

Dear Parents/Carers

Are you aware of how your children are using social media ?

Although we think we do, it is likely that we are unable to monitor every message, photo and video, that is sent via social media sites such as Instagram.

This letter is not just about considering online safety, which of course is extremely important, but it is about using the internet with good manners and social awareness. It is about children taking responsibility for their actions and giving thought to what impact their message/photo/video will have on the person that they are sending it to.

In school we are seeing an increase in the amount of unpleasantness caused by irresponsible and inappropriate behaviour on social media sites, in particular Instagram. This is causing distress to the children involved and is taking up valuable time.

In compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, children should not be using social media sites until they are 13 years old. If we are aware that children are using this site, we will be notifying Instagram and they will delete the account.

We ask that parents do what they can to reduce the likelihood of cyber bullying and encourage pleasant, responsible use of social media:-

- . Children should not be using social media sites if under the age of 13
- . Keep all mobile phones and tablets downstairs at night (many children get upset by messages that have been sent after bedtime)
- . Ensure posts are set to private – anybody that wants to follow them will have to be approved
- . Ensure that what is put on profile is considered with care – this is public
- . Know how to block somebody if being harassed, tell an adult if concerned
- . Remember, what is posted to others can be shared by others
- . Encourage your children to take responsibility for how they communicate with others – just as you would offline
- . Talk to your children about their social media use with genuine interest
- . For further information and useful video clips – www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

If you have any question with regard to the above information then please contact us.

Headteacher: Mr Christopher James BSc(Hons)
Bordon Junior School, Budds Lane, Bordon, Hants, GU35 0JB
Tel: 01420 472145
Email: admin@bordon-junior.hants.sch.uk