



03/02/20

Dear parents/carers

I am writing to you to ask for your support in ensuring our children are safe online and are behaving in an appropriate manner. A number of children in both Year 5 and Year 6 use WhatsApp to communicate with each other and have set up a number of groups. Although most children use this sensibly, it has come to my attention that some of this communication includes the use of inappropriate language. Some of our children are swearing and are also engaging in online arguments, sometimes making hurtful comments to each other. Please remind your child that this type of communication is not acceptable and will be treated very seriously in school if it continues.

I am also aware that some of our children use Snap Chat and Tic Toc. Both Snapchat and Tic Toc require children to be at least 13. However, there is other advice that suggests children should be sixteen before they use it. Tic Toc involves children making and sharing videos, which if privacy settings are not turned on, can be shared widely, and put children at risk. Snapchat also poses a risk to children's safety.

If you have given your child a phone, please ensure you are monitoring how they are using it and checking to see if what they are doing online is appropriate. Please also check that privacy settings are turned on and that you have regular conversations with them about online safety. I would also strongly advise you not to allow your child access to their phone at night when they are unsupervised.

Below are two useful sites that may help if you need any further advice

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/whatsapp/#parents>

<https://parentinfo.org/article/whatsapp-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

Please do not hesitate to come and talk to me if you would like to discuss this further or become aware of inappropriate or unsafe conduct online.

Thank you for your support Kind regards

Fiona Judge

Headteacher