

Cheapside CofE Primary School

Watersplash Lane • Cheapside • Ascot • Berkshire • SL5 7QJ

Telephone: (01344) 621112

Website: www.cheapsideschool.org.uk

E-mail: school.office@cheapsideschool.org.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Kate Searle



Friday 2nd May 2025

Dear Year 6 Parent and Carers,

Recently, it has come to our attention that many children in Year 6 are making use of WhatsApp. As you are no doubt aware, WhatsApp is a chat application used on a mobile phone or tablet, that lets you send messages, images and videos to friends. You can have one to one and group conversations.

WhatsApp can be a useful platform which allows people to communicate easily with their friends, but it can also be a worrying place where children may be faced with a variety of complex issues which even adults can find difficult to navigate never mind children of just 10 or 11. Some of the things that children can find particularly challenging are:

- learning to deal with the volume of messages they may be receiving and understanding how and when to answer these
- being included or not included in groups that have been formed
- children experimenting with language and ways of expressing themselves that leads to upset and bullying, both intentionally and unintentionally

Recently, we have found that these situations are spilling over into school and impacting the children's relationships and self-esteem.

We would like to remind you that the age rating for WhatsApp is 13+. Social media outlets impose age restrictions because of the link between a child's age and the responsibility and maturity required to use these platforms. We would ask that you carefully monitor what your child is viewing online and ensure that they are not using social media platforms that are not appropriate for their age. Ask them to tell you if they receive anything inappropriate or upsetting from any application. Below is a link to the NSPCC about WhatsApp which you might find useful:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-01-12-is-whatsapp-safe-for-my-child/>

Finally, it might also be useful to have a conversation with your child to talk about how to communicate with kindness and thoughtfulness in this increasingly connected world.

Yours sincerely

The Senior Leadership Team