



**Archbishop Courtenay
Church of England
Primary School**

Eccleston Road
Tovil
Maidstone
Kent
ME15 6QN

01622 754666
office@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk
www.archbishopcourtenay.org.uk
Headteacher: Mrs S Heather
Chair of Governors: R O'Connell

11th May 2023

Dear Year 5/6 families,

Recently there have been several incidents related to the misuse of WhatsApp and Snapchat. I wanted to inform you that these incidents are involving several Year 5 and 6 children being part of chat groups. In the latest incident crude and abusive language has been directed towards other pupils, and in some cases the sharing of insensitive photographs or gifs. **Consequently, I wanted to inform all parents but this does not mean YOUR child is involved.**

These incidents are happening out of school, however as you would expect there is a significant impact on children at school. They are worried about their friendship groups and the potential effect of their social and emotional mental health. We have a joint responsibility to safeguard your children so at school we do this by nurturing with kindness and compassion; nevertheless, as a school we cannot police what the children are doing outside of school hours, we need you to do this.

This letter is to make you aware that your child maybe using social media without your knowledge and you should be mindful that the minimum age for both WhatsApp and Snapchat is 13 or over. If you are aware that your child is using these apps I would suggest you check the content.

As a school we strongly advise you to remove the chat groups involving other children and block any children who are making unkind remarks. We pride ourselves on keeping the children safe so please do not stop telling us if there are issues, we are here to help and of course will continue to educate the children.

If you need any further information or want to discuss the matter please speak to a member of staff.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Heather

Headteacher



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The Diocese of Canterbury Academies Trust

Unit 33, Folkestone Enterprise Centre, Shearway Business Park, Shearway Road, Folkestone Kent CT19 4RH

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Registered Office Address: Diocesan House Lady Wootton's Green Canterbury CT1 1NQ