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E-SAFETY CONCERNS:

3.12.2014

Dear Children and Parents,

I AM SCARED, I AM FRIGHTENED AND WE DO NEED TO WORK TOGETHER ON THIS ISSUE.

As parents you entrust "the safety" of your children to us AND this is of paramount importance to us as everything we do involves RISK ASSESSMENTS on the teacher's part. On the issue of "INAPPROPRIATE" use of the Internet, we need to have "Zero" tolerance. This is only possible if PARENTS support us. Last year the school and Governors had to deal with adults misusing the Internet. Now it has come to our attention it is SOME OF OUR CHILDREN. This has been taken to the Governors.

Recently, an incident has occurred via social media (Instagram / SnapChat / Facebook / WhatsApp) amongst some of our Year 6 children. It has been brought to our attention that some children have social media accounts that are "illegal for under the age of 13 years". On this particular occasion, highly inappropriate language has been shared between individuals within a public domain.

We are asking all parents to be highly vigilant and to monitor exactly how your child is using social media and what information they are sharing / publicising. Due to constant technology changes and privacy settings, children are unaware of the dangers they are potentially placing themselves in. Indeed, our children are at risk unless they are supervised.

In the recent past, similar incidents of this nature have occurred and resulted in suspensions of children. We have no option but to have a zero-tolerance on and we currently employ ICT technicians and external providers who have responsibility for regularly screen-checking social media sites to monitor the activity & privacy settings of our children. This information will be forwarded to parents & school.

Our children's safety is our number one priority as it is yours. In the new year, we are hosting an e-safety workshop with external providers MGL, who will highlight specifically to children and parents the current dangers of social media, the consequences of publishing information within the public domain and how to ensure that your child is safe when using the Internet. We feel that this workshop is vitally important for our children and parents to attend. Further notice about a specific date will be provided.

THIS HAS BECOME A WORLD CONCERN, so there is a "Safer Internet Day" held worldwide in February which our schools are signed up to.

Many thanks for your continued support and co-operation,

The Governors, Mr Hardiman, Miss Davies, Mrs Bellis-Knox (and all the staff)