

Holy Trinity Church of England Junior School

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**Exemplary education for all, through God's amazing grace
Learning, Integrity, Dignity, Love, Confidence.**

Learning together, as we journey with God in Love, we act with Integrity, treat others with Dignity and grow in Confidence.

13th March 2024

Dear Parents,

Vision

As you all know, our children have used Chromebooks in school. These were introduced as part of our school's vision, which was introduced in 2019 and as a response to what we learnt during the pandemic.

Support for key learning

All of our children have had a Chromebook, leased by the school, and these were insured against malfunction or damage. The Chromebooks have added value to the children's learning through:

- I. Supporting reading fluency and comprehension (through access to books online, quizzing and assessment),
- II. Developing Maths skills – through Doodle Maths and Doodle Tables and developing individual spelling skills – Spellzone.
- III. Chromebooks also allow children access to Google Classroom, where knowledge organisers can be kept (these help children to link and retain key vocabulary and information in the national curriculum) and
- IV. Allow for homework to be set and returned.
- V. When allowing remote learning when this is needed, which means that everyone is able to access it and stay in contact with their teacher.

Costs

When the governing body decided to lease a laptop for every child, the cost was approximately £80,000 and insurance was £17,000. This was spread over three years. On the 22nd of March 2024, the contract comes to an end.

Due to rises in costs of energy and staffing, not fully funded by the DFE, the school budget is not in a position to pay for the next lease of three years, which is approximately £100,000.

The governing body have had a working party to investigate and explore different options to raise money for this.

As well as that, one of our parents has worked extremely hard to raise funds for the Chromebooks by applying for all kinds of appropriate grants, totalling approximately £300,000: She has been diligently doing this since last summer and we are extremely grateful. However, sadly, this has raised only £2,000 to date. As we know, there is a lot of need across the country in various ways. We now know that because the Chromebooks support the national curriculum directly, this is the most cited reason for refusal of our requests for funds.

Since September, we have also been seeking to work with the company who leased the Chromebooks, to see if we could extend the lease until the end of the summer term, with insurance. Whilst the company have given us a figure for extending that lease, they will not insure the Chromebooks. This would mean that school would be financially responsible for the cost of repairs. Under the agreement, we have to return the Chromebooks in working order and in good repair. Communication with the company has been extremely slow and frustrating and the full facts materialised only last week and then had to be discussed with the governors at the end of last week.

It is with a very heavy heart that we have to let you know that the use of the Chromebooks will have to stop in one week's time and we will have to gather them all up by Monday 18th of March.



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This will give children the opportunity to finalise any homework this weekend and ensure that their chargers are present when they make their return. If your child's charger is missing, please pay for the charger by clicking on this link to [ParentPay](#).

How will we move forward in school, in the absence of Chromebooks?

- 1) We want to reassure you that we have enough Chromebooks, **owned** by the school, to resource our computing curriculum, as a national curriculum subject.
- 2) Children will be able to access their Google classroom and Doodle accounts on a personal (or family) device at home to complete homework. If your child does **not have any access to a personal** device to complete **home learning**, please complete the Google form below and staff will arrange opportunities for this within the school day.
<https://forms.gle/kLBWbKCbG4ThxDbf6>
- 3) We are liaising with Accelerated Reader to see if we can extend our licence with them until the end of the summer term 2024. (This is the quizzing system that monitors the children's ZPD – zone of proximal development). This will enable staff to continue to monitor the range of books that children read and track their progress.
- 4) Currently children have the opportunity to learn spelling patterns and times tables in their homework books. This will continue.
- 5) Other Maths homework – if children have access to a device at home, they can continue completing homework and their '5 a day' at home.
- 6) Foundation homework will be reviewed in April and we will inform you about this as soon as the new (summer) term starts.

All of this will continue to be reviewed by staff on the inset day in April (15th).

Links:

Parental link for paying for a charger [ParentPay](#)

Link to let us know if your child does not have access to any device to enable them to use their logins at home:

<https://forms.gle/kLBWbKCbG4ThxDbf6>

In conclusion, we understand that this is hugely disappointing- for all of us, particularly in light of our school vision.

Unfortunately, this is the situation now and we have to adapt to move forward, whilst seeking to enable children's progress as best we can, in light of budgetary constraints.

Your understanding and support is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Gruffydd
Headteacher