



Joy Lane Primary School, Oyster Bay Nursery
& Oysters SRP (Autism)

A Love of Learning - for Life, for All

Friday 18th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

From the start of the new academic year — **Tuesday 2nd September 2025** — **children will no longer be allowed to bring smartphones/smartwatches onto the premises at Joy Lane Primary School.**

This decision reflects growing national concerns, including widespread media coverage and guidance from the *Smartphone-Free Childhood* campaign. As a school, our priorities are clear: **learning, behaviour, and well-being**. There is increasing evidence that smartphones can negatively impact all three — particularly children's mental health and their exposure to harmful online content.

While smartphones serve many purposes for adults, research consistently shows that they are not suitable for children. In fact, their design and use are often incompatible with the goal of keeping children safe and focused on learning. As such, **we view this as a safeguarding matter** which is included as an appendix to our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy; we are acting in the best interests of our pupils.

This change will primarily affect **children in Year 6**, as a reminder that **pupils in Year 5 are already not permitted to have mobile phones on school premises.**

We understand that many families rely on phones to stay connected with their children as they grow more independent, particularly when walking to and from school. If your child needs a device for emergency contact, we recommend a **basic “brick phone” or a text-and-call-only device**, which does not provide access to the internet or social media. These can offer peace of mind while supporting your child's safety.

If you plan to provide your child with a non-smartphone device, please complete the form at the end of this letter. Your child's device will still be required to be locked in the office during the school day.

We recognise that there are **a small number of children with specific medical needs** — for example, those using insulin pumps — who may need a smartphone for health monitoring. These pupils will be exempt from this policy, and we will work with families to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place.

Please do not send smartphones into school. If a pupil is found with one, it will be **confiscated immediately**, and parents/carers will be invited to attend a meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to collect the phone and discuss expectations moving forward.

To help children understand and navigate these changes, we will continue to deliver assemblies, lessons, and workshops — especially in Years 5 and 6 — on digital safety and screen time awareness. Details of these sessions will be shared with you in the new year.

We really appreciate your support in working together to keep our children safe, healthy, and focused on their learning.

Warm regards,

Mr M Ashley-Jones

Ms D J Hines

Head of School

DSL & Executive Headteacher



Executive Headteacher: Ms D J Hines
Head of School: Mr M Ashley-Jones



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Joy Lane Primary School,
Oyster Bay Nursery & Oysters SRP
Joy Lane, Whitstable, Kent CT5 4LT

 **BRICK PHONE APPLICATION**

I/We request that **(Child's name)** of **(Child's class)** is permitted to bring a **brick phone** to school.

Reason for request:

(Please explain, e.g. "for emergencies on the journey home from school")

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I understand and agree that:

- The phone must be a **text-and-call-only device**, with no internet access.
- The device must be **switched off** upon arrival and must remain off throughout the school day until off-site.
- My child is aware of and agrees to these rules.

Parent/Carer Name:

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Signature:

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Executive Headteacher/DSL Signature for Approval:

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Date:

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Please return to the School Office

