Westlands Primary School

A member of Swale Academies Trust

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Dear Parents / Carers,

It has come to our attention that we have some children, mainly in Key Stage 2, who are communicating outside of school using social media platforms including, but not limited to, Snapchat, Instagram, Tik Tok and WhatsApp, are not communicating appropriately.

A number of parents have recently notified us that their children have received messages that are inappropriate and contain offensive language, videos or images.

It is lovely that our children get along and wish to communicate outside of school; however, this is not always the case and some of these messages are causing arguments and rifts between our young people. These rifts are being brought into school, causing emotional outbursts and friendship issues when our children should be learning; this, in turn, is affecting the learning and understanding for every child in class – something we do not find acceptable.

At Westlands Primary School we teach children about internet safety and keeping safe online. However, as these communications are occurring outside of school, we are requesting that you monitor your child's devices at home and support them with using them safely. We encourage you to talk to your children about safe use of apps and social media and are politely requesting that you stop harmful content being shared.

Many of the apps that children use, which are causing issues, are age restricted. Therefore, we ask that you consider the suitability of the apps that your children are accessing.

We send out weekly 'Wake up Wednesday' information about how to stay safe online and urge you to read these and share them with your children. Unfortunately, our children are being brought up in a world where social media is a huge part of their everyday life and we would like to ask for your support in ensuring children are keeping safe and being kind to one another.

If you need any support in doing this, please do speak to a member of staff. If you have any concerns or queries about this matter, we are happy to discuss them with you.

Kind Regards,

Mrs V.Pettett