Please read the following information regarding the Chromebook program

**What is a Chromebook?**
A Chromebook is a small portable personal computer. It uses Google Chrome as its operating system and is most useful when connected to the internet. At school the Chromebook will only be used for enhancing student learning.

**How will this program operate?**
The program is a home to school program which aims to prepare students for the digital world in which they live. The program will put technology at the fingertips of our students allowing them to utilise one device at both home and school. Parents will be able to see what children are working on at school and can build on this where they feel it is appropriate. Teachers, through the Google Management Console and Hapara will be able to manage the individual needs of children and effectively monitor their progress.

**Why doesn’t the school just provide a class set of Chromebooks which the children share?**
The program is aiming to mimic “real-use” of ICT which involves having a personal device per child. This facilitates taking the device home, away on holidays, on excursions, and having access to the information they need when they need it. A system based on shared devices allows for limited access and would not allow devices to travel home.

**Does the school have sufficient Wi-Fi access?**
Yes. The school has a strong Wi-Fi network across all areas of the school.

**What if my child doesn’t have a Chromebook? Will they be disadvantaged? Do they have to have one?**
No child will be disadvantaged. All children will continue to access the same level of ICT they currently have. Existing stand-alone computers can adequately run Google Chrome. The decision to purchase a Chromebook is entirely up to parents.

**Can my child bring an alternative device to school instead of a Chromebook?**
No. We have chosen this device due to its long battery life, high level of processing power and durable assembly. We have done considerable research and believe that currently this is the ideal device for use at Aranda Primary School.

Due to the management software the school is using, all devices will automatically be updated and synced when in the school environment, thus meaning there is no ongoing requirement to purchase or update educational software.

**Won’t the children just be staring at a screen all day?**
No. ICT is a tool that teachers and children will only use some of the time; it is not suitable for every aspect of learning. Face to face interaction and physical activity will remain a high priority at school. We believe a balance can be achieved.

Some forms of learning are still better suited to pen and paper and these decisions will be made keeping student outcomes in the forefront of our planning.

**What evidence is there that ICT improves student outcomes?**
Many studies have been carried out in recent times and the evidence shows that when used appropriately ICT has the ability to positively impact on student achievements. We believe the use of ICT is another tool to be utilised by teachers in order to meet the needs of a greater range of learning styles. Many children enjoy using computers and it is this motivation that facilitates learning through focus.
What are the benefits?
Wider access to resources
More ability to differentiate
Fast retrieval of information
Access to real time co-operative learning and schools across the world
Ability to link with like-minded students
Ability to share learning at home in a timely manner
Preparation for real-life situations
Student engagement and motivation

What happens if my child accidentally damages their Chromebook at school? At home?
Any defects that occur during the normal use of this device will be covered by the warranty. Whilst devices are being repaired, a loaned Chromebook will be issued to the child. Parents can confirm with their insurance company that devices will be covered for theft or damage at home.

*Damage due to negligence or malicious behaviour is not covered by the manufacturer’s warranty and the parents will be expected to cover the cost of the repair or replacement.*

How will my child’s Chromebook be stored safely while at school?
When not in use, Chromebooks will be stored in secured lockers within the school.

Should my child take their Chromebook home each night?
Yes. The Chromebook can be used at home by students and it is expected that the children will charge their Chromebook overnight ready for use the next day at school. We discourage charging at school as power cords/chargers can be a hazard in the classroom and will add extra weight to school bags.

Do students have unrestricted access to the internet?
No. Internet access will continue to be filtered and the management software allows monitoring of each student by teachers. The school’s Acceptable use of IT Policy will continue to be enforced.

When will Chromebooks be distributed to children who participate in the program?
Chromebooks have been ordered and will be available for distribution to children in Week 1, Term 1, 2017.

What happens to the Chromebook when they go to high school?
If you have purchased the Chromebook via one of the payment plans, your child is able to take the Chromebook with them.

Will individual students require a Google account?
Yes. This will be set up by the school. In addition to this we will be working in the educational domain which does not require credit card or have minimum age restrictions.

How much does the Chromebook weigh?
1.1kg

What software does it come with?
The Chromebook operates in the Google Chrome environment. No software is required. Google has their own version of Word, Excel and PowerPoint and all apps are automatically updated every time you log on.

Where can I get some advice about safe and responsible use of social media?
Aranda Primary School wants all students to be safe and be respectful members of the online community and we ask parents to support our efforts in promoting responsible online behaviour. We will be providing cyber safety workshops for children K-6 and a session will be offered to parents in early 2017. These sessions will be run by the AFP. For more information please visit one of the following websites:


Will classroom discussions become a thing of the past?
No.

Will ergonomics be taken into consideration?
Yes.