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15.02.19

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Re: Social Media

There seem to be a number of What's App groups that parents belong to, either for their child's class or across the school, and these were initially set up to give information / reminders of events etc. However it has come to my attention that some people are posting about individual children or giving parenting advice (that may be sensitive) through this source of communication. Parents have also been contacted via text from accessing the phone number on the What's App, which is not what it was originally set up for.

I have sent alerts and reminders out through the school newsletters about this but the problem still continues.

Please can I ask all parents and carers who use What's App parent groups to firstly be aware that the others in your group have access to your phone number in joining them and secondly for no one to text or phone other parents unless they have asked permission to do so.

If anyone has been affected by messages to them from other parents then please do come and speak to me.

We do talk to the children about internet safety and social media and stress that they should not write anything to a person that they were not prepared to say to their face.

I am sure that no one has consciously gone out to upset anyone but we all need to be sensitive that when something is written down it can be interpreted differently from its intent.

I am writing this to all parents and carers as I think it is an important message and should be shared with your child too as I know many of them will be using social media over the holiday.

If anyone would like to speak to me in person about this then I am more than happy to arrange an appointment when we get back. Many thanks.

I hope you all have a lovely half term.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel West

**Executive Headteacher**