



HEADTEACHER
Mr G Pendlebury
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER
Mr N Maguire

17th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to remind you of the importance of monitoring your child's online activity and to offer guidance on keeping them safe when using social media and messaging apps.

We have recently become aware that some students have been exposed to inappropriate content through class-based WhatsApp group and possibly other social media platforms. While we have addressed specific incidents directly with the families involved, we want to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers about online safety and how you can support your child.

We ask that you support us by:

1. Having regular conversations with your child about:

- What apps and platforms they are using
- Who they are communicating with online
- What groups they are part of (including class WhatsApp groups)
- The importance of respectful online behaviour
- What to do if they see something that makes them uncomfortable (report it, leave the group, speak to a trusted adult)

2. Monitoring their devices:

- Regularly check what apps are installed on their phone/tablet
- Review the content of messages and groups they are part of
- Use parental controls where appropriate
- Ensure devices are used in communal areas of the home, not bedrooms
- Consider setting time limits for social media use

3. Understanding the risks:

- Children can be exposed to harmful content including violence, extremism, sexual content, and discriminatory material

- Peer pressure can lead children to share or engage with content they know is wrong
- Screenshots and forwards mean content can spread rapidly
- What seems like "banter" or "a joke" to some can be deeply harmful to others

We recommend the following resources to help you keep your child safe online:

- **Internet Matters** - age-specific safety guides and advice on parental controls
- **NSPCC Online Safety** - practical guidance for parents
- **Childnet** - toolkit for discussing online life with your child
- **ThinkuKnow** - resources from the National Crime Agency

We are committed to educating students about online safety through our RSHE curriculum and assemblies. However, parental involvement is crucial, while we understand that students may create WhatsApp groups to communicate about homework and school activities, please be aware that:

- WhatsApp's terms of service require users to be 13 or over
- These groups are not monitored or endorsed by the school
- Parents should regularly review the content of any groups their child is part of
- Students should be reminded that the same behaviour expectations apply online as they do in school

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our students safe both online and offline. Together, we can ensure that all our young people use technology responsibly and respectfully

Kind regards,

Miss F Tuddenham

Director of Learning KS3
Associate Assistant Headteacher
Great Marlow School