



# ECCELESTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

incorporating  
**Beechbuds Pre-School**

Headteacher: Mr Craig Todd

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Kate Cranage - Early Years Leader: Mrs Kayleigh Thomas - SENDCO: Mrs Rachael Davies

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As a school, and reflecting the views of many of our families, we are increasingly concerned about the impact of smartphones on children. Smartphones are a big part of modern life, most adults have one, and they can be excellent tools for finding information and staying connected with family and friends.

However, there is now growing evidence of the negative effects of smartphones and social media on children and teenagers. These include:

- Poor mental health, such as anxiety and depression
- Difficulties with attention and sleep
- Increased risk of cyberbullying and exposure to harmful or inappropriate content
- Addiction and distraction from developing important life skills

Many children receive their first phone in primary school, and over 90% of 12-year-olds now own a smartphone. This is a crucial stage for brain development, and the younger a child is when they receive a smartphone, the greater the potential for harm.

Schools have an important role to play in changing how children use smartphones. During **Parents' Evening on Wednesday 19th November**, there will be information shared on this topic, from parents, for parents.

We are committed to making our school environment **smartphone-free**, joining a growing number of local schools who are doing the same. Therefore, from **January 2026**, no child will be allowed to bring a smartphone onto school premises.

If you need to contact your child while they travel to and from school, a simple 'brick' phone is sufficient. These phones do not have internet access, are inexpensive, and can be handed to the class teacher for safe storage during the school day and returned at home time.

*Our current Year 6 children will still be allowed to bring smartphones for the remainder of this academic year. However, they must not be seen on the way into or out of school and*



*must remain stored in the classroom until the end of the day. If a phone is visible as children arrive at school, it will be taken to the office to be collected by a parent.*

We would like to work together with parents on this important issue. Learning and wellbeing are our top priorities at Ecclestone Primary School, and research shows that smartphones can have a detrimental effect on both.

Together, we can make a real difference in our children's lives.

If you would like to find out more about support for parents who want their children to be smartphone-free, please visit **Smartphone Free Childhood**.

**Yours sincerely,**

Craig Todd and The Smartphone-Free School Ambassadors