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Dear Home

Sharing of information for online safety:

We have been made aware of two issues of online safety concerns at home for our children.

Firstly, we have been made aware of online bullying within our KS2 for some children outside of school. It has been reported by some concerned parents that there are children accessing messaging and social media apps (Instagram and Snapchat) and we wanted to bring this to your attention. We have attached a useful information handout from the West Mercia Police to support you managing and monitoring this within your homes. In addition, on our website there are tips and information around e-safety. I am sure you agree bullying in any form is unacceptable and very distressing. We complete a lot of work based around this within school, supporting the children in developing their understanding on appropriate etiquette both in person and online and this is a strong aspect of the value sat Oakmeadow, we value your support in this matter.

We have also been made aware that there are many children who are accessing games that have age restrictions of **18** and discussing these within school. It is suggested to school that we consider this a child protection issue if we are made aware that pupils are using inappropriate online apps or games. However, we hope that together we can support homes to be able to monitor and manage this at home to ensure all our children are safe.

The following information may be useful:

What are the risks of online games?

- *Children may view inappropriate or upsetting content if they play games that aren't suitable for their age. This could include sexual or violent material. It might be in-game content or produced by other players.*
- *Some players can be abusive towards others or try to exclude them from the game. Some players may also hack another user's account or try to steal and destroy their virtual possessions. This can be as upsetting for a young person as if it happened in real life.*
- *Children may play with adults they don't know. People of all ages play games. Some adults may exploit this and try to build an emotional connection with a child for the purpose of grooming.*



