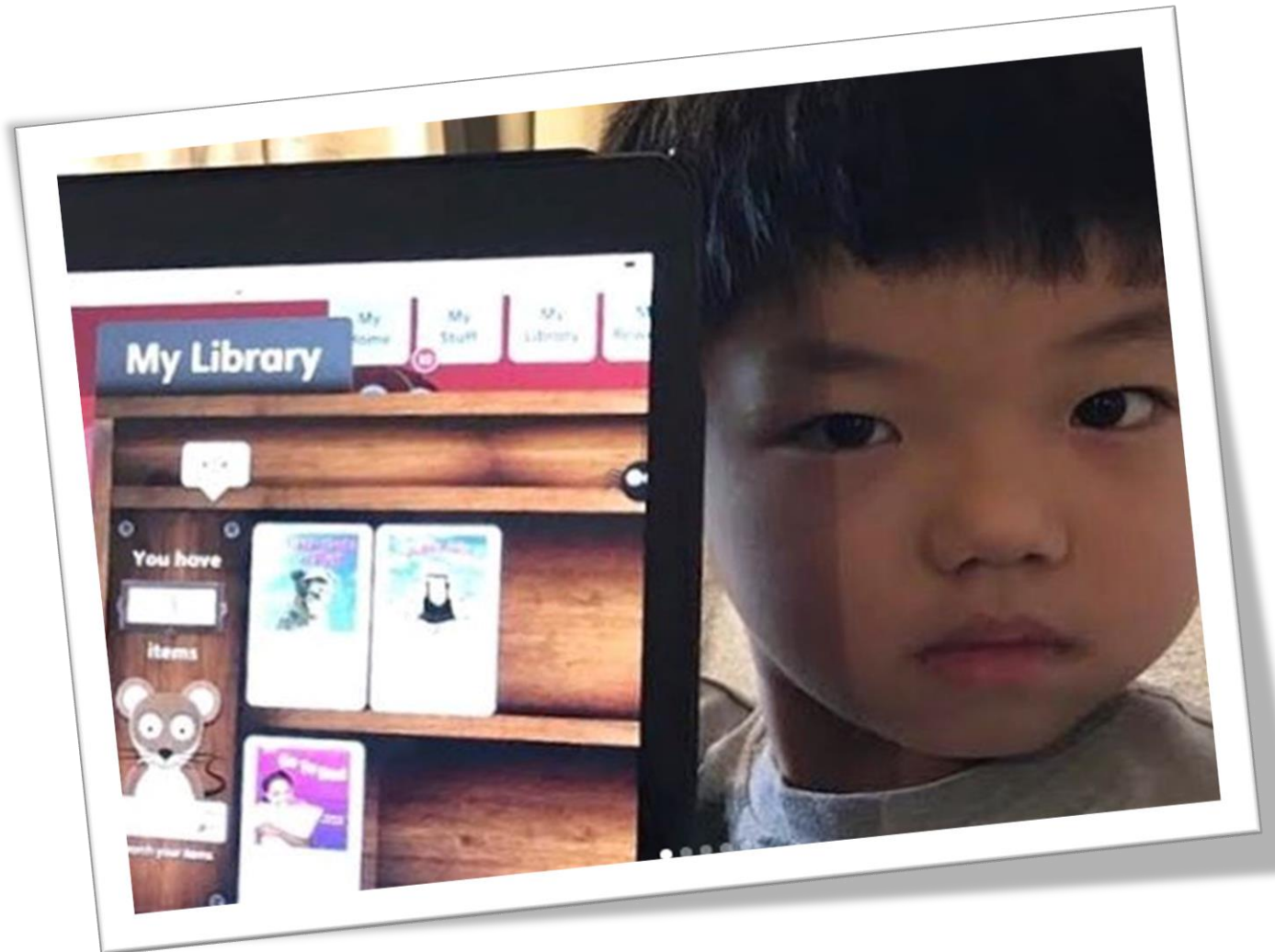




مدرسة ديرة الدولية
DEIRA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
DUBAI FESTIVAL CITY

Devices for Digital Learning in our Primary School

2024-2025



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Overview

Our vision:

We want to develop learning with technology in the classroom and at home, so we ask that ALL students in Years 1 to 6 bring an Electronic Device from the start of the academic year 24/25. Technology will help us make learning more exciting, cooperative, independent, and future-oriented.

Technology and Computing are key parts of learning at Deira International School. We use electronic tablets to enhance teaching and learning in all subjects.

We want to support our school's vision of making an excellent, diverse learning community that empowers students to reach their potential, learn for life, and become global citizens. We aim to support and develop the innovation and creativity skills of our students, to help them improve their thinking and problem-solving skills.

