

6<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Dear parents and carers,

It has been brought to our attention that a number of our children have Instagram accounts and today, one of our parents informed us that their child has received indecent messages from a person they do not know and is believed not to be from the Watton area. The child did inform their parent immediately and the appropriate authorities have been informed to deal with this.

We live in an increasingly connected world and our children are involved with more technology and online communication than ever before. With the growing use of devices (such as tablets, mobile phones and game consoles) enabling children to connect easily with the wider world, it is really crucial that we understand how we as adults can keep them safe.

As a school, we regularly talk to the children about e-safety (as is deemed appropriate to their age group). It is important the children know how to keep themselves safe online. In July, we held a parents meeting on e-safety which shared with parents ways of keeping your children safe and we also have useful pamphlets on our school website which give you more information.

Please can we clarify with all parents that Instagram is a social media account which should **not** be used by children under the age of 13.

As a school, we will be looking again at our e-safety policy and its reference to acceptable use and the use of social media. We will then be updating our policy and we will share this with you in the next month.

As we feel it is essential for **ALL** parents to know how to keep their children safe online we plan to hold another evening session on e-safety in the next few weeks. We believe all parents should attend this meeting (irrespective of the age of your child) and we do hope that you will all feel that attending this meeting is of the highest importance. A letter inviting you all to the session will follow shortly.

Zoë Hussain  
Headteacher