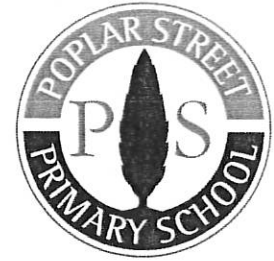


Poplar Street Primary School

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14th December 2018.

For the attention of parents of year 4/5/6 pupils:

Dear parents and carers,

You will no doubt be aware of children's increasing use of social media platforms such as Instagram, Whatsapp, Musical'ly etc to keep in touch with each other and the wider world. Whilst there can be significant benefits to the use of this type of digital communication, there are also potential dangers in allowing your child to use this technology without supervision. There is increasing evidence emerging across education that the use of these platforms is opening up opportunities for bullying, victimisation and even sexual exploitation and extremism.

Following incidents discovered this week involving the misuse of the chat/text options on Playstation and other games consoles, I am writing to ask for your continued diligence in ensuring your child remains safe and that their behaviour remains appropriate whilst talking online. Pupils I have spoken with this week agree unanimously that their online behaviour has been worse than when face-to-face, with wide reports and admissions of swearing and very inappropriate language being used. There is guidance on how to monitor use on the parent section of the school's website, as well as many support sites on the web.

Be aware that, if your child is experiencing some difficulties with relationships online, they may not wish to share this with you. As part of our ongoing support of pupils' safety, we do lessons on '*What bugs you about families?*' and top of the list for our older pupils was when parents tried to monitor what children were doing on their phones/computers/consoles. In previous years, we have uncovered episodes of extremely harmful and explicit online behaviour which has resulted in lengthy exclusions for some children but the victims refused to report this matter for fear of losing their phone, internet or gaming privileges at home. So your vigilance is vital in helping to keep your child safe.

By continuing to keep a close eye on their digital interactions and their general emotional health we can all work together to ensure that your children remain happy and well supported as they move towards young adulthood.

Your support is much appreciated.
With regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iain Linsdell', written in a cursive style.

Mr Linsdell
Head teacher