



13th May 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Social Media/WhatsApp/Email Communication

It is with regret that I have to write this letter to our school community, but the recent negative social and digital media communication cannot be left unaddressed.

We have been saddened to have been sent copies of negative and defamatory comments from both Facebook posts and 'chats' in class WhatsApp groups that clearly contravene our safeguarding and home school agreement. Whilst we are aware that we live in a society of free speech and these groups can be a great form of easy communication, the comments that we have seen have been critical, in some cases personal and the vast majority speculation, rather than clarification and often inflammatory in their delivery.

We pride ourselves on providing a high quality curriculum where inclusivity is key and where staff will always 'go that extra mile' for the children in our care and to read such comments has been disappointing, offensive and indeed upsetting to our staff.

Furthermore, staff make themselves more readily available via email communication and it is hugely disappointing to note that this communication platform is being abused by some of our school community with ever demanding emails, written in a confrontational and derogatory manner. We are clear as a staff and community that verbal communication must not be threatening and intimidating and the same is applicable for digital communication.

I therefore have attached a Social Media Code of Conduct Policy for your perusal and a new Acceptable Use of the Internet Agreement that protects all members of our school community.

It is my firm belief that Peartree Spring is an amazing school with a school community to match and I implore you all to be mindful of the effect words, actions and digital communication have on our school staff who continuously strive to give the best to our children.

We have absolutely no problem in receiving meaningful, constructive feedback and indeed we welcome it, but the recent digital communication has been anything but that and as such, needed to be addressed accordingly.

We thank the many members of our parent body who have actively supported us in bringing this to our attention so quickly. It is our hope that we can continue to work effectively in partnership to support our children.

If you have any queries, comments, or questions, please address them to school staff directly.

Yours sincerely

T Skeggs

Mrs T Skeggs
Executive Headteacher.

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