



Joy Lane Primary School

A Love of Learning, for Life, for All

Oyster Bay Nursery & Oysters SRP (ASD)

Executive Headteacher: Ms DJ Hines

Head of School: Mr M Ashley-Jones

Friday 6th September 2024

Mobile Phone Permission Letter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Due to escalating national and parental safeguarding concerns over the inappropriate use of smart phones by some children both in school and out of school, and for the benefit of children's mental well-being, we have amended our mobile device permission to allow **only Year 6 pupils** to have the responsibility and privilege of bringing a mobile device into school if traveling home on their own. You may have heard of the 'SmartPhone Free Childhood' Initiative and recently read the Smartphone advice from phone providers, particularly 'EE' network about the importance of with digital wellbeing. One of the main recommendations for the Under 11s, is for children not to have smartphones but instead use non-smart devices with limited capabilities like texts/calls. In the last year particularly, we have been really concerned by the negative impact on children's well-being and mental health as a result of online activities and cyberbullying – hence the permission amendments.

We **do not encourage** any children to bring mobile phones/smart watches with telephone call/text facility into school but completely understand why **Year 6 pupils only** may need to carry a phone; for example, you may want your **Year 6** child to carry one if they walk to and from school independently or need them to communicate with you in the event of an emergency outside school. It is also important to make you aware that Joy Lane Primary School cannot claim insurance cover should they be lost or broken on the school site; therefore, children carry mobile phones/smart watches at their own risk. I am sure most parents and carers are aware that the children in Year 6 are permitted to bring mobile phones to school if the correct consent form has been completed. We will not support children from other year groups bringing in a mobile phone devices or smart watches; please contact either Ms Hines or Mr Ashley-Jones if you would like to discuss this further.

Please note that all Year 6 children should hand in their mobile phones or **smart watch** on arrival at school, at the main school office, where children must also bring along their new application consent form, which is at the bottom of this letter. All mobile phones/smart watches will then be securely stored and locked away in our main office; this complies with our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and is non-negotiable. Mobile Phones/Smart watches should also be collected from this point at the end of the school day.

Please may we also remind you that children's mobile phones/smart watch must be switched off before they enter our school site and not turned it on until they leave our school site. Any child not following this expectation may have their mobile device confiscated.

Of course, this mutual agreement between school and the pupils involves a lot of trust in that we must assume that the pupils always use their phones appropriately and only as a means of communication on their journey to and from school. If there is a report of any unkindness, which could be perceived as cyber bullying, we reserve the right to withdraw permission for that pupil to bring a mobile phone to school.

I know that concerns over the appropriate use of mobile phones is a national issue, as well as a local one; however, knowing how sensible our Year 6 children are, it is important that they are fully aware of the dangers and legalities of what they can and can't access on their devices, so please have a dialogue with your child so that they understand how responsible they need to be when carrying or using a mobile phone.

If you have any further questions, then please do not hesitate to contact the school office and make an appointment to discuss this with either of us.

Yours sincerely,

Ms DJ Hines
Executive Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

M Ashley-Jones

Mr M Ashley Jones
Head of School



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MOBILE PHONE/SMART WATCH ON-SITE APPLICATION

I / We request that (Child's name)

of (Child's class) has a mobile phone/smart watch in School.

There is a need for this because:

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(Please indicate reason i.e. for emergencies on journey home from School.)

I understand that mobile phones/smart watch with call/text facility must remain switched off on arrival and when exiting the Joy Lane Primary School site and at all times during the School day. My child is aware of this.

Parent / Carer Name:

Signature:

Executive Headteacher's/Head of School signature for approval:

.....

Date: