



MANOR COURT Community Primary School

incorporating **Manor Court Early Years Centre**

A Member of Preston Primary Academy Trust

Head Teacher Mr L Talmage

Deputy Head Teacher Mr A Clode **Assistant Head Teacher** Mrs G Terry

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Tuesday 16th April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Reference: Unsupervised use of WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, and social media at home.

You may have seen in the news last week that there is a national problem with instant messaging on sites such as WhatsApp and the dangers caused by underaged children using these apps.

It has come to our attention that there are a number of Manor Court (Upper Key Stage 2) children using instant messaging services such as WhatsApp and Facebook messenger unsupervised at home. Can we please remind parents that the age rating for WhatsApp and Facebook messenger is set to at least thirteen years old.

Our children are being added to group chats without their consent and we have been informed that children are being bombarded with messages extremely late at night and that aggressive and offensive language is being used throughout some messages.

We have also been informed that some boys have made inappropriate screen shots and sent these to each other as a dare. We, and their parents, are unsure who still has these photos and who else has been sent them or viewed them.

It is important for us to stress that the sending or viewing of any indecent photos of children under the age of consent is a criminal offence and one that can lead to a criminal prosecution for those who have sent and received the photographs.

This is obviously a home issue. We have strict rules about the use of mobile phones on school site and complete regular online safety lessons with our children. We would appreciate that all parents support their children by placing further supervision of mobile phone use at home to ensure that each child is kept safe.

Yours sincerely,

Luke Talmage
Headteacher

Alan Clode
Deputy Head & Inclusion Leader

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