



مدرسة ديرة الدولية
DEIRA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
DUBAI FESTIVAL CITY

Devices for Digital Learning in our Primary School

2020-2021



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Overview

Our vision:

As part of our ongoing development in the immersion of technology to further impact learning in the classroom, and to support the smooth transition between in school and home learning, we are asking that **ALL** students in Years 1 to 6 bring a Mobile Electronic Device (MED) from the start of the academic year 20/21. The use of technology will be used to redefine learning experiences, develop collaborative learning, promote independence and open future pathways with the support of an enhanced curriculum.

Information Technology and Computing is a fundamental part of teaching and learning at DIS Dubai. We have fully integrated electronic tablets into teaching and learning practices. This has helped us to improve the levels of attainment and engagement across all subject areas.

Using emerging technology and relevant application software, helps us to fully support our school vision of creating an outstanding, multi-cultural learning community which empowers students to achieve their potential, become life-long learners and responsible global citizens. It is our aim to harness and develop the innovation and creativity skills of our students, in order to help them to improve their higher-level thinking and problem solving skills.

This guidebook has been designed in order to help to ensure that you can fully comprehend the hardware requirements and options available to you, as well as answer many of frequently asked questions that we have received. If you have any additional queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch

Our Digital Classrooms:

Every child at DIS Primary must bring to school from the first day of term a device that matches the specifications laid out on page 4.

Apple Classrooms

Every child is born full of creativity. Nurturing it is one of the most important things we can do as educators. Creativity makes our students better communicators and problem solvers. It prepares them to thrive in today's world — and to shape tomorrows. Apple is constantly creating resources to help us educators do just that. Not only powerful products, but also tools, inspiration, and curricula to create magical learning experiences and make every moment of screen time worth it.

Apple products give students complete freedom of expression. iPad is so intuitive, anyone can instantly take an idea and run with it. Some of the most useful educational materials are found within apps. But students, especially younger ones, often have a hard time finding those materials. It is our promise that we will guide our students every step of the way.

We will look to deploy two effective apps (**Apple Classroom** and **Apple Schoolwork**) to help guide our teaching and learning in the classrooms:

- The Classroom app is a versatile teaching assistant that puts our teachers in charge of every iPad in the classroom, so they can keep students on track.
- The Schoolwork app lets us easily assign anything from worksheets to activities in educational apps, follow students' progress, and collaborate with them in real time.

The Classroom app turns an iPad into a powerful teaching assistant. It puts us in the driver's seat of every iPad in class, so we can guide students through lessons and keep them focused on the task at hand. Classroom also makes it easy to share information — send and receive files with the entire class and individual students using AirDrop or show student work on the big screen.

We feel the best way to learn is by doing and making. The Schoolwork app helps will help us and our students more effectively use the creative power of iPad. We can easily distribute and collect assignments, keep an eye on student progress in educational apps, and collaborate one on one with students from anywhere, in real time. It's easy for students to use, too.



Microsoft Office 365

Microsoft Office 365 enables teachers to provide an online environment that continues to support their students beyond the physical classroom to provide learning that is accessible anytime and anywhere.

All students have access to our premium content for every class 24/7 and anywhere in the world. To ensure that your child receives optimum access to our learning environment, it is crucial that their device has fluent access to both the online Office 365 services and the accompanying Office 2019 suite.

As part of the school's [Office 365 for Education](#) subscription, every student receives five complimentary licenses to the entire Office suite of applications for use on any of their devices.

Our Digital Environment

The development of our Digital Classrooms in 2019-2020 was a huge success and enabled every child in every subject to continue learning in a safe, collaborative learning environment throughout our last academic year.

Information and examples of each part of our digital environment and how it will support your child's continued learning in the 2020-2021 academic year is found below.

Seesaw – Y1 to Y6

Seesaw is a platform for student engagement that inspires students of all ages to do their best, in an efficient and effective way.

Students use creative tools to take pictures, draw, record videos and more to capture learning in a portfolio.

Teachers find or create activities to share with students.

Families only see their child's work and leave comments and encouragement. Learn more about what families see [here](#).



Our teachers use Seesaw primarily as a place for students to share their work, and specifically encourage individual reflection and peer feedback. Seesaw becomes a place not only where student work can be stored, but where our teachers and peers can provide encouragement, constructive criticism, and suggestions for improvement. An authentic audience of peers can encourage students to do their best work. We have the opportunity to review any comments before they are posted to ensure that feedback is constructive & appropriate.

Our inclusion team chooses to use Seesaw in a more private way, where they can do student assessment, collect work, and give direct private feedback to students. They can even push assignments to students for them to complete and turn in via Seesaw. This makes Seesaw primarily a place where students and teachers can interact around their work.

Also, Seesaw is used as a way to communicate with our DIS families and keep them in the loop on the learning their child is doing at school. Students add posts to Seesaw that they are proud of in a self-directed way, as well as work their teacher has assigned. Or teachers report that students are motivated to do better work when they know their families will provide immediate feedback during the day or ask them about it that evening.



Teachers find or create activities to share with students.



Students take pics, draw, record videos and more to capture learning in a portfolio.

