

Monday 22nd March 2021

Dear Parents,

Y6 children on social media

It was brought to my attention on Friday that a group of Year 6 children have set up a WhatsApp group. In theory, children in Year 6 are too young to access the app, the minimum age of use for WhatsApp is 16. However, we are well aware that lots of children use this social media app to communicate with each other, particularly when we have been in lockdown.

However, it has been reported to me that there is concerning activity within the group, including inappropriate language and aggressive language towards each other, with a general tone of unkindness.

Other concerns in the group include, an inappropriate film using a photo of a member of staff which was created by a Year 6 child, this has been addressed in school. Plus, children are discussing footage from TIKTOK regarding a suicide. Inappropriate films have also been added to the stream for all children to see.

I was extremely concerned when this information was reported to me and I am sure you are too. Please be aware that although the films or photographs may have been deleted on the stream, they may have been automatically saved to your child's photos on their device.

We shall be actioning this in school during the week, as our Y6 team will lead online safety lessons reminding children of how social media channels should be used, they will discuss personal safety and discuss appropriate behaviours when online, considering the right actions to take.

When we are so busy we don't always have time to check our children's phones but it would be advisable to have a look and see if your children are part of this group and to talk to them about personal safety and appropriate behaviours.

If you have any further concerns, then please don't hesitate to let us know in school.

Yours sincerely

T G Newton

Head teacher