



# OLD PALACE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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17<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear Year 5 and 6 Parents/Carers,

In order to help safeguard the pupils in Year 5 & 6, I feel that I need to bring to your attention the issues that we are currently having at school over the use of social media apps outside of school hours. We cannot regulate the online access that pupils have outside school, but we have a duty of care to follow up any concerns we do have.

There is clear guidance on the appropriate age ranges for certain online apps and I would like to draw your attention to these below.

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, Tik Tok.

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).

## **WhatsApp- Users need to be 16 to use WhatsApp.**

The online world is a minefield for children and the situation has changed significantly in the last 10-15 years, as a whole range of unlimited content, both good and bad is a few clicks away. Once something has been posted on social media, it is very hard to get rid of.

I would ask parents/carers therefore to be vigilant and monitor what children are posting online.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/> offers advice on how to set up parental controls on different devices and we will be offering an Online Safety workshop after half term at Old Palace.

Yours Sincerely,

Ms Millward  
Deputy Headteacher



MUSIC MARK  
SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE MARK  
Training & Development



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