

Friday 23rd February 2024

Re: Mobile phones and online communication

Dear Parents and Carers

It has come to our attention that many children now have their own mobile telephones and, as technology develops, so their use of it changes. We do ask that parents/carers complete a "Permission Form," before they bring their phones to school. This form is available from the school office.

Once children arrive at school, all phones must be switched off and handed into their class teacher. These are then stored in the office throughout the day and returned at the end of school, again, all phones should be switched off whilst on the school premises.

Please also note that school are not responsible for any electronic devices brought to school.

We regularly talk to all the children about staying safe online and appropriate behaviour online. We always reiterate the need to behave in the same way as you would face to face (kind and respectful) when communicating online via whatever means, be it text messages, social media platforms, voice messages or games consoles. We have been made aware of a few incidents of unkind comments on group chats. Whilst this is not unusual in the last couple of years of primary school, we are keen to ensure that this sort of behaviour does not continue and not spill into school, effecting relationships and learning.

The best advice that we are given by the police and other agencies working with children and young people around online safety is to regularly talk to your children about their online use, check devices (and let them know that you are checking it) and, whenever possible, have an open door policy to use of technologies in your house – i.e. anyone could come into the room at any time whilst they are on their devices.

Please do be vigilant when your children are playing games or communicating with each other and do also let us know if there is anything we can do to help.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Hardy
Head Teacher

Nicole Ramsey
Deputy head

Guy Willatt
Deputy head