



Growing and Learning Together in God's Love

St Mark's CofE Primary School

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Dear Parents/ Carers,

YouTube is an amazing resource and there is no denying it, children love it. They can spend hours searching and watching their favourite videos, researching a topic or creating their own videos and uploading them to share with family and friends. Unfortunately, not everything on YouTube is child friendly and suitable for primary-aged children.

It has been brought to our attention that an increasing number of children are posting their own videos on YouTube. Sometimes the accounts are owned by parents who then allow their children to upload their content onto the site. An increasing number of children are discussing their posts in school, especially in the playground during break times. It is beginning to cause some issues and we feel we need to make you aware.

- We have had examples of children naming other children in their videos.
- Children have been commenting/ rating their friend's videos. In most cases these are positive comments but on occasions, the children have 'disliked' a video or made an unkind comment. This is unacceptable and can cause fallings out between friendships.
- Some of the children are aspiring to be YouTube vloggers. They are beginning to rate their personal achievements and successes against the number of 'hits' they have had on their video.
- We are observing a change in activities the children participate in during playtime: groups are re-enacting videos they have posted or performing songs they have sung or seen. Sometimes the content of these activities is unsuitable and inappropriate.

In all the cases that have been brought to our attention, parents have been informed and advice given.

Alongside our Computing and PSHE curriculum where being safe online is covered, and also building on from the E-Safety Week we held last year, we are looking at further ways to develop our e-safety teaching to ensure we teach the children about the risks of posting online and the issues it can cause.

We hope you find this letter and the information provided useful and thought it would be beneficial to share some YouTube top tips which are shown on the reverse of this letter. I would however like to alert you to one piece of advice given ...

Youtube's terms and conditions mean that the site should not be used by anyone under 13 years of age.

Please contact your child's class teacher or myself if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Charles Applegate
Headteacher

Monday 15th January – Parents' e-safety meeting - evening

We are running a free information session for parents all about e-safety run by Paul Hay, an internet safety expert. During the day, pupils will be enjoying safety workshops.



Head Teacher: Mr Charles Applegate
Deputy Head: Mrs Claire Cooper
Assistant Head: Mrs Nicola Ford
Assistant Head: Mrs Rebekah Alsey

