

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Year 6 Parent/Carers,

I hope this message finds you well. We are writing to inform you about a concerning matter involving some of our Year 6 students. It has come to our attention that there is an inappropriate WhatsApp group circulating called 'Diddy Oil', where older children from local secondary schools are also involved. The group currently has over 300 members, and we believe it is not a suitable environment for our pupils.

Given the potential risks associated with such large, unmonitored groups, we kindly ask you to check your child's phone and ensure they are not part of this group or similar groups. Social media platforms, while helpful for communication, can expose children to inappropriate content or interactions with individuals outside of their age group.

Most of the social media apps have age ratings of at least 13+ with some of them having ratings of 18+. While we understand that parents are keen to develop their child's independence, we ask that any parents who are allowing use of these apps:

- Monitor their child's phone daily.
- Link the apps to their own device.
- Actively encourage their child to interact positively with their peers.
- Report any misuse to the school.
- Remind your child that their actions online leave a digital footprint which will follow them through their lives.

Please take the time to have a conversation with your child about the importance of internet safety and the risks associated with joining such groups. Monitoring their use of social media and messaging apps is crucial to safeguarding their online well-being. We will be following this up in class, ensuring that your child hears the same consistent message from both home and school.

If you find that your child has been added to this or any other inappropriate group, we strongly recommend removing them immediately and reinforcing safe online behaviour. Please find attached a leaflet containing advice and information regarding WhatsApp.

Should you have any questions or concerns, or if you require further advice on how to address this issue, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued support in keeping our pupils safe.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs. S Lloyd  
Interim Headteacher

