4th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to express our growing concern regarding the use of WhatsApp among our pupils outside of school hours, which is increasingly impacting their well-being and relationships inside the classroom.

While we understand that digital communication is a major part of modern life, we have recently seen a significant rise in friendship upsets, exclusion, and distress directly linked to class or peer WhatsApp groups.

We strongly encourage you to review your child's access to this platform and consider stopping its use, keeping in mind that WhatsApp has a minimum age limit of 13. Our primary school children do not yet possess the emotional maturity to navigate the complexities of group chats safely.

The Impact and Risks We Are Seeing:

• Exclusion and Bullying: Children are frequently being left out of groups or removed abruptly, causing deep emotional distress and feelings of isolation.

• Rapid Escalation: Minor disagreements that would usually blow over at playtime quickly escalate online, where tone is easily misunderstood.

• Inappropriate Content: Group chats can quickly fill with chain letters, inappropriate language, or unkind memes that children are not equipped to handle.

• 24/7 Pressure: Group notifications can be relentless, leading to sleep deprivation, anxiety, and a feeling that they can never "switch off" from peer pressure.

How You Can Help:

• Check Age Restrictions: Please remember that primary school children are below the legal age limit for this platform.

• Monitor Devices: If your child does use a device, regularly check their message histories, group memberships, and privacy settings.

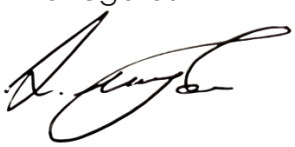
• Encourage Alternative Communication: Encourage children to speak face-to-face, call a friend directly, or arrange supervised playdates rather than using unmonitored group chats.

• Model Positive Digital Behaviour: Talk to your child about being kind online and what to do if they see something that upsets them.

Our primary goal is to ensure all our pupils feel safe, happy, and ready to learn. By working together to manage their digital environments, we can protect their mental health and foster a much kinder school community.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Kind regards



Mr Cunningham
Headteacher