This guidebook will help you understand the hardware requirements and answer some common questions.

If you have more questions, please contact Mr. Birrell kbirrell@disdubai.ae

Our Digital Classrooms:

A device that meets the specifications on page 4 is required for every child at DIS Primary from the start of the term.

Apple Classrooms

Creativity is a natural gift of children. We need to encourage this as educators. Creativity helps our DIS students communicate and solve problems better. It equips them to succeed in the present and future world. Apple always makes resources to support us educators in this. They offer not only powerful products, but also tools, inspiration, and curricula to make learning wonderful and screen time valuable.

Apple products let students express themselves fully. iPad is easy to use, and anyone can turn an idea into reality. Many educational resources are in apps. But our students, especially the younger ones, struggle to find them. We promise to help our students along the way.

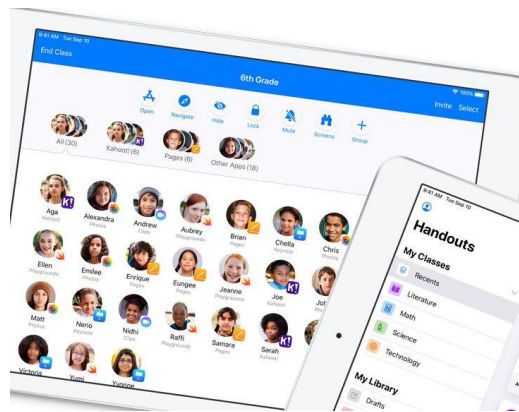
We plan to use two useful apps (Apple Classroom and Apple Schoolwork) to support our teaching and learning in the classrooms:

The Classroom app is a handy teaching assistant that helps our teachers manage 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, monitor students' progress, and work with them in real time.

The Classroom app makes an iPad a powerful teaching assistant. It gives us control over 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 whole class and individual students using AirDrop or display student work on the big screen.

We believe the best way to learn is by doing and making. The Schoolwork app will help us and our students more effectively use the creative power of iPad. We can easily distribute and collect assignments, keep track of 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

With Microsoft Office 365, our teachers can create an online environment that extends their support for our students beyond the physical classroom and offers learning that can be accessed at any time and place.

Your child can use our premium content for all classes anytime and anywhere. Their device needs to connect well to the online Office 365 services and the Office 2021 suite for the best learning experience.

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. Please take advantage of this facility.

ClassPoint Pro

ClassPoint Pro is a PowerPoint add-in that lets teachers make lessons more fun and interactive. They can use it to create quizzes, polls, and games with their PowerPoint slides. This can engage students more during lessons.

ClassPoint Pro also lets teachers track student progress and understanding in real-time, giving helpful feedback and insights. This can help teachers adjust their lessons and teaching methods to match their students' needs.

To sum up, ClassPoint Pro can help teachers make their lessons more fun and interactive, and better support their students' learning. Your children do not need PowerPoint to use this feature, but they need a fully charged device to access this content in lessons.



Our Digital Environment

Our Digital Classrooms have been a great achievement and have allowed every student in every course to keep learning in a secure, cooperative learning environment during the school year.

You can find information and examples of each component of our digital environment and how it will help your child's ongoing learning in the 2024-2025 school year below.

Seesaw – Y1 to Y6

Seesaw is a platform for student engagement that motivates students of all ages to excel, in a productive and practical way.

- **Students** show their learning in a portfolio with pictures, drawings, videos and more using creative tools.
- **Teachers** create or find activities for students to do.
- **Families** can only comment on and see their own child's work. See more about what families see [here](#).



Seesaw is mainly a platform for students to showcase their work. Our teachers promote self-reflection and peer feedback. Seesaw is not only a storage place for student work, but also a space for our teachers and peers to offer support, critique, and advice. Peers can motivate students to excel. We can check any comments before they are posted to make sure they are helpful & suitable.

Our inclusion team prefers to use Seesaw in a less public way, where they can evaluate student learning, gather work samples, and provide direct personal feedback to students. They can also assign tasks to students for them to finish and submit through Seesaw. This makes Seesaw mainly a platform where students and teachers can communicate about their work.

Seesaw lets us keep our DIS families informed about their child's learning at school. Students post work they are proud of on Seesaw by themselves or work their teacher assigns. Teachers also say that students work harder when they know their families will give them quick feedback during the day or talk to them about it at night.



Teachers find or create activities to share with students.



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

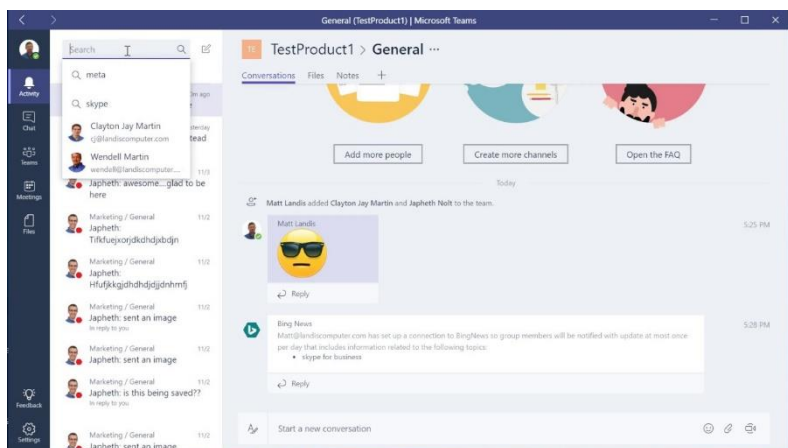


Families see their child's work and leave comments and encouragement.

Microsoft Teams – Y1 to Y6

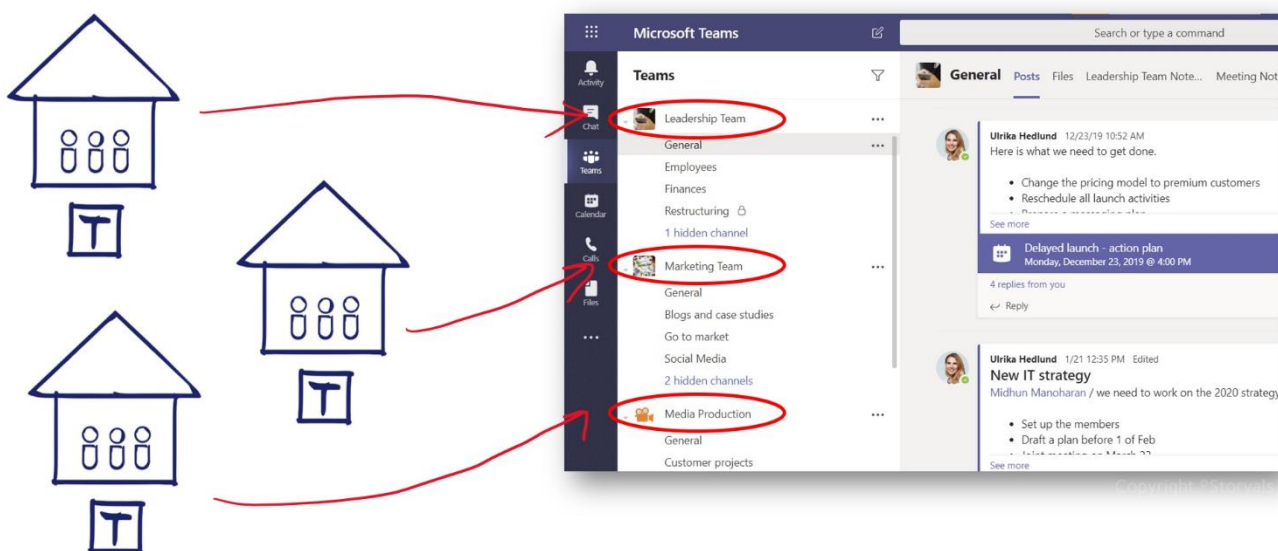
Just like a physical classroom, [Microsoft Teams](#) has enabled every teacher at DIS to create a unique learning environment for every class, tailored towards their subject specialisms and needs. Your child will use Microsoft Teams to access, collaborate and complete work in a safe learning environment.

