



"TECHNOLOGY MATTERS' UPDATE

Dear Parents,

I am writing on behalf of the Stage 3 teachers to update you on some "Technology Matters" relating to learning and teaching in Stage 3. Our BYO iPad programme is well underway at St Mary's and to keep parents up to date with this area of learning please find below some important updates:

Cyber Safety Session with Susan McLean – there were a number of parents present last week from Years 5 and 6 and you may have heard from them that the presentation was very informative and beneficial. One area she covered in detail was the need for parents to be very clear about the use of Social Media, Online Chats and Gaming with their children aged under 13. *Children under 13 should not have social media accounts nor should they engage in online chats with unknown people.*

We know that many children in Years 5 and 6 have an account for Musical.ly, YouTube or are chatting in an online environment (Fortnite is one example). It is well known that these sites have inappropriate content and opportunities for communication with unknown people. We ask that parents review the games, social media sites and online chats that your child may be involved in and if necessary remove them from these sites.

Students have signed an **Acceptable User Agreement** that is strictly enforced by the school. Withdrawal of access / use of technology is one consequence for inappropriate use of technology that has already seen a small number of students banned for short periods this year.

BYOD iPad – what apps does my child need? A question was raised at the Cyber Safety talk about the need for students to have the "YouTube App" on their iPads. Students *have not been asked to have, nor is it necessary* for students to have, this app on their device. The apps required on BYOD iPads for all students include – Google Drive, Chrome and Explain Everything (or a similar app). Year 6 also require Seesaw. Students will be accessing their Google Account / Google Classroom and the suite of products inside this including docs, slides, sheets etc and these will be accessed regularly by the students.

Coming soon ... will be some "How To" video clips to assist you to access Google Drive /Classroom etc. If you have a particular topic you would like added to our 'How To" list – please return the suggestion slip below and we will progressively add more "How To's" to the list.

Thank you for your contribution to keeping our children safe in the Cyber World!

Kind regards

Richard Blissenden
Principal

Other topics for the 'How To" clips could include:

Please return to the office with any suggestions.