



ST JAMES
C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Lisa Belfield

CEO: Canon Jill Pilling

St James C.E. Primary School

Hillside Avenue, Farnworth, Bolton, BL4 9QB

Tel: 01204 572587

Email: office@st-james-farnworth.bolton.sch.uk

www.st-james-farnworth.bolton.sch.uk

"With God, there is no limit to what you can do. There is no obstacle you can't overcome. Through Him all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

Friday 17th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

This past week, school have been investigating a social media issue that involves some of our pupils and some older pupils not from our setting. It has been reported that some children have been sending and/or receiving What's App/Snapchat messages and images that are inappropriate. School has reported this matter to the police.

Today, two police officers came into school to speak to two of our upper junior classes to discuss the dangers of social media. It was also made clear to the children, by the police, that messages and images of an inappropriate matter are not acceptable and illegal. Children are criminally responsible for their actions from the age of 10.

I am writing to urge you to check your child's use of social media and any devices they may have. Children should not have social media accounts such as What's App, Facebook, Snapchat and Tik Tok etc until they are 13 years old. These restrictions are there to keep your child safe from online harm; and the incident that we have been looking into at school this week just shows how vulnerable our children can be to online harm and upset at such a young age.

We teach children about online safety on a regular basis, but due to this incident we will be repeating some of this work with our oldest pupils. It is also a parents' responsibility to talk to their child about safe use of the internet and devices. Please can you make sure you talk to your child about this so they know how to keep themselves safe online at home. To help you, we post an online safety poster each week with our Friday Newsletter. This week's Friday News contains information around What's App. You can get more information about this on the National Online Safety website <https://nationalcollege.com/categories/online-safety> or via our school website.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs L Belfield
Headteacher



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