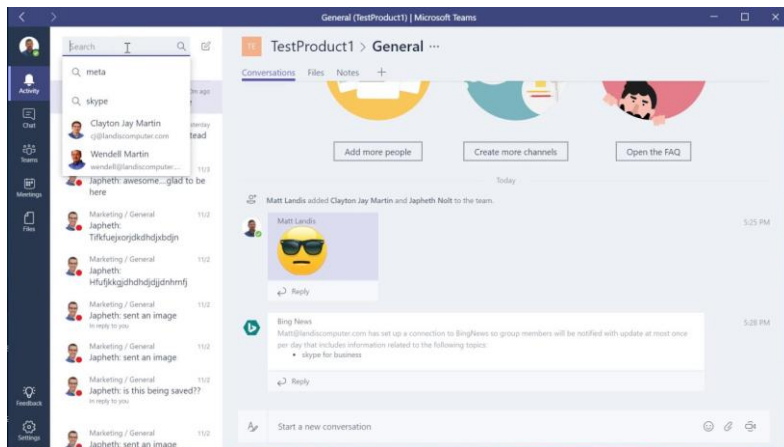


Families see their child's work and leave comments and encouragement.

Microsoft Teams – Y1 to Y6

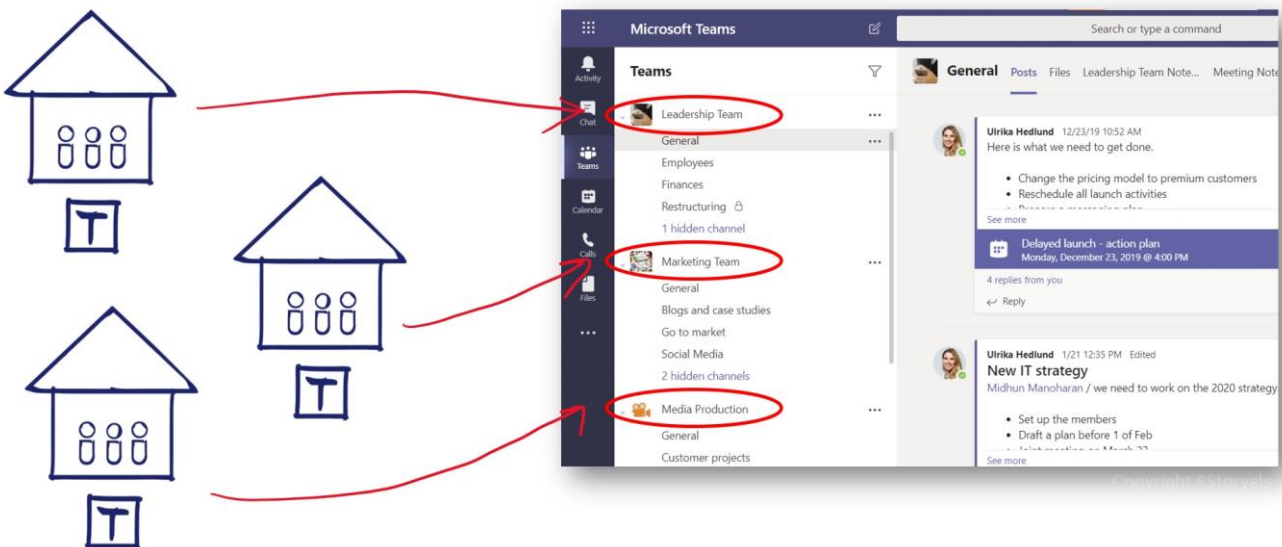
Just like a physical classroom, [Microsoft Teams](#) has enabled every teacher at DIS to create a unique learning environment for every class, tailored towards their subject specialisms and needs. Your child will use Microsoft Teams to access, collaborate and complete work in a safe learning environment.

The Teams platform combines persistent chat capabilities, video conferencing, file storage, and integration with many other Office 365 apps.



