Mount Pleasant Road Primary School & Kindergarten
(Nunawading)

Frequently Asked Questions:
BYO (Bring Your Own) Chromebooks Program

Why is the school moving from iPads to Chromebooks?

Our review with staff and families showed that while iPads have strengths, Chromebooks are better suited for core learning tasks in Grades 3–6. They support typing, research, and Google Workspace (Docs, Slides, Classroom, Drive), have fewer distractions, and align with secondary schools where laptops are the standard device.

Chromebooks better support the core learning tasks in Grades 3–6.
This includes:

- Seamless use of Google Workspace (Docs, Slides, Classroom, Drive)
- Built-in keyboard for efficient typing and research
- Secure, school-managed platform with reduced distractions
- Prepares students for secondary school, where laptops are standard
- Secure storage and charging provided at school
- Encouraged to remain at school during the week, with the option to take home on weekends and holidays

Why A Parent-Funded "BYO Chromebook Program"?

The school is not financially able to provide a device for each student to allow for the learning opportunities that we believe will equip your child for their future. The support from parents of the BYO Chromebook program allows us to focus on providing an increasingly reliable and robust wifi network right across the school. We have also committed to resourcing each learning centre with robots:

- Leadership: Sphero
- Independence: Dash and Dot
- Inquiry: Ozobot
- Discovery: Botley

All of these are being used to further expand our coding program. The Sphero, Dash and Ozobots all use block programming similar to Hopscotch and Scratch Junior. The benefits to learning to code include the development of problem-solving strategies to ethical responsibility, as well as mathematics and language skills.

Coding:

- Allows students to create content, not just consume it.

- Develops teamwork and practical skills.
- Teaches problem solving and analytical skills.
- Is inclusive and builds self-confidence.

What is still important?

- Handwriting and bookwork: The development of fine motor and handwriting skills are still considered fundamental at Mount Pleasant Road Primary School. The successful phonogram program and included focus on handwriting, note taking and book work will still be important in all curriculum areas. Use of Chromebooks is undertaken as part of a process towards achieving learning outcomes, and using pen and paper is more often than not, a part of that process.
- Posture and ergonomics: All students will be informed of the importance of good body posture and that it is maintained by students when using a Chromebook to minimise any risk of injury. A suitable protective cover will need to be purchased for security.
- A balance of 'screen time' which includes periods of screen free learning, no digital device usage during break times or wet day programs unless specifically part of an extra-curricular activities supervised by staff.

When will the transition begin?

The transition will start in **2026 with Grade 3 students only**. Students in Grades 4–6 will continue using BYOD iPads until they finish primary school. By 2029, all students in Grades 3–6 will be using Chromebooks.

What sort of Chromebook should be purchased?

We ask families to purchase a **Lenovo 500E G4 Yoga Chromebook - 12.2" Touch, Intel N100, 8GB, 64GB, Stylus**. Purchase/lease using our partnership with Learning with Technologies (LWT) school portal https://mtpleasantroadps.orderportal.com.au/ Families are not required to purchase or lease a device through LWT. Chromebooks can be purchased from a retailer but we ask that families purchase a Google Chrome Management Console License Upgrade for Education through the LWT portal to allow for zero touch enrolment to our school network

Where will the devices be stored and charged?

The school will provide **secure storage and charging facilities** in classrooms. We strongly encourage Chromebooks to remain at school during the week to support consistent learning and reduce screen time at home. Devices may go home on weekends and during holidays if families choose.
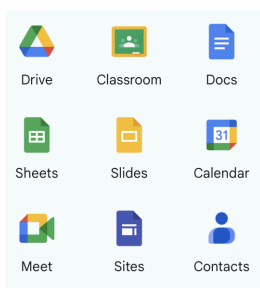
Software Requirements

What apps will be required?

The school has identified a core set of free apps that will be required for each Chromebook. Through the Google Chrome Management Console, the school will centrally manage and install all necessary apps, updates, and settings, ensuring every student has access to the same tools for learning. Families won't need to download or set up anything at home.

Google Workspace for Education

Google Workspace for Education is a rich set of web applications that includes website creation, collaboration, document editing and shared calendars. It is an internet based service provided by Google for educational purposes only. Used as part of our teaching and learning program, It provides students and teachers with access to online services such as document storage (for school work), and video-conferencing facilities.

TERMS OF SERVICE:
https://workspace.google.com/intl/en_in/terms/education_terms.html

PRIVACY INFORMATION:
https://www.google.com/edu/trust/index.html

Google access to specific personal information about your child

To enable your child to sign-on and access these online services as part of our school's teaching and learning program, Google requires access to your child's Department of Education username, first and last name, year level and school. You may request that our school not provide this information to Google, and opt-out your child from using Google Workspace for Education. As a result, your child will not have access to the online services and alternate arrangements for allocating work will be made.

Student responsibilities when using online services

When using Google Workspace for Education, students continue to be responsible for their behaviour as outlined in our school's Acceptable Use Agreement. The main themes of this agreement are:

- Communicate respectfully;
- Protect personal information; and
- Look after yourself and others.

Security and Insurance:

The school will make all reasonable efforts to ensure that student Chromebooks are safe and secure. Students must store and secure their Chromebooks in their tubs during recess and lunch times. School buildings are kept locked when staff are not in attendance.

Neither the Department nor the school provides insurance for students' personal property. Parents are advised to check their home insurance to determine if a personal Chromebook is covered. Additional warranties can be purchased through LWT.

Cyber safety

MPRPS has developed policies that address Internet and Digital Technology use and Cyber Safety. There are also BYO Chromebook and Internet and Digital Technologies Acceptable Use Agreements that are required to be signed by parents/carers and students at the beginning of each year. It is intended that students will develop age-appropriate digital technology skills and understandings, including the responsibilities of online citizenship. Students will accept responsibility for their personal actions when using digital technologies, as well as the care and functionality of their device.

eSmart:

MPRPS is an accredited eSmart school. This is a whole school program designed in conjunction with the Department of Education and The Alannah and Madeline Foundation for schools across Australia. It is a comprehensive Cyber Safety Program in which students are expected to meet guidelines. This program continues to develop throughout the year. Students also receive regular direct instruction on cybersafety issues. It is important that students use devices and learn to be cybersmart in a safe environment so they can use these skills in later life.

Home Use:

To support families, the school provides secure storage and charging facilities, and strongly encourages devices to remain at school during the week to ensure consistency in learning and reduce unnecessary screen time at home. This allows parents/carers the option of whether their child uses digital technology at home. If you choose to take your Chromebook home Parents are responsible for how children use their Chromebooks outside of school hours.

Recommended Practice:

1. Chromebooks are only used in shared spaces at home and not taken into bedrooms.
2. Parents should regularly check how the Chromebook is being used.
3. It is a good idea to implement time limits and a shared storage space.