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



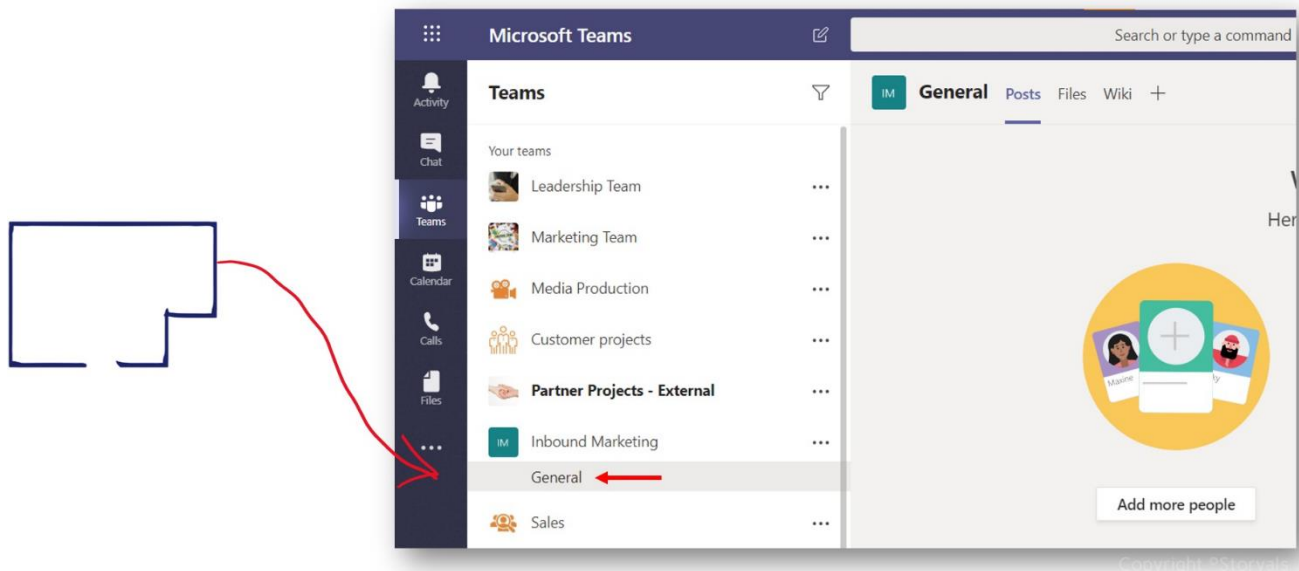
1) Think of a “team” as a house

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.



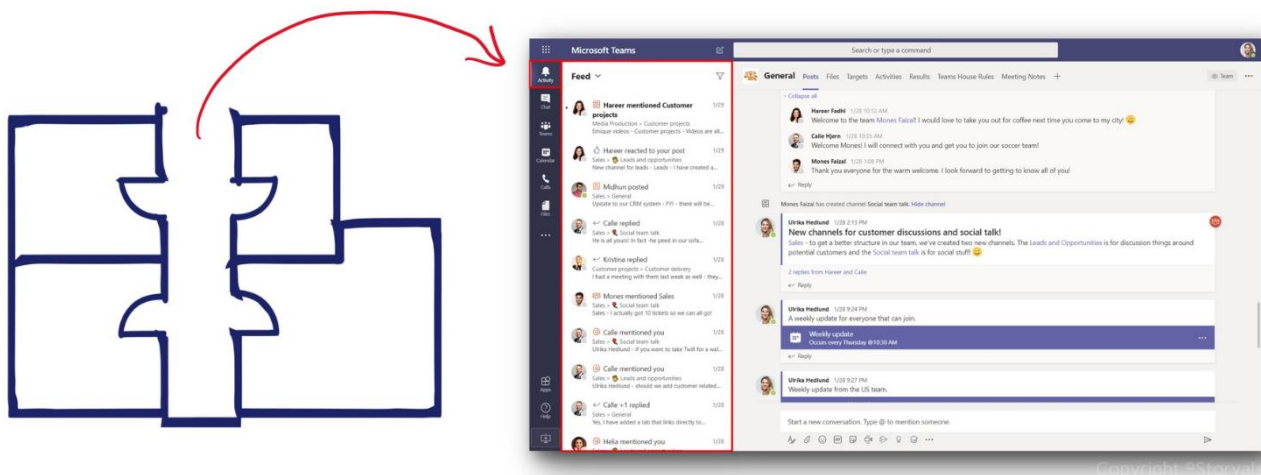
2) Think of a “Channel” as a room

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.



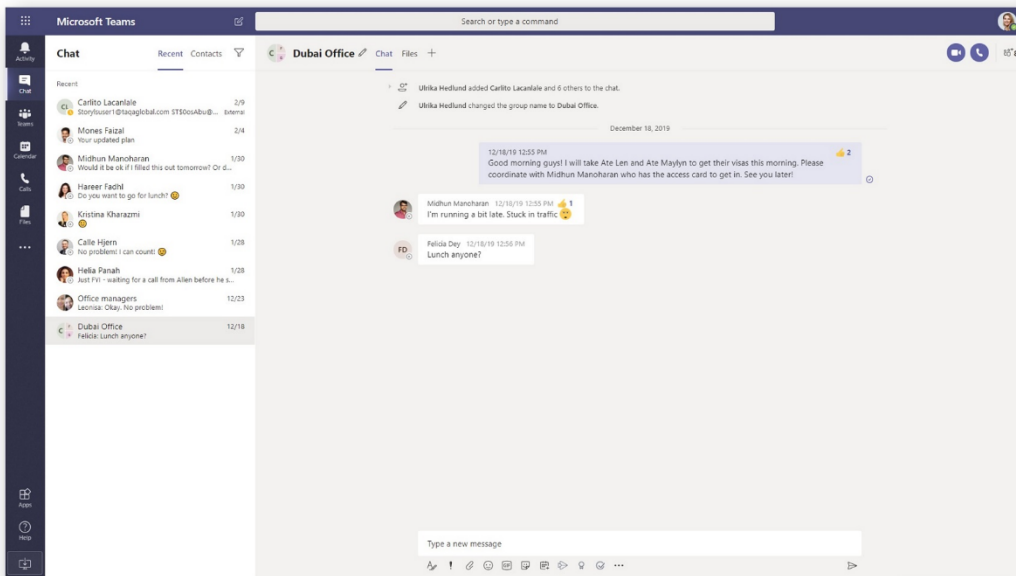
3) Think of the “Activity Feed” as the hallway

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!