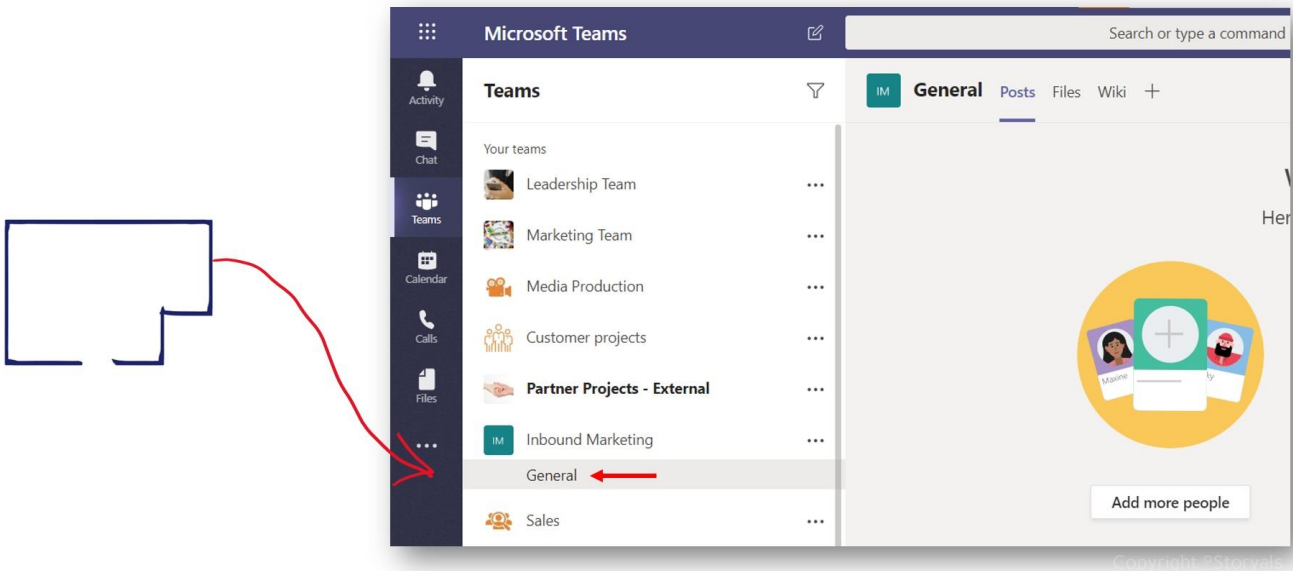
1) Think of a “team” as a house

In Microsoft Teams you work in different “teams”. You can think of each team as a house where you work together with others. Everyone who is a member of the house will be included in everything that goes on in the house.



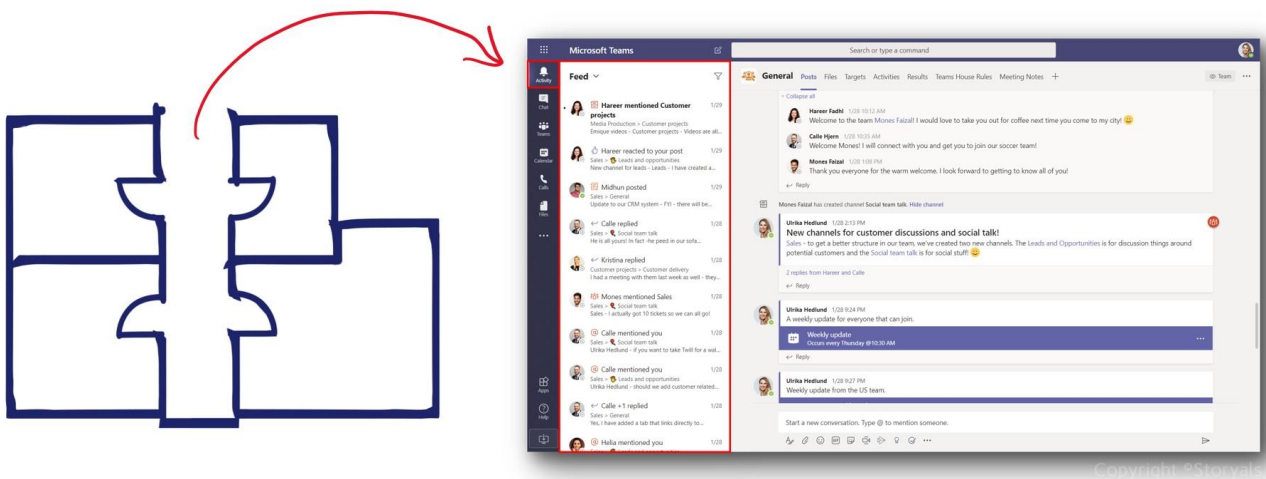
2) Think of a “Channel” as a room

When you first build your house it only has one room. In Microsoft Teams this corresponds to the “General” channel. More rooms (channels) will be built as your house (team) develops throughout the academic year.



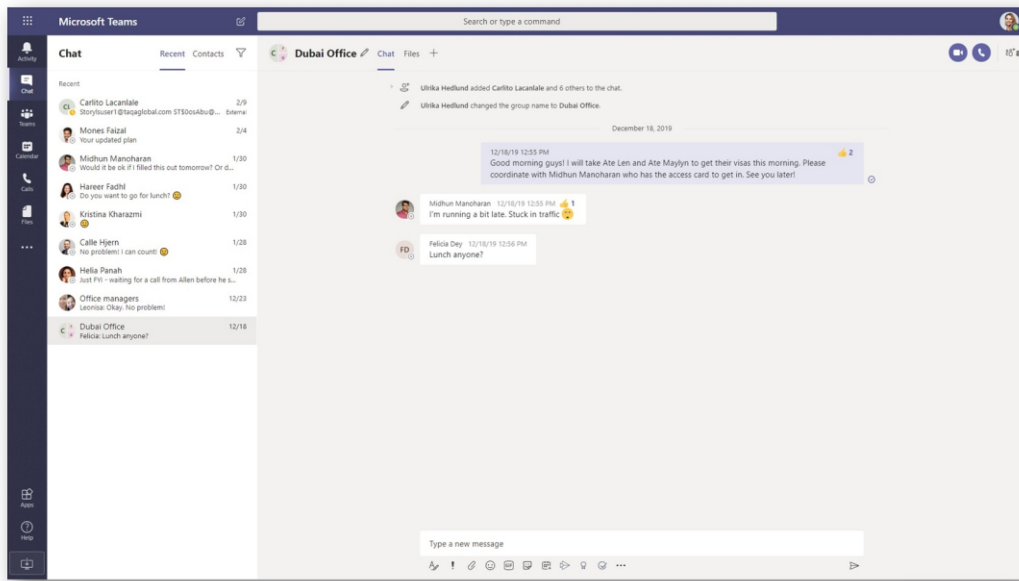
3) Think of the “Activity Feed” as the hallway

In the middle of the house you have a hallway. You can stand in the hallway, open the doors to the rooms you are most interested in, and hear all the conversations going on in the various rooms – without leaving the hallway!



