

BONNEVILLE

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Success for today, prepared for tomorrow

Thursday 20th April 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I write in regards to reported inappropriate use of WhatsApp amongst some of our pupils in UKS2.

At Bonneville, we help children to understand how to use the internet and different online platforms appropriately through PHSCE (personal, health, social, citizenship education) lessons, assemblies and discussions. However, at times, children may need reminding as to how to use online modes of communication fittingly.

Our children are accessing a greater amount of content online than we were ever exposed to in our childhood. Social Media is a fantastic platform to share information and keep in touch with each other. However, if it is used inappropriately, so publicly, it may leave our children in a very vulnerable position.

Let us work together to maximize the positive use of this medium. I reach out to the community to ensure none of our children become a victim of social media use, in any way. In order to do this, we would like to reinforce some simple requests so they become habits.

Most Social media apps are for pupils 13 years and over. If you do allow your child to access social media, we ask for your vigilance. Just like their interactions in person, online interactions require supervision and support.

What is right will vary from family to family but some strategies that are known to be successful include:

- Monitoring their phones for the apps that are downloaded
- Enacting parental controls on phones and consoles
- Reviewing the messages they send on platforms and apps – making monitoring part of a daily or weekly routine. It is vital that our children continue to take responsibility of their interactions online, as they would in person, and do not think they can hide behind their devices. Too often, negative online behaviour reported to us is out of character for what they would do in person. This means, **all** of our children must be monitored regularly in order to mitigate name calling, inappropriate language, offensive interactions and association to this type of behaviour from others.

BJS FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

Bonneville, Jessop & Stockwell Primary Schools

Bonneville Primary School
Bonneville Gardens
NPQH, NPQEL
London SW4 9LB

Tel: 02086731183
Email: admin@bonneville-pri.lambeth.sch.uk
Web: www.bonneville-primary.lambeth.sch.uk

Executive Headteacher
Andrea Parker, BA (Hons),

 @bonnevilleps

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- Setting expectations about what space (preferably communal) and times they have access to devices
- Encouraging them to share or discuss with you what they are doing.

I am confident in stating how much we all value and want to maintain the positive community spirit we have here at Bonneville.

I need your support in ensuring we protect that, against all influences that may challenge us, in the variety of ways we can now communicate.

I appreciate your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,
Miss Kirk
UKS2 Assistant Head

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