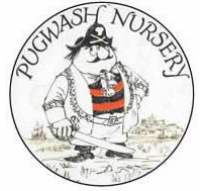




Rye Community Primary School & Pugwash Nursery
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Executive Headteacher: Mr Barry Blakelock
Headteacher: Miss Kelly Martin



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4th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have unfortunately had some pupils using their mobile phones on school premises (after school) to record TikTok videos. This is a very concerning matter and one which we do not want repeated.

I am sure you can understand that for the protection of some children and families they may not want to appear in the background of a video which shares the location of the school they attend. We have explained the seriousness of this to the children in school today and we would appreciate your support in following this up at home with further discussion around the need to respect people's privacy.

To safeguard against this happening again; from Monday we will be asking parents to ensure that their child does NOT bring their phone into school, unless they are walking home alone. If a child brings their phone into school for this reason alone, it will need to be switched off and handed in at Reception in the morning and then collected from Reception in the afternoon. Parents must also send written confirmation into school as to why their child is bringing in their mobile phone.

Any phones brought into school without express permission from parents, as described above, will be safely stored in the school office until collected by parents. They will **not** be handed back to pupils, this is regardless of whether they declare the phone and hand it in, or we are alerted to a child having a phone in their coat or bag.

Pupils do not need to bring phones to school- there are certainly no circumstances in which a child would ever be allowed to use their phone within the school day or within the school premises. The only reason you may wish your child to have a phone with them, is if they walk home alone.

PC Williams has also been booked in to come and talk to our year 5 and 6 children again, to remind them about staying safe online.

Please remember that lots of the social media platforms that our pupils seem to be accessing are not designed for children of their age. Using social media when underage can be harmful to a child's emotional development, not to mention potentially being exposed to material which could jeopardise their safety and wellbeing. Please ensure you are aware of the age limits on the platforms your child has access to and delete them if not appropriate.

Please can all parents ensure that their child is not reunited with their phone until they are away from school premises. Your help is greatly appreciated.

If you would like further help and support with this, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K Martin".

Miss K Martin
Headteacher