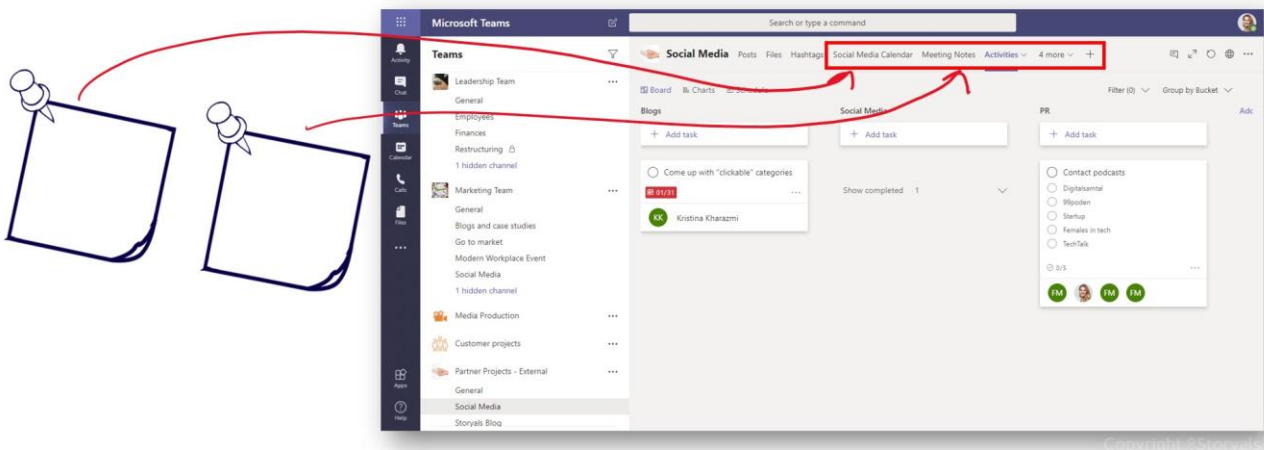
4) Think of “Chat” as private conversations by the coffee machine

Sometimes you might want to have a private conversation with one, or a few people in your house. A conversation that is not heard by everyone else. In Teams you do this using “Chat” or “Calls”. Whatever you write or say here is only for the ones present. If you frequently have private conversations with a group of people, you can create a group chat.



5) Think of “Tabs” as posters pinned on the wall

In your various rooms, you can pin things on the walls. This helps the ones in your room focus on what is most important and it helps them find what they need. In Microsoft Teams this corresponds to “Tabs”. Here you can pin things of importance – such as Excel spreadsheets, shared notes and other apps.

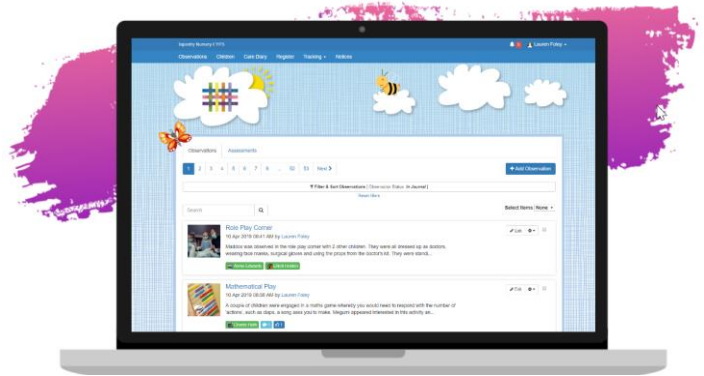


Tapestry – FS1 & FS2

An easy-to-use and secure online learning journal helping staff and families celebrate their children's learning and development.

Tapestry helps us build a very special record of your child's experiences, development and learning journey through their early years. Using photos, videos and diary entries, our teachers or early years practitioners, along with the parents, 'weave' the story of each child and how they are growing and developing.

The Tapestry platform then works seamlessly to enable these memories to be kept as a permanent record of each child's unique journey. All information held in the platform is stored securely and can be downloaded and shared as required. Parents can view online their child's progress and how much fun they are having, whilst also uploading their own comments and media.



The communication between our staff and parents that Tapestry enables, helps build a shared understanding of how every child can reach their full potential.

Century Tech – Y3 to Y6

The common thread of high standards of teaching and learning in our school is of equal importance in both our digital and physical environments. Our adoption of CENTURY technology as a platform to enhance independent learning is integral to the continued progression for our students. This platform is carefully monitored by the class teachers and material is adjusted for each child accordingly.

CENTURY is a tried and tested intelligent intervention tool that combines learning science, AI and neuroscience.

- Identifies gaps
- Addresses misconceptions
- Supports teacher interventions



Nearpod – FS1 to Y6

Nearpod is an instructional platform that merges formative assessment and dynamic media for collaborative learning experiences.

It allows our teachers to find or create interactive lessons in minutes. They can upload and enhance existing materials or customise over 7,500 pre-made, standards-aligned lessons for all subjects.

