

# Northwick Park Primary and Nursery Academy

Company No. 9154404

Third Avenue, Canvey Island, Essex. SS8 9SU

Telephone: ( 01268 ) 684554

[admin@northwickpark.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@northwickpark.essex.sch.uk)

Executive Headteacher: Emma Lane MBE

Head of School: Kerry John

February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, this Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February is International Safer Internet Day. During this day, the children in all year groups will be taking part in lessons and conversations around how to stay safe when using the internet and how to use the various online resources and platforms in an appropriate way. This coincides with the imminent Government drive to remove all social media access for under 16's.

Currently in school we have a lot of children who are accessing different social media platforms but most specifically Snapchat and WhatsApp.

## **For all children this is illegal!**

I am sure you are aware that the age restrictions for these platforms is **13 years**. It is parental responsibility to ensure that your child(ren) do not get around the age restrictions and access these. The children do not have the understanding or maturity to safeguard themselves against cyberbullying, including messages which can cause harm and upset them. They are unable to manage group chats safely to ensure that content and members are appropriate and safe.

This is a major concern within school.

Staff have recently spent a great deal of teaching time, dealing with issues arising from these platforms which are taking place outside of school. Issues including creating fake accounts to harass and bully classmates, sending hurtful messages online, inappropriate requests for images and then these being shared through group chats.

Usage and issues that arise from children being allowed to use these platforms before they are legally allowed to, is totally unacceptable, and we would like to remind parents that it is parental responsibility to monitor children's online world.

The age of responsibility for online harassment, bullying and sharing of inappropriate imaging is **10 years old** and if we continue to see these types of issues arising in school, we will have no choice but to hand these matters over to the police to deal with.

We, in school, are available to offer support and guidance to our families. We offer links that can be accessed through our online safety pages on our website. We hope that this message serves as a reminder to all our families and reiterate that we are here to help and support with keeping our children safe.

Yours sincerely

Mrs E Lane MBE  
Executive Headteacher

Mrs T Smith  
Online Safety Lead