



Primary School

Horrobin Lane, Rivington, Horwich, Bolton, BL6 7SE

Tel: (01204) 696951 Headteacher: Mrs S E Annette BA (QTS)

8.03.2018

Dear Parents,

It has been brought to our attention that some of the children in Juniors are communicating with each other using Whatsapp, TickTok, Instagram and Snapchat and that there have been occasions when their comments to each other have been hurtful or unkind. We have spoken to the children in school about the safe and appropriate use of social media, and we would be grateful if you could follow this up with them at home. You may find the information on: <http://www.childnet.com/parents-andcarers/hot-topics/social-networking>

of interest, and the following extract from the WhatsApp guide for parents:

“As of May 2018, WhatsApp’s minimum age of use is 16 years old if you live in the European Union, or a country that has adopted the GDPR, as the UK has. It was previously 13 and WhatsApp has not yet said what will happen to users between 13 and 16 who already held accounts under the old terms and conditions. By using WhatsApp, a user agrees to provide certain personal information such as their mobile phone number, billing and mobile device information.

If WhatsApp learns that identifiable information of a child under 16 has been collected on the WhatsApp Site or WhatsApp Service, then WhatsApp may deactivate the account.” Please speak with your child about the dangers of sharing images on social media and the fact that it is illegal for children to use social media (Facebook/Instagram/Snapchat, etc.) before the age of 13. It is important to note that the messages they share may not be going to the people they think they are sending them to. Please also remind them that by sharing such images they may be committing an offence.

Please be aware that the musically app merged with an app called Tik Tok in August 2018 and the Musical.ly users are being transferred to the new Tik Tok app. Please be aware that Tik Tok requires that users be at least 13 years old to use the app and that anyone under the age of 18 must have approval of a parent or guardian. School are concerned that children may again be saying hurtful things to one another using this app and that, from a safeguarding point of view, they are uploading videos which make them clearly identifiable to the general public. We have been made aware of videos with children wearing their school uniform – this places in them in a very dangerous position.

If you are concerned about the online safety of your child (or any child), please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Annette