Our teachers can assign self-paced lessons that our students access anytime, anywhere. Students can then complete assignments independently while we gain insights into their understanding with post-session reports.

It provides the opportunity for our teachers to easily synchronize and control live lessons across all student devices. It works perfectly with Microsoft Teams.

Also, Nearpod is an excellent collaboration and communication tool. Our classroom communities stay connected with collaborative activities and formative assessments like virtual reality, polls, collaborate boards, and game-based quizzes delivered through one seamless learning experience.



Device Recommendations

Device specifications

Please find below the criteria for your child's electronic learning device.

All devices must:

- Have a camera
- Have a durable cover protector (house colours are recommended)
- Have the child's name on the cover and on the lock screen
- Be fully compatible with Office 365 Apps
- Have Wi-Fi AC with a minimum bandwidth of 5GHz*



iPad - 10.2inch

As of September 2019/20, we have standardised the iPad models we use in the primary school. This is to guarantee that all students have access to the same level of technology and can access learning content in the same way.

The device that we recommend is the **iPad 8th generation, 10.2 inch, 128GB Wi-Fi only model, specifically designed for education**. You may compare this model against others here:

<https://www.apple.com/ae/ipad/compare/>

In order to use the device to its full educational potential, it is highly recommended that:

- A stylus is provided for tablets for writing and drawing (digital inking)
- There is both a front and rear camera for taking photos
- The device has a keyboard (attached or detachable)
- The device has the capability to run Windows applications (i.e. Microsoft Teams and Microsoft OneNote)

*During the academic year 2020-21, it became apparent, that the extra use of school devices and the demands of distance learning, meant that we needed to update our school Wi-Fi network. This has been carried out across the entire school campus. Subsequently, this means that all devices require a minimum bandwidth of 5GHz in order to access our school Wi-Fi network.

Purchasing Options

There are two options available for Deira International School parents when purchasing electronic devices for your child:

Purchase a discounted device from the school approved vendor [JTRS](#).

OR

Purchase from a store of your choice.

JTRS

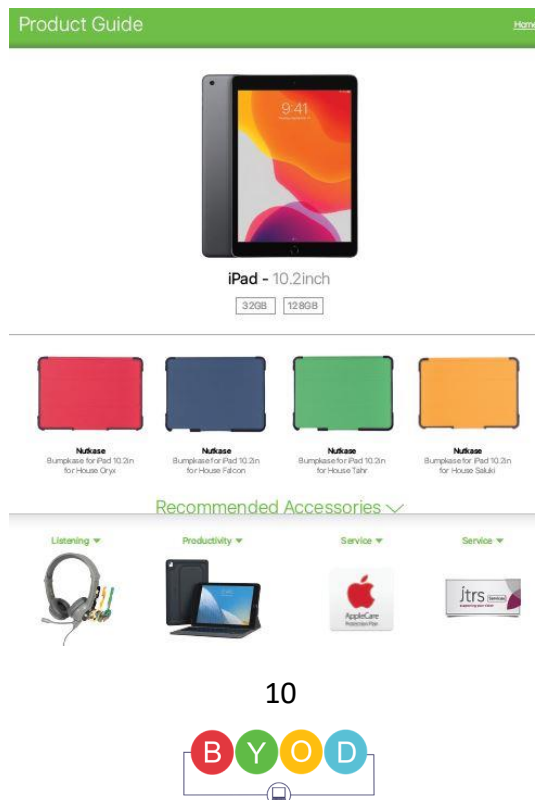
With 11 years of experience in providing schools worldwide with tailored educational technology, [JTRS](#) have partnered with Deira International School to provide parents with discounts on recommended educational devices according to your child's learning needs. They have worked closely with schools and families in Dubai such as Brighton College, JESS and UAS to support the purchase and maintenance of learning devices.

Please use the links below to access the JTRS interactive brochure, which includes device options and a guide to their online store.

[JTRS DIS Flyer 2020-21, click here](#)

[JTRS Purchase Guide, click here](#)

[JTRS online store access, click here](#)



The screenshot shows the 'Product Guide' page for iPads. At the top, there is a green navigation bar with 'Product Guide' and a 'Home' link. The main content features a central image of an iPad 10.2-inch with a colorful abstract wallpaper. Below the image, the text reads 'iPad - 10.2inch' and provides storage options: '32GB' and '128GB'. Underneath, there are four color-coded bumpcase options: Red (for House Dhiya), Blue (for House Falcon), Green (for House Taly), and Orange (for House Sakal). Below this is a 'Recommended Accessories' section with four categories: 'Listening' (headphones), 'Productivity' (laptop and tablet), 'Service' (AppleCare), and another 'Service' (JTRS logo).

Warranty Information

Essential Information

We recommend that you get your child's device covered under a warranty that covers accidental damage, which is valid in the UAE upon purchase of the warranty and the device. It is essential that this warranty covers the entire school year.

Warranty for new devices

The recommended warranty for Surface devices is the Redington warranty supplied by JTRS, which can be purchased on the relevant portal at the same time as the device.



The warranty starts at the date of purchase

It covers accidental damage

It includes guided software support

It includes one device swap; in case the Surface cannot be repaired

It does not cover someone else other than your child using the device

It does not cover theft

Device Support

If you require support for your child's device, call Redington on 800 367873.