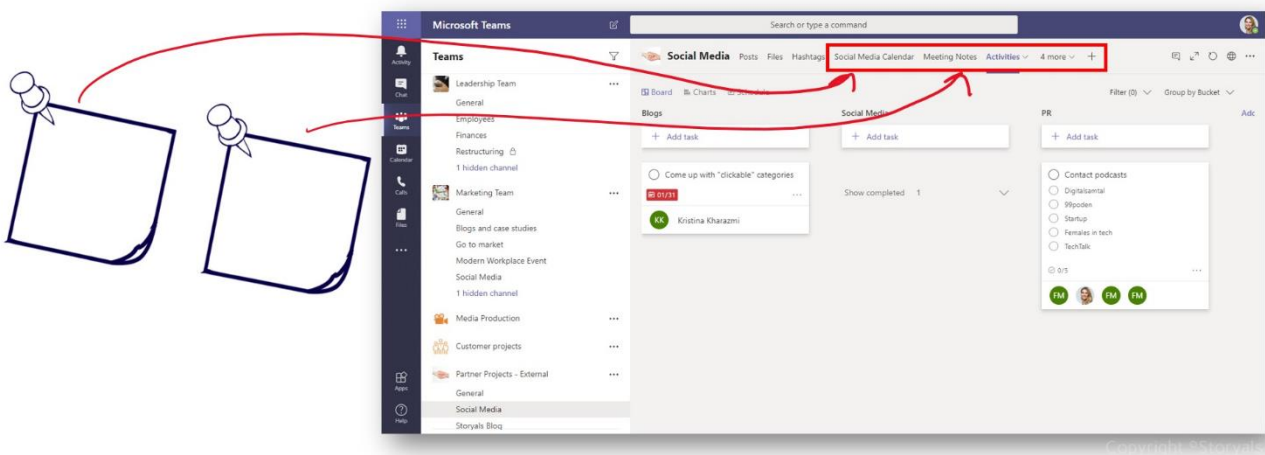
4) Think of “Chat” as private conversations by the coffee machine

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.



Microsoft Class Notebook OneNote – Y6

The OneNote Class Notebook is an app that helps our teachers set up OneNote in their class. This app will create a digital class notebook, which includes three types of sub-notebooks:

Student Notebooks — private notebooks that are shared between each teacher and their individual students. Teachers can access these notebooks at any time, but students cannot see other students' notebooks.

Content Library — a notebook for teachers to share course materials with students. Teachers can add and edit its materials, but for students, the notebook is read-only.

Collaboration Space — a notebook for the students and teacher of the class to share, organise, and collaborate in.

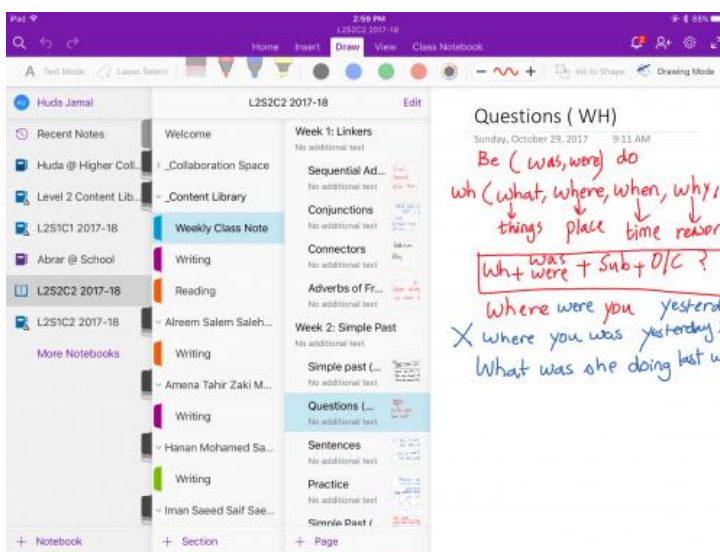


OneNote Class Notebook

Transition from Primary to Secondary

The rationale behind the use of OneNote Class Notebook for our Year 6 students, is to ensure that we fully prepare and equip them ready for their transition to Year 7. They will continue to use many of the app based educational software, including Seesaw, so we still recommend that they come to school with an iPad device.

