



Headteacher: Mrs Stav Stavrinou

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Recently, the school have been made aware of the significant number of our Year 6 pupils who are frequently using WhatsApp and other forms of social media.

Such apps are extremely difficult for our pupils, who are still developing their social skills, to navigate successfully. This is one of the reasons why the developers of the apps set age requirements to use them. As a result of this, the school have been informed by some pupils and parents that the content on these WhatsApp groups is extremely inappropriate and that some pupils have made quite offensive and threatening comments about each other.

If your child has a phone and uses WhatsApp or other online communication apps such as Snapchat and Instagram then we would recommend that you stop the use of this immediately.

**'As of May 2018, WhatsApp's minimum age of use is 16 years old if you live in the European Union, or a country that has adopted the GDPR, as the UK has.'**

We also recommend that parents check their phones/devices periodically to make sure that the content of conversations is appropriate for 10-11 year old children. In school, we educate the children about E Safety but issues such as this are unfortunately out of our control.

Please be vigilant and monitor what your child is doing on the internet or their phones. It is not an invasion of their privacy, you will be helping them to stay safe. As parents we must stay in touch with modern forms of communication and make sure our children are safe.



**-Does your child keep their phone on charge next to their bed? If so, is anyone messaging them through the night?**

**-Are they accessing inappropriate websites?**

**-Are there specific times every day when phones are switched off to give them a break?**

**- Are your home and phone internet filters and privacy settings robust?**

Below is a link to the NSPCC 'Keeping Children Safe Online' guide.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Please contact the school if you have any concerns.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Stav'.

Mrs Stav  
Headteacher