# Wheelers Lane Primary School Unites Chromebooks with Windows Applications to Remain Productive During the Pandemic

> "Parallels Desktop for Chrome OS is very easy to use, and our teachers didn't need any separate training or anything like that for it. The roll-out was also simple and straightforward. Within a week and a few working hours, all 45 Chromebooks were equipped with the software."
>
> John Byron
> *IT manager*
> *Wheelers Lane Primary School*

## The Results

### INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY
Students and staff can fully access essential Windows applications from Chromebooks, essential for homeschooling.

### EASE OF USE AND STREAMLINED MANAGEMENT
Parallels Desktop for Chrome OS is administrated through the Google Admin Console, making deployment easy and seamless.

### INCREASED SECURITY
The school can leverage Google's advanced security features and Parallels' comprehensive security capabilities.

### LOWER THE TOTAL-COST-OF-OWNERSHIP
Parallels supplies the school with the means to provide native-like Windows experiences on more affordable Chromebook devices.

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## The Challenge

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented enormous challenges to nearly every industry, and the impact on the education sector has been especially challenging. Due to recommendations by the World Health Organization and local governments, a significant number of students had to shift to online learning. As the pandemic continues, schools have had to implement hybrid online learning and split classes for in-person instruction. This is a major change for teachers, as lessons must be completely redesigned. New tools are needed to enable students to participate in virtual learning and interact with their class.

Wheelers Lane Primary School was one such school facing these challenges. At the start of the pandemic, they too had to adapt their teaching to homeschooling. The school had the advantage of being equipped with technical hardware and software even before the COVID-19 pandemic. However, their inventory needed a huge upgrade. Chromebooks turned out to be the most cost-effective devices for the school. However, since most teachers were used to working with Windows applications, which are not supported on Chromebooks by default, a viable solution had to be found. The school needed a comprehensive solution that enables users to flexibly switch back and forth between two operating systems and their applications. This would help teachers to continue working on Chromebooks while having access to their Windows applications.

## The Solution

After a thorough exploration, Wheelers Lane Primary School decided to implement Parallels Desktop for Chrome OS. Many teachers and students were already using Chromebooks before the pandemic to familiarize children with the devices to pave the way for them to enter the digital world. Chromebooks are straightforward to use, inexpensive and secure. The school did not even have to implement additional antivirus software for the devices. However, due to the pandemic, the school was forced to upgrade this inventory to support continued flexible and productive work.

Many teachers at Wheelers Lane Primary School preferred to work with the native Microsoft applications (rather than the online version) and required some legacy applications that only work on Windows. Parallels Desktop for Chrome OS provided the school with a solution that enables teachers to deliver lessons efficiently and in a user-friendly way. Teachers can easily switch back and forth between applications at any time without the need to change hardware. Now the school's 60 staff and almost 600 students are equipped with 200 Chromebooks and a few occasional iPads and Windows devices.

## The Results

Wheelers Lane Primary School teachers can access all Windows applications relevant to their work via their Chromebooks. Many legacy applications used at school, including an essential tool that enables interactive and dynamic teaching, are only available on Windows. Parallels Desktop for Chrome OS enables Wheelers Lane Primary School to run fully functional Windows applications, including native Microsoft Office, directly on Chromebook Enterprise devices—online and offline. 45 teachers were provided with a license, and as a result, they can make their lessons flexible and interactive from home.

Teaching at Wheelers Lane Primary School during the pandemic continues productively thanks to the school's decision to have Parallels Desktop for Chrome OS at their disposal. Students actively follow lessons, and teachers do not need an extra solution for running Windows. They enjoy the benefits of Chromebook while accessing the application richness of Windows. Lesson preparation has also been easier for teachers since then. Windows applications that could previously only be accessed online are now united natively on the Chromebook. This saves time and increases productivity and user-friendliness. It also reduces the burden on the IT team, as they can continue to rely on Chrome OS' advanced security and management standards while having a partner in Parallels that delivers cross-platform expertise.

Thanks to the step-by-step instructions provided by Parallels, the school completed the installation within a week and teachers were able to start using the solution right away. Within a very short amount of time, students could participate in lessons that closely resembled those they had experienced in pre-COVID-19 days. The school has been using Chromebooks for a while, and Parallels enables them to continue to leverage these resources with even greater success.

For further information visit parallels.com/chromeos