



The Whartons Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs Julia Dickson

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21.12.18

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the holidays we are aware that many children will be receiving gifts, which utilise the internet such as phones and play stations. It is great fun for children to be able to play games with a group of friends on line and to contact their friends via social media during the holiday period.

However, whilst the use of social media is commonplace with some of our older children, despite recommended age ranges on some sites, the children are not fully aware of the difficulties it can create.

We have become aware of some incidents of upset and potentially unsafe internet use through discussions with older pupils. As the children's happiness and well-being is paramount, I would ask you all as parents to work together with us as a school to ensure this. In order to allay children's concerns and support their confidence to use social media safely, we would, therefore, ask you to consider the following:

- Are you aware if your child is using social media e.g. (WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter)?
- Do you know who all their "friends" are and what they are posting to each other?
- Are you aware of the nature of the message they are sending and receiving?

At school we regularly teach children about online safety and potential dangers through our 'Switched On Computing' scheme and through PSHCE lessons (Jigsaw). We have a range of links and information on our website please access this under the Parent Tab.

I hope that you can support us in monitoring what your child is saying or doing online.

If you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact school and speak to your child's class teacher, Mrs Dowell, Miss Milner or myself.

Yours sincerely,

Julia Dickson (Headteacher)



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