

February 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to ask for your help regarding some of our KS2 pupils communicating using social media chat groups, such as Snapchat, WhatsApp and TiKTok. We have also had incidents involving children communicating inappropriately and unkindly through online games, on both the PlayStation and Xbox networks, brought to our attention. Unfortunately, this has recently led to a number of situations where the school has had to intervene with pupils becoming upset.

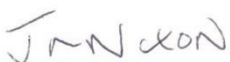
Whilst these incidents have taken place off the school site and outside school hours, the resulting 'fallout' within school has had a negative impact on teaching and learning. As a school, we have to deal with such incidents using our behaviour policy and involve outside agencies where needed.

In order to further support and protect your children, we recommend that you spend time talking with your child regarding the risks and implications they face using chat groups and other social media platforms through having regular conversations about what your child is doing online - just like you would about their day at school. For your help and benefit, we have shared a variety of helpful links and resources on the school website that cover a variety of e-safety aspects <https://www.cavendishprimary.org.uk/safeguarding/online-safety/>. **I would strongly encourage all parents to check their children's phones and supervise them on social media or whilst playing online games; indeed you may feel it is best to remove social media applications/messaging apps from your children's phones.**

At Cavendish, we teach the pupils a full curriculum of e-safety learning, educating children of potential dangers they face in a digital world as well as the impact involved in the misuse of social media resources- something we intend to revisit in detail in future lessons following recent incidents.

If you have concerns that your child might be on the receiving end of hurtful social media posts and messages, or playing a part themselves, please contact the school in order to discuss it further. We suggest that it might be useful if you take screenshots, if necessary, of any evidence.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Nixon
Head of School