



OLD PALACE PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Monday 7th October 2024

Dear Year 5 Parent/Carer,

I am writing to highlight the issues we are currently experiencing in Year 5 regarding the use of **YouTube Shorts** 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 this below.

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). With **YouTube Shorts**, ***there is no way of filtering the content so your child is at high risk of seeing something inappropriate.***

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.

The school is proactive in teaching pupils about the potential risks online, but we rely on parents to reinforce these messages and to supervise their child's online activity at home. We recommend that parents/carers are vigilant and at least once a week monitor their child's online activity and posts. This can be done by:

- Scrolling through the apps used by your child, asking them questions to gain more understanding. This can include, looking at their 'friends'/ 'followers', content and chats.
- Checking their browser history.
- Checking the security setting on their device.

If you need any support or have any concerns in regards your child's activity online, please approach Shelly/Forida who can book an appointment for you to meet our IT technician, with the device.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Bowley
Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead.



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Headteacher: Mr G. Palmer BA (Hons)
Business Manager: Michele Walsham