

Hawthorn Community Primary School

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Dear Parents/ Carers

I am writing to ask for a little help from yourselves as the parent body. It has been brought to our attention that many of our children have been accessing apps that are designed for older children and their conduct on these apps is a little concerning so we are asking for your support.

As part of our ongoing online safety lesson and assemblies we have spoken about how to keep ourselves safe online by keeping our personal information secure. We have spoken about how we do not know who we may be speaking to online and that some people will pretend to be other people. We have also spoken about how images that are put online are not fully deleted and become the property of the app provider.

In recent weeks, despite numerous reminders of these things some of the children have got open public profiles on apps such as tiktok and Instagram and websites such as youtube, in which the children have been seen dancing around in their school uniform with their full names being their user names. As you know, sadly, some inscrutable people may easily access their accounts and these images. We do not want to alarm anyone at all however, we are concerned that the children have not fully grasped the importance of keeping themselves safe online.

We are asking if you are able to spend a little time with your children and help them to further understand that whilst the internet is fantastic for so many things it can also have many hidden dangers. On the school website there are many web links that can support you with this and to help with the mind field that is social media and the internet. Access to these are through the learning tab and web-links for staff and parents.

Thank you so much for your support with this matter.

Catherine Billingham
Deputy Headteacher

