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**Wednesday, 1 May 2024**

Dear Parents/Carers

I write to ask for your support in tackling some of the dangers our children are exposed to through unsupervised use of the internet. In particular, we are very concerned about those children who have unlimited access to a smart phone (and other devices connected to the internet).

Last week, a case of online bullying was brought to our attention. In this instance, children from our school had created a WhatsApp group and were exchanging messages, sound clips and videos with each other. Most of the messages were innocent fun, but some overstepped the mark, resulting in repeated comments which we would define as online bullying.

In addition, we were rather shocked at the amount of time the children were spending on their devices. There is emerging evidence of the great harm that prolonged use of phones, and other devices, can have on children.

I would ask that all of you monitor your child's use on all devices in order keep them safe. I know many of you already do so, but this recent incident suggests that a significant minority of our children are not being supervised closely enough.

Do feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Ian Scotchbrook

Headteacher