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Executive Headteacher – Mrs P Atwal

Wednesday 16th March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Online Safety

I am writing once again to share with you my concerns about the use and misuse of social media by some of our children. Ready access to technology and social media platforms at home has increased the number of e-safety incidents involving inappropriate communications between children. This is leading to problems in school, including social and emotional distress, even though the issues occur outside of school time.

As a school, we continually discuss safeguarding including how to stay safe and keep others safe, online and otherwise, with all our children. This is part of our PSHE and Computing curricula where we cover our core values, online safety and cyber bullying in depth. We are responsive to the needs of our children and regularly discuss and educate in detail about the impact of social media usage / inappropriate usage. However, the main responsibility for giving access to and monitoring this lies with parents and guardians. We therefore strongly encourage you to talk to your children about being safe online and to closely monitor messages and content.

Some of the issues we have dealt with in school concern platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, You Tube, Tik Tok, Snap Chat and Instagram, as well as online gaming platforms. I would like to once again share with you that these platforms carry a minimum age limit of 13 years for access and use – therefore incidents relating to them should not affect primary age children. If your child suffers abuse or is the victim of inappropriate communication, please report this directly to the specific social media platform or to the police.

At primary school age, children are not equipped to deal with the emotional impact of hurtful, unkind or inappropriate use of social media by others. It has affected the wellbeing of some of our children and has affected learning in some cases. Please also note that, as a school, we are duty bound to report any concerning or repeated patterns of inappropriate online use to both the Local Authority and the police. This may be escalated to departments such as social services.

It is crucial that we work together to keep all our children safe online and that children understand the rules and regulations of social media services. Thank you for your ongoing support in keeping our children safe online. Please do let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Mrs P Atwal