



# Wheatcroft Primary School



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Dear Year 5 & 6 Parents and Carers,

This letter is principally aimed at Parents and Carers of year 6 children, however we believe that the issues may also be a matter for year 5 Parents or Carers.

We are aware that a number of year 6 children have been involved in social activities outside school which have resulted in falling out and some unfriendly behaviour which would not be acceptable in school or I am sure in your homes.

I am sure as responsible parents you are quite capable of talking with your child and reminding them that their behaviour in public reflects on you and on us. We are certainly talking to them about this.

Significantly a number of children have exchanged information and rumour about some apparently less than creditable happenings on Social Media. We believe inappropriate comments have been made. We are aware that Social Media can provide a platform for cyber bullying. As a school we take all forms of bullying seriously and whilst these events have occurred outside school we are talking to the children in school about them.

We would like to remind parents/carers to be vigilant when your children are online. Please also be aware of age restrictions on social media sites and ensure that your child is not on a site that they are too young for. For most sites, including WhatsApp, the **minimum age is 13** years old.

Many of your children appear to be active on social messaging sites through their phones. As they are in most cases below the minimum age for the majority of these sites you probably need to take an active daily role in monitoring their use and behaviour.

Some years ago we extended a privilege, to year 6 children, who were travelling to school unaccompanied and potentially making their way home alone. This was to carry their phone to school and have it safely looked after until the end of the school day. Recently we have been dealing with many more phones, almost as a fashion accessory, not all from children who travel alone. We are aware that a few youngsters have been less than appropriate with their phones during their journey. If your child is in year 6 and needs to bring a phone to school please ensure they know how to behave with it. Unfortunately the behaviour of a few could lead to the withdrawal of the privilege for all, if we receive further indications of abuse.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Head Teacher

For more information about staying safe online, please refer to [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)