-education/

Bertram Primary School continues to offer our students, teachers and community the opportunity to integrate innovative technology into classroom practice to enhance student engagement and motivation.

What if I don’t provide an iPad?
The iPad program is completely voluntary. Students who do not have their own device will have some access to school iPads, however this may not be 1:1. These will be used on a rotational basis between the Learning Areas and available as often as practical. These devices are not permitted to leave the school.

Why Apple?

- Stability - The iPad operating system has the reputation of being robust and intuitive.
- Security - The Apple App Store tests all new apps before releasing them to the public, ensuring no inappropriate content appears. The android app store is an open source platform anyone can upload to; the apps are not checked and leave people exposed to unwanted content.
- Continuity - Apps perform the same way on all recent versions of the iPad, making it easier to cater for a variety of devices over time. Apple updates are pushed through automatically ensuring users are consistently using the most up to date versions of the software. The Apple ID system allows users to change devices without losing any apps.
- Support - The AppleCare Protection Plan provides 24/7 complimentary telephone support, including software support for 2 years. AppleCare gives you one-stop technical service and support from Apple experts and most issues can be resolved in a single call.
- Curriculum - The Department of Education iPad trial has resulted in a close relationship between the Apple Education team and WA schools. This relationship continues to bring benefits to Bertram PS students, staff and community to create a rich learning environment for our students.
What iPad should I buy?

- We recommend the iPad Air1 wifi, 32G or iPad Air2 wifi, 32G or iPad mini 4 wifi. These can be purchased from a variety of recommended Apple resellers.
- The newer the iPad the longer it will be able to accommodate future software and app purchases.
- Purchasing an older iPad may mean your device is unable to be updated and the compatibility of apps may become an issue in the future.
- The technology available on new versions of the iPad is of greater capacity and quality than previous devices.

What if my child already has an older iPad?

If your family already has an iPad and you would like to send this to school with your child, you do not need to purchase a new device at this time – providing it is capable of operating with the required capacity. You will be required to provide insurance and serial number details, exactly as if the device was purchased new for the program.

Be aware the older the iPad the more new functions will not be available for your child.

Why 32G?

The recommended size for an iPad in an educational environment is at least 32G. Items stored on the iPad include apps, photos, videos and other media. 32G or bigger enables students to store their work on the device without having to manage the content externally. It allows the flexibility for home and holiday use by your family.

Many families buying smaller iPads are finding the device fills quickly and requires management and data transfer in order to keep the device functioning as intended.

Why the $50 App Store Credit?

You will be required to install certain apps on your child’s iPad while at home in order for them to participate fully in the 1:1 iPad program. A list of apps which need to be installed on all iPads is available to you. From time to time you will be asked to install additional apps and you may need to purchase additional credit.

Information regarding app lists will be provided at parent information sessions at the beginning of 2016. Bertram Primary School staff will not install apps on your child’s iPad.

Apps may be shared between a maximum of 5 devices with the same Apple ID at no additional cost. Due to copyright restrictions the school is unable to load apps onto multiple devices.

If you purchase the AppleCare Protection Plan for your iPad you are provided with 24/7 telephone support from Apple technical experts for 2 years. If you have problems installing apps they will provide assistance over the phone.

Apps maybe downloaded using the schools wifi system once purchased and loaded.

Having the correct Apps on your child’s device is critical to the ongoing successful use of the device. Children without the required Apps are unable to maximise the use of their device and the teaching and learning program is disrupted. Whilst this is an expense it is an ongoing investment in your child’s learning, provides 24hour learning access and support. All Apps need to be kept current.
**Where should I get my child’s iPad from?**
There are a number of options you may wish to consider in regard to providing your child with an iPad to bring to school in 2016:

- You may provide an iPad you already have at home. Please consider personal items such as photos which may need to be removed before you send it to school with your child.
- You may wish to purchase or lease a new iPad for your child.

Wherever you purchase your device we recommend you consider the AppleCare Protection Plan which provides 24/7 online support and ensure your device is insured.

**Winthrop Australia**
We have negotiated with Winthrop Australia to provide Bertram families the opportunity to purchase or lease iPads directly using the link below.

The portal is currently open and receiving orders for delivery later this term

**Why Winthrop Australia?**
Winthrop Australia is the provider of Apple products to the Department of Education. They are able to provide a wrap-around service to schools including:

- One stop shop - The online ordering portal enables you to get everything you need in the same place.
- Warranty and Insurance - Winthrop Australia offers logging of warranty and insurance repairs through their online portal. iPads are dropped off at school to be logged by a school representative, collected by Winthrop Australia, repaired / replaced and returned in a timely manner.
- Support - Winthrop Australia offers ongoing professional development, parent information sessions to schools and phone support.

**Can I order from Winthrop later in the year?**
Yes! The portal remains open and orders can be placed at any time. Orders will be processed on a daily basis with delivery approximately 4 weeks after processing. Parents will be contacted when their order arrives at school. Once you have purchased your iPad and completed the school insurance form confirming you understand your child's device is **not covered** by the school insurance policy your child will be able to bring their device to school.

