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Dear Parent/Carer

YEAR 6

I am writing to inform you that we are aware of some recent concerns regarding the inappropriate use of social media by some of our Year 6 pupils. As part of our commitment to safeguarding and supporting our pupils, we want to ensure that we are all aware of the potential risks involved with online activity.

Many social media platforms are designed for children aged 13 and above, with WhatsApp being recommended for users aged 16 and older. These age restrictions are in place to ensure that children have the emotional maturity required to navigate these platforms and to understand the associated risks. We urge you to carefully consider these age guidelines when managing your child's use of social media.

One of the most significant concerns associated with social media usage at a young age is the potential for cyberbullying, which can be distressing and harmful to children's mental health. Additionally, communication with strangers online presents a serious risk, including the threat of grooming. It is crucial that we all work together to ensure that our children are safe and equipped to make good decisions online.

I kindly remind all parents to remain vigilant with regard to their child's online activity. This includes setting appropriate parental controls, discussing the potential risks of social media, and regularly monitoring the platforms your child is using. We recommend having open, honest conversations about the dangers and encouraging your child to report anything they find upsetting or concerning.

On Tuesday, the children participated in an Online Safety PSHE lesson at school where we discussed these issues in depth. E-safety is a fundamental ongoing element of our computing curriculum and is re-enforced in whole school assemblies.

To support you further, we have also provided a digital parenting document, which contains valuable information and advice on keeping your child safe online. We encourage you to read this document to gain further insights into how you can help safeguard your child's online experience.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring the safety and well-being of our pupils. Should you have any concerns or need further guidance, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Many thanks

Leanne Acheson
Acting Headteacher