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30<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Phone/Social Media Use**

We are writing to advise you of a few concerns that we have regarding the use of social media outside of school by Year 5 pupils.

It has come to our attention that some pupils are using social media to be unkind to other pupils over social media platforms particularly WhatsApp. We understand this has included sharing, unkind comments and images about these pupils. This has caused problems both in and outside of school and is not in line with the values of this school.

Whatsapp has an age restriction of 13 years old and therefore is not suitable for year 5 children to be accessing. However, if you do allow your child to access social media, we ask for you to be extra vigilant and to monitor their usage. What is right will vary from family to family but some strategies that are known to be successful include:

- Regular, unplanned checks of conversations/groups your children are involved in
- Monitor their phones for the apps that are downloaded (age appropriate)
- Make sure parental controls are enabled on phones and consoles
- Setting guidelines about what times they have access to devices
- Encourage them to share and discuss any issues/worries they may have openly with you
- Speaking to your child about the impact words online can have on individuals and speaking up when this occurs

We are kindly asking for your co-operation in helping us to deal with this. As a parent it is ultimately your responsibility to ensure your child is using their devices and any social media appropriately and safely. School staff are, however, working hard to support you with this. Many of the issues linked to social media use happen outside of school, but this can have a major impact on the happiness and progress of our pupils.

Thank you for your support

Kind Regards

Mr P.J.Lord  
Head Teacher