

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families enjoyed a restful and joyful Christmas break. It has been wonderful to welcome our Year 5 and 6 children back into school this week, and we are already pleased with the positive attitude many have shown as they return to learning.

However, we do need to address a couple of important matters that have arisen since the start of term.

Smartwatches in School

It has come to our attention that a number of pupils have returned to school wearing smartwatches. We would like to remind all families that *smartwatches are not permitted in school*. These devices present a safeguarding risk, particularly because many models allow children to take photographs, access the internet, and send or receive messages.

In line with our existing policy for mobile phones, any smartwatch brought into school will need to be locked away safely in our GDPR drawer for the duration of the school day. This is to ensure the privacy and safety of all pupils and staff, and to minimise distractions to learning.

We kindly ask for your support in ensuring your child does not wear or bring a smartwatch to school.

Social Media and Group Chats

We are increasingly being made aware of issues that are arising within social media platforms and group chats used by pupils outside of school hours. As a school, we are not able to intervene in incidents that take place online, out of school, or on devices at home. This includes disagreements, unkind behaviour, and the sharing of inappropriate content.

We would strongly encourage all parents to remain vigilant regarding what their children are accessing on phones and other devices. We have been informed of group chats that have recently included **bullying, harmful, or abusive content**, and in some cases have been active as late as **2:00am**. This is extremely concerning for children's wellbeing, safety, and sleep.

We also wish to remind families that sending harmful, threatening, or abusive messages can fall under the **Malicious Communications Act (1988)**. If your child has been the recipient of such messages, the school advice is to report this directly to the police, who are the appropriate authority to deal with incidents of online harassment.

Principal – Ms S Gill

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Your support in monitoring your child's online activity is essential in helping keep them safe.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and for helping us maintain a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all pupils. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours faithfully,

The Year 5/6 Team

Oasis Academy Warndon

Chamikohe

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