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Dear Parents,

Over the last few days we have had an increasing number of reports and complaints regarding children using social media outside of school in an inappropriate way.

School monitors and restricts this type of activity during school hours and teaches internet safety as part of the curriculum. However, we cannot be the primary defence of children against the risks when they are not in school; it is up to parents.

The age restrictions for using social media such as Facebook, Whatsapp and Instagram exist for a reason. **IT IS NOT SAFE OR APPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE TO BE USING THESE PRODUCTS.**

Parents should monitor their children's use of the internet and social media closely and prevent them from creating and using accounts and groups when they are under the specified age.

The fact that other children or your children's friends may have access to these sites is not an excuse for putting your child at risk by allowing their use.

On the reverse is some information regarding age restrictions for popular sites and apps.

We are asking all parents to check their home devices and their children's devices and ensure they are not accessing social media and gaming products in an inappropriate way.

For more information

You can find out more about how children use social media, the apps they use, the risks they face, how to use privacy settings and tips on how to talk to your children on the following websites:

www.childnet.com/sns

www.internetmatters.org

www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety

www.parentzone.org.uk

www.thinkyouknow.co.uk/parents

www.askaboutgames.com

Many thanks for your help and support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Year 5 and 6 Team

Age Restrictions on Popular Social Media

The provider of the outlet is not legally responsible for restricting the access of children to the product. This responsibility lies with parents.

Social Media Outlet	Legal Age Requirement	Useful Notes
Whatsapp	16 years old	
Snapchat	13 years old	Please be aware children can easily put in a date of birth that meet these requirements and will then be allowed to set up a profile.
Tik-Tok	13 years old	
Instagram	13 years old	
Youtube	No age restriction to watch 13 years old to set up a YouTube channel.	Restrictions can be put in place on home devices.
Facebook	13 years old	Please be aware children can easily put in a date of birth that meet these requirements and will then be allowed to set up a profile.
Twitter	13 years old	
Popjam	7-12 years old	
Xbox live	8 years old	Parents must set up and monitor the user.
Playstation live	7 years old	Parents must set up and monitor the user.
Animal Jam	18 years old	Please be aware children can easily put in a date of birth that meet these requirements and will then be allowed to set up a profile.
Moviestar Planet	8-15 years old	
Roblox	13 years old	Parents can disable the chat feature-recommended.
Fortnite	12 years old	This is due to the violence of not only the game but also the extreme language other users.

With all the above parental guidance and constant monitoring is highly advised. People online are not always who they make themselves out to be. Social media and online gaming can be dangerous if not used and monitored in an appropriate way.