



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

*A Love of Learning - for Life, for All*

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Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to the parents and carers of the current Year 4 and Year 5 children as they will soon be Year 5 and Year 6 pupils to remind you of the current school policy on smartphones and 'text and call' devices.

**No pupils are allowed to bring smartphones/smartwatches onto the premises at Joy Lane Primary School. Year 6 pupils are only permitted text and call phones, and all other year groups are not permitted to bring any phones to the school.**

This decision was made by the school leadership team at the end of the last academic year and subsequently agreed by the School Governing Board. 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 letter is a reminder for children going into **Year 6** as well as being a reminder that **pupils in Year 5 are already not permitted to have mobile phones on the school premises**.

#### **Information for pupils going into Year 6 the next academic year 2026-27**

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 in September, there will be a form at the end of the letter which we will send out again towards the end of term. 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.

Warm regards,

**Mr M Ashley-Jones**

Head of School

**Ms D J Hines**

DSL & Executive Headteacher

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



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