

GLOUCESTERSHIRE EDUCATION AUTHORITY
CHALFORD HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL
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13th February 2019

Dear Parents/carers

Locally, and nationwide, we often hear of reports in the media regarding the use of the Internet. In particular, it has come to our attention that social networking sites such as Facebook and online messaging services such as WhatsApp, Instagram and Twitter have become extremely popular. It is not uncommon to find underage children, including our children, using these ***even though the requirements state that for many of these applications children are age restricted. E.g. for Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat & Instagram, children must be 13 years of age and for WhatsApp children must be 16 years of age to register an account.***

These forms of technology and ways of communicating have become increasingly common. More recently, we have been made aware of inappropriate exchanges between Y6 pupils. Primarily, these occurrences happen at home, before / after school hours, when children have access to Web sites that are normally blocked in school. With this in mind, and in response to a number of concerned parents who have contacted me regarding Internet safety, I would like to make a special appeal to you. ***I strongly request that all parents/carers review with their child their use of such applications and how they communicate using the internet, taking account of these guidelines.***

Last week, as part of internet safety day, the children were taught about the importance of giving and seeking permissions. In addition, we talked to the children about the fact that once you hit that send or submit button, the information and images sent no longer belong to just them. Friends, family, colleges, future employers, and strangers all have access to and the right to view and lift any material online.

I hope that you will consider this appeal as one in which we can act together as a community. You will have seen in a recent newsletter and Parentmail that our PTA are funding an external expert on Internet Safety this evening. This session is being held in the school hall and will start at 6pm. I do hope that you will be able to join us.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. We look forward to working with you to support your child when using the internet, whilst also helping to prepare them for secondary school and beyond.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Corinne Martin'.

Mrs Corinne Martin

Head teacher