



## St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

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Dear Parents, Friends and Families,

With the end of the year fast approaching some of our attention turns to 2021. St Bernadette's is excited to announce that next year we will be continuing with the '1:1 iPads for Learning Program' for our students. This means that we will provide all students in Year 3/4 with a school owned iPad, which they will use at school every day to enhance their learning. As this program is an important part of your child's learning, we will be inviting the Year 3/4s to occasionally take their iPads home, under teacher direction.

Next year, we will be running an iPad information evening for parents of Year 3/4 on **Wednesday 10th February at 7:00pm in Pioneers Hall** to discuss the program.

We have invited **Ryan Fede from the eSmart Alannah and Madeline Foundation to be a presenter for the evening.** He will provide insight into the online worlds of young people including the latest trends, risks and research with a strong focus on social media and gaming. It also focuses on advice parents can use to help manage a child's life online. This session will be for adults only due to the content being discussed but babysitting will be provided should you need to bring your child.

Given that this is a significant investment for the School Community, **this is a compulsory event for 2021 Year 3/4 parents.**

Prior to this evening each family will be given a contract re: **Use of the iPad** to be signed by parents/carers and students. This will need to be completed and returned before students will be allowed to take their iPad home.

Our 1:1 iPad program has been a success for all involved so far and we are looking forward to continuing this. We appreciate your support of, and commitment to your child's learning.

Kind regards,

Mrs Joanne Webster

Principal

Mrs Chapman - Foehn

ICT Leader

**FAQ: (Please note that although this document refers specifically to iPads, the general information applies across other devices)**

### **Why is the school implementing 1:1?**

We live in a changing world where technology is ever-present and integrated into many aspects of our lives. This may be true, but we shouldn't think of technology as the magic answer to your child enjoying a first-class education. The 21st Century skills set calls for *critical, technical, collaborative and problem-solving skills*; which don't come from simply owning an iPad. These skills must be developed and taught. It is through the iPad that we can provide *opportunities for children to question, explore, interact and create answers to some important questions.*

### **Why iPads?**

As a personal device, the iPad is powerful, versatile and easy to use. Many schools have implemented it successfully into classroom programs and there is a growing body of research indicating its potential for improved learning outcomes. The iPad provides us with an opportunity to capture, test and share our thoughts and ideas: it gives our students a powerful voice. The iPad's role in the classroom is to **amplify** student learning.

### **What if I don't have the Internet at home?**

While having the Internet is an advantage in terms of giving children access to online learning resources for things such as homework or learning goals practice, it isn't essential. Many apps on an iPad will work without an Internet connection.

### **How do I set up and manage the device?**

The iPad will already be set up as it is managed by the school. This means that the school will download all the apps required for your child's learning. These apps are always evolving, meaning that the teachers will inevitably discover new apps that they think will amplify learning and these will be added to the iPad. You will not have to pay any money at all for apps required at school and your child will have the apps they need at all times for their learning.

### **Do I need a Mac computer or a PC to back up my iPad?**

You can back up your iPad to a computer (Mac or PC) but you don't have to. If you have a computer that has the iTunes software on it you can plug your iPad into it to back up a copy of what's on your iPad. Most people don't use this feature and instead use iCloud to back up their device. Settings for backing up to iCloud can be found in the Settings app > iCloud > Storage and Backup. iCloud provides 5GB for free with options for purchasing extra storage.

## **What should I do if my child misuses or mistreats their iPad?**

We'll be discussing this on the Parent Information evening on **Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021**. This isn't a simple, one-size-fits-all issue and needs to be discussed in detail. Your child needs to know and understand that there needs to be limits imposed on the overuse of any device (or activity) and natural consequences for misuse or mistreatment.

## **How do I find out what my child is doing on their device?**

The simplest answer to this is to build trust and relationships with your child about how they use their iPad. Sit with them regularly and have them share what they're doing. It is a focus of the St Bernadette's 1:1 program to concentrate on Cyber Safety and Cyber Citizenship, covered throughout the year within the learning spaces. Your child should be able to discuss with you at length the rules and acceptable use around the use of the technology, both within and beyond the classroom.

## **How will my child be using the iPad in class? Will they be allowed to play games? How often will they use it?**

The use of the iPad in class is dependent on the learning intention at the time and whether or not the iPad is the most appropriate tool to use. This is the decision of the teacher based on what they understand about specific tools for learning. It's important that students use a mixture of traditional learning forms such as writing in books as well as iPads. The best use of the iPad is what we call a "Blended Learning" approach: the use of digital and non-digital tools in balance with one another.

## **How do I learn more about using the iPad?**

Believe it or not, one of the best ways to learn about the iPad is within the iPad itself. The iPad is very easy to use for most people. If you want to learn more about using it, there are literally thousands of demonstration videos on YouTube which show you how to perform specific functions. Just search for "How to \_\_\_\_\_ on an iPad". And if you're still not sure, ask your child. They'll either help you or point you in the right direction.

