



Billingshurst Primary School
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Tuesday 5th October

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been brought to our attention that a number of children in Year 6 are or have been part of a group on WhatsApp. The reason we are aware of this is because there have been a number of incidents of children falling out with one another through these groups and sharing inappropriate content that has been reported to teachers and leaders. The fallout of these incidents is becoming an issue in class and at playtimes. This is having an impact on learning and the time adults can dedicate to supporting children in class.

I would like to point out that WhatsApp has an age rating of 16+ and thus is not suitable for children under this age. If you choose to allow your children to use WhatsApp, then it is your responsibility to manage their interactions and deal with the subsequent issues that may arise, as this is happening outside of school. This is not the responsibility of school staff. The same applies to other social media platforms.

If you intend to allow your children to continue using WhatsApp, the following link has guidance for how to monitor this and support your child to make safe choices online.

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/whatsapp/#:~:text=WhatsApp%20has%20an%20age%20rating%20of%2016%2B%20but%20as%20there,the%20contents%20of%20a%20message.>

Thank you for your continued support.

David Timmins

Deputy Headteacher

