

Saint Mary's Catholic Primary School



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25th September 2020

RE: BYOD update for Y5 and Y6 parents

Dear Parents

Thank you for taking part in the recent Y5 and Y6 parent survey on our thoughts on implementing a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) scheme for your children. The idea had originally come from parents following a conversation about how learning had been adapted to fit with COVID19 aware requirements during the school's partial opening in June and July. We won't be going ahead with the idea however.

In total 73 of you took part in the survey 57.5% of you had heard about BYOD and 51% of you would be able to send your child in with a device. Many more said that you would be able but that you had concerns about the safety of children traveling to and from school, you also had concerns about the lack of insurance. When I looked into BYOD extensively over the summer holiday I was unable to find a way around the insurance issue. All of the BYOD schemes I found did not include insurance. I know that Y6 children (and you as their parents) value them being able to come to and from school on their own. This would not have been possible if they were carrying expensive electronic items.

Some of you were concerned that the school had traditionally brought Apple products and that these are more expensive. We've found that they give extremely good value for money with iPads we purchased in 2011 still being used and mac minis from 2012 still running our large interactive SMART boards in each classroom 8 years later.

With Christ in our hearts we grow in love to help others.

Some of you asked us to look at alternative products and this is what we've done so together with these we have ensured that every child in the school has a one to one device.

Teachers tell me how much these devices help them in reaching all of the children in the class and in a future update I'll include some thoughts from the children on their use.

Thank you for your continued support and have a lovely weekend.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Farley Marsh'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'F' and 'M'.

F Marsh

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