



Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Before the Easter holidays we had quite a lot of issues around online bullying and inappropriate use of social media websites and apps on children's mobile phones. This primarily involved the older children in key stage 2 but we are aware that children of all ages are accessing a growing range of technology.

Although these incidents were happening outside of school, the safety and welfare of all our children is paramount and we supported parents with this matter by speaking to the children about using all aspects of technology safely.

We arranged for workshops to be delivered to years 4, 5 and 6 by a visitor and the children engaged positively with these sessions. Through these sessions, we discovered that some of our children were accessing some sites and chat rooms and talking to strangers who were older than them. The parents of these children were informed of this immediately so that action could be taken.

It has also been brought to attention that some children have been messaging others very late at night.

This week, we arranged for a parents workshop to be delivered in order to deliver some hard hitting, yet important messages to parents about the dangers of using apps and social media websites.

Unfortunately, and rather disappointingly, only one parent turned up to this event.

I am therefore once again stressing the importance that all parents check their child's usage and content of mobile phones, photos, messages and apps and delete any that are not age appropriate or of inappropriate content.

If children have created social media accounts or sites that have a minimum age restriction, then they may have registered with a false date of birth and any strangers who interact with them may think they are older than they actually are.

Thank you for your support with this matter.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Warburton

Head teacher

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