STORY & STURE

Brackenhurst Primary School

Tablets Specifications for e-learning 2018

If you are looking to invest in buying your child a new tablet for e-learning we would like to strongly suggest that you keep these requirements in mind when buying a new device. We have found that these devices and specs have worked the best. Many of the less expensive options have given trouble and have had to be returned to suppliers for continual repairs. The requirements are:

- Samsung, Lenovo and Vodatabs (These makes have proven to be the most reliable)
- If you are going to purchase a new tablet, then it would be best for android versions 5 and above. However, if you have one, android version 4.3 still works well, so there is no need to purchase a new one.
 - If possible, stay away from Laptops, iPads and Windows tablets as our apps are not compatible with Windows or iOS.
 - The internal storage must be 8G or more. Please take note the **Free Memory** must be 8GB or more.
 - Wi-Fi connectivity is imperative
 - A fitted hard cover is compulsory. A tablet sleeve or pouch is not sufficient.
 - A protective plastic or glass screen cover is highly recommended.
 - Sim cards are not required and they will not be permitted at school (They will be confiscated if found at school)
 - A tablet with a ruggedized screen is preferable.
 - Chrome (Android) or Safari (Apple) browsers only.

We have had some concerned parents ask really vital questions. Listed below are just a few of the questions and answers that you might find yourself thinking about:

- How will the tablets be used? Will they only replace text books or also their exercise/writing books? Tablets will be used in class every day. They will replace the textbooks but we will still use exercise books for activities. They will be using a learner management system called Moodle, whereby core notes will be downloaded onto the tablets. The children will do quizzes in Moodle which is marked in real time and feedback is given instantly. They will be able to reinforce skills and knowledge learnt by playing educational apps on the tablets once they have completed the formal work. They will download the newsletter weekly, study requirements, news flashes, etc... onto their tablets. We have a portal where the learners will be able to research information for projects, etc... They will not have any access to the internet; however, the teachers have downloaded many fantastic educational videos which the children can watch from the portal for the visual aspect of learning.
- What happens in instances where the learner does not have a tablet or the tablet has to be taken in for repairs or is lost? Will the learner then revert to the physical text books and writing books? An updated e-learning policy will be available on the Communicator in the beginning of each year detailing all of this. A 3 week grace period is usually given for repairs, whereby they will receive notes and the text books. However, the tablet needs to be fixed as we pay a licence fee every year for e-books and we then cannot afford to buy hard copy books and e-pubs for every child. Where a learner has never had a tablet they will be issued with a hard copy text book and notes.
- How safe are the tablets whilst the learner is at school? Do they remain in the classes during the school day? Learners must report to the allocated marking on the field as soon as they arrive at school in the morning to leave their bags (grade 4 to grade 7) teachers and SMT are on duty for this purpose every day from 07:15 to 07:45; the bags are locked in the classrooms at break. Children are forbidden to take tablets out onto the field during break.
- What happens when the learner has to do extra murals (including when there are away games)? Is there a safe place for the tablets to be kept or do the tablets stay in their school bags? Are lockers available for safe-keeping? Yes, individual lockers are available if the learner would like to use one. Extra lockers have been placed on the grand stands. If a learner wishes to use these after school, they must bring a lock to school for this purpose. No fee will be charged for after school usage of the extra lockers on the stands. Furthermore, Mr. Mashigo insists that all bags must be locked into the enclosed area behind the multipurpose room in the afternoon during sport practices and matches.

Kind Regards,

Mrs. A. Burger	Mrs. Steenfeldt-Kristensen	Mr. Botten
(Principal)	(HOD)	(E-Learning Administrator)