



Joy Lane Primary School

A Love of Learning, for Life, for All

3rd May 2019

Oyster Bay Nursery & Oysters SRP (ASD)

Executive Headteacher: Ms DJ Hines

Head of School: Mr M Ashley-Jones

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 5 and Year 6 children

As you know, the Year 5 and 6 children are currently allowed to bring their mobile phones to school each morning as long as the necessary consent form has been completed and the device is handed in each morning. Phones will now be collected by the adult at the Year 5 and 6 entrance. Please find attached to this letter an updated mobile phone consent form which we would ask you to complete as we are updating our records. **If we do not receive an updated and signed consent form, then your child should not bring a mobile device to school.**



Whilst we do not encourage primary age children to carry mobile phones, we completely understand as busy parents and carers, this gives you that extra reassurance that your children can be contacted on both their journey to school as well as their walk home.

Of course, this mutual agreement between school and the pupils involves a lot of trust in that we must assume that the pupils use their phones appropriately at all times 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.

When the phones are in school, they are collected in and locked away for safe keeping.

Just recently it has been brought to our attention by parents, and indeed pupils, that some children are not accessing age-appropriate materials, particularly through their use of 'WhatsApp,' which is one of the most popular messaging apps in the world. It would appear that many of our Year 5 and 6 pupils are in numerous 'WhatsApp' groups and share videos, messages, photos, links and documents with each other from home.

As a result of some recent concerns by worried parents and children, I attach, once again, a 'WhatsApp' poster for your information, and I urge you to think about discussing this with your child, as well as checking what is being shared and looked at. Remember, the legal age for this app is 16+ in the UK.

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 children are, it is important that they are fully aware of the dangers and legalities of what they can and can't access, so please have a dialogue with your child as this will further prepare them for life in secondary school and beyond.

If you have any further concerns or worries with regards to e-safety, then please do not hesitate to contact the school or myself to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

DJ Hines

Ms DJ Hines

Executive Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

M. Ashley-Jones

Mr M Ashley Jones

Head of School