



## Federation of Pinvin C of E First School and St Nicholas C of E Middle School

Main Street, Pinvin, Worcestershire WR10 2ER

**Federation Head teacher: Mrs Sandra Jennings**

*Together, we inspire, discover and achieve*

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy Easter Holidays.

I am writing to you today to reiterate the importance of parental settings and boundaries which you instil on your child's mobile telephone or electronic device(s), especially over the Easter break.

With the last year being so up and down plus not being in school for a great period of time, children have used mobile telephones and electronic devices to keep in contact with one another which has been fantastically useful to keep spirits high.

However, alongside all of the positive comments, I am having an increasing amount of conversations with parents/carers around concerns which they have around social media, emails/messages and mobile telephones. We continue to reinforce what is acceptable use and the importance of e safety in school, however we cannot control what children are accessing on their devices at home. Accessing inappropriate materials can cause lots of damage and unfortunately, this then impacts negatively upon their own and other children's learning.

Nearly all other social media services require users to be at least 13 years of age to access and use their services. This includes Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, Musical.ly and Skype. Whilst there is no age restriction for watching videos on YouTube, users need to be 13 or older to have their own YouTube account (enabling them to subscribe to other channels, like videos, post comments, share their own content and flag inappropriate content). - [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

Many parents are completing spot checks on their child's mobile phone and setting parental settings through apps such as Sky Broadband Buddy, which is fantastic. I am fully aware that we have to trust our children, however we have to remember that children are extremely inquisitive and if they hear a word on the bus, online or out of school, there is Google at the touch of a button and a world of websites and links that pop up within seconds – many which may not be appropriate.

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I spoke to all of year 7 yesterday and reiterated the fact that one poorly thought through comment can essentially affect their lives in years to come with job prospects, the same applies to images/photographs which are posted online or sent to someone, they are then out there forever. We didn't have the internet/mobile phones or have the worry of leaving a digital footprint however we need to continually work together to reiterate to our children that unfortunately this is now something they need to be aware of and the earlier they are aware of this, the better.

Please do have a read of the content on this link from the NSPCC – Online abuse | NSPCC – this may open your eyes to what is going on as well as effects and advice.

I urge you to be vigilant and to continue keeping a close eye on secretive behaviours. If you have any concerns which you feel need discussing, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office

Kindest,

Miss McSwiney

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