

17th April 2024

Dear Year 5 Parents and Carers,

Re: Use of Social Media and Digital Communication

As you know, we work very hard as a school to safeguard the children in our care, and to teach them as much as we can about keeping safe in the technological world that they are growing up in. We feel that it is our duty to protect and educate them when they are using social media **whether they are in school or out of school**. We also aim to support parents when dealing with their children's online safety.

It has come to our attention that some messages have been shared on WhatsApp that are inappropriate and upsetting in nature and whilst it is not a school issue, these incidents can spill over into the classroom. Also, please remember that although Meta, the providers of WhatsApp, have recently reduced the age requirement children should be over the age of 13 to use this app.

Please take the time to talk to your child about this sort of communication and:

- Please ensure that you know the password for your children's devices
- Please ensure that you check them regularly
- Talk to them about messages that they send and receive
- Make sure they understand that once they have sent/said something, they cannot delete it or get it back!
- Once they are over the age of 10 they become criminally responsible for their acts and this applies to what they say/send out using social media and online games
- Please talk to them and ask them about whether they would do or say the same thing in real life to someone's face as they would online
- Finally, if your child should ever receive anything that upsets them or is inappropriate, please teach them to share it with you or an adult straight away

We regularly liaise with Thames Valley Police as well as our PCSO Les Bradfield and they will often come in to school to support us in educating the children.

If there is anything that we can help you with please do not hesitate to speak to the class teacher, Mrs Fox or myself.

Many thanks

Mrs S Khan
Assistant Headteacher / SENDCo