



Oakmeadow Primary School   
Part of the Marches Academy Trust

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Dear Homes

We would like to draw to your attention that the minimum age for WhatsApp is 16 years and that age restrictions are there for protection. Whilst we appreciate some children are eager to be involved in their friendship groups and possibly put pressure on homes to allow the use of WhatsApp, it is not recommended as a safe area for their age range.

Whilst messages on this app aren't in the public domain as they are on Twitter or Facebook there are still sufficient risks associated with children using this as a social media platform. We recommend that all social media platforms used by your child are age appropriate and regularly monitored.

We understand that in the current climate children are using these apps to stay in touch with friends. Therefore, we would like to remind homes about safe conduct and the potential risks that users could face. The messages we have recently viewed were highly offensive with inappropriate language shared and viewed. Unfortunately, this is not an isolated case as we are increasingly dealing with and resolving similar issues arising from children using Whatsapp. We believe their use of WhatsApp is leaving them highly vulnerable to cyber bullying and possible Child exploitation.

We would not recommended any primary age children to use Whatsapp, however if you choose for your child to continue using WhatsApp and other similar platforms i.e. TikTok, we strongly advice that the material they are viewing is regularly monitored and clear boundaries are put in place to safeguard your child. We regularly blog or upload information on our website to support you with this. Online safety is an integral part of our curriculum but providing the children with the knowledge and understanding within school isn't simply enough in ensuring their safety when they are under pressure from their peers and the media to access these apps and material available.

Over the forthcoming weeks, we will continue to educate the children in keeping safe online as well as reminding them of the risks associated with using apps appropriate for older users and ask that you as parents support us in this by reinforcing these clear messages at home.

Twitter: @oakmeadow    Nursery: @Ladybirdsoak



For further information please visit our website as well as <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> - a website set up by CEOP a UK organisation set up to protect children both online and offline and <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/> .

Kind Regards

The Oakmeadow Leadership Team

Twitter: @oakmeadow

Nursery: @Ladybirdsoak



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