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Dear Parents and Carers,

In this current situation with children accessing online content more for remote learning we know that their screen time and unsupervised access to the internet has increased. I am deeply saddened to have had reports of a number of our children using their personal mobile devices (phones/tablets etc.) to cause upset and harm in the recent weeks. Any form of unkindness or bullying is taken extremely seriously at Eastway, whether it happens face to face or through screens. We will not tolerate this at our school where we value 'being nice' as our first rule above all others.

I am writing to ask that all parents and carers monitor their child's use of messaging and social media on their devices to ensure that they are safe and are keeping those around them safe too. It is your responsibility as parents and carers to know what your child is saying and hearing online and to take action to keep them safe. Please be aware that most messaging and social media apps are not appropriate for primary aged children and have age restrictions that reflect this. We recommend you delete any apps not designed for your child's age group along with any that are being used in unkind ways. For further information and age restrictions for popular messaging and social media apps go to: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/age-restrictions-social-media-services>

We all know the power of words and how they can be used to both build people up or, sadly, knock them down. The effects of words last far beyond the moment in which they are said. We have posted a video at the very top of Y6's remote learning page that addresses the power of words online. It is really important that children grasp the impact of their words and that they should never deliberately use words to upset someone else. We've been really disappointed to see screenshots of messages sent between Y6 children from Eastway that have been cruel and offensive. This must stop. Please take some time to watch this video together with your child and discuss the issues raised: how they should treat others online and what to do if they feel unsafe. There is further information and activities to develop your child's e-safety at www.thinkuknow.co.uk

We recommend that all children follow the STOP approach if they see or hear anything that feels unkind online - whether it is aimed at them or at someone else. Standing by and allowing it to happen is not okay. The STOP approach stands for:

- **S**tep away
- **T**ell a trusted adult
- **O**kay sites first
- **P**ause and think online

We recommend that your child removes themselves from groups where unkindness happens and blocks any individuals taking part. You should report serious incidents to the police. Although these incidents are taking place outside of school, we will do all we can to support you and your child.

We need to pull together to keep our children safe, kind and happy online in the same way we do in the physical world.

If you need any further support with this, please do get in touch.

Mrs Morris