Redington will then lead you through their remote diagnostics and repair process over the telephone. If you require further aid, they will pick up the device and take it to an approved service centre. A replacement for your device is guaranteed within 48 hours. If a repair is required during a school week, please provide a receipt to the IT Management at school, where a back-up device would be provided until your child's device is repaired. You can also email Redington for support.

You would need details of the device and the warranty purchase to hand. The Redington aftercare portal can be accessed [here](#).

Initial set up of your device (Part 1)

This note is for parents who are providing an iPad that was not purchased via the JTRS.ae portal. It is the responsibility of the parents to set up their child's device.

Please ensure that:

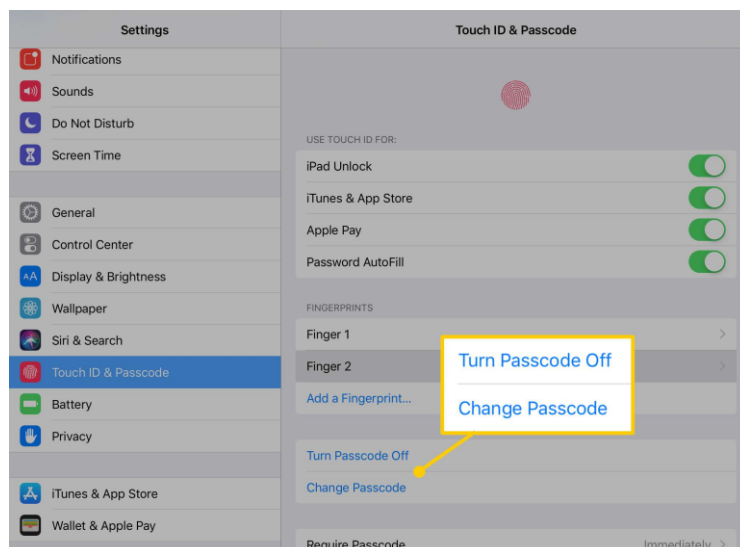
- You have recorded all passwords for important apps and games
- You know your personal Apple ID password to use once the iPad has been configured (NB do not share any of these details with school)

Sign out of iCloud and iTunes & App Store

- I. Go to Settings
- II. Tap on your name on the top left.
- III. On the right-hand side, tap Sign out.
- IV. A pop-up screen may offer to sign out of iCloud and Store, sign out of both iCloud and App Store.

Remove Passcode

- I. Go to Settings
- II. Scroll down to Touch ID and Passcode. It may just say PASSCODE
- III. On the right, choose Turn Passcode Off
- IV. Follow the on-screen instructions



Initial set up of your device (Part 2)

Backing Up Your Device

There are two main options for backing up your device. You can either back up to a local computer or to iCloud. Below you will find basic instructions for each of these options. Please speak with the Head of Primary Computing if you have further questions.

How to back up with iCloud

Before you begin please make sure that your device is connected to a power source and a Wi-Fi network.

Go to Settings > [your name] and tap iCloud. If you are using iOS 10.2 or earlier, go to Settings, then scroll down and tap iCloud.

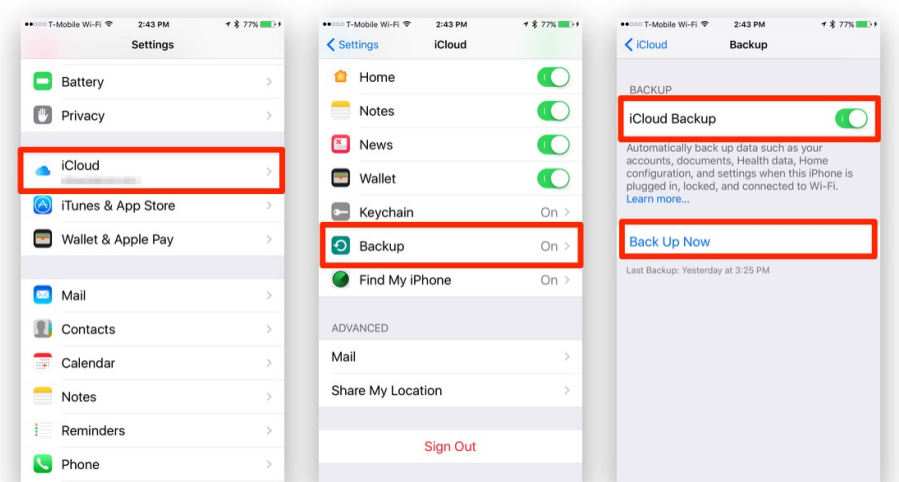


Tap iCloud Backup. If you are using iOS 10.2 or earlier, tap Backup. Make sure that iCloud Backup is turned on.

Also, make sure Photos is set to 'ON' and turn on any other features you may wish to back up such as Contacts, Calendar and any information from apps (you will see this if you scroll further down)

Tap Back Up Now. Stay connected to your Wi-Fi network until the process completes.

