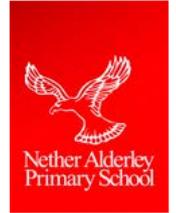


# Nether Alderley Primary School



## Personalising learning with iPad and MacBook Pro

Nether Alderley were looking to develop the use of Apple devices in the classroom, and found the support they needed in our e7 Pilot programme. After the pilot, they rolled out iPad across Year 5 and 6, opted for a mobile Mac suite instead of a PC lab, and have opened a new staff development suite. Here's the story of their conversion to Apple devices...

### In a nutshell...

#### Who are they?

Nether Alderley are a co-educational primary school in Cheshire. They currently teach 105 pupils, ranging from Reception to Year 6.

#### What did they need?

An iPad trial that would allow them to test the effectiveness of Apple devices in the classroom before committing to a 1:1 rollout.

#### How did we help?

We enrolled the school on our e7 Pilot so that they could trial iPad, then provided training and support when they rolled out iPad across Year 5 and 6. We also provided them with a class set of MacBook Pros to replace an outdated IT lab, and have helped them manage the transition from PC to Mac that this entailed.

#### What were the benefits?

- Increased parental engagement, resulting in children doing more work at home and facilitating a flipped classroom teaching model.
- The ability to give richer feedback, improving student understanding.
- Improved tracking of student progress, and the ability to target areas of weakness in specific, personalised ways for each student.
- A more efficient IT workflow that allows students to do more in the time they have, using the best possible tools.
- The introduction of a new staff development area where staff can meet to discuss pedagogy and best practices.

"We'd had a suite of iPad through a different company and we were very aware that we weren't using them to their absolute capacity," explained Deputy Head Andy Brady. "We were just substituting – using the iPad to look things up instead of using a laptop and things like that. We'd done some research into the idea of flipped learning and the idea that [iPad would let us] give multimodal feedback with a view to accelerating learning, but I couldn't ask the governors to sign off on 1:1 devices without a successful trial."

During his search for a 1:1 trial, Andy found out about our e7 Pilot, which gives schools a class set of iPad to work with for a term, and training to get them started. "I would definitely recommend working with Jigsaw24," said Andy. "One of the things that we found really valuable is that their staff includes ex-teachers, if there is such a thing, and they understand what we're trying to achieve. When we talk to Jigsaw24, it's not about the installation or the next three months, it's a long term commitment to doing the right thing for the children and for the school."



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**Andy Brady, Deputy Head, Nether Alderley Primary School.**



Want to find out more?

Call: 03332 400 100 Email: [education@Jigsaw24.com](mailto:education@Jigsaw24.com) Visit: [Jigsaw24.com/education](https://www.Jigsaw24.com/education)

## Bringing staff and parents on board

“There are only four classes at the school, and our small size was really one of our super strengths in terms of adopting the technology,” Andy told us. “I was leading our iPad project and had the vision of how it could work, so it was a case of building that, implementing it in my own classroom and then sharing what I’d been working on with colleagues. And eventually, even when I wasn’t in the classroom, other teachers would continue to use apps like Showbie and continue to develop learning through iPad.”

Parents, though, were slightly harder to convince. There was a worry that the iPad would fully replace traditional written work, and that key skills like handwriting would suffer. To combat this, the Nether Alderley team held a parents’ introduction to iPad event, in which they ran through the objectives of the project and explained how they planned to balance digital and traditional work, as well as covering off areas like eSafety and the core apps Nether Alderley would be using.

“Once they knew how the digital workflow was going to work, parents were more on board with it,” said Andy. “At one session, I showed them how they could access Showbie on their phone to see their children’s ongoing assessment and spelling test results, so they could stay aware of what their children were working on and take more of an interest in their work. I started getting emails about children sharing their work with their parents like they’d never done before – one parent had an Apple TV at home, and his child had gone home at the end of the day and mirrored his iPad to the Apple TV to show his parents what he’d done at school.

## Improving results for young learners

The big question, of course, is whether this has had any impact on students’ learning. “Last year’s cohort, who had 1:1 iPad in Year 6, performed very well in comparison to previous years. They were a very driven cohort all along, but I’m more than happy to say that the use of iPad increased engagement and it motivated children, and that led to learning gains that would not have been there otherwise.

“Children were going home in the evening and supplementing the work they did in the classroom with work at home. So if they were writing stories, for example, they’d take it home, write an extra paragraph, then come in the next morning, print it and stick it in their literacy book, and the 20 minutes of lesson time they saved by writing that paragraph at home meant that they were able to work on a second or third draft, or turn their story into an iBook. And it really encouraged a unique way of working where the end goal wasn’t just a neat version for the wall display, and the children were really motivated to carry on their work at home.”

## Creating a more flexible working environment with MacBook Pro

The school had an ageing PC lab that was no longer large enough to accommodate a full class, and in which all the PCs were running an outdated operating system no longer supported by Microsoft.

Because of the success of the iPad deployment (and the fact that many of the staff were already Mac users at home), the Nether Alderley team decided to replace their PCs with a class set of 30 MacBook Pros, which could travel from classroom to classroom as the children needed them.

“One of the big appeals of switching to Mac was the ability to work cross-device,” explained Andy. “Now students can go into the school garden, do some filming on iPad, then AirDrop that over to the MacBook Pro so that they can use the more sophisticated editing tools you get in the desktop version of iMovie instead of being restricted by the controls on the iPad version.”

In case the students ever need access to a PC, the school are using Boot Camp (a facility that lets you run Windows and macOS on a single Mac, and choose which operating system you’d like to use at startup) to run Windows 7, but “find we’re very rarely touching the Microsoft side of things.”

With their desktop computers replaced by a trolley of laptops, the school has been free to redevelop their lab space as a new staff development zone, where staff can meet to go through pedagogy and best practice. This is particularly important because, as Andy pointed out, everything the school does needs to be underpinned by pedagogy. “If you get iPad in because the school down the road are and you want it as a PR tool, you’re wasting your time. You’ve got to have a clear vision and see the technology as a tool for learning and innovation. Prepare to be frustrated, but also prepare to have moments where you think ‘wow, how did we do this before?’ They’re really powerful tools for learning.”

## Impact on test results

Percentage of students reaching higher standard in reading, writing, grammar, punctuation, spelling and maths before and with iPad.

2015 Before iPad	2016 Before iPad	% Percentage increase
<b>% Expected standard (reading, writing and maths)</b>		
57%	86%	51%
<b>% Higher standard (reading, writing and maths)</b>		
7%	29%	314%
<b>% Higher standard maths</b>		
14%	29%	107%

For more information about rolling out Apple devices in the classroom, or any of our training sessions, get in touch with the team on the details below.

**Call: 03332 400 100**

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