The use of OneNote Class Notebook will be supported furthermore, as the school now adopts laptop devices within their Computing curriculum for 2024/25.

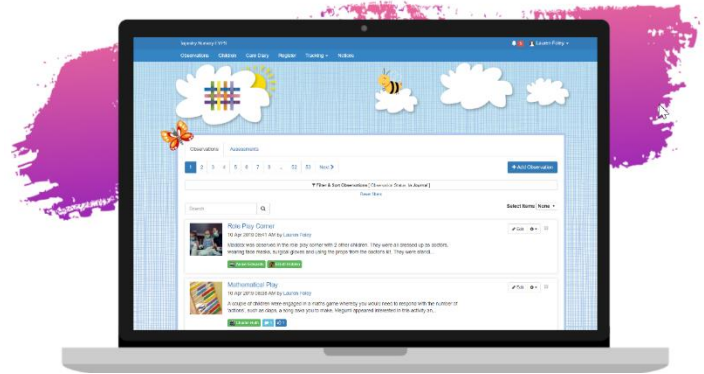


Tapestry – FS1 & FS2

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



Accelerated Reader – Y2 to Y6

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a computer-based reading management program for primary schools. It improves reading comprehension through personalised book selection, quizzes, and rewards. AR provides data-driven insights to tailor instruction, fosters a love for reading, encourages parent involvement, and builds lifelong reading habits. It also assists with library management, making it a valuable tool for enhancing students' reading skills and overall academic performance.



Education City – FS2 to Y3

Education City by Edmentum lets us customise learning for each student by connecting assessment data and engaging curriculum content to help our students grow. Teachers and students can easily see progress and performance. EducationCity also helps inquiry-based learning and higher-order thinking skills.

EducationCity has over 90 assessments that help DIS teachers with Formative Assessments to monitor students' progress, Summative Assessments to measure what students have learned in the term, and Unit Assessments to correct any misunderstandings they may have.



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)
 - Red (Oryx)
 - Blue (Falcon)
 - Yellow (Saluki)
 - Green (Tahr)
- ✓ Have the child's name on the cover and on the lock screen
- ✓ Be fully compatible with Office 365 Apps



iPad - 10.2inch

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 10th generation, 10.2 inch, 64GB, 128GB or 256GB 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)

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 13 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 many top schools and families in Dubai such as Brighton College, JESS and UAS to support the purchase and maintenance of learning devices.

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

[DIS Primary e-Store Flyer 2024-25](#)

iPad 10th Gen



10.9 Inch Screen
Available in: 64 GB OR 256GB

Starting From
1,635
Excluding VAT

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:

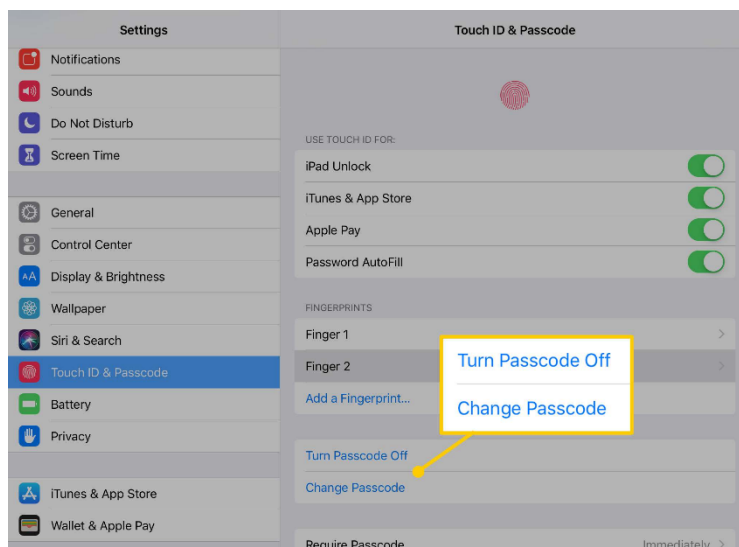
- You have recorded all passwords for important apps and games
- You know your personal Apple ID password to use once the iPad has been configured (NB do not share any of these details with school)

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.

