



Willow Lane CP School

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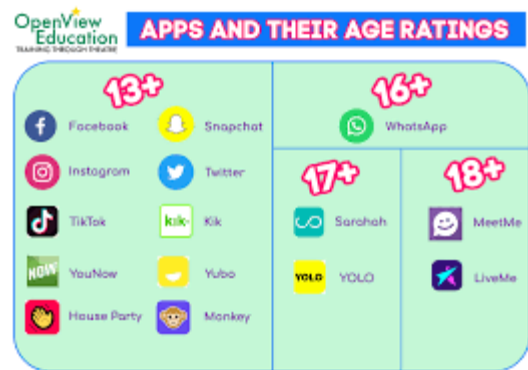
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Dear parents and carers,

We have been made aware of a number of children in Year 6 who are using social media. Apps and websites, including Snapchat, WhatsApp and Instagram, have a minimum age for users. The minimum age for using any of these sites is 13 years old. We are worried that some children in Year 6 appear to use these sites regularly and without adult supervision. This has led to a number of issues, including swearing and being unkind to each other online.

There are a wide range of risks to children accessing the internet and social media apps without supervision. They may:

- see age inappropriate pictures, videos and information.
- put their mental health and wellbeing at risk.
- lose sleep and become more anxious.
- be at risk from contact by strangers.
- receive or send inappropriate images (which may then be shared further by others).



We are aware some families will choose to allow their children to access these sites despite the age limits and recommendations. If this is the case, please make sure you support your child by monitoring their use and talking to them about how to stay safe and be kind when online. In school, we regularly talk to the children about how to stay safe online by being **SMART**.

Remember to stay **SMART** online:

- Stay **safe** by not sharing personal information.
- Do not **meet** anyone who you have only made friends with online.
- Do not **accept** messages or friend requests from strangers.
- Not everything online is **reliable**. Some people online are strangers and may try and trick us.
- **Tell** an adult that you trust if anything happens online that you do not like.

Kind regards,

Duncan Webster (Deputy Headteacher)

