



Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Year 6 Parents/Carers

An issue has arisen within all of the Year 6 classes that we feel we need to draw your attention to. There seem to be a number of incidents of unkindness and inappropriate language being used on group chats, in particular on WhatsApp during out of school hours.

When an issue is brought to us, we endeavour to investigate the matter and help to resolve it. However, as these issues are happening outside of school, we do need your support to help us keep your children safe.

As a result of these ongoing issues and in order to ensure the safety of your child, we ask that you keep a closer eye on their online activities. Although we teach the children about keeping safe online, they are at their most vulnerable when using devices outside of school. As parents and carers, it is important that you are familiar with the applications and social network opportunities they use. By understanding these sites yourself, you will be better equipped to support your child in choosing an appropriate site for them and how to use it safely.

There are age restrictions on many social media sites which are designed to safeguard children, meaning that primary aged children are too young to be using them. We urge you to check all sites that your children are using and be aware of the restrictions they put in place.

If you decide to allow access to these sites, please ensure that privacy settings are set to the highest possible level. We would advise you to discuss the use of social media sites with your child, set clear rules and boundaries and monitor their use. Make sure that they are aware that these sites are public and that they should not befriend someone they do not know. They also need to learn to use social media responsibly and that the same rules about respecting each other apply online as they do face to face. We do not recommend children taking part in group chats as messages can so easily be misconstrued and this is where problems are likely to arise.

There is an NSPCC parent's guide accompanying this letter, which supports parents in keeping children safe online.

Kind regards

Kate Glasheen  
Deputy Headteacher