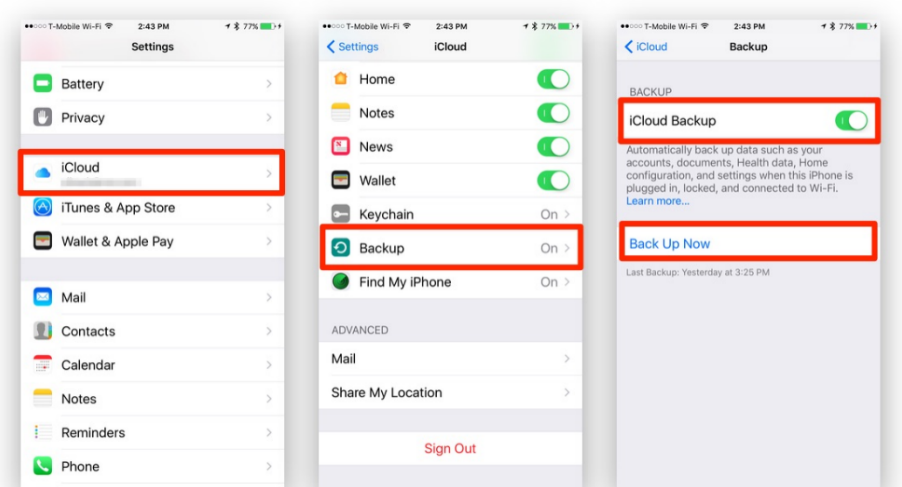


Tap iCloud Backup. If you are using iOS 10.2 or earlier, tap Backup. Make sure that iCloud Backup is turned on.

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.

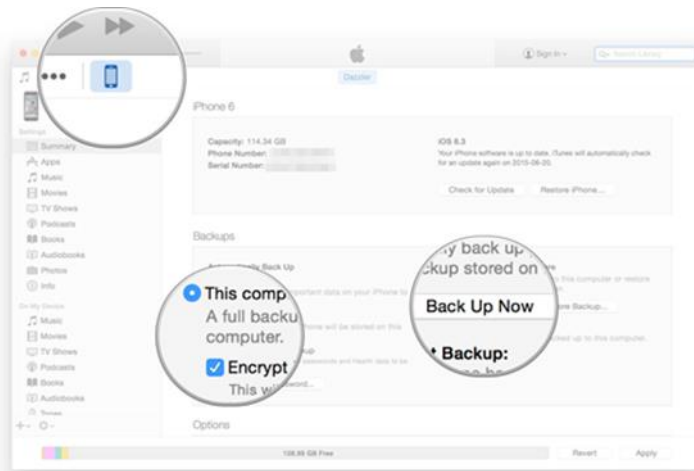
You can check the progress and confirm the backup completed. Go to Settings > [your name] > iCloud > iCloud Backup. Under Back Up Now, you will see the date and time of your last backup.



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.

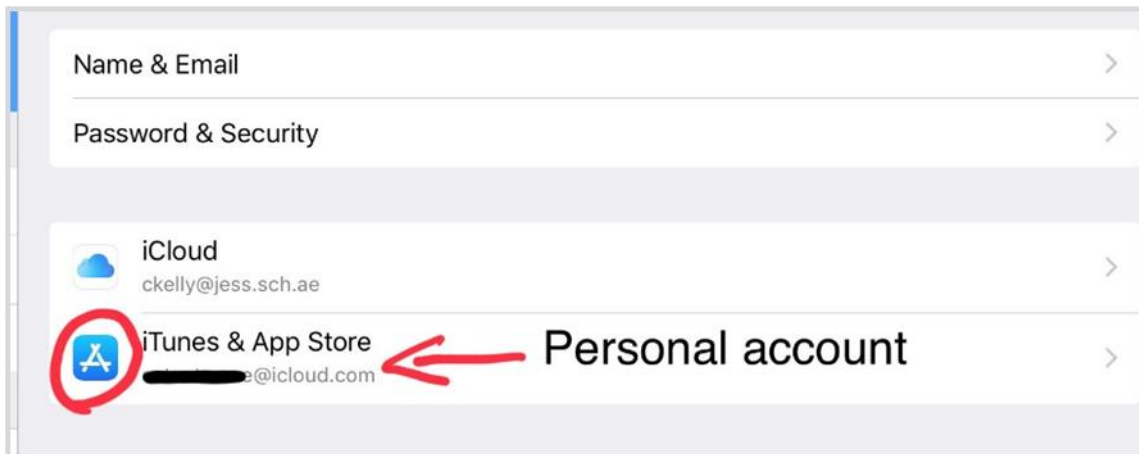
Please note that you can choose to encrypt your backup data if you wish.

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

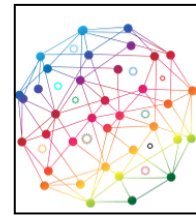
We highly recommended that primary students download the following apps before September 2024. These apps will help your child access our learning environment at home and in school.

CENTURY Tech (y3-y6)

[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.



