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20th February 2024

### WhatsApp Usage in Year 6

Dear Parents and Carers,

In school, we are committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet and we feel it is our responsibility to raise issues facing our children, for their personal safety, outside of school too. Especially, when these issues are coming into school and affecting our children's school day, emotional welfare and social relationships.

Despite recent communication regarding Social Media use, we are aware that a number of large Year 6 chat groups have been set up on WhatsApp (13+ rating in the UK and Europe). Children are being included without their consent and these groups are becoming very busy with a great deal of traffic and gossiping. We strongly urge you to regularly check your child's phone, online usage and history so as to be fully aware of what they are doing and who they are in contact with. **This is not an intrusion of their 'privacy' but necessary, to keep them safe.**

If however your child is using WhatsApp, look at "Settings" and then "Privacy" to check who can add them to groups and who can see when they are online.

This would seem an opportune moment to flag the Internet Safety Seminar we will be holding at **6.00pm on Tuesday 5th March 2024** in the Performance Hall. This will be delivered by Teresa Hughes, a former police officer, who has an outstanding reputation for her work in her field and talks internationally about Internet Safety for children. The parent seminar is not suitable for children. However, earlier in the day the children will also receive a talk and presentation on Internet safety from Teresa which will complement the already extensive work we do on Internet Safety and Digital Citizenship.

Thank you for your ongoing support with this issue

Best regards,

Miss Bye and Mr Thomas