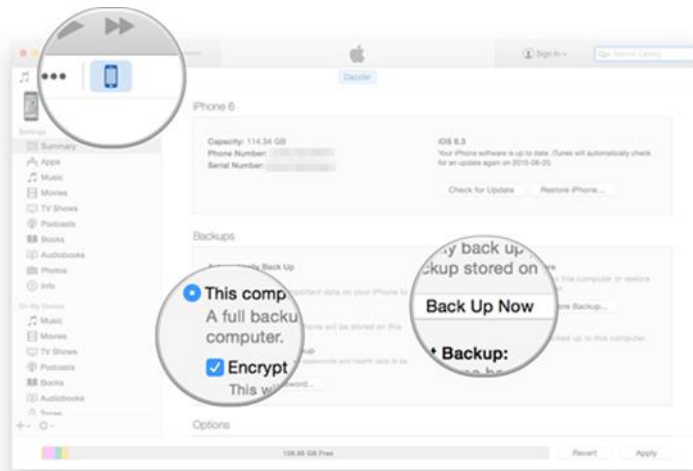
You can check the progress and confirm the backup completed. Go to Settings > [your name] > iCloud > iCloud Backup. Under Back Up Now, you will see the date and time of your last backup.



Initial set up of your device (Part 3)

How to back up with iTunes

- I. Open iTunes and connect your device to your computer.
- II. If a message asks for your device passcode or to Trust This Computer, follow the onscreen steps.
- III. Select your device when it appears in iTunes.
- IV. Click Back Up Now.



When the process ends, you can see if the backup finished successfully on the Summary screen in iTunes. Just look under Latest Backup to find the date and time.

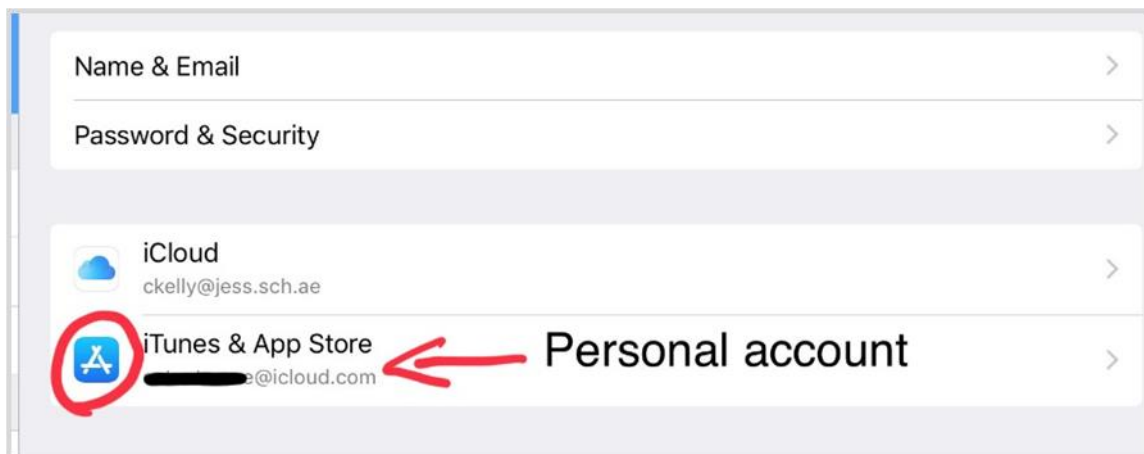
Please note that you can choose to encrypt your backup data if you wish.

Downloading Personal Apps

Please follow the following steps to download personal apps on your school device:

- I. Go to Settings
- II. Click on iTunes OR App Store.
- III. Sign in on your personal/family account.
- IV. Open iTunes or the App Store and navigate to the content you wish to download.

If you have any difficulties, please speak with a member of our IT team and they will be happy to assist you with this process.



Recommended Apps

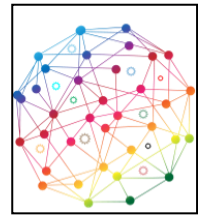
We highly recommended that primary students download the following apps before September 2020. These apps will help your child access our learning environment at home and in school.

CENTURY Technology (year 3 to year 6)

[CENTURY](#) Technology is an Award-Winning digital content and learning provider.

This app can be used at home and in school to:

- Consolidate subject knowledge and improve recall.
- Improve engagement and encourage independent learning.
- Identify areas of strength and targets to improve.



Nearpod

[Nearpod](#) is an instructional platform that merges formative assessment and dynamic media for collaborative learning experiences.

This app creates an inclusive and immersive learning experience by allowing students to actively participate in every lesson. It increases students' access to information, ideas, and interactions with Nearpod. Also, it supports and enhances their sense-making, which is central to the process of taking ownership of knowledge.



Kahoot!

[Kahoot!](#) is a game-based learning platform that makes it easy to create, share and play learning games or trivia quizzes in minutes. Unleash the fun in classrooms, offices and living rooms!



Times Table Rockstars

[Times Tables Rock Stars](#) is a carefully sequenced programme of daily times tables practice aimed at school children.

Each week concentrates on a different times table, with a recommended consolidation week for rehearsing the tables that have recently been practiced every third week or so.



Seesaw

[Seesaw](#) is a platform for student engagement. Students “show what they know” using photos, videos, drawings, text, PDFs, and links. It is simple to get student work in one place and share with families, and nothing is shared without teacher approval.



Numbots

[Numbots](#) is an online resource where children can practise their number recognition, number bonds, addition and subtraction skills, so that these become fluent and they can leave their fingers behind.



