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'For Learning That Lasts A Lifetime'

25th March 2022

Social Media and Communications

Dear Parents of Class 6,

At this stage there are now various different ways for children to communicate with each other online – whether it be through a social media platform or through X-box, PlayStation or other games consoles. The children have regular lessons and circle time chats in class wholly devoted to remaining safe online and, at this age, we focus on remaining kind and appropriate when using social media.

After speaking with many of you at the recent parent evenings, it has become clear that a number of your children are using various different apps and social media outlets to communicate; WhatsApp was mentioned by several of you. It would appear that some parents feel:

- Many of the children are sending group messages too late into the evenings on a school night.
- Some of the children are sending unkind messages or using foul language.
- Some children are removing others from the groups and adding in other children to the group, including children who do not attend this school.

Through our circle times and E-safety lessons, children are reminded of these rules to keep them safe:

- Not to share personal information online or talk to people they do not know.
- To show a grown-up if they see something online they do not like.
- To remain appropriate when chatting with others, including appropriate language.
- To be kind.
- Profiles (Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat etc.) should be set to 'private' rather than 'public'.

Moving forward, I would like to ask for the support of all of you at home, to ensure that these rules are being reiterated at home and that children are remembering (when not in school) to be kind and appropriate to their peers online. With this in mind, I have created a log for any social media complaints henceforth. I will take note of any issues and deal with them appropriately in school but I will also be making contact with the parents of children involved so that you are aware and able to help remind your children of our social media rules at home.



I appreciate that some of your children may not have mobile phones though I know many may receive their first mobile phone as the year progresses, in which case these rules will still apply.

Your support from home is very much appreciated. If you need to report an issue on social media to us in the future, screenshots are very helpful for us in order to understand what has been said and indeed to show parents of those involved. Please do get in touch via secretary@st-margarets-dover.kent.sch.uk if you have any concerns or queries.

Yours sincerely,

L. Brett

Miss Brett
Class 6 Teacher

