



Dear Parents and Carers of children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6,

Over the last few weeks, we have noticed an increase in children being unkind to each other on Social Media. Children have been posting unkind comments, photos and videos of each other on sites such as SnapChat.

It is very upsetting to hear about these messages, as we are trying every day to teach the children to be kind to each other.

The messages often involve swear words, racist or homophobic language, and unkind descriptions of people's appearance. They often mention specific things about a child that the group know will upset them.

What continues to shock all of the staff in school is the number of children involved **online** who have never been in trouble at school **in real life**.

Never think it couldn't be your child...

If you are reading this and thinking your child would never do these things as they have never been in trouble before, please think again. Children can get swept up by social media and children who would never say these things in the real world are taking part in horrible exchanges online.

You can have rules...

I would advise everyone reading this letter to have a rule where you are allowed to see your child's phone, tablet or computer at any time. You are the adult and it is your job to keep your child safe. Knowing you might ask for their phone at any time might make them think twice about posting something hurtful, as they would not want you to see what they have said.

My child is getting horrible messages, why don't the teachers want to read them?

Over the last few weeks several parents have brought screen shots of messages into school and asked to show them to teachers. I have asked the staff to not read the messages.

This is not because we don't care.

We think the best thing we can do to help is to keep on educating your children about being kind and staying safe on line. We would also encourage you to report the unkind messages to the Social Media platform and if they were violent, racist or homophobic, to the police.

Kind Regards

Mr Martin Lumb
Headteacher