Times Table Rockstars (y3-y6)

[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 (y1-y6)

[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 (y1-y3)

[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 (y1-y6)

[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 (y3-y6)

[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 (y3-y6)

[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 (y1-y6)

[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 (y1-y6)

[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 (y3-y6)

[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 (y1-y6)

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



ScratchJr (y1-y4)

Coding is the new literacy! With [ScratchJr](#), young children (ages 5-7) can program their own interactive stories and games. In the process, they learn to solve problems, design projects, and express themselves creatively on the computer.



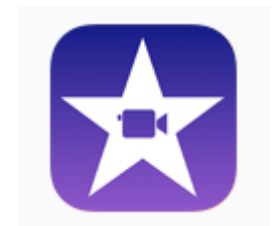
Flipaclip (y1-y6)

[FlipaClip](#): Cartoon Animation is an app that kids can use to create frame-by-frame animation. It includes a video tutorial that introduces users to the tools offered and walks them through how to use the app. The home screen includes two starter projects that serve as models and can be used to learn and practice the ins and outs of frame-by-frame animation. In addition to using digital drawing tools to create animated clips, kids have the option of adding audio, music, and images to the frames.



iMovie (y1-y6)

With [iMovie](#), it's never been easier to create memorable, cinema-quality videos and let your imagination run wild. Edit videos on the fly or explore iMovie on your Mac. Design your masterpiece from scratch or get help shaping your story with the new Magic Movie and Storyboards on iPhone or iPad.



GarageBand (y3-y6)

[GarageBand](#) is a fully equipped music creation studio right inside your Mac — with a complete sound library that includes instruments, presets for guitar and voice, and an incredible selection of session drummers and percussionists. With Touch Bar features for MacBook Pro and an intuitive, modern design, it's easy to learn, play, record, create, and share your hits worldwide. Now you're ready to make music like a pro.



PicCollage (y1-y6)

[PicCollage](#) – Make anything, to celebrate everything. Wonderful posters, cards, logos and much more. With amazing templates, stickers and interactive animation features. Encouraging student creativity with each new task.



Stop Motion Studio (FS1-y6)

Want to create movies like Wallace and Gromit or those groovy Lego shorts on YouTube? [Stop Motion Studio](#) is an amazing app to create terrific stop action movies with a whole host of unique features. Like the frame-by-frame editor, the never get lost timeline and the cool sound editor.



Education City (FS1-y3)

[Education City](#) - EducationCity enables: Insight into student progression anytime, anywhere. Adaptable student learning, in and out of the classroom. Actionable data and performance-driven instruction. Student growth driven by measurable outcomes.



Frequently Asked Questions

What is BYOD?

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) is an initiative that many schools and businesses around the world have started. It lets students use a device at school for learning purposes.

Why does my child need to bring a device?

We should update our education system and make the most of the incredible learning tools that we have access to. The devices will be used as a tool to transform the way our children learn and engage with the world.

BYOD gives children frequent access to a device they know well that can be used to reinforce concepts, supplement/support learning through online resources, and work with other students and present work in different ways. Using the devices naturally in lessons is essential in making sure the students are 21st century literate.

Where will the device be kept during the school day?

The device will help your child learn better during class time. They will get skills, resources and tools to improve their learning. The teacher will lock the device in a cupboard or classroom when the students are not in class or have breaks. The students need to take the device home and school.

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

The Teacher will supervise the use of devices during classes. Moreover, the school network restricts access to some websites such as social media. Finally, we kindly ask our DIS parents to also discuss proper usage with their children. This involves showing them the Electronic Device policy.

[DIS Electronic Device and Digital Citizenship Fair Usage Policy 2024-25](#)

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?

Your child can still learn without a device, as they can use school iPads. But to make sure your child has a smooth and improved learning experience with all the tools, they should join 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. This will be run on a first come, first serve basis.

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 electronic device. The device recommendation is simply a recommendation for the best possible device for educational purposes at the time of the policy creation.

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

Students can bring in other branded models, however, we strongly recommend purchasing Apple iPad devices. We will be using Apple Classroom and Apple Schoolwork to help manage and improve the students' learning experience. Also, there are many Apple ONLY applications (e.g. Clips, Keynote, Pages, iMovie, Garageband and much more) that we will be using in lessons to enhance their development.

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

One of the main benefits teachers see for a child is becoming more independent. When your child uses a device in class, they can access all the online educational resources. The devices can help with finding information and defining words, and they can help children express themselves. The shy ones can share their thoughts through tools that need technology. There are also great educational apps like Numbots, Timetables Rockstars and Century Tech that can help them improve.

What about the traditional side of learning?

We care a lot about this! Your child will keep writing regularly in different subjects. They will improve their handwriting, spelling, punctuation and grammar skills.

We can also help them with online handwriting tutorials that we can make for each child, for example.

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact the Whole School Educational Technology Lead (Mr. Birrell) on the following email:

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