Why iPad?
There are many tablet devices on the market today and it is important to make the distinction between hardware manufacturers, software developers and education support providers. One of the main reasons that we chose the iPad is because Apple is all three of these. While Android is a great operating system, it is only an operating system. Apple is dedicated to supporting education, providing professional development to teachers and technical support to schools. The App Store is also host to thousands of reviewed and filtered educational applications, rather than the open marketplaces used by other operating systems.

Why the tablets and not a laptops?
The iPad is compact in size and lightweight, making it ultra-portable. Its battery life of 10 hours will get through the whole school day without requiring charging. Students are able to use an iPad as a still or video camera, which allows them to document and reflect on their own learning as well as being able to create multimedia projects that foster a wide range of planning and thinking skills. The iPad is an ‘instant-on’, simple and reliable device. It supports personalised learning without the additional complications of a laptop.

How often will the iPad be used during school time?
Like all learning tools, the iPad is not being used exclusively to complete learning tasks. It does not replace the tools we already have such as books, pens, paper and desktop computers. The iPad is a companion device. The advantage of the iPad is its mobility and ease of use so it is the perfect tool to help students expand their learning experience by providing them with an instant gateway to a multitude of resources. The iPad also allows students to document and reflect on their learning, even if the task did not directly involve the iPad.

Does an iPad get viruses? How secure is it? Can my child access inappropriate content?
While using the school network, all online content will be filtered to prevent students accessing inappropriate content. Provision of internet security and appropriate use at home will be the responsibility of families. We encourage parents to discuss expectations with their child regarding appropriate use of the device. Device management and security session will be run by the school for parents.
Regarding viruses, the iPad is a very secure device for downloading apps and surfing online. All apps and updates are installed via iTunes and the App Store, which is subject to a very strict approval process by Apple that includes some restrictions on the distribution of inappropriate content and malware.

What Apps will my child need and how much will they cost?
At JPPS we have a core group of Apps that we use. As of 2015 all required Apps will be provided by the school free of charge and rolled out using mobile device management software. Parents have the ability to install or remove any additional Apps at their discretion, such as Apps that families use at home or games.
Does an Apple account require a credit card for purchases? How will I keep my child from charging iTunes purchases without my permission?

As we will be providing apps, the school does not require an Apple account for app purchases. If parents would like to install additional apps on their iPad then an Apple account is required. An Apple account does not necessarily require a credit card. iTunes gift cards can be purchased and used to credit the account so that purchases can be made to buy apps. Once the value of the gift card has been exhausted, no further purchases can be made until another gift card is added. Parents do have the ability to control the installation of applications and can set up an iPad to require a password to make any changes to the configuration of the iPad, including app purchases.

Can parents control the use of the iPad at home including which apps are installed?

Yes. It is important that students use their device responsibly, and we will be working with parents to make sure that this is the case. Parents will be informed about various controls they can set on their child’s iPad.

Where will the iPad be stored during the school day and after school?

When the device is not in use, students will keep their iPads securely locked in each classroom. Classrooms are opened by a teacher on duty every morning at 8:45am and students are able to place their iPads inside upon arriving at school. iPads are securely locked in each classroom at recess and lunchtime and students attending before or after school care are required to store their devices securely in the OSHC office. All staff members are very supportive of the iPad program and will regularly review our internal practices to ensure that the students manage their iPads safely.

What iPad should I buy?

At Jells Park Primary School students are able to use any iPad from the iPad 2 to the current model. iPad Mini is also acceptable and can be purchased at a lower price to the ‘full-size’ iPad. As we use network storage at JPPS, we only require a minimum of 16 gigabytes storage, however it is important to note that many high schools, including Brentwood, are asking for a minimum of 32 gigabytes. If your student might be attending one of these schools, a larger capacity is something to consider. 3G capability (mobile internet connectivity) is not recommended as this means your child can connect to the internet without having to use a secure Wifi link, this can pose security risks. If you do already own an iPad with 3G capabilities and you would like to use it, we ask that sim cards be removed from the device when they are brought to school. Parents are encouraged to explore the Internet for deals. Apple rarely offer big discounts but some savings can be made online and at major retailers such as Big W and JB Hifi.

It is strongly recommended that you purchase a sturdy cover

What support to parents will the school offer?

The school will provide all required apps, technical support, device management and secure Wifi connections. Parents who supply their child with an iPad for 2015 will have a $70 reduction in the computer levy and the school will provide information sessions and workshops for parents covering both device management and security.