



27 November 2015

Subject: Social media

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Name:

Class:

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been brought to our attention that some of our older children are actively using various social media accounts. Although the majority use them sensibly, there has been recent activity that has got out of hand, with the use of inappropriate language.

As a school, we recognise that social media often presents opportunities for friendship, keeping in touch with distant family members and self-expression and although we accept the use of social media, we are still aware that our pupils are very young; therefore the need for monitoring and supervision at home is essential. We cover internet safety as part of our curriculum and take the opportunity to remind pupils about being safe during PSHE lessons; however, we do not always know which children use Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter and Facebook etc. when out of school.

Our concerns are as follows;

- The unsafe (and accidental) disclosure of personal information.
- Addiction, whereby a pupil spends an excessive amount of time online, to the detriment of their education, well-being and health.
- Risky behaviour – some pupils may use bad language as they 'copy' the lead set by others who are online, deeming it appropriate.
- Cyber bullying, involving the sending or posting of harmful and sometimes malicious messages online.

As a school, we have to take a robust line on those who misuse social media. Some may feel that what happens in the privacy of home is not the business of the school, however, it inevitably becomes so, because of the impact this activity has on relationships and behaviour in school.

At home, can we please ask you to be vigilant? Check your child's settings, friends list, content etc. Talk to them about appropriate use and ensure that they are using it sensibly and not excessively. We will do what we can in school as the safety and well-being of all our children is important to us, so any miss-use that comes to our attention will be dealt with and parents informed.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Mills

Headteacher