Tapestry (FS1 & FS2)

[Tapestry](#) builds a very special record of a child's experiences, development and learning journey through their early years and primary education. Parents are able to view online their child's progress and how much fun they're having, whilst also uploading their own comments and media.



Clips

[Clips](#) is Apple's fun video editing app for iPhone and iPad. With it you can quickly and creatively add video, photos, subtitles, effects, title cards, and music, and share it with your contacts and social networks. To do that, you first need to get all the videos and photos into Clips



Pages

[Pages](#) is the most beautiful word processor you have ever seen on a mobile device. Start with an Apple-designed template to instantly create gorgeous reports, digital books, resumes, posters and more. Or use a blank document and create your own design. Easily add images, movies, audio, charts and shapes. You can even draw and annotate using Apple Pencil on supported devices, or your finger. Pages has been designed exclusively for the iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch.



Keynote

[Keynote](#) is slideshow presentation software developed by Apple. You can use it to create a well-designed presentation with. Simplicity in design, so you can make a presentation more easily.



Duolingo

[Duolingo](#) is the most popular language-learning platform and the most downloaded education app in the world, with more than 300 million users. You can learn up to 28 different languages including English, Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian, German, Chinese and many more.



Book Creator

[Book Creator](#) is an amazingly easy-to-use digital book-making tool with limitless options. It is available for both iPad and the web (including Chrome). With guidance, students can use this app to produce and publish their own simple books or comics with images, videos, and audio.



JigSpace

[JigSpace](#) is the platform to explore and share truly interactive, 3D knowledge for anything. When you ask "How does that work?" the answer is right in front of you, in beautiful, interactive 3D. Dive through dozens of Jigs, learn at your own pace, and satisfy your curiosity. And with Jig Workshop, anyone can create Jigs and share them with the world.



Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams is a unified communication and collaboration platform that combines persistent workplace chat, video meetings, file storage, and application integration.



Frequently Asked Questions

What is BYOD?

BYOD stands for Bring Your Own Device and is an initiative that has been launched across many schools and businesses worldwide. It involves the students bringing a device such as tablet, laptop or phone to school for educational purposes.

Why does my child need to bring a device?

We need to bring learning up to date and take full advantage of the amazing educational tools that are available to us. The devices will be used as a learning tool to completely redefine the way our children learn and interact with the world.

BYOD allows children regular access to a familiar device that can be used to review concepts, extend/support learning through online resources, and collaborate with other students and present work in exciting ways. Using the devices seamlessly in lessons is important in ensuring the students are 21st century literate.

Where will the device be kept during the school day?

During lesson time, the device will be kept accessible for your child to use. They will be equipped with skills, resources and tools to enhance their educational experience. The device will be placed into a lockable cupboard (the teacher will have the key) during breaks and times when students are out of the classroom. The students are responsible for bringing the device back and forth home and school.

Who will ensure my child uses the device for educational purposes?

Firstly, the teacher will be monitoring use during lessons. Secondly, the school network has blocks on certain websites including social media. Lastly, it would be greatly appreciated if the parents could also have a talk with children about appropriate use. This includes sharing the MED policy with them.

Will I have to download expensive apps?

There are suggested apps and downloads that we will recommend, however these are only recommendations. Most apps we recommend are free or very cheap and we would never suggest something that will not be used in class.

Will my child miss out on learning if they do not bring a device?

If your child does not have a device, then they will not miss out on learning as school iPads will be available. However, in order to give your child a seamless enhanced learning experience with the full use of the tools then it is important that they are a part of BYOD.

Will my child be able to use a school iPad if they forget to bring in their own device?

If your child does not bring an iPad into school, he/she may be able to book a school device out using the school booking system, if available.

If I have already purchased an older version of an iPad, will my child be allowed to use that device in school?

Please be advised that if your child has an older version of an iPad that has already been purchased, he/she can bring this in and use this device as their MED. The device recommendation is simply a recommendation for the best possible device for educational purposes at the time of policy creation.

Is it Apple iPad devices only? Will my child be able to bring in another brand of a device? (e.g. Amazon Fire for Kids)

Students must bring in iPads and no other versions of tablet devices. We will be using Apple Classroom and Apple Schoolwork to help manage and improve the students' learning experience. Also, there are many free Apple compatible applications (e.g. Clips, Keynote, Pages, iMovie and much more) that we will be using in lessons to enhance their development.

Will BYOD make a difference to my child's progress?

The biggest change teachers have seen for a child is the development of independence. When your child has access to a device during lessons, they have access to all the educational resources that the internet has to offer. Not only can the devices make effective dictionaries and sources of information, but they can help make children heard. The quieter children can voice their ideas and opinions through collaborative tools that are not as available without the use of technology. There are many wonderful educational apps like Numbots, Timetables Rockstars and Century Tech that can aid progression.

What about the traditional side of learning?

This is very important to us! Your child will still be getting regular opportunities for writing across the curriculum. Helping to develop their handwriting, spelling, punctuation and grammar skills.

These lessons may even be enhanced through online handwriting tutorials that we can personalise for each child, as an example.

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact the Primary Digital Strategy & Educational Technology Lead (Kieran Birrell) on the following email:

kbirrell@disdubai.ae

Updated November 2020