

Lanchester E.P. (Cont.) Primary School

A Caring Community Where All Can Flourish



Thursday 5th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has come to my attention today that some of the Year 6 children have a WhatsApp group where there have been some very unkind messages posted. There also appear to be children who are staying up until the early hours, messaging on this group.

I have spoken to all the children and asked how they would feel if I was to ask one of them to show me the chat. There was silence. They all then agreed that they would feel very uncomfortable. This said it all to me.

I have reminded the children that the legal age for them to access WhatsApp is actually 16 years old.

For your child's emotional well-being and safety, I would like to suggest that you review the use of this app with your child to prevent any further online issues.

However, you may also be interested to know that you can actually monitor your child's use of the app by following the instructions in the link below:

<https://useboomerang.com/2018/04/25/monitor-childs-whatsapp-account-free/>

There also seem to be an increasing number of children who are bringing their phones into school. In a large majority of cases, there seems to be no need as parents are actually bringing them to and from school. On a morning, there can be a huddle of children at the school gates all on their phones which leaves me feeling quite uncomfortable. I urge you to only allow your child to bring their phone to school if it is for a safeguarding reason – i.e. that they walk to and from school on their own.

If you have any questions about any of this, please just get in touch with me. This is something that is occurring outside of school but the issues it is bringing with it are having an impact on life in school as well. We just want your children to be safe and happy.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
Head Teacher