



Shacklewell Primary School
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Executive Headteacher: Ms Nicole Reid
Headteacher: Mr Rory McGrath

Wednesday 11th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

re: Online Safety - Year 6

I am writing to share some safeguarding concerns following a recent internal school investigation. It has come to our attention that a number of pupils in Year 6 are currently accessing and using the social media platform **TikTok**. As a school, we consider the use of this app by children aged 10 and 11 to be unacceptable, as it bypasses critical child protection measures designed for older teenagers.

TikTok has a **minimum age rating of 13+**, meaning no primary school child should have an active account. The platform's "For You" feed is driven by complex algorithms that can unfortunately expose younger children to age-inappropriate content, ranging from mature themes and suggestive language to dangerous viral "challenges." Furthermore, the platform's live-streaming and direct-messaging features pose risks regarding unwanted contact from strangers, as younger children may not yet have the digital resilience to identify or report sophisticated grooming or predatory behaviour.

We recognise that managing a child's digital life is a significant challenge in the modern world, yet the safety of our pupils remains a shared responsibility. We strongly urge you to review the devices your child has access to and ensure that any age-restricted applications are removed. To support you in this, we have provided a **Digital Safety Checklist** below, which outlines practical steps you can take at home to ensure your child's online experiences remain positive and secure.

Year 6 Digital Safety Checklist

Please take a moment to go through these essential steps to help protect your child:

- **Audit App Age Ratings:** Verify the age ratings of all apps on your child's device. For Year 6, apps like TikTok, Snapchat, and Instagram (all 13+) should be uninstalled.
- **Enable Family Pairing:** If you do allow older children to use apps, utilise tools like **TikTok Family Pairing** or **Google Family Link** to link your account to theirs, allowing you to set screen time limits and restrict content.
- **Set Account Privacy:** Ensure all active profiles are set to **'Private'** by default. Check that 'Location Sharing' (often called 'Ghost Mode' on some apps) is turned off.
- **Establish a 'Shared Space' Policy:** Encourage children to use tablets and phones in communal family areas rather than in bedrooms. We strongly recommend that all devices are handed in to a parent before bedtime.
- **Maintain Open Dialogue:** Spend five minutes each day asking your child what they have seen online. If they know they can talk to you without fear of the device being immediately confiscated, they are more likely to report something that upsets them.
- **Check the 'Following' List:** Periodically review who your child is following and who is following them. Remove any accounts that are not known friends or family members.

In order for the school to support families we are hosting a parent workshop on digital safety on **24th February** at **9:00am** for families with children in Year 5 and Year 6. I strongly encourage as many families as possible to attend this session.

The safety of our pupils is a shared responsibility between home and school. We will continue to cover digital citizenship and online safety within our curriculum to help the children understand how to make positive choices online.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our children safe.

Kind regards,



Rory McGrath
Headteacher



Year 5 and 6 Parent Digital Safety Session
Empowering families for a safer online world

WHEN: Tuesday, 24th February | 9:00am
For Parents of Year 5 & 6 Students (ages 9-11)

- Support with setting up parental controls at home**
Practical steps for securing devices and networks.
- How to practice effective digital hygiene**
Maintaining privacy and positive online habits.
- Managing screen time effectively**
Finding a healthy balance for family life.
- Exploring common online behaviours and usage statistics**
Understanding trends for 9-11 year olds.

Teas, coffees and light refreshments will be provided.
Hope to see you there!

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