

Dear Year 5 Parents and Guardians,

It has recently come to my attention that many of the Year 5 children are part of various WhatsApp groups and they are messaging each other during the night. Some children in this group are waking up to at least 800 notifications in the morning. The content and language of some of these messages is inappropriate and is causing distress to some members of the group. Name calling and swearing has been brought into school as a result of these messages.

I wanted to alert all of the parents who have children in Caspian or Aegean to the issues this can cause and urge you to be vigilant about what your child is accessing on their phones and how they are using them. We do our part in school to educate the children about how to stay safe on social media. The legal age to use Instagram is 13 and for WhatsApp was changed to 16 in May 2018. Please help us by checking your child's phone regularly and discussing appropriate content. We do not tolerate bullying in any form, including online bullying.

Mental health is a major issue and a significant cause of this is the inappropriate use of social media. We would ask you to consider encouraging your child to leave their phone in your care overnight, as this is when a lot of the messaging is taking place. It is really important for your child's wellbeing now, and as they get older that they talk to you about how they are using their mobile phones.

We would like to invite you in to discuss safe internet usage and answer any queries you may have on **Tuesday 15th of October 2019 at 3:40 and 4:40pm**. You will be welcomed in through the Year 5 entrance to Caspian Class with Miss Turner and Miss Large.

Many thanks,
Miss Turner