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Dear Families,

INTERNET SAFETY IN Y5 and Y6

It has come to my attention this week that some pupils in our Y5 and Y6 classes have social media accounts including TikTok and Snapchat. *Please be advised that nearly all social media services require users to be at least 13 years of age to access and use their services.* This includes Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram and TikTok.

This week we have discovered that some of our children are using social media accounts in an unacceptable manner, writing abusive messages aimed at children in their class, sharing videos that are not appropriate for their age and posting unacceptable content that could lead to an individual getting into serious trouble.

This behaviour is very disappointing and must stop immediately. We are taking action in school to remind the children of how to use the internet safely and to ensure that any concerns are reported straight away to the class teachers. We will also be contacting our local community police for advice and will report any individual concerns directly to the police and to the social media service. In addition, we will be revisiting our mobile phone policy in school, although all of these incidents of cyber-bullying have taken place out of school hours.

I would be extremely grateful, if you would please discuss the contents of this letter with your child to help them understand the seriousness of this matter. In the meantime, here are a few tips and resources to help you guide your children and to help you keep them safe online:

- Think u know is always a good place to start you will see the report abuse button that your child will know about from school.
- Another site that is helpful for parent controls is <u>UK Safer Internet Centre</u>

This site advises you to take four steps:

- 1. Have ongoing conversations with your children about staying safe online
- 2. Use safety tools on social networks and other online services, eg Facebook privacy settings
- 3. Decide if you want to use parental controls on your home internet
- 4. Understand devices and the parental control tools they offer in our Parents' Guide to Technology

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Jayne Mitchell Executive Headteacher