

# Water Primary School

## Happiness, Health & Opportunity

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Headteacher: Miss E. McKay

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025,

Dear Families,

I am writing to discuss an important issue that has recently come to my attention concerning the online safety of some of our children at Water. As you are all aware, the digital world can be both rewarding and risky, especially for our young learners who may not yet fully grasp the potential dangers associated with social media platforms.

It has come to my attention that some of our children are participating in groups on WhatsApp. It is essential to understand that WhatsApp has a **stipulated minimum age requirement of 13**, designed to provide some measure of protection for younger users. **I strongly urge you to remove WhatsApp and any other applications where legally your children do not meet age related requirements.** If you have made the decision to allow your children to access these applications, I strongly advise that you actively monitor their usage. This involves overseeing their contacts, the messages they receive and send, and ensuring that their interactions are appropriate for their age. I have also been made aware of children joining groups named 'Add the world/UK' and I want to express my deep concern regarding these groups, as they are reported to be spaces where inappropriate and potentially harmful content is shared.

In a rapidly evolving digital world, children can be particularly vulnerable to peer pressure and the allure of joining popular social media groups. However, the risks associated with sharing personal information, encountering explicit content, or being exposed to negative influences are significant. As such, it remains imperative for you as parents to engage in open and honest discussions with your children about their online behaviours. Educating them about the potential dangers they may face online can empower them to make safer choices and inform them of the importance of safeguarding their personal information.

At Water, we recognise the vital importance of online safety, and we take this responsibility very seriously. In the coming weeks, we will be implementing a series of educational activities aimed at reiterating the significance of safe online practices to our children. We are also in the process of collaborating with the local police to arrange sessions where they will speak to the children about the importance of internet safety and the serious consequences that may arise from unsafe online behaviours. Our goal is to equip our children with the knowledge and skills they need to navigate the online world safely and responsibly.

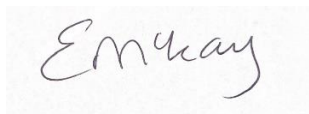


Your partnership in this endeavour is crucial. Together, we can create a supportive environment that emphasises the importance of safety and well-being for all our children. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to reach out. Your involvement and vigilance are invaluable in ensuring the protection of our children in an increasingly digital age.

I have attached a leaflet with 10 tips on keeping children safe online however, if you require further support please do not hesitate to reach out to school.

Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter and for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Miss E. McKay

