Umina Beach Public School

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A member of the **Brisbane Water** Learning Community

BYOD INITIATIVE FOR 2020

Dear Parents/Carers of Years 4, 5 and 6 students,

As part of our strong and ongoing commitment to 21st Century teaching and learning, Umina Beach Public School will be continuing our Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program in 2020 for Year 4, 5 and 6 students.

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) refers to students bringing a personal technology device to use for educational purposes under the direction of a teacher. For the purposes of BYOD, 'device' means a privately owned wireless device such as a laptop.

Mobile phones/smartphones are banned in accordance with NSW DoE policy. Parents can contact the front office if they need to communicate with their child during school hours.

The school will provide the ability to connect **compatible** devices to a filtered DoE internet service which will provide safe, secure internet access for students.

There are many reasons to go BYOD at Umina Beach Public School. These include:
- Bridging the gap between school and home.
- Personalised and differentiated learning, eg. Using Google Classroom as a platform and a variety of apps to produce quality pieces of work, accessibility and options to adjust to learners' needs.
- Augmenting best teaching practice by redefining and modifying what students can do.
- Allowing students more control of their learning.
- Building student organisation skills and sense of responsibility.
- Engaging students.

Equity concerns have been raised by parents and are integral to the BYOD initiative at Umina Beach Public School. Not every family can afford a device for their child/children, and as such, students can continue to use limited school devices, including XO 's.

For successful access to the DoE internet, strict adherence to device specification is required. These are set out below. We encourage you to refer to the device technology specification sheet when purchasing your device. Students will be using their device primarily to access the internet, complete set work using Google Apps for Education, as well as using other web-based applications.

	Essential Criteria	More details
Operating System Versions	• Chrome OS (for Chromebook laptop) • Windows 10 laptop • Mac laptop with OS X 10.11 or newer • Latest iOS • NO ANDROID TABLETS	A case or sleeve for a laptop is essential. A good quality case for the iPad is also required. A keyboard is also highly advisable for tablets.
Browser	Google Chrome must be installed	Google Chrome is available for devices listed. Apps for iOS are also required (free). These are Google Classroom, Google Drive, Google Docs, Sheets and Slides and can be downloaded from the App Store.
Screen Size	Min 9.7 inch (iPad mini size is sufficient if a keyboard is attached)	A wireless keyboard is required to maximise screen use..
WiFi	Wireless Connectivity is key to BYOD devices in schools! Devices must support 5Ghz dual band wireless or 802.11 a/b/g/n (Make sure it supports both 'a' and 'n')	Our school supports both 2.4Ghz and 5Ghz
Battery life	6 hours battery life	Note: there will be NO charging of devices allowed due to WHS issues.
Security	Up to date anti-virus	Chromebooks have built-in security.

Suggested BYOD Devices
We would like to note that Chromebook performed best and is certainly our preferred device.

NOTE: **Wi-Fi is essential**

	Best by far and highly recommended✓✓✓	**Suitable** ✓✓	**Strongly not recommended**
Device	**Chromebook - order via school website**	**PC or Mac Laptop**	**iPad (iPad Mini requires a keyboard)**
Pros	Proven to be the best according to students and teachers* Very affordable Fast - boots in 8 seconds Works best with our platform - Google Apps for Education Google Play Store apps will be available on many models Excellent battery life Built-in antivirus Updates automatically	Very good screen size Keyboard Good battery life on some models Ability to install Google Chrome browser which works well with Google Apps for Education Proven to be second best according to students and teachers*	Excellent battery life Students are familiar with it.
Cons	Unable to install traditional Windows software.	Requires Windows updates and antivirus - unable to do at school Can be expensive	Expensive Smallish screen size Has connection problems Flash websites can be a problem Requires updates - unable to do at school Limited functionality with G Suite

****ANDROID devices are NOT allowed****

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT SUGGESTED BYOD DEVICES – please go to the school website for more information - umina-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/learning-at-our-school/science/byod.html
Please visit the above link to be guided on suggested devices. However, Chromebooks have proven to be a standout due to their low cost (approximately $340.00), excellent battery life, speed and functionality.

Below is an overview of the key points for students, parents and school roles in the BYOD initiative:

Student Responsibilities:
The student takes full responsibility for his or her device. While every effort will be made to ensure their security, the school and its staff take no responsibility for loss, theft or damage to the device either at school or in travel to and from school.
The student will be responsible for the proper care of his or her personal device, including any costs of repair, replacement or any modification needed to use the device at school.
The student is responsible for charging their device prior to bringing it to school. It should be capable of running off its own battery while at school. Desired battery life is 6 hours minimum.
The student will use the school's filtered wireless network. Mobile phones are not considered BYOD devices. The use of 3G and 4G wireless connections are not allowed. If your device has a SIM card, parents are required to store the SIM at home.
We recommend that each device is housed in a sturdy case for protection.

Storage:
The student will need to take their device home each night so that they can be charged. BYOD devices are to be stored in class storerooms during lunch and recess breaks.

Usage:

When at school, the student should only use their device to access classroom related activities. The student will comply with teachers' requests to turn off the device for learning purposes.

Students should not take photos, video or sound recordings of other students and members of staff without their knowledge and consent. They are not allowed to transmit or post photos, video or sound recordings taken at school without the express permission of a teacher.

The school reserves the right to inspect a student's personal device if there is reason to believe that the student has violated school policies, school rules or has engaged in other misconduct while using their personal device.

Violations of school or class rules involving a student's' personally owned device may result in disciplinary action.

Students will take part in digital citizenship/cybersafety lessons to ensure they use digital technology in a safe and positive way.

More information about our BYOD program is available on the school website - http://www.umina-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/parents/byod

BYOD is part of an evolution of technology use and our school is leading the way. We look forward to working with the students and parents as we continue this exciting initiative with Year 4, 5 and 6 students in 2020.

Yours sincerely,

Chad Tsakissiris   Lyn Davis
Deputy Principal   Principal