**Leasing**
Flexirent in conjunction with Winthrop Australia offers a leasing option for parents. Details of this offer can be found at [https://portal.winaust.com.au/forms/view/211](https://portal.winaust.com.au/forms/view/211)

**Why leasing, if it is more expensive?**
Leasing is an option Winthrop Australia has provided to families as an alternative to the expense of purchasing an iPad outright. You will need to read the terms and conditions set out by Flexirent to see if this is the right option for you. Some families are able to salary package an iPad as part of their workplace arrangements and in this case leasing is often the preferred method.

**What happens at the end of the 2 year lease?**
A number of options exist for the end of the leasing period which need to be investigated as part of your decision making process. View the lease terms and conditions to make sure leasing suits your personal needs.

**What else do I need to buy?**
When you purchase your iPad you will need to consider the following:

- Your iPad must be fitted with a protective case, front and back. Keep in mind the students will be using them to take photos and videos so ensure the cover can be held or moved to allow easy access. If you purchase or lease your device through the Winthrop Australia portal, you may select a cover as an optional accessory.
- All Apple hardware comes with a one-year limited warranty and up to 90 days of complimentary telephone technical support. It is recommended you extend your coverage further with the
AppleCare Protection Plan. If you purchase your device through the Winthrop Australia portal you may select the 2 Year iPad AppleCare Protection Plan as an optional extra.

- **Your iPad is not covered** by the Bertram Primary School or Department of Education insurance policy. You may wish to check with your home and/or contents insurer to ensure your existing cover extends to an iPad being brought to school by your child. If you purchase your device through Winthrop Australia you may select insurance through Protectsure as an optional extra.

### Security - Before, after and during school

- The security of the iPad is the responsibility of the parent/carer outside of school hours.

- Students are not allowed to remove iPads from Learning Areas during lunch or recess. At these times the classes are locked and iPads secured in a locked box.

- OSHClub provides locked storage for iPads while students are in their care before and/or after school.

### What happens if my iPad is damaged or broken?

iPads brought to school are not covered by the Bertram Primary School or the Department of Education’s insurance.

Where iPads are purchased through Winthrop Australia and the Optional 2 Year Protectsure Insurance option is selected, students will be able to bring their device to school for a school representative to log the fault. The damaged item will be picked up by a courier, repaired or replaced and returned to school for collection.

Where the Protectsure Insurance Option is not taken or the iPad is purchased independently or brought from home it needs to be covered under your own insurance. The school will not provide a loan iPad in this situation. If the iPad is damaged at school it is the parents’ responsibility to pay the insurance excess.

If you lease an iPad through Flexirent you have cover against theft, loss or accidental damage. There is a 24hr replacement when your device is in for repair.

Before your iPad can come to school you will be required to complete a form providing the serial number of your device and confirming you understand it is not covered by the school or Department of Education insurance policy.

### What happens if my iPad is not functioning properly?

If you purchased or leased your iPad through Winthrop Australia you have a 2 year AppleCare Protection Plan with 24/7 technical support. Your first option would be to access the support provided by the Apple experts through AppleCare. If they are unable to resolve the problem you will bring your iPad to school where a school representative will log the issue for you. It will be collected, repaired or replaced and returned to school in a timely manner. Some school iPads will be available for use by students at school while their device is being repaired.

If you purchased your iPad independently or provided one from home you will need to refer to the warranty you selected at the point of sale. Apple products have a 1 year limited warranty unless you purchase an AppleCare Protection Plan which provides a 2 year warranty.

### Will my child still learn to read and write?

Yes! Literacy and Numeracy are the top priorities of any school. The iPad program has been introduced to enhance and extend these skills. Studies have shown the best way to master a new skill is to practice and many Apps are designed to repeat and practice various skills and knowledge. The use of iPads in a classroom setting offers new and engaging ways for the students to practice a wide range of skills identified in the Australian Curriculum.
Will my child have to share the iPad I paid for?
It is important the child whose parents have purchased an iPad is the primary user of the device. Sharing of iPads will only occur where there is no disadvantage to its owner. The social skill of sharing is important for schools and families to develop within their children and this will occur where appropriate.

Can I purchase an iPad for my children who are in other year levels?
All children attending Bertram PS from PP-6 are encouraged to have access to their own iPad. This device should be brought to school each day. Many children move through each year taking their iPad with them. Children cannot successfully share their iPad with siblings during the school day.

What is the life expectancy of an iPad?
Remember a computer, any computer, is not an investment. Technology changes faster than a device is "worth", so the life expectancy of any device is however long its user can use it for its intended purpose.

Reference sites:
If you would like to know more about iPad in schools please review the following sites:
http://www.scoop.it/t/curtin-ipad-user-group/p/1994276675/study-backs-ipad-school-use-uwa-ecu
https://ipad.redlands.qld.edu.au/
http://www.det.wa.edu.au/curriculumsupport/primary/detcms/navigation/tablet-technology-for-education/

If you have any questions about our program please contact the school. We are committed to making our program a success and your support is critical in this journey.