



'ad omnia paratus'



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Dear parent(s)

It is with great disappointment that our Year 6 staffing team feel it is necessary to write to you regarding our current cohort of Year 6 children finding it difficult to use social media both maturely and kindly.

Needless to say, to our knowledge, many of our Year 6s are making wonderful use of social media and using it both sensibly and appropriately. However, over the past half term, there have been increasing numbers of reported instances where Year 6s are making unkind and inappropriate comments, outside of school, particularly on platforms such as Whats App (minimum age of 16), Instagram (minimum age of 13) and using phones text messaging services.

In each instance, when something is reported to us, at least one adult is required to be withdrawn from class to discuss the incident with all the children involved and try to identify to the root cause of the issue. We then discuss how the situation should have been handled more appropriately and discuss how each child's actions needs to differ moving forwards. When there are a spate of incidents, we also hold additional and pertinent e-safety discussions with the year group as a whole.

When each incident is being dealt with, either of the Year 6 class teachers or teaching assistants are not able to support children with their learning, whilst the situations are unravelled. As I'm sure you can imagine, when there are mounting number of incidents, this has a significant impact on learning, for all children.

From school's perspective, in each instance we have had to resolve, all children have been acutely aware of how they should have handled the situation, which reassures us that the messages being relayed to the children, through our school's e-safety lessons, is getting through. However, it is becoming increasingly apparent that a number of children do not yet have the maturity to independently use their devices.

As a school, it is not our intention to suggest you withdraw electronic devices from your children. Therefore, we request, if you are not already doing so, that you closely monitor your child's use of social media. We understand this can be difficult in an age when children are often more technologically savvy than ourselves. It is quite likely that children are able to communicate with one another using platforms we do not even know exist.

Ultimately, we all want the same outcome: children to live in a world where they can make full use of mobile technology. However, the problems we have been facing also highlight the need for us as adults to guide children along the way, until they are mature enough to use it entirely independently.

Kind regards

Mrs Cook

Mr Smith

Mrs Brodie



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