

Parent Chromebook Handbook



The Forest School suppliers:





Welcome to The Forest School buy-your-own-device, chromebook handbook. Working in partnership with hardware and software suppliers, along with our teaching staff we have developed a low-cost buy-your-own-device that will be used in school to complement traditional learning approaches.

[The vision for the BYOD scheme](#)

To increase the range of high quality learning opportunities for all our students to support learning and secure rapid progress.

[Our device package includes:](#)

- The Asus Chromebook has been selected by the school due to its robust design.
- Insurance: there is a 3 year return to base warranty included in the package and insurance against accidental damage.
- Repairs: If your Chromebook breaks you can arrange repairs/ replacement as necessary via the Chromebook portal located on the school website.
- RM Unify, RM Buzz and Impero software that ensures the device carries the safeguarding internet filters at school and at home.
- Access to school resources and on-line learning packages at home and at school.

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Our selected Chromebook device specification - Asus C204

PROCESSOR
Intel® Celeron® N4000 Processor (4M Cache, up to 2.6 GH

SYSTEM MEMORY
LPDDR4 4GB

STORAGE
16G EMMC

DISPLAY
11.6''/Ultra Slim 200nits//HD 1366x768 16:9//Anti-Glare//NTSC: 45%

WARRANTY
3yrs OSS



Model Name	C204EE-G/002B-OSS
Processor	Intel® Celeron® N4000 Processor (4M Cache, up to 2.6 GHz)
Operating System	Chrome
Display	11.6''/Ultra Slim 200nits//HD 1366x768 16:9//Anti-Glare//NTSC: 45%
System Memory	LPDDR4 4GB
Storage	16G EMMC
External video display modes	Displayport 1.2
Discrete/Share	Share
IGPU	Intel UHD Graphics 600
Video Camera	HD Web Camera
Wireless	802.11ac+Bluetooth 5.0 (Dual band) 2*2
Card Reader	Type: Micro SD
USB Port	1x USB3.1 Type A (Gen1) 1x USB3.1 Type C (Gen 1) support Display/Power Delivery
Interface	1x Headphone-out & Audio-in Combo Jack 1x USB3.1-Type C(Gen1)
Audio	Built-in speaker Built-in array microphone
Weight (Kg)	1.00 KG (Without Battery) 1.20 KG (with 3 cell battery)
Dimension (cm)	29.2(W) x 19.9(D) x 1.95 ~ 2.01 (H) cm
Colour	Grey
Warranty	3yrs OSS

Asus C204 Chromebook features

Less than 8 seconds to boot up

Long battery life - in excess of 8 hours

Simple technology

Easy student-teacher workflow - work is easily shared

Excellent collaboration tools

Works seamlessly with Google Apps for Education and other cloud based applications which all of our students and teachers already use extensively.

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Google for Education

[Why have we chosen Chromebooks?](#)

There are a wide range of tablet and laptop-style devices available on the market and The Forest School conducted a pilot scheme and extensive research when considering the type of device that would be best suited to students in our school. We have concluded that Chromebooks offer the most effective learning solution for our students at a low cost.

A Chromebook looks like a laptop in appearance but operates in a very different way with students accessing services and apps online. The Chromebook operating system is produced by Google who provide a wealth of apps and services which are specifically designed to support students in education.

Chromebook devices boot-up in a matter of seconds and have a battery life that lasts up to 8 hours, dependant on use. Chromebook devices are managed centrally by our IT Support Team to ensure that access is safe and secure. Internet content is filtered for inappropriate content to ensure students can access everything they need for their school work.

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Students need to be prepared for an increasingly digital world. Research has confirmed that good home access to technology has a positive impact on a child's educational achievements; it often motivates them to do schoolwork by providing more interesting and engaging ways to learn.

Student work is often better presented so their self-esteem grows and they can explore subjects that interest them in their own time.

[How Chromebooks are used at The Forest School](#)

Here are just a few examples of what students will do at The Forest School when using Chromebooks:

1. Creation, sharing and collaborating with peers and teachers using GSuite
2. Use of subject related apps in the classroom and at home
3. Collaborative learning.

Traditional methods of learning and teaching still have a key place in the education of our students. Chromebooks should be seen as an additional educational tool and not as a replacement for the use of exercise books and textbooks.

We train our teachers and teach our students to use Chromebook devices productively and appropriately. All our staff use Google classroom and other GSuite tools to support digital learning and teaching.

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[When do we get our Chromebook for the academic year beginning September 2019?](#)

Orders need to be placed on the ordering portal by early July, so that Chromebooks are ready for the new academic year.

A link to the ordering portal is located on the school website

Once the first payment is made (August) the Chromebook will be ordered and will be configured for your son.

Chromebooks will be delivered to school during the summer. We will be arranging a collection day just before the term begins so every student is chromebook ready for the new term.

The Chromebook is compulsory equipment for Year 7 and Year 8 students from September 2019.

[How do I connect the Chromebook to the Internet in my house?](#)

Chromebooks use wireless to connect to a network so you will need WiFi at home to use the Chromebook on the Internet. If you have WiFi, your network security key can be added to the Chromebook before logging-on. If you don't have WiFi at home, the Chromebook will still work for many things (most apps, reading eBooks, etc) but, for example, email and web browsing won't be accessible until the Chromebook is back within the School network.

Please talk to us if you do not have WiFi at home by emailing: Office@forest.academy

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[My child already has a different device. Can they use that instead?](#)

No. These are not fully compatible with the software, Google Apps and add-ons that we will be using for teaching and learning.

[Did you look at Windows, iPads, Mac, Linux or Android as alternatives?](#)

Yes, very seriously. We believe that iPads are great tools for consuming media but they are not as good for creating content and allowing our students to work collaboratively. Whilst the range of applications available on iPads and Android is vast, many of the resources that teachers currently use in IT Suites would not be available. We also considered traditional Windows, Mac and Linux laptops. Although these devices are indeed more powerful, they are also more complex, more expensive and have poorer battery lifetimes. The simplicity of the Chromebook overcomes these barriers so that the focus will be on learning.

[What if my child already has a Chromebook?](#)

The Forest School buy-your-own device is a specific learning tool, designed and configured for education. The power of the scheme is that every student has the same device. Research has shown that this supports highly effective teaching and learning and does not create distinctions between students.

[Is the battery good enough? How will charging work?](#)

Chromebooks have a battery life of 8 plus hours. This varies depending on what the Chromebook is being used for (e.g. web browsing is very different to using Youtube). As long as students charge the Chromebook overnight, it will last all day.

Please note that there will be no charging facilities available at school so it is really important to have devices fully charged at the start of the day.

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What technical support will there be for students?

The Forest School IT Support Service will be able to help resolve most technical issues but one of the major advantages of the Chromebook is that it rarely goes wrong.



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[Are there any Chromebook guides available?](#)

Yes, there's a lot of (free) guidance out there. This link is a good place to start: <http://www.chromestory.com/chromebook-user-guide/>

We will make sure all of our students receive the teaching input to get them up and running with their new Chromebooks when they are issued.

[Will my child need their own Google account? If so, how will the school be able to put apps on the Chromebook?](#)

Your child's Forest School account is in fact a Gmail account and this account will be used. The school will use management software to enable it to distribute apps to the Chromebook registered with the school via the Chromebook scheme.

[What is the school going to do with the current IT suites?](#)

We will be maintaining our investment in the IT suites which run specialist software including our suites for Art, Computer Science, Photography, Media and Music. The Forest School recognises the importance of IT facilities and continues to invest significantly in this area to maintain a highly effective infrastructure. Our Chromebook scheme will allow students to access online services in every lesson across their timetable in order to support learning.

[Could we buy a cheaper Chromebook and 'opt out' of the The Forest School scheme?](#)

No. There are other Chromebooks on the retail market, but the device we have selected is not available on the retail market. In addition we have worked very hard with our suppliers to negotiate a competitive price for the device and so we can offer good value for money.

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Why can't the school provide these devices for free?

We are asking families to pay for the device as it will belong to the student and therefore can be used outside of the school day. This supports home learning, extended research as well as access to all of The Forest School's range of on-line learning tools.

What happens if the Chromebook is damaged?

If a Chromebook is damaged, repairs are covered by the 3 year insurance policy. Damage claims need to be logged via the link on the school website and a replacement device will be provided within 24 hours. Devices must be brought to school to be replaced.

What happens if the Chromebook is lost or stolen?

If Chromebook is stolen, you will need to obtain a crime reference number from the Police. Lost Chromebooks are not insured, so it is very important that students take care of their devices. You may decide to purchase a loss insurance policy separately, however to keep costs competitive, this is not included in the package.

What about safety on the way to and from School?

It is sensible to reduce the risk of theft through some common sense measures; students should keep their Chromebook in their bag on the way to and from school, both for road safety and crime prevention reasons. The device is a similar size to a slim textbook, so can be easily stowed in a school bag or rucksack.

What is The Forest School doing to reduce e-Safety problems with the Chromebooks?

The Forest School has a very effective web filtering system and all devices attached to our network go through this web filter. The Forest School will be actively monitoring students' Chromebooks while in school. We will be able to look at web filter logs should an issue become apparent. Students are already taught the

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importance of e-Safety through PSHE, IT lessons and assemblies. This will be continually reinforced.

[Can I install parental controls on the Chromebook?](#)

You can use the controls on your internet router at home to add parental controls. We have included filtering software on to each Chromebook that will only allow access to sites approved by the school - this software operates in school and at home.

Because of the setup of the device it will not be possible to install additional software onto the device at home.

[How will inappropriate use of the Chromebook at school be dealt with?](#)

Students, with the support of their parents, will be required to sign up to a set of 'Chromebook Rules' which set out some simple rules to make things go smoothly. Some of the rules concern management of the device (e.g. *"I will bring the Chromebook to school every day, charged"*) and some will be about classroom behaviour (e.g. *"I will stop using the Chromebook when my teacher asks me to"*), with the overall intention of creating a way of operating that all students, parents and staff understand and agree with. Any student that misuses the device in school will have increased restrictions applied to their device.

[How will the Chromebook be backed up?](#)

The Chromebook is always backed up and our students have unlimited storage space in the Google Cloud. This is already set up and associated